
E-Resources : Vision and Utilization a Case Study of Users of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Pb.)

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1. Introduction

Human being while travelling through Pastoral, Agrarian and Industrial societies has now reached 'Information Society.' With the advent of Information Communication Technology, there are now drastic changes almost in every sphere of life. Within a decade, it has absolutely changed the working of the traditional libraries. Now the libraries particularly of Universities have started making maximum use of e-resources.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Pb.) was founded in 1969 on the 500th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism. Shortly the University will complete four decades of its existence. Incidentally the University is only 15 km. away from the International border. The University has fifteen faculties and forty-seven departments including some highly developed centres.

The university has ninety-one affiliated colleges, sixty-two colleges under distance education, three constituent colleges, and two regional campuses. The total number of students is more than one lac. The university was earlier accredited Five Star by NAAC of Bangalore and in 2007 NAAC has awarded 'A' grade i.e. excellence in various fields including the University Library.

Since the establishment of the University Library, there is a lot of development in information technology. Now there is no place for the typewriters, duplicating machines, traditional photocopy machines, hand written catalogues, manual bibliographies etc. With the advent of information technology and computerization, the services of the library have greatly improved as well as changed. It has greatly helped in saving the time of the staff and users.

2. Journals

Almost all the University Libraries are spending huge amounts on printed journals. Bhai Gurdas Library of Guru Nanak Dev University is also spending a significant amount on printed journals. Day by day the prices of these journals are increasing and the number of journals is rapidly decreasing.

The brief decreasing number of foreign journals is as under:

S.No	Year	Number of Foreign Journals	Budget Allocation
i)	1975	438	2 lac
ii)	1980	427	4 lac
iii)	1985	511	8.45 lac
iv)	1990	438	14 lac
v)	1995	266	32.5 lac
vi)	2000	180	83 lac
vii)	2005	171	83 lac
viii)	2007	165	83 lac

It shows the financial incompatibility of the university to move along with the rising prices of foreign journals. It is not possible for the university to increase the budget for the journals in order to meet the yearly increase of the subscription charges. In reality budgets are shrinking and the prices are rising. Most of the universities are passing through the same phase. So far as the on-line availability of Indian journals is concerned, the situation is absolutely different. Indian journals have small readership, therefore, their total dependence is on subscription charges. So far the number of Indian on-line journals is approximately two hundred. With the changing times and needs the situation may change in India also. As present Guru Nanak Dev University is subscribing about 185 printed foreign and 300 printed Indian journals.

3. Role of INFLIBNET

3.1 E-journals through INFLIBNET

Role of INFLIBNET in providing online access of foreign journals to the universities is highly praiseworthy. Presently, more than 4539 e-journals are being provided in various disciplines, of various publishers from Europe and USA. All of these journals are very significant for the faculty and researchers. E-journals consist of 21 important publishers of international repute and cover more than fifty disciplines.

Access of these journals has widened the vision of the users therefore, its utilizations has increased to a great extent. It saves their time, increases scope of consultation of journals, provides back files, offers rapid access and downloading facility.

Availability of journals of SIAM and SciFinder are new additions for which INFLIBNET deserves appreciation as most of the universities require these journals and databases. Utilization of SciFinder is being made by faculty members and research scholars of Departments of Science faculty. All the users feel the significant role played by INFLIBNET for their research.

3.2 E-journals at Guru Nanak Dev University

Guru Nanak Dev University is also subscribing 233 e-journals from INDEST dealing with the subjects of Computer Science and Engineering and Electronics Technology. On a survey of students it has

been ascertained that all the students are aware of it and they make use of it on need for their research or project writing. Access of e-journals has made their research easy, fast, accurate and of wider horizon. With the access of e-journals the vision of students as well as teachers has increased to a great extent. Availability of about 4800 e-journals is not a small e-resource. M. Phil. and Ph. D students get sufficient information while sitting in their own Campus.

3.3 CDs / DVDs

Hundreds of Books, Encyclopedias, Census reports, Statistical data reports, Gazetteers etc. are available in the form of CD/DVD. The users both students and Research scholars are making use of it for their projects, dissertations and theses.

3.4 E-Books

Advent of e-books on Internet are being regularly used by the students. A live demonstration regarding e-books was organized by the university library for the faculty members and research scholars. The university library is yet to receive the recommendation from the faculty members for regular access. As the packages are yet costly therefore, the publishers should offer more subsidised packages. Moreover, the INFLIBNET can also consider this service for the universities.

3.5 Users of E-resources

Guru Nanak Dev University Library

Under Graduates Students	1127
Post-graduate Students	1999
Teachers	318
Research Scholars	386
College Teachers	27
Non-Teaching 'A' Class	100
Non-Teaching 'B' Class (Library Professionals, Technical Staff & Computer Professionals)	823
Special Members	24
Pensioners(Teachers)	40

Students from the affiliated Colleges and other Universities, are allowed to use the library and its e-resources.

3.6 E-dissertations and Theses

The university library has maintained a database of M.Phil. dissertations and Ph.D. theses submitted in soft copy. Utilization of it is very helpful to the students, researchers and faculty members.

4. Digitization Project and Manuscripts

University library has a rare and highly valuable collection of well illustrated and illuminated 1515 manuscripts. These manuscripts belong to Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, history, culture, folklore, literature, medicine (Ayurveda), astronomy etc. More than one thousand manuscripts have been digitized and the remaining are on the way to be digitized. Traditional approach of possessiveness and unwillingness to show the original manuscripts to the scholar is not in the university library of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. One can have DVD/CD of any Manuscript on payment but he can freely consult any Manuscript on CD/DVD in our Digital Section.

Moreover, comprehensive catalogue of all the manuscripts is available in CD/DVD form which is open for sale. In addition to it, the University Library has put this catalogue of manuscripts on University's website also.

5. Microfilms

The University library has 500 manuscripts available in microfilms. News clippings of some newspapers are available in microfilms. With the advent of digitization the use of microfilms has decreased. Moreover, its maintenance and cost of new microfilms is very costly.

6. Users of E-Resources

Departments	Faculty Members	Research Scholars	Students
Sciences			
i. Applied Chemistry	}	}	}
ii. Applied Chemical Sciences and Technology			
iii. Applied Physics			
iv. Biotechnology			
v. Botanical and Environmental Sciences			
vi. Chemistry			
vii. Food Sciences and Technology			
viii. Human Genetics			
ix. Mathematics			
x. Microbiology			
xi. Molecular Bio & Bio-Chemistry			
xii. Pharmaceutical Sciences			
xiii. Physics			
xiv. Sports Medicine & Physiotherapy			
xv. Zoology			
	100%	100%	80%

Departments	Teachers	Research Scholars	Students
Computer Sc. & Engg.			
i. Computer Science & Engg.	100%	100%	100%
ii. Electronic Technologies			
Some Other Faculties			
i. Commerce & Business Management	100%	100%	80-90%
ii. Economics			
iii. Library & Information Science			
iv. English			
v. Architecture			
vi. Town Planning			
vii. Sociology			
viii. Psychology			
Lesser Users			
i. Music	100%	100%	80-90%
ii. Hindi			
iii. Punjabi			
iv. Physical Education			
v. Urdu Persian			

The survey of faculty members, research scholars and students regarding use of e-resources, is very encouraging. Awareness of e-resources is must for the users of any university library. A complete database of e-mail addresses of teachers and research scholars help the library in sending latest information about e-resources.

7. Conclusion

History reveals that manuscript writing continued for thousands of years. Invention of printing press was considered a great revolution but advent of information technology has absolutely changed the working of all the spheres within a decade and libraries are no exception. Libraries of India have accepted the new role. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is trying its best to use the e-resources. A 'One day seminar on e-resources' was organised in the year 2007, with the help of INFLIBNET, which proved highly informative to members of faculty and research scholars.

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