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# EVALUATION OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES IN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA: A STUDY

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## Abstract

*In the state of Maharashtra there are four agricultural university libraries which are rendering electronic information services to the users to fulfill the aims and objects of the agricultural university. The present paper succinctly describes the evaluation of electronic information services in the light of current status of electronic information services and INFLIBNET services in agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra. The survey of information needs of the users and electronic information services available in Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth library, Akola has been conducted.*

*It was concluded that the electronic information services and INFLIBNET services are quite useful to the users in agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra.*

**Key words :** INFLIBNET, Library services, Users

## 1. Introduction

Electronic information services are the keys to the development of agriculture, agriculture education, research and agricultural extension education in India. One of the main objectives of agricultural university libraries in India is to process, organize and disseminate the much-needed agricultural information to the users. The agricultural information services are rendered by the four agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra to the agricultural scientists, academic staff, students and other agricultural users. In changing agricultural scenario and rapid development of agriculture science and technology, the importance of agricultural information service is vital to the progress of agriculture.

Considering the importance of electronic information services for development of agriculture the study has been conducted to evaluate electronic information services, INFLIBNET services, and use of electronic services in agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra. The users' needs and electronic information services available in Dr PDKV library, Akola have been also examined and evaluated in the paper.

## 2. Agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra

The present status of agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra is given in Table 1.1.

Sr No	Name of agricultural university Library	Location	Region	Establishment year
1	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth	Rahuri Dist. Ahmednagar	Western Maharashtra	20th Oct. 1969
2	Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth	Akola	Vidarbha Region	20th Oct. 1969
3	Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth	Parbhani	Marathwada Region	18th May 1972
4	Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth	Dapoli Dist. Ratnagiri	Konkan Region	18th May 1972

Source: MCAER, Pune, Prospectus 2005-2006.

## 2. Agriculture – the applied aspects of basic sciences

Agriculture science encompasses the applied aspects of the basic sciences like physics, chemistry, mathematics, economics, sociology and meteorology. Major branches of agriculture include agriculture, veterinary and animal sciences, food science and technology, fisheries, forestry and home science.

### 2.1 Major branches of Agriculture Science

Agriculture comprises agronomy, crop science, soil science and agriculture chemistry, entomology, plant pathology, agriculture botany, agriculture economics and statistics, agriculture extension, horticulture, agronomy, genetics and plant breeding, plant physiology, and agriculture engineering.

## 3. Need of the study

- to study the status and nature of electronic information services and INFLIBNET services provided by agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra.
- to study the users need and electronic information services with special reference to Dr PDKV library users.

It is therefore, necessary to develop agricultural electronic information services and system of collecting, storing, organizing and serving agricultural scientific and technical literature to researchers, scientists and whole of the academicians and in view of this there is important and dynamic role of agricultural libraries in India and state of Maharashtra.

## 4. Scope of the study

Any intensive education, research and extension education activity needs the support of systematic library and modern information services. A well organized and efficiently managed library is a pre-requisite to any of the above said activities. Therefore, there is a vast scope to a study the various aspects of information services available in the university libraries in Maharashtra.

The students', scientists and academicians require the various types of information services according to changing scenario.

Hence, it was decided to conduct the survey of all agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra on electronic information services with following objectives.

## 5. Objectives

- To find out the various types of electronic information services and INFLIBNET services provided by the agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra.
- To find out the users' information needs with special reference to University Library, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola.

## 6. Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formed:

- The agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra do not provide adequate electronic agricultural information services and INFLIBNET services to the users.
- Minimum services are rendered as the libraries are not connected with INFLIBNET.
- The survey of the users' needs regarding electronic information services has not been conducted.

## 7. Research Methodology

In the present research, agricultural information services and their nature have been examined by collection of data from four agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra through:

- Questionnaire
- Survey method
- Personal visits

## 8. Present status of Infrastructure, human and financial resources

The present status of Infrastructure, computers, collection development, human and financial resources given in Table 8.1.

**Table 8.1: Present status**

Sr No	Name of University Library	Present status					
		Infrastructure		Collection development	Human Resources		Financial Resources
		carpet area sq.ft.	computers available	Electronic data base titles available	Total tech staff	computer literate staff	Total OE 03-04 ICAR/State Rs in lakhs
1	MPKV Rahuri	35640	10	162	2	2	62.61
2	MKV Parbhani	41910	15	047	4	3	32.06
3	Dr PDKV Akola	72825	20	045	2	1	51.03
4	Dr BSKKV Dapoli	9352	08	040	1	1	29.84

It is observed from the Table 8.1 that there are four agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra are functioning and all are accommodated in a separate library building with essential sections and facilities of computers and internet for rendering the library services to the users. The collection of Electronic data base titles above hundred are available only with MPKV Rahuri and below fifty with MKV Parbhani, Dr PDKV Akola and Dr BSKKV Dapoli.

The libraries are receiving funds from state and Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute.

There is no library Information Officer or trained computer operator for rendering the computer information services in all the libraries.

### 8.2 Databases available on CD-Rom media in agricultural university libraries

Sr. No	Name of agricultural university	Database available
1	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	Agris
2	Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	Agris
3	Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani	Agris, Agricola, FSTI, CABI
4	Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	—

It is observed from the Table 8.2 that International Information Systems for Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) data base is available with MPKV Rahuri and Dr PDKV library, The AGRIS, Agriculture on line access (AGRICOLA), Food Science and Technology database (FSTI); Common wealth agricultural Bureaux Index (CABI) data bases are available with MKV Parbhani and Dr BSKKV library has no the databases.

**Table 8.3: Current status of electronic information services**

Sr. No.	Network Services	State of Information Services provided by the Library			
		MPKV Rahuri	Dr. PDKV Akola	MKV Parbhani	Dr. BSKKV Dapoli
1	COPSAT services INFLIBNET	*	*	+	*
1	Internet	+	+	+	*
2	E-mail	+	+	+	*
3	CD Rom data bases services	*	*	+	*
4	Current awareness service	*	*	+	*
	<b>Total services provided</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>00</b>

Source: Questionnaire + Services available. \* Services not available

It is observed from the Table 8.3 that internet, e-mail, CD Rom data base services are provided by MPKV Rahuri, MKV Parbhani, Dr PDKV Akola and current awareness service is provided by MKV Parbhani. Dr BSKKV library Dapoli is not providing electronic services. MAU library Parbhani is providing internet services free of cost on text terminals and Rs. 10 per hour for on graphic terminals. Dr BSKKV library Dapoli is using computers for house keeping and accounts works.

**Table 8.4: Information services provided through information centre.**

Sr. No.	Network Services	State of Information Services provided by the Library			
		MPKV Rahuri	Dr. PDKV Akola	MKV Parbhani	Dr. BSKKV Dapoli
1	COPSAT services INFLIBNET	*	*	+	*
2	Database service DELNET	*	*	+	*
3	Database services ARISNET	*	*	+	*
	<b>Total services provided</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>00</b>

Source: Questionnaire + Services available. \* Services not available

The Table 8.4 indicates that MKV library only has the membership of INFLIBNET, DELNET, and ARISNET for providing services to the users. The contents of forty periodicals are provided to the users of MKV library Parbhani by INFLIBNET.

The MAU Parbhani library is a member of Delhi Library network (DELNET) through which library users can get access to twenty different databases and different national and international libraries through internet.

Agriculture Research Network System (ARISNET) is the national level information networks and the same are available for online services through internet to the users in the MKV library Parbhani.

### 9. Status of the use of manual and electronic information services by the users of MAU library, Parbhani.

The survey of the present status of the users of manual, electronic and networking services was conducted with special reference to MAU library, Parbhani to evaluate the use of services given in Table 9.1. The data has been analyzed considering the one day users of library.

**Table 9.1: Status of the use of information services**

Sr No	Services	Total users	Students UG,PG,Ph.D	Academic staff	Scientists	Cadre wise users	Percentage of Users
1	<b>Manual services</b>	150	10	15	05	30	20.00%
2	<b>Electronic services</b>						
	Internet		10	10	15	35	23.33%
	E-mail		03	05	02	10	06.67%
3	<b>Electronic Services through other agencies</b>						
	INFLIBNET		30	10	10	50	33.33%
	DELNET		07	05	05	17	11.34%
	ARISNET		05	00	03	08	05.33%
	<b>Total users</b>	150	65	45	40	150	100 %

It is observed from the Table 9.1 that MAU library is providing manual and electronic services to the users. Out of 150 users the manual services are used by the 20% users, internet 23.33%, e-mail 6.67%, electronic services through INFLIBNET 33.33%, DELNET 11.34% and ARISNET 5.33% to the users. The internet and INFLIBNET services are mostly used by the users of the library.

### 10. Users of Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth Library, Akola

The present status of the total staff of the university in various cadres including ICAR schemes is 4122 and among them 33 executive, academic and other officers, 1003 academic staff members, 1342 ministerial staff, 1744 class four employees, and 1315 are the U.G., P.G. and Ph D students. As per annual report 3800 members have registered their names in the university library.(Annual Report 2004-05). The users of Dr PDKV library have been classified in the following cadres:

Taking into consideration the daily use of library the three hundred questionnaires were distributed randomly to three hundred users of Dr PDKV library. Out of them one hundred seventy five questionnaires have been received. The percentage of response comes to 58.33 %.

