

Use of INDEST and UGC-INFONET E-Journal Consortia: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

The present study explains about INDEST-AICTE Consortium of MHRD and UGC-Infonet Consortium of INFLIBNET, UGC. It examines use of consortium by users of IIT (D) and Delhi University. The study was conducted on a sample of users of IIT (Delhi) and DU. A total number of 120 questionnaires were distributed among the users of IIT (D) and DU libraries, respectively, in the month of December '2007'. 50 filled in questionnaire were received from IIT (D) users and 50 from DU users. Out of 100 only 90 were chosen for analysis of data and 10 questionnaires were rejected because of incomplete response from the respondents. The results have indicated that majority of users are aware about INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia at IIT, Delhi and Delhi University. Most of the users access e-journals and databases through INDEST and UGC-Infonet consortia. Slow downloading, lack of maintenance, lack of training, lack of infrastructure and language etc. are the major problems that would discourage users for accessing resources on INDEST and UGC-Infonet. At the end, some suggestions have been provided for enhancing the use of resources available at INDEST and UGC-Infonet.

Keywords: INDEST-AICTE, UGC-Infonet, e-Journals, Consortia, User Survey, IIT Delhi, Delhi University, INFLIBNET Centre

1. Introduction

Recent past has witnessed a volumetric growth of documents in print as well as in electronic format. As a consequence of this growth, no library can procure, process or store the entire documents that the library users demand. Neither of the libraries can afford to acquire even half of all published materials both in terms of money required to purchase, investment required to be made for creating space to accommodate them and the cost involved in hiring the personnel to process and provide access to this huge acquired information and knowledge. Despite of these constraints before the libraries and the library professional efforts were being made continuously to overcome this problem in the academic interest of users.

To solve this problem library cooperation started long ago, such as library network, Inter Library Loan (ILL), document delivery library consortia etc, which are internationally accepted, but at present the more accepted system of resource sharing is library consortia that have come into existence with a wide coverage. Some of the important consortia are FORSA, CSIR Consortium, IIM Consortium, MCIT Library Consortium, UGC-Infonet E-journal consortium and INDEST –AICTE Consortium.

2. INDEST Consortium

The Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) was set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on the recommendation of an expert group appointed by the Ministry made by an expert group under the chairmanship of Prof. N. Balakrishnan, IISc, Bangalore. The INDEST consortium is the most ambitious initiative of its type taken so far in the country. It not only benefits technology institution in the country but also invites all AICTE- accredited and UGC-affiliated institution to join hands with leading engineering and technology institutions in the country. The Consortium subscribes to several full-text e-resources as well as bibliographic databases.

Resources on INDEST

Full text resources	16
Bibliographic Databases	06
Total number of e-journals	6,500

3. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

UGC-Infonet is an ambitious programme of UGC to interlink all the universities in the country with state-of-the-art technology. The network will overlay on ERNET backbone and provide Internet and intranet services. It is providing Internet connectivity to 150 universities in first phase. INFLIBNET is responsible for executing and monitoring the entire project. University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated a programme called The UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium to provide online access to electronic journals and databases in all disciplines to the universities in India. All universities under the purview of UGC will be beneficiary members of the programme. The scheme would be gradually extended to colleges as well. The programme is being executed by Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Ahmedabad (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>), an autonomous institution under the UGC. Access to various electronic resources has formally commenced from January 1, 2004, initially for 30 universities. The programme aims at increasing accessibility of electronic resources to the universities. It will go a long way in mitigating the severe shortage of periodicals faced by university libraries for several years. The E-Journals programme is a cornerstone of the UGC-Infonet effort, which aims at addressing the teaching, learning, research, connectivity and governance requirements of the universities.

4. Delhi University Library

The Delhi University has entered into an agreement with the university grants commission (UGC) of India and the INFLIBNET Centre to participate in the country-wide UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. The university computer network has a state-of-the-art fiber optic network and wireless network link to the Internet providing 2Mbps of additional bandwidth for browsing of electronic journals and databases in sciences, social sciences and humanities. Delhi University Library Service

(DULS) subscribes to a large number of electronic databases. It is being made available through campus network in University Campus and can also be accessed in the Colleges.

The Database includes 3970 journals and provides access to 14000 full-text journals which are available full text online through DULS with back files from May 1998 onwards.

Computer and network infrastructure in IIT(D) and DULS

Delhi University		IIT, Delhi	
Number of PCs	– 40	Number of PCs	– 55
Scanners	– 06	Number of Servers	– 08
Internet connectivity	– 100 Mbps	Internet connectivity	– 100Mbps
Printer	- 02	Printer	– 05

5. Objectives

1. To find out the awareness of users regarding the INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia at IIT Delhi and DU.
2. To examine the purpose of using INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia
3. To know the degree of utilization of existing INDEST and UGC-Infonet services in IIT Delhi and DU respectively.
4. To identify the infrastructure facilities for INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia among the students of the said institutes.
5. To evaluate technical, personal, managerial problems that make successful usage of INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia in Institute under study.
6. To check whether the training programmes are necessary for the effective and successful utilization of INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia in the above institutes.
7. To investigate the satisfaction level of users regarding INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia in the two libraries.
8. To collect suggestions for further development of INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortium source in IIT Delhi and DU

6. Methodology

Questionnaire and personal interview were selected as major tools for collection of data. A well define questionnaire was prepared to collect the comprehensive and related data. The questions were formulated keeping in view the objectives of the study and personally distributed to the users of IIT(D) and DU.

The present study is conducted on a sample of 90(45 each) users of IIT(D) and DU. A total number of 120 questionnaire were distributed among the users of the both institutes. 100

questionnaire were collected back. 10 questionnaire were rejected due to incomplete response. The investigator finally selected 90 questionnaires, 45 from each of the institutes for the analysis of data.

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data is analyzed, tabulated and presented as follows.

Table 1 Awareness / knowledge of Consortia

Awareness	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Yes	38 (84.44)	35(77.77)
No	7(15.55)	10 (22.22)

It is clear from the table that 84.44 % users in IIT Delhi and 77.77% users in DU are aware of INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia, respectively, whereas 15.55% users in IIT Delhi and 22.22% users in DU are unaware of it.

When compared, it can be seen that users of IIT library are more aware about e-journal consortia than users of Delhi University.

Table 2 Resource of consortia

Resources	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Colleagues	20 (44.44)	32(71.11)
Web	18(40%)	15(33.33)
Newspaper-Advertisement	10(22.22)	07 (15.55)
Books / Journal	15 (33.33)	20 (44.44)
Library professionals	12 (26.66)	25 (55.55)

(Multiple response were permitted)

It is noted that there are different sources such as guidance of the library professionals and teachers, advertisements or through web searching, the consortium is known to users. The above table stated the response of users regarding through which INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortium is known.

44.44% in IIT Delhi and 71.11% users in DU came to know the consortia through their colleagues followed by 40% and 33.33% through web, 26.66% and 15.55% through newspapers and advertisements, 33.33% and 44.44% through books and journals while rest of the users i.e. 22.22% in IIT Delhi and 55.55% in DU came to know the resources available through consortia by library professionals.

It can be seen that most of the users in IIT, Delhi and DU came to know about the consortia resources through their colleagues

Table 3 Duration of awareness of consortia

Duration	1 month	6 months	1 year	More than 1 year
Indest	3 (6.66)	5 (11.11)	7(15.55)	30 (66.66)
UGC-Infonet	12 (26.66)	4 (8.88)	10(22.22)	19 (40.22)

Table 3 reveals that 66.66% users are aware of INDEST and 42.22% are of UGC-Infonet Consortia for more than a year followed by 15.55% and 22.22% for a year, followed by 11.11% and 8.88% for 6 months while 6.66% and 26.66% users in both the institute are aware for the last one month.

It is clear from the analysis that majority of users are aware of INDEST and UGC-Infonet for more than a year.

Table 4 Linkage to consortia

Access	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Through search engine	25(55.55)	30(66.66)
Link for E-database	38(84.44)	35 (77.77)
Publisher website	15(33.33)	7(15.55)

(Multiple response were permitted)

On the analysis of Table 4 we found that 55.55% in IIT, D and 66.66% users in DU are linked with INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia through search engine whereas 84.44% and 77.77% of them are linked by e-databases and rest of all i.e. 33.33% and 15.55% are linked through Publisher website.

Table 5 Usefulness of contents

Resources	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Yes	42 (93.33)	43 (95.55)
No	03 (06.66)	02 (04.44)

Table 5 described that 93.33% and 95.55% users find the contents of UGC-INFONET and INDEST Consortia to be useful for them, whereas only a small amount i.e. 6.66% and 4.44% of them do not find it useful.

We can conclude that INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia are helping them in their research, preparing their term papers and assignments and giving current literature on their subjects.

Table 6 Utility of consortia

Utility	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Abstract	32 (71.11)	28(62.22)
Full text	15(33.33)	35 (77.77)
Table of Content	12(26.66)	08 (17.77)
All	25 (55.55)	20 (44.44)

(Multiple response were permitted)

From Table 6 it is apparent that 71.11% and 62.22% of users access the consortia for accessing abstract of the article, 33.33% and 77.77% access the consortia for retrieving full text articles, 26.66% and 7.77% access only table of content whereas 55.55% and 44.44% users access the consortium for all these purposes.

Table 7 Need for orientation programme / training programme

Particulars	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Know about UGC-Infonet and INDEST Consortium	32(71.11)	20 (44.44)
Needed training / Orientation for searching INDEST and UGC-Infonet resources	03 (6.66)	13(28.88)
No need any training for searching for INDEST and UGC-Infonet	10 (22.22)	12(26.66)

Training of users plays an important role in effective use of resources, facilities and services of a library. In advanced countries the libraries conducts training programme on basic library orientation to advance information access techniques. The above table provides the training requirements of users in e-journal.

Question was asked to the users that any training programme or orientation programme is needed to know and search the INDEST and UGC-Infonet journals. The response of the users about 71.11% in IIT Delhi and 44.44% in DU expressed that they have sound knowledge about INDEST and UGC-Infonet, 6.6% and 22.88% needed training for searching resources and 22.22% and 26.66% users have not availed any orientation programme.

It was asked to users whether more number of full text journals are needed in UGC-Infonet and INDEST Consortia. The response of users is as under:

Table 8 Need for more E-journals

Particulars	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
More number of journals are needed	39 (86.66)	41(91.11)
More number of journals not needed	06 (13.33)	04 (08.88)

According to the table 8, users of IIT (D) and DU feel that there is need for more journals to be included in both the consortia.

8. Satisfaction regarding INDEST and UGC-INFONET

Most of the users showed their dissatisfaction with INDEST and UGC-Infonet Services provided by the library. The users felt short of terminals, express disability in accessing the e-journals through consortium and wanted orientation in accessing e-journals.

While some users have opined that with the introduction of INDEST and UGC-Infonet able to access more journals and databases at a lower cost.

Table 10 Problems while accessing journals through consortia

Problems	INDEST	UGC-INFONET
Slow downloading	15 (33.33)	36 (80.00)
Lack of maintenance	12 (26.66)	18 (40.00)
Lack of training	5 (11.11)	15 (33.33)
Lack of infrastructure	20 (44.44)	40 (88.88)
Language	08 (17.77)	15 (33.33)
Not easy to use	10 (22.22)	20 (44.44)

(Multiple response were permitted)

Even through E-journals are very important source of information, but there are some hindrances faced by users while accessing them through consortia. Slow downloading, lack of maintenance, lack of training, lack of infrastructure and language etc. are major problems faced by the users of UGC-Infonet and INDEST Consortia.

As can be seen from the table 10 that lack of infrastructure is the major problem(44.44% and 88.88%) in both the institutions followed by slow downloading (33.33% and 80%), lack of maintenance (26.66% and 40%), not easy to use(22.22% and 44.44%), language (17.77% and 33.33%), and lack of training(11.11% and 33.33%).

9. Impact

During interview it was found that after the introduction of e-journals availability through consortia, users now have more online journals to be accessed and these online journals prove to be extremely useful especially for research scholars. And all these in turn enhance user satisfaction to manifold.

Findings

1. It is observed that IIT users (84.44%) are more aware about consortia than Delhi University users (77.7%).
2. At IIT Delhi, 44.44% users and at DU, 71.11% users have shown their resource awareness of INDEST and UGC-Infonet Consortia respectively through colleagues whereas only 15.55% of IIT users and 22.22% of DU users have shown awareness of INDEST and UGC-Infonet through advertisements.
3. 66.66% users at IIT(D) are availing INDEST services for more than a year whereas the percentage of users availing UGC-Infonet services for more than a year at DU is low (40.22%) as compared to INDEST.
4. Most of users (84.44%) and 77.77% access INDEST and UGC-Infonet consortia through e-databases whereas the percentage of users accessing through search engines in DU is more as compared to IIT.
5. Only 55.55% and 44.44% users in IIT(D) and DU access the consortia for all purposes whereas 71.11% and 62.22% users find it useful for abstracts. Users at IIT prefer to access abstracts rather than full text whereas majority of DU users are shown interest in full text articles.
6. Very few percentage of users at IIT D i.e.6.66% & 28.88% at DU shown their interest in joining the training programmes on INDEST & UGC-Infonet Consortia, which means that INDEST users are more trained and having more knowledge of consortium resources as compared to UGC-Infonet users.
7. Most of the users felt that the number of journals in both the consortia should be increased. A good percentage of users i.e. 86.66% and 91.11 are of the opinion that the number of journals should be increased in the consortia whereas and small percentage among them i.e. 13.33% and 8.88% did not need it.
8. 44.44% respondents in IIT (D) and 88.88% users in DU find lack of infrastructure as the major problem that would encourage users from accessing consortia resources.

Suggestions

1. The librarian and staff members should conduct an orientation / training programmes to users how to search information under INDEST and UGC-INFONET
2. There is a need to evaluate the INDEST & UGC-Infonet Consortium periodically and include more number of journals in the consortium.

3. A good number of users suggested that necessary arrangements should be made to access the full text of more e-journals.
4. Both libraries should organize workshops on regular basis to enhance usage of INDEST & UGC-Infonet Consortia among users
5. Meeting with thought leaders, influential persons in other departments and engaging them to spread the awareness about the INDEST & UGC-Infonet Services may be considered.
6. The libraries should try to introduce electronic document supply services.
7. More electronic versions of journals (e.g. Online version of Nature) and databases should be subscribed. SciFinder Scholar database and IEEE e-journals may be upgraded into multi-user license with search facility through Campus Wide Network.
8. Redesign both IIT and DU library web sites with active links and content and also user-friendly software to access online resources.

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