
ACCESS TO INFONET E-JOURNALS CONSORTIUM IN MANIPUR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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Abstract

Mentions about Infonet E-Journal Consortium. Objectives, Scope and methodology of the study are highlighted. Assesses the access to the consortium by 100 (one hundred) users of Manipur University Library covering different parameters. Concludes to implement the opinions and suggestions of the users for improving the system.

Keywords: UGC-Infonet; E-journals; Consortium; Manipur University Library.

1. Introduction

Globalization of education and competitive research has been seen today all over the world. This has increased the demand for the journals over the years. On the other hand, due to scarcity of funds, libraries have been forced to discontinue the subscription to scholarly journals. This has a great impact to the users community to meet their complex information needs. The initiative of the UGC towards launching UGC-INFONET: E-journal consortium presenting a bouquet of E-journals to the nation is timely and the only solution to solve the above problems. The program executed by Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Ahmedabad and inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India on 28th December 2003 during the concluding day of UGC's Golden Jubilee Celebrations has enabled the universities and colleges of the country to access to more than 4000 scholarly journals in a phase manner. Manipur University Library (MUL), which became an INFLIBNET node, also implemented the said programme since 2003 with the expectation that the different groups of users of the library will be more benefited to meet their information needs. The present paper is an attempt to assess the effectiveness and accountability of the program implemented at MUL. Here access to the E-journal consortium by the different types of users has been analysed with representative samples of 100 (one hundred) users. The users comprise of P.G. students, Research Scholars, Teachers, Working Staff and Others.

2. Objectives

The objectives of study are

- to assess the accessibility of users to the consortium;
- to ascertain the preferred journals of the users;
- to understand the level of satisfaction of the facility/ service being rendered by the library;
- to know the frequency of access to the consortium;

- to aware of the problems being encountered by them from the system; and finally
- to draw opinions and suggestion from the users towards improving the accessibility of the E-journals.

3. Scope

The scope of the present study is limited to:

- Manipur University Library (MUL)
- Infonet E-journal Consortium
- Major users of the library
- Data collected during 15 July- 20 August 2006
- Facility/service of the library.

4. Methodology

The study has been carried out using a questionnaire, as tool for collecting data from 100 (one hundred), different types of users of the library. Stratifying the users as PG students, Research Scholars, Teachers, Staff and Others the questionnaire has been distributed so that all groups of users are represented to the sample so selected. The finding of the present study is thus based purely on the responses made in the questionnaire returned by the users.

5. Sample Characteristics

The number of users and their category under study is shown

Table 1: Users under study

N=100

Category	Number	Sex		Knowledge on Internet		Awareness about Internet Consortium	
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
PG Students	36	20 (55.56%)	16 (44.44%)	25 (69.44%)	11 (30.56%)	21 (58.33%)	15 (41.67%)
Research Scholars	30	18 (60.00%)	12 (40.00%)	21 (70.00%)	9 (30.00%)	20 (66.67%)	10 (33.33%)
Teachers	20	9 (45.00%)	11 (55.00%)	13 (65.00%)	7 (35.00%)	14 (70.00%)	6 (30.00%)
Staff	10	3 (30.00%)	7 (70.00%)	8 (80.00%)	2 (20.00%)	4 (40.00%)	6 (60.00%)
Others	4	3 (75.00%)	1 (25.00%)	2 (50.00%)	2 (50.00%)	1 (25.00%)	3 (75.00%)
Total	100	53 (53.00%)	47 (47.00%)	69 (69.00%)	31 (31.00%)	54 (54.00%)	46 (46.00%)

in table 1. Majority of them have knowledge about internet access. However most of them are found to be lack of awareness of the Infonet Consortium.

6. Accessibility

The following table 2 shows the access to e-journals consortium by different group of users.

Table 2: Access to E-journals Consortium

N=100

Frequency					
Users	Daily(%)	Sometimes(%)	Weekly(%)	Hardly(%)	Total(%)
PG Students	1(5%)	4 (20%)	8 (40%)	7 (35%)	20(100%)
Research Scholars	4 (20%)	10 (50%)	5 (25%)	1 (5%)	20(100%)
Teachers	1 (7.14%)	10 (71.43%)	2 (14.29%)	1 (7.14%)	14 (100%)
Staff	NA (0%)	2 (50%)	NA (0%)	2 (50%)	4(100%)
Others	NA(0%)	1 (100%)	NA (0%)	NA (0%)	1(100%)

Source: Questionnaire

Except research scholars and teaching community access to e-journal consortium by other group of users is found to be poor. The reason may be the lack of awareness of the existence of the e-journal consortium in the university library.

6.1 Access frequency

The frequency of access to E-journals consortium is understood from the table 3

Table 3: Frequency of Access to E-Journal Consortium

N= 59

Frequency					
Users	Daily(%)	Sometimes(%)	Weekly(%)	Hardly(%)	Total(%)
PG Students	1(5%)	4(20%)	8(40%)	7(35%)	20(100%)
Research Scholars	4(20%)	10(50%)	5(25%)	1(5%)	20(100%)
Teachers	1(7.14%)	10(71.43%)	2(14.29%)	1(7.14%)	14(100%)
Staff	NA (0%)	2(50%)	NA(0%)	2(50%)	4(100%)
Others	NA(0%)	1(100%)	NA(0%)	NA(0%)	1(100%)

Source: Questionnaire

Most of the users access to e-journal consortium only on "Sometimes". The number of users who access the same "Daily" is very few. Access to the same on "Weekly" basis is also comparatively high.