- **Executive Officers**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
- **Academic Staff**  
Dean of various faculties, Associate Deans, Directors, Dy. Directors, Head departments, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, Readers and Scientists
- **Students**  
Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Ph D students

**Table 16.1: Users' survey statistics**

Sr.No.	Type of users	Questionnaire distributed	Questionnaire received	Percentage
1	<b>Executive Officers</b>	001	001	100.00
2	<b>Academic Staff</b>	140	072	051.42
3	<b>Students</b>	159	102	068.00
	<b>Total</b>	300	175	58.33

*Source: Questionnaire*

The data have been collected from the users regarding their electronic informational needs to evaluate the services.

## 17. Cadre wise informational needs of users

The users of Dr PDKV library, Akola require the following information through various information services for the development of agricultural education, research and extension education given in Table 17.1.

**Table 17.1: Cadre wise users' needs**

Sr No	Electronic Library Services	Total users	Students UG,PG, Ph.D	E.O. Academic staff	Scientists	Cadre wise users	Percentage of Users
1	<b>Electronic Services</b>	175					
	Internet and E-mail		15	07	04	26	15.00
	Database services		10	15	08	33	10.88
	Online Public Access Catalogue		110	40	25	175	100.00
	COPSAT		60	20	15	95	54.24
	OCLC		70	25	20	115	60.55
2	<b>Electronic Services through</b>						
	INFLIBNET		100	25	15	140	80.00
	DELNET		40	05	05	50	28.00
	ARISNET		60	30	15	105	59.99

*Source: Questionnaire*

Fig. 1

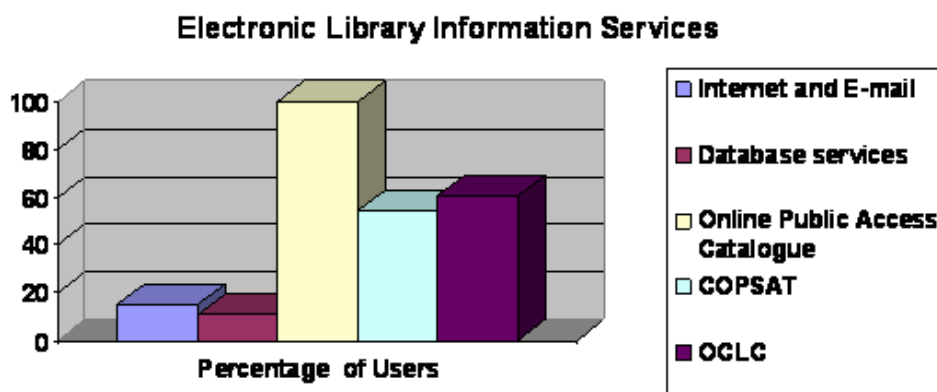
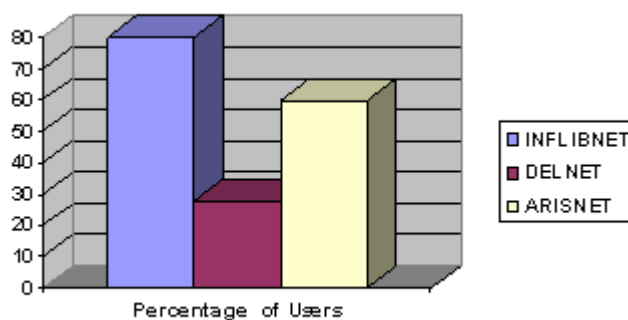


Fig. 2



It is observed from the Table 17.1 and figure that the users require the digitalization and networking of the library, Database services, Online Public Access Catalogue, Current Awareness service, COPSAT, OCLC Information Services and INFLIBNET, DELNET, ARISNET etc. electronic services are require by the users.

### 18. Data analysis and interpretation

In the present paper the current status of electronic information services, INFLIBNET services and users need was examined and evaluated by collection of data through questionnaire, survey method and personal visits etc.

The questionnaires of users needs were also collected and assessed with special reference to university library Dr. PDKV Library, Akola.

In view of the above the study of the four agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra was undertaken to evaluate the electronic information services and INFLIBNET services.

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## **19. Conclusion**

It has been concluded after thorough study that electronic information services are preferred by the users to other types of services. But INFLIBNET, DELNET, ARISNET services are not available in three agricultural university libraries in Maharashtra excepting the MAU library Parbhani.

It is therefore recommended that the INFLIBNET should also include the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under its coverage and try to provide electronic information services to all the agricultural university library users in India in collaboration with ICAR.

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