

## UGC- Infonet: Its Availability and Use in Universities of Assam

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*Now-a-day, it has become a trend among publishers to publish their document in electronic format which is known as electronic resource. It has changed the entire gamut of society, libraries especially the university libraries and its collection. This paper mainly traces the availability of e-resources under the UGC-Infonet E-journal consortium in university libraries of Assam. It also highlights the current use of e-journals accessed by the users of three universities of Assam namely Dibrugarh University, Tezpur University and Assam University.*

**Keywords :** Electronic Resources, E-journals, UGC-Infonet

### 1. Introduction

Due to phenomenal growth of information at an exponential rate, there is paradigm shift in accessing and utilizing of information. Since then, it has become the major concern for the libraries. Technological developments have profoundly transformed the publishing and distribution industry especially in the publication of scholarly journals, which are considered as most preferred channels for communicating and exchanging research results.

The consortium offers the opportunity for providing access to a broader and deeper range of articles to the users than most university libraries currently provide to their users. With the escalating cost of journals and periodicals, which are considered carriers of information, many university libraries have had to cut down their subscription of journals, books and databases that deeply affecting R&D activities in the universities. In such situation, subscription of journals through UGC-Infonet consortium is the ideal solution for all academic libraries.

### 2. Scope of the Study

The present study has been limited to available electronic journals and databases through UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium in three university libraries of Assam those are Tezpur University, Dibrugarh University and Assam University.

### 3. Methodology

Methodology is one of the important research components which are applied to collect data concerning to the area of research and hence for this study, the following methodologies has been adopted.

- 3.1 Literature search in the libraries.
- 3.1.1 Interview with the students of the universities.
- 3.1.2 Consultation of UGC, Universities websites etc.

#### 4. Electronic Resources

E-resources encompass a wide range of its sources, which includes e-journals, e-books, e-reports, e-databases, etc. E-resources are mostly the electronic products that delivers a collection of data, be in text referring to full-text, e-journals, image collection, other multimedia products and numerical / graphical data.

#### 5. Electronic Journals

E-Journals are often referred to 'electronic publishing', 'electronic serials', 'online journals' and 'electronic periodicals'. Electronic journal is defined as the grouping of information that is sent out in electronic format, which is produced, published, and distributed electronically. Electronic journals are digital version of printed journals accompanied by extensive hyper linking. It can be read in both online and offline. It has become the biggest and fastest growing segment of the digital of the digital collection for most libraries.

#### 6. Consortia

The word 'Consortia' is the plural form of 'Consortium' but it is often used in place of singular form. In Consortia, two or more libraries having some common areas of research and studies in a given locality shares in subscribing to e-resources to achieve mutual benefits.

Library consortium is "a group of libraries that agree to pool their resources by allowing the user of each institution some type of access to resources of all other institutions".

#### 7. Universities in Assam

Assam, popularly known as the land of "red river" and "blue hills", is a gateway of North-Eastern region. There are six universities in Assam those are listed below:

- Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.
- Assam University, Silchar
- Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh
- Gauhati University, Guwahati
- Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University, Guwahati
- Tezpur University, Sonitpur

## 8. UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium

The UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium has been formally launched on the concluding day of UGC's Golden Jubilee celebrations by his Excellency the President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam at Vigyan Bhawan on 28th December 2003.

UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium initiative was undertaken by the university Grants Commission (UGC) to facilitate free access to scholarly journals and databases in all fields and disciplines by the research and academic community across the country. All universities who are under the purview of UGC have been provided UGC-infonet Connectivity and access to scholarly e-Journals and Databases. More than 2,000 scholarly journals and databases were made available during 2004 and this number has increased to more than 4,500 full-text e-journals since January 2005.

## 9. Use of UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium in University libraries of Assam

However there are six universities of Assam but only four universities are covered under UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium. These universities are:

- Assam University (Silchar)
- Dibrugarh University (Dibrugarh).
- Gauhati University (Guwahati).
- Tezpur University

But our present study is limited to three universities those are Dibrugarh University, Tezpur University and Assam University.

### 9.1 Dibrugarh University Library

A Library is called the heart of any higher education institution and so is the Central Library of Dibrugarh University. It is a four storied building with an area of 33570 sq.ft. It is named after Lakshminath Bezbaroa, the doyen of Modern Assamese Literature.

It have following collections:

Books :	1,64,677
Current Journals :	153
Back-volumes of Journals :	17200
E-Resource:	
CD's/DVD's :	400
Databases :	03
Online Journals :	4700

The library provides access to e-journals under UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium. The INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) sponsored project provides full-text access of archival and current issues of scholarly journals. The facility started from January 1, 2004 provides access to around 4700 e-journals.