7. Question of satisfaction

The services and other facilities rendered by the library are found to be

Table 4: Satisfaction with the Service/Facility

N=100

Users						
Response	P.G.Students (%)	Research Scholars(%)	Teachers (%)	Staff (%)	Others (%)	Total (%)
Yes	30(83.33%)	24(80%)	18(90%)	9(90%)	4(100%)	85(85%)
No	6 (16.67%)	6 (20%)	2 (10%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	15 (15%)
Total	36 (100%)	30(100%)	20 (100%)	10(100%)	4(100%)	100(100%)

8. Fulfilling users needs

It is heartening to learn that all categories of the most of the users are found to be

Table 5: Level of fulfillment of users needs

N= 85

Levels				
Users	Fully(%)	Partially(%)	Some Extent(%)	Total(%)
PG Students	20(66.67%)	8(26.67%)	2(6.66%)	30(100%)
Research Scholars	18(75%)	4(16.67%)	2(8.33%)	24 (100%)
Teachers	12(63.16%)	6(31.58%)	1(5.26%)	19(100%)
Staff	4(44.44%)	4(44.44%)	1(11.12%)	9(100%)
Others	NA(0%)	3(75%)	1(25%)	4(100%)
Total	54(63.13%)	25(29.41%)	7(7.06%)	85(100%)

Source: Questionnaire

fully satisfied with the services offered by the library. So that level of satisfaction is very high.

9. Preferred Journals

Users preference on the journals is shown in table 6.

Table 6: Preferred Journals

Source: Questionnaire

N= 85

Journals			
Users	Printed(%)	E-Journals(%)	Total(%)
PG Students	23(63.89%)	13(36.11%)	36(100%)
Research Scholars	21 (70%)	9 (30%)	30(100%)
Teachers	12 (60%)	8 (40%)	20(100%)
Staff	8 (80%)	2 (20%)	10(100%)
Others	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4(100%)
Total	66(100%)	34(34%)	100(100%)

The table reveals us that all groups of users understudy preferred printed journals more than the e-journals.

10. Problem Faced

The problems faced by the users in the use of E-journals is shown in table 7

Table 7: Problems in the use of E-Journals

N= 100

Users						
Response	P.G.Students (%)	Research Scholars(%)	Teachers (%)	Staff (%)	Others (%)	Total (%)
Yes	18(50%)	14(46.67%)	9(45%)	6(60%)	2(50%)	49(49%)
No	18(50%)	16(53.33%)	11 (55%)	4(40%)	2(50%)	51(51%)
Total	36(100%)	30(100%)	20(100%)	10(100%)	4(100%)	100(100%)

Source: Questionnaire

It is alarming to note that 49 percent of the users encountered problems in the use of the E-resources made available to them by the library. The major problems they encountered include the following:

- They do not know about e-resources
- They lack knowledge on surfing
- Illiteracy of ICT & its knowledge
- Frequent power failure disturb them
- The speed of the internet is very slow
- The number of computers available is not sufficient to serve the users
- Problems is the selection of desired title of journals
- Often disconnection of internet.

11. Expectation from INFONET-E-Journals Consortium

The users who know about e-journal consortium of the library have a number of expectations. Their expectations include the following:

- Access to the full text of the journals
- Easy access to the journals
- Helps from the professionals to use the consortium
- Provision of up to date information
- Saving time in searching desired information
- Fulfilling the need of the users
- More installation of computers
- Prolonged access without interruption
- Organisation of awareness programme to benefit the users
- More information on career opportunities and jobs

12. Towards improving the E-journals service

In the opinion of the users the different points with which the e-journals service of the university library can be improved upon include the following:

- Regular conduct of users' education programmes for the e-journals consortium.
- Establishment of separate departmental library for each library with internet facility to reduce trouble on the access to the journals.
- Installation of more computer terminals and increasing network accessibility.
- Making the users aware of the e-journals available.
- Circulating tips on the access to e-journals as guidelines.

13. Conclusion

The findings of the present study draw us light on many clues about the implementation of the Infonet E-journals consortium at MUL as highlighted in the above description. It is a matter of concern about the problems being encountered by the users towards access to the consortium. The opinions and suggestions of them for the improvement of the system required to be translated into reality by the MUL authority so that effectiveness and accountability of the same can be maintained to serve the users community in a better way.

Annexure-I**Questionnaire Used in the Collection of Data**

Name:

Designation:

Department:

Sex: M/F

5. Age:

6. Qualification:

7. Knowledge on internet access: Y/N

8. Awareness about INFONET E-Journals Consortium facility in Manipur University Library: Y/N

9. Do you access to the E-Journals consortium: Y/N

9.1. If "Yes" how often do you access to it ?

 Sometimes Hardly Weekly Daily

10. Are you satisfied with the service/ facility available in the Library ? Y/N

11. What is your level of fulfillment of your needs from the service ?

 Some extent Partially Fully

13. What is your preference on the access to E-Journals and printed journals?

 E-Journals Printed Journal

15. Do you have any problems in the use of the E-Resources available in the Library ? Yes/No

15.1. If "Yes" please enumerate:

a)

b)

c)

d)

16. What is your expectations from the INFONET E-Journals Consortium ?

a)

b)

c)

d)

17. Please suggest improving upon the E-Journals service of the University Library:
