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## AVAILABILITY OF E-RESOURCES AND THEIR ACCESS FACILITY: A CASE STUDY OF MANIPUR

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### Abstract

*Surveys the important and leading institutions of Manipur to assess the availability of E-resources and their access facility. Ascertains different types of such resources available and approximate numbers of e-journals subscribed to these institutions. Understanding the users and their level of satisfaction from the use of such resources, the present paper suggests for the optimal use of them.*

**Keywords :** E-Resources; Access Facility; User Study; Manipur State.

### 1. Introduction

E-resources are those resources that include both documents and non-documents in electronic or e-format that provide information or a pointer to the information contents which can be accessed via internet/operated in computer-based environment. Such sources mainly include World Wide Web sites, Telnet sites, Gopher sites, Synchronous Communications sites, Listservs, Newsgroups, E-mail, full text data bases, CD-ROMs, Diskettes, Magnetic tapes, e-journals, e-books, etc. in this electronic digital information era, e-resources play a vital role towards meeting the needs of the e-information seekers. There are a sizable number of institutions of higher learning in the border state Manipur. Generally the people of the State has always been encountering a number of communication problems, being a border state. Access facility to internet and other e-resources thus become utmost important in such a specified and peculiar state. Users community in different institutions of higher learning require to update their knowledge by accessing the numerous and relevant e-resources to fulfill the objectives of the institutions. The Library/information system unit of the concerned institutions have a pivotal role to develop such resources to meet the complex information needs of the users. In our paper an attempt is being made to assess the availability of such resources and ascertain the access facility in 21(twenty one) institutions.

### 2. Institutions under Study

The institutions covered for the study include-college, R&D organizations, Universities, etc. they are listed under ANNEXURE-1. the number of the users in the library, etc of institutions are presented below:

Table-1: Institutions and Their Users

Sr.N.	Institute Name	Year of Establishment	Number of Users
1	Central Agricultural University	1993	200/Day
2	DIPR	1974	45/Day
3	DM College of Arts	1979	300/Day
4	DM College of Commerce	1996	30/Day
5	DM College of Science	1946	200/Day
6	DM College of Teacher Education	1972	50-60/Day
7	GP Women's College	1965	200/Day
8	Hindi Teachers Training College	1975	60/Day
9	ICAR	1975	150/Day
10	Imphal College	1952	200/Day
11	Information Technology and Computer Training Center	2000	25-30/Day
12	Institute of Bioresource and Sustainable Development	2001	10-11/Day
13	Institute of Cooperative Management	1988	100-120/Day
14	Manipur College	1970	200/Day
15	Manipur Renewable Energy Development Agent	1999	7/Day
16	Manipur Science Centre	2005	NA
17	Manipur University	1980	200/Day
18	Manipur Secretariat	1985	200/Day
19	Oriental College	1970	180/Day
20	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences	1972	2479/Year
21	State Academy of Training	1985	100/day

Source : Data Supplied by the Institutions

NA=Not Available

The users community of these Institutions comprise of mostly students, research scholars, working staff, Teaching community, scientists, a media persons, etc.

### 3. Types of Resources Available

The different types of resources( both print and e-format) available in these institutions under study are shown in table 2.

Table-2: Types of Resources Available

Sr. No	Resources	No. of Institutes (%)
1	Printed Material	21(100%)
2	E-Resources(Floppy, CD, DVD, Pen-drive)	6(28.57%)
3	Internet	9(42.86%)
4	E-journals consortium	1(4.76%)
5	E-journals Subscription	2(9.52%)

Source : Data Supplied by the Institutions

All the institutions under study have printed materials (Books, Journals, Newspapers and others) as their major collections, as the table shows. Availability of Internet facility in the institutions is encouraging with 42.86 percent. However e-resources available is far below the desired rank. Only Manipur University enjoys the E-journals Consortium. The University and the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development are subscribing to E-journals.

#### 4. Availability of E-journal

The availability of e-journals in different formats like- floppy, CDs, DVD, Pen Drive, Internet, Consortium, and others is shown in table 3.

Table3: Availability of E-journal

Sr. No	E-Journals in Different Format	No. of Institutes (%)
1	Floppy	4(19.05%)
2	CD	8(38.09%)
3	DVD	4(19.05%)
4	Pen Drive	2(9.52%)
5	Internet	9(42.86%)
6	Consortium	1(4.76%)
7	Others	1(4.76%)

Source : Data Supplied by the Institutions

It is seen that the number of institutions availing the e-journals in the state in vary low. 42.86 percent of them have internet connectivity through which they access to the e-journals also. This activity is found to be highest followed by e-journals subscribed through CDs (38.09%), Floppy (19.05%), DVD (19.05%) as so on.

#### 5. Users Satisfaction

The institutions having e-resources as their part of collections have expressed their views that their users are fully satisfied with the resources they procured. This is as per the observation of the e-

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resource managers. However, to ascertain the reality, study of the concerned users, still requires to be conducted.

## **6. Towards Optimal Utilization of E-resources**

When asking the working staff/professionals engaged in the institutions about the optimal utilization of the e-resources by their users, they opined a number suggestions as listed below:

- Library should be fully computerized:
- E-resources as per needs of the users should be developed:
- Authority of the concerned institutions should take up initiatives to join their institutions in the library consortia so that access to e-resources can be done successfully;
- Procurement of more machines to meet the demands of the users is also required; and
- Internet connectivity is the only means to access the e-resources.

Most of the institutions having no e-resources also expressed their views about:

- Installation of computers
- Procurement of e-resources
- Connection to internet
- Participation in networks, etc.
- to be in operational in the future.

## **7. Conclusion**

E-readiness in the institutions on higher learning in Manipur is utmost important to serve the users in this e-environment of information activities. Since the last few years there has been an increasing trend in the state in this regard. The present e-resources facility available is not suitable to meet the requirements of the e-learning community of the Institutions of higher learning in the state. With the awareness of the usefulness and importance of such resources, it is expected that these environment to serve the needs of the varied users.

### ANNEXURE-1: Institutions covered under study

1. Central Agricultural University , Iroishamba, Imphal, 795001
2. DIPR, Imphal, 795001
3. DM College of Arts, Imphal, 795001
4. DM College of Commerce, Imphal, 795001
5. DM College of Science, Imphal, 795001
6. DM College of Teacher Education, Imphal, 795001
7. GP Women's College, Imphal, 795001
8. Hindi Teachers Training College, Imphal, 795001
9. ICAR, Imphal, 795001

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10. Imphal College, Imphal, 795001
  11. Information Technology Computer Training Center, Imphal, 795001
  12. Institute of Bioresource and Sustainable Development, Takyel, Imphal, 795001
  13. Institute of Cooperative Management, Lamphel, 795004
  14. Manipur College, Imphal, 795001
  15. Manipur Renewable Energy Development Agent, Takyel, Imphal, 795001
  16. Manipur Science Centre, Imphal, 795001
  17. Manipur University, Canchipur, 795003
  18. Manipur Secretariat, Imphal, 795001
  19. Oriental College, Imphal, 795001
  20. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Lamphel, 795004
  21. State Academy of Training, Imphal, 795001

**References:**

1. INFLIBNET Centre, <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/>