

Usage of e-Journals in Gauhati University under INFLIBNET: A Case Study

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Abstract

INFLIBNET under its consortium scheme has introduced the users of Gauhati University with the e-journal facility. The e-journal facility provided under INFLIBNET has brought another opportunity for the university libraries to serve their users with high quality content. E-journal consortium of INFLIBNET has been introduced in Gauhati University since 2004. Although research study has already identified that at the initial years the usage of the e-journal was not satisfactory but with the fulfillment of the different identified conditions of the earlier study, there has been a drastic change in the usage of the e-journal facility. This change needs to be further evaluated to identify the real picture of the usage. The paper identifies the trend of usage of e-journal facility at Gauhati University. It also identifies the period and month in which the usage of e-journal is found to be maximum.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, J-STOR, Science Direct, E-Shodhsindhu

1. Introduction

Gauhati University established in 1948 is one of the oldest university in the entire North East region of India. Gauhati University Library known as Krishna Kanta Handqui Library (KKHL) is the knowledge hub for entire academic community related with the university. INFLIBNET has played an important role in introducing the library users of Gauhati University with the e-journal facility since 2004. At the initial year, the usage of e-journals in Gauhati University was not satisfactory. In a study which was conducted by Sh. Prem Chand and others where it was found that the usage statistics of e-journals in the North Eastern region was lowest for Gauhati University which was only 32 numbers of downloads. The study further found that along with the bandwidth issues, vacant post of Librarian was one of the basic reasons for low usage of e-journals.

(Chand, Murthy, & Chandel, 2005). But today, the working condition is far different from earlier period which needs to be supplemented through a proper study.

2. Objective of the Study

Following are the objectives of the study

- ❖ To know the platform wise usage of e-journal of Gauhati University under INFLIBNET during last six years (Jan 2012-Dec2017).
- ❖ To know the year wise total usage of e-journals of Gauhati University under INFLIBNET during last six years.
- ❖ To know the month wise and the period of maximum usage of e-journals of Gauhati University under INFLIBNET during last six years.
- ❖ To find the increasing trend in the usage level of e-journal of Gauhati University since joining the programme.



3. Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The methodology used in the study is Survey method. The author has visited physically the library of GU during his PhD research work. The author has designed a questionnaire during his PhD research work where the usage statistics of GU was sought. The respondent (KKHL) has provided the required response through email. Till the period of 2016, data are collected directly from the Krishna Kanta Handique Library, Gauhati University as part of the PhD research work of the primary author. Further, to make this study up-to-date, the author has collected the required data for the year 2017. Moreover, to compare the performance of Gauhati University with the statistics of average Indian university libraries, the usage statistics of the Indian universities along with the total number of participating institutions are also collected from the INFLIBNET Staff, INFLIBNET Annual Reports and INFLIBNET website.

3.2 Data Analysis

In the study, data shows the decreasing order of the monthly usage statistics of e-journal during the last six year. To know the particular period of maximum usage of e-journals the data is organized into two halves i.e. Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec. The collected data were analyzed (re-packaged) using the statistical analysis tool "Excel". Further Bar Diagram, Line diagram are also used a graphical representation for the tabulated data.

4. A Brief Description of the Analysis

4.1 Platform wise usage

Data shows the Platform wise usage statistics during the last six year. data reveals that in the year 2012, the e-journals were subscribed from 17 platforms. Similarly in the year 2013, it was available from 19 platforms, in 2014 it was available from 17 platforms and in 2015 it was from 18 platforms. In 2016 it was available from 19 platforms and in 2017 it was available from 20 platforms under the new format called e-ShodhSindhu.

4.2 Top Five Ranking of Platforms

The data reveals that during the last six years period (2012-17), out of the total content available made by different platforms, the content of both J-STOR and Science Direct were the most influencing among the users community of Gauhati University. During the six years period, the 1st and 2nd position of e-journal usage is either retained by J-STOR or Science Direct.

4.3 Six Years Total Usage

The data reveals that the total highest usage of e-journal from the period 2012 to 2017 was from the JSTOR platform followed by Science Direct. Comparing the usage statistics of these two platforms in the six years period (2012-17), the difference in the usage statistics of Science Direct from JSTOR is 6584 numbers which is quite near to each other. This reflects the importance of both the platforms for the user community of Gauhati University across the different disciplines (Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences which includes Scientific, technical and Medical research).

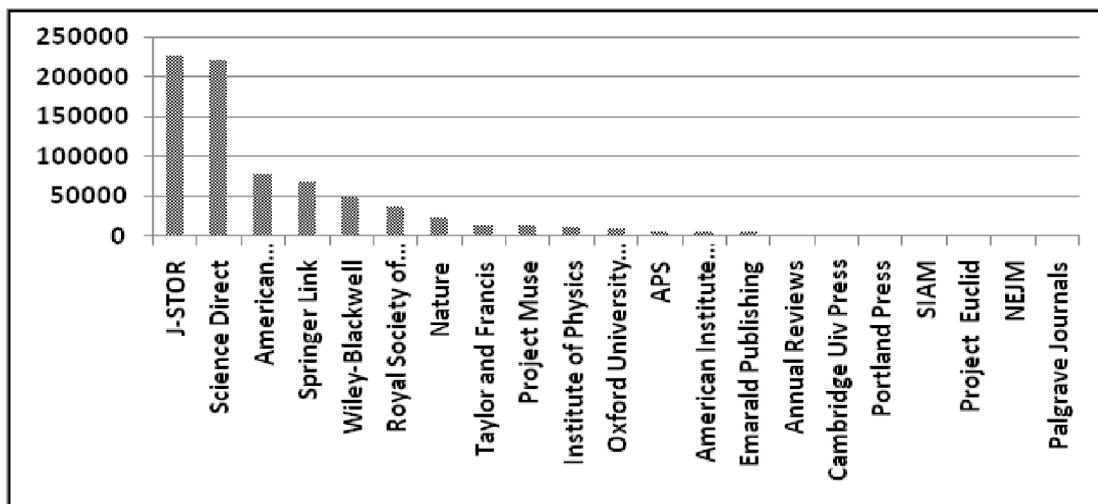


Figure 1: Platform wise total usage of e-journal in last six years (2012-17)

Figure 1 shows the hierarchy (highest to lowest) of maximum usage of e-journals during the last six years. It depicts that both the platform J-STOR and Science Direct are equivalently used by the respective users community of Gauhati University.

4.4 Year wise Total Usage

Data shows that there is a tremendous growth in the usage of e-journals. It shows that from the year 2012, the usage statistics of Gauhati University is above the National average. The reasons cited in the previous study by Prem Chand and others (2005) found to be true. It is analyzed that after the introduction of high bandwidth connectivity of 1 Gbps under the National Knowledge Network there is a tremendous improvement in the usage of e-journals in Gauhati University. From data it is further investigated on the observation made by Prem Chand and others (2005) as mentioned. It is analyzed that after the period of appointment of full time

Librarian of GU in 2010, there is a tremendous development in the usage of e-journals.

The derived data reveals the consistency of the usage of the e-journal during the last six year. Here, the mean value of the e-journal usage is found to be 131092.7 (Range of usage statistics lies between 104410-150479).

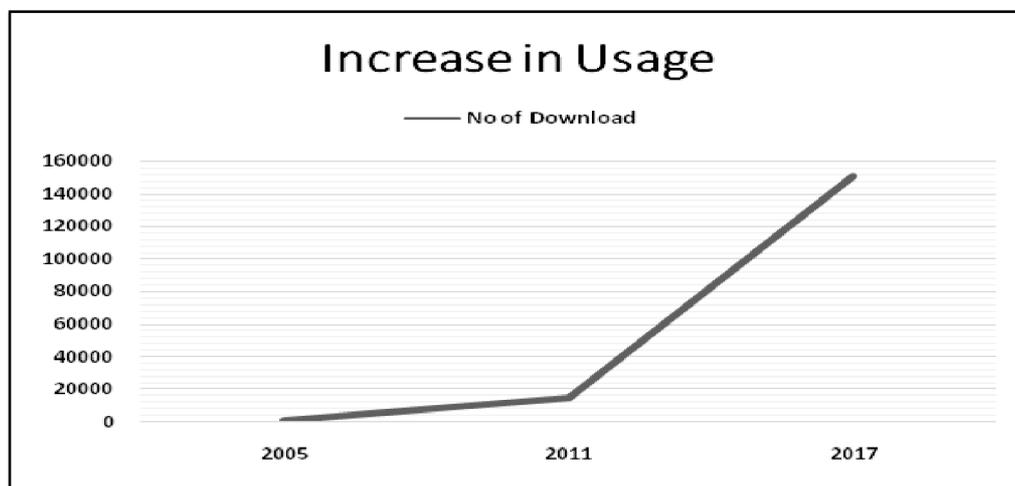


Figure 3: Showing the increasing trend of usage of e-journals

Figure 3 shows that there is tremendous growth in the usage of e-journals from 2005 to 2017. Comparing the usage of e-journals in the block of six years (i.e. 2005 to 2011 and 2011 to 2017), it is found that in 2011, there was an increase of 1115.10 percent as compared to the usage of e-journals in 2005. Similarly in 2017, there was an increase of 910.26 percent as compared to the usage of e-journals in 2011. Also, comparing the block of last twelve years (i.e. 2005 to 2017) it is found that in 2017, there is an increase of 12,175.75 percent as compared to the usage of e-journals in 2005.

4.5 Month Wise Usage Statistics

It is found that that the use of e-resources is slower in the month of January in all the period except 2012. This may be due to less number of teaching days in the month of January. Data further depicts that the March month in the (except in 2013) is found to be within the rank of top two positions. This indicates that there are certain factors/activities in the academic

curriculum of university which causes the result of maximum usage. Further, July and December months shows the less usage of e-resources which is due to the vacation period of Gauhati University which is as per the expectation.

4.6 Half-yearly wise usage statistics

The data shows that the usage of e-journals is found to be maximum in the period between Jan-June which indicates that the users information need is much higher in this period as compared to the period Jul-Dec. Data further depicts that between the two half-yearly periods, there is an overall difference of 23.8 percent in the usage of e-journals during the last six years.

5. Findings of the Study

- ❖ The study found that two big platform of e-journal i.e. J-STOR and Science direct are having the highest usage which indicates the extensive

usage of e-journal facility by the users community of Gauhati University

- ❖ The study found that in the year 2012 there was an exponential growth in the usage of e-journal facility of Gauhati University
- ❖ The study found that from the period of 2013 to 2017, there was a balance growth in the usage of e-journal facility of Gauhati University
- ❖ The study found that the maximum usage of e-journal facility is in the month of March.
- ❖ The study further found that the period of Jan-Jun are having the maximum usage of e-journal facility as compared to the period Jul-Dec.
- ❖ The study found that the usage trend of e-journal of Gauhati University has improved tremendously as compared to the year 2004 and 2005.

6. Suggestions

- ❖ There is need of the user awareness programmes, to encourage the usage of low used resources.
- ❖ Certain incentive policy should be framed by KKHL, to acknowledge the best user in using the e-journal facility.
- ❖ KKHL should try to acquire the e-journal from other important platform which are not available under INFLIBNET consortium schemes.

7. Conclusion

The study concludes that although the use of e-journals in GU started from 2004 onwards but the

study reflects that the year 2012 is the period from where the trend of usage of e-journal has been increased tremendously. The network connectivity under NKN has brought a great momentum for the usage of e-journals. The role of a permanent Librarian is very important for any library which is clearly reflected in the study. The two big platforms of e-journals J-STOR and Science Direct are found to be maximally used by the users of Gauhati University and thus the requirement of these two platforms are very important that needs to meet at any cost. The study further concludes that even during the vacation period, the users are showing their interest in accessing the e-journals. The usage of the e-journals used by the users will have its definite output in the form research publications, academic assignments, etc., that requires a further study on the topic based on the correlation using the citation parameters.

References

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Note:

Online version of this paper, associated data, files and other supplementary materials are available on Institutional Repository of INFLIBNET Centre. It can be accessed online by scanning QR Code or using following URI:
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