### 9.2 Tezpur University Library

The Central Library, Tezpur University was established in 1994 along with the University. The library holds 44200 volumes of print documents and subscribed 220 titles of current journals (online 33, print 165, and print + online 22), 740 titles of e- journals, two databases and one knowledge portal through INDEST-AICTE Consortium and other publishers. The UGC-Infonet Consortium of INFLIBNET Centre is providing access facility to 5888 e-journals, eight databases and one gateway portal. Library users can access book database, theses database, journal database, e-journals and other resources from any terminals within the university campus.

### 9.3 Assam University

Assam University Central library located inside the campus is available for students besides some small departmental libraries. Presently the library has a holding of 52,557 books. The Library subscribes to 13 foreign and 186 Indian journals, 16 news papers and 12 magazines. Assam University Library is one of the libraries selected by UGC for automation and networking under INFLIBNET Programme in the year 1998-1999. The Library automation is under progress and a database of 25000 books have already been created using SOUL software provided by INFLIBNET Centre. The library also subscribes journals through UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium.

### 9.4 Usage Statistics for Full-Text Access

INFLIBNET on behalf of UGC has been receiving and monitoring statistics of usage of member libraries supplied by the publishers/aggregators through UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium-Monitoring system, i.e., COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources) for full text access of e-journals. Data available for full-text access of journals by three universities during the year 2009 (from January to till date) are given in the Table-1.

Publishers	Dibrugarh University	Tezpur University	Assam University	Total
CUP	224	223	189	636
IOP	46	46	36	128
RSC	26	35	29	90
OUP	202	198	169	569

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T&F	1076	1076	1100	3252
ACS	29	37	31	97
AIP	18	18	19	55
APS	10	10	8	28
Springer Link	1236	1950	1200	4386
PM	389	297	293	979
AR	33	33	31	97
Portland Press	NF	8	4	12
ISID	1 Database	2 database	NF	3
Nature	NF	1	1	2
PE	NF	21	18	39
Elsevier	NF	34	NF	34
Jstor	NF	1401	NF	1401
Sian	NF	14	NF	14
Wiley	NF	492	NF	492
Encyclopedia Britannica online	NF	NF	1	1
Science Online	NF	NF	1	1
Blackwell	NF	NF	489	489
Total	3290	5896	3629	12815

Table-1: The total number of downloads from different publisher for the year 2009 by the universities

\*NF- Not Found, CUP- Cambridge University Press, OUP- Oxford University Press, ACS-American Chemical Society, AIP- American Institute of Physics, APS- American Physical Society, ISID- Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, PE-Project Euclid, PM- Project Muse, AR- Annual Review, T&F- Taylor & Francis, IOP-Institute of Physics and RCS- Royal Chemical Society.

From the above Table-1 it is found that during the year 2009, the three universities of Assam have downloaded total no. of 12815 journal articles through UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium. During this year, it is seen that highest no. of usage i.e., 4386 from Springer Link, second from Taylor & Francis and the third from Jstor.

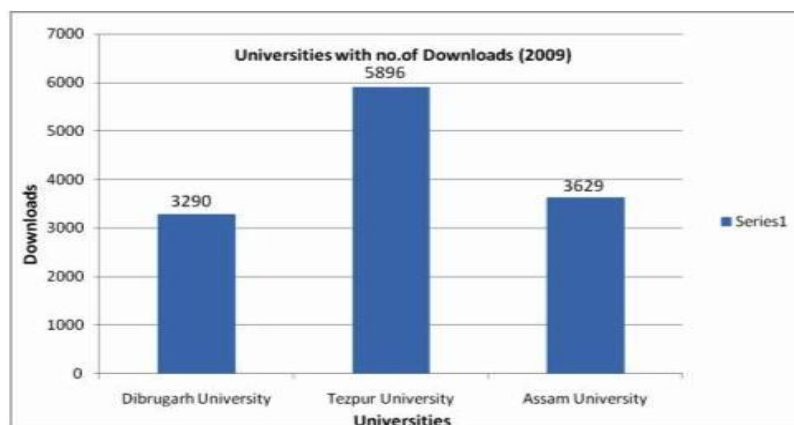


Figure-1: Graph showing the total no.of downloads for the year 2009 by the Universities

From the Table-1 and Figure-1, it is observed that the number of usage is highest in case of Tezpur University which is 5896. Out of three universities, Assam University is in second position and the use is lowest in Dibrugarh University. It shows that the rate of usage is poor in universities across Assam. The main reason of less use is lack of awareness among the users.

## 10. Conclusion

The emerging Information Technology has facilitated LIS professionals to acquire and share library collection and provide electronic library services to the users. This leads to library cooperation, resource sharing and networking. The consortium approach is presently the most accepted system of resource sharing. To satisfy the varying need of users of the universities it should be necessary to provide web-based electronic resources to its users. From the above analysis, it is observed that the resources are not effectively being used by the users. The important reason of low use of the e-journals is network connectivity. The Dibrugarh University and Tezpur university has 256 kbps bandwidth and the Assam University has 512 kbps. Therefore to maximize the usage of e-resources, it is necessary to increase the bandwidth in these universities.

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