
EVALUATION OF UGC-INFONET E -JOURNAL CONSORTIUM

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Abstract

At present due to information explosion printed journals are becoming obsolete very quickly. Further it has become a sort of nightmare for the subscriber with its ever increasing price accompanied with the shrinking budget of library day by day. In this respect the contribution and benefits of e-journals provided by UGC-Infonet has been brought out and compared with the printed journals subscribed at present. An attempt is also being made for the usage statistics of the said services and tries to emphasize the importance of library consortia with regard to e-journals specifically for MUL.

Keywords: UGC-Infonet, E-Consortium, Bandwidth, MUL (Manipur University Library)

1. Introduction

The Libraries of the 21st century have to be conceived not merely as the store-house of knowledge but an effective mechanism to facilitate dissemination of knowledge, promoting information and knowledge sharing, while at the same time, supporting the growth of knowledge and the growth of intellectual property. In this context it should take the advantage of the development in the Information Technology going beyond automation of Libraries by creating LAN, National Networks linking them in turn to the global network of Library and Information Systems so as to facilitate global access of knowledge and promote Information and Knowledge sharing. Among them is the electronic journals which occupy a prominent place in automated libraries providing access to 'online full-text information. The point as to why we should adopt Information Technology is that, most of the printed books are becoming obsolete because of the faster rate due to the advent of Information Technology. The creditability of being up-to-date are also questioned as to whether they can provide access to the latest knowledge and know-how, vital for working in today's Information Technology driven environment. Further the snowballing financial resources of the Library followed by over increasing spiral of the printed books are making it difficult to Libraries in providing all the published information.

2. UGC-Infonet

UGC launched an ambitious programme to bring about a qualitative change in the academic infrastructure, especially for higher education. Under this initiative, UGC is modernizing the university campuses with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and has set up its own nationwide communication network named UGC-INFONET. UGC-INFONET will be a boon to the higher education systems in the following ways

- UGC-Infonet is a vehicle for distance learning to facilitate spread of quality education all over the country;
- UGC-Infonet is a tool to distribute education material and journals to the remotest areas of the nation;
- UGC-Infonet thus becomes a resource for researchers and scholars for tapping the most up-to-date information;

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- UGC-Infonet forms a medium for collaboration among teachers and students, not only within the country but also all over the world;
 - UGC-Infonet becomes an Intranet for University Network;
 - UGC-Infonet encompasses entire University Systems for most efficient utilization of precious network resources;
 - UGC-Infonet establishes a channel for globalization of education and facilitates the Universities in marketing their services and developments.

3. UGC-Infonet : E Journal Consortium

With globalization of education and competitive research the demand for the journals has increased over the years. Due to insufficient funds, Libraries have been faced to discontinue the scholarly journals, which have great impact to the users. In order to provide the current literature to academicians, UGC has initiated UGC-INFONET to provide electronic access, over the internet, to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the Universities of India. Under it 4000+ full text scholarly electronic journals from 25 publishers across the globe can be accessed. The consortium provides current as well as archival access to care and peer-reviewed journals in different disciplines. The whole programmes have been implemented in *Phase wise* manner.

PHASE-I

In 2004, as a First Phase 50 Universities were selected based on existing infrastructure, number of scientific research, number of students, research scholars enrolled and Internet connectivity in the campus. Thus the selected 50 Universities were provided access to more than 2000 E-journals in different disciplines.

PHASE-II

Another 50 Universities was selected in the year 2005. Additional expenditure was incurred to subscribe new resources i.e. around 25 crore as well as for inclusion of the Universities.

PHASE-III

This Phase is proposed for 2006 where it will cover remaining Universities and Colleges. Necessary measures have already been taken and grants were provided for networking. UGC is aiming to extend E-journals to select 200 Colleges shortly.

4. Status Summary of UGC-Infonet Service Till Date

Universities which have received Grants till date -150.

- Universities connected till date -145.
- Universities which have received training till date - 129.

5. Scope of UGC-Infonet in Manipur University

The Manipur University Library was declared as one of the INFLIBNET nodes in 1993. The LAN of the Library is connected to the V-Sat. Manipur University comes under the First Phase of UGC-Infonet and got connectivity of 256Kbps on November 2003. The project of E-journals consortium has been operational since its inauguration in January 2004 in the Library. The E-journal provided at Manipur University covers almost all areas of learning like Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics etc. Further more subject areas are to be added in near future. But first of all let us see the staffs that are technically qualified for computerized operation in MUL.

Staff Technically Qualified for Computer Operation

Category	No. of Respondent	Total
Information Scientist	1	1
Computer Operator	2	2
Staff with little Knowledge	24	24
Total	27	27

Altogether there was 35 staff at MUL. But for this paper only 27 were collected who were actively involved in the services of the Library. From the above presentation it is clear that the Library lacks persons who are well acquainted with computer applications except for the Information Scientist and two Computer operators.

List of Resources provided under UGC-Infonet E-Journal Consortium At Manipur University, Canchipur

Name of the Publisher	Number of Journals	Website address
American Chemical Society(1876)	31 Journals	http://www.pubs.acs.org/
American Institute of Physics	18 Journals	http://www.aip.org/
American Physical Society	10 Journals	http://www.aps.org/
Annual Reviews	29 Journals	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org
Biological Abstract webspirs/start.ws	One Database	http://web5.silverplatter.com/
Blackwell	489 Journals	http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/
Cambridge University Press	189 Journals	http://journals.cambridge.org/
Elsevier Science	34 Journals	http://www.sciencedirect.com/
Emerald	28 Journals	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/
Encyclopedia Britannica	National site Licensing	http://search.eb.com/
J-Gate	10,000 Journals up to abstract level	http://www.j-gate.informindia.co.in/
Institute of Physics	36 Journals	http://www.iop.org/EJ/
MathSciNet	One database	http://web5.silverplatter.com/webspirs/start.ws

Nature	1 Journals	http://www.nature.com/
Portland Press	4 Journals	http://www.portlandpress.com
Project Muse	222 Journals	http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/
Royal Society of Chemistry	23 Journals + 6 database	http://www.rsc.org/
Science Online	1 Journals	http://www.scienceonline.org/
Springer & Kluwer	1217 Journals	http://www.springerlink.com/
Taylor & Francis	1105 Journals	http://journalonline.tandf.co.uk
Euclid	18 Journals	http://projecteuclid.org
Oxford University Press	169 Journals	http://www.oup.co.uk/

*Altogether there are 23 journals

6. Area of Study

Taking into account of the above E-journal accessible at Manipur University a total of 65 questionnaires were prepared and distributed among the Faculties of Government College and University who took part in the refresher course held at Manipur University during 2004-2005. It took into account Arts, Science, Humanities and Social Science departments. A total of 50 questionnaires were received expressing views and opinions about UGC-Infonet. Personal interview method was also applied while collecting data for the purpose of authenticity and reliability of data surveyed. Here in this chapter a small portion has been assessed just to give a general view of the faculties as the knowledge of UGC-Infonet among the faculties who attended the refresher course.

Usage Statistics of Full-Text Download In Manipur University-2004

Sl. No	Name of Publihsers	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	American Chemical Society	0	14	92	17	31	38	30	0	1	38	47	22
2	Annual Reviews	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	5
3	Blackwell Publishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Cambridge University Press	1	0	5	7	2	0	0	1	0	8	30	31
5	Elsevier Science	3	1	0	7	1	10	1	0	0	2	0	3
6	Emerald Insight	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	14
7	Institute of Physics	29	17	52	19	58	10	61	3	34	96	35	157
8	Oxford University Press	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Project Muse	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
10	Science Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Springer (Kluwer)	0	0	0	1	29	29	5	0	20	203	61	234
12	Springer (Springer)	0	0	0	0	33	55	9	3	0	22	146	207
13	Biological Abstracts	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
14	AIP/APS	352											220
15	J-Gate	65										0	9

**Usage Statistics of Full-Text Download In Manipur University for the
January 2004 to September 2005**

Total	Download Avg.	Round Avg.
552	26.28571	26
26	2.166667	2
588	98	98
163	9.588235	10
44	2.444444	2
27	2.076923	2
571	47.58333	48
154	25.66667	26
173	8.238095	8
0	0	0
846	56.4	56
890	55.625	56
12	0.571429	1
791	37.66667	38
81	7.363636	7

GT-4918

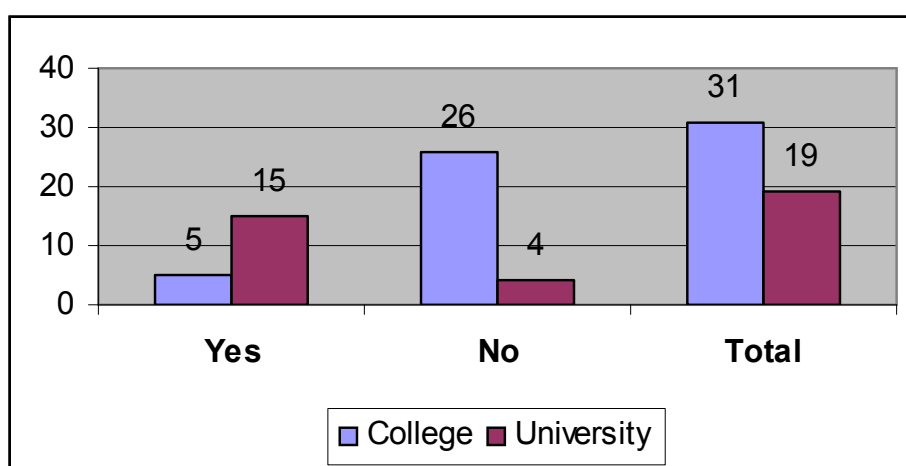
* GT- Grand Total of Both the years

7. Condition for Evaluation

- Average downloads is taken out with Total Downloads/ Total Months in which downloads has been accruing and for evaluation round figure of the average has been taken up.
- For AIP/APS usage statistics for January 2004 to November 2004 is consolidated.
- For J-Gate usage statistics for July 2004 to October 2004 is given in consolidated form (1837) for all the 28 Universities and average is taken for individual University.
- Elsevier monthly usage average is based on Total downloads in 2004 and 2005/18 months (based on subscription period which is April- March)
- ACS, AIP/APS, BA, CUP, IOP, Project Muse, Scifinder- Subscription period is January- December.
- Annual Reviews, Blackwell, J-Gate, Elsevier, Emerald, OUP, Science Online, Springer & Kluwer- subscription period is April-March.
- Springer (Kluwer) is the figure for Kluwer publications only (before merging with Springer).
- Springer (Springer) is denoting figures of Springer alone upto June 2005 and from July 2005 onwards combined figure with Kluwer.

The above table depicts the usage statistics for the last 21 months beginning from January 2004 to September 2005. Going by the download average, since the concept of e-journals is in the initial stage the download average is very low. But the good side is that users are beginning to acknowledge the usefulness of it, which is clearly visible from the steady increase of, downloads month after month. If the present trends continuous than it won't be long till e-journals becomes the catchword among every users of the library.

8. Knowledge of UGC Infonet, E-Journal Services



The above table shows that only 5 respondents out of 31 respondents of the College faculties said they had the knowledge of the services of UGC-Infonet. Whereas for the University faculties out of 19 respondent 15 said as to having the knowledge of the mentioned services. One interesting feature was that the respondent who replied yes was from the science faculties.

9. Methods of Acquiring Skills to Use E-Journals

The table below highlights the way in which the faculties had started accessing to e-journals from the Library. At the University level, a total of 11 respondents replied they got the knowledge through friends and colleagues about e-journals while, 5 said they were introduced through the guidance of Library staff and 3 replied they started accessing by means of trial and error method. Whereas for the College faculties 3 replied being introduced by colleagues and 2 from the guidance of the Library staff.

METHODS

Conditions	No. of Respondents	
	College	University
Guidance from Library Staff	2	5
Help from Friends/Colleagues	3	11
Through Trial and Error	0	3
Total	31	19