

## **Use of E-Journals and E-Databases of UGC-Infonet Consortium by Faculties Members and Research Scholars of Aligarh Muslim University: A Survey**

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### **Abstract**

*This paper describes the use of E-Journals and E-Databases (subscribed by UGC-InfoNet consortium) by the users of Aligarh Muslim University. The questionnaire supplemented with interview schedule was used to solicit the opinions of the user group. Nearly 325 responses were gathered and the results are analyzed and presented here with. Besides extensively covering the use of E-journals and E-databases, the paper also examines the utilization and satisfaction levels of users with respect to E-Journals /E-Databases. Use of internet and different search engines as an alternative to the low usage of UGC InfoNet is presented. Lastly, some of the valuable suggestion given by Faculties members and Research Scholars are highlighted.*

**Keywords:** Usage – E-journals, Usage – E-resources, UGC-Infonet, User Study

### **1. Introduction**

Electronic publishing has been revolutionizing the format of the recorded knowledge. Electronic information services are attracting readers' attention in today's networked environment. E-journals and E-databases bring new challenges before the library and information professionals to give full text access to scholarly publications both in print and electronic version to its end users. Further subscribing to printed journals by individual libraries is beyond human comprehension. Ever-increasing prices of journals accompanied with the shrinking budget of libraries, management/parent bodies are forced to resort to the best alternatives like consortia. In this respect the contributions and the benefits of E-journals and E-databases provided by UGC-InfoNet are numerous.

Indian Universities constitute one of the largest educational system in the world. Fast changing curricula, frequent introduction of new subjects, globalization of education and competitive research, has increased the demand for scholarly journals over the years. But due to insufficient funds, which affects the research and academic activity. Realizing the need for a common mechanism for access to scholarly information, University Grants Commission (UGC) set the priority for providing access to scholarly information for the research and academic community by supplementing the existing collection in the individual universities. Under this initiative UGC is modernizing the University Campus with state-of-the-art campus wide net work and setting up its own nation wide communication network named 'UGC-Infonet'. UGC, INFLIBNET and ERNET came together to meet the challenges that may face the education community with respect to real time information. But the question is how much are our scholars and professors are benefiting from it? Are all of them aware of it? If so what is the extent of use? These are some of the questions that come to our mind. Hence there is

a need to know through systematic opinion survey what is the extent of influence the UGC InfoNet has, on the user community in universities. The present study is envisaged with this backdrop in mind.

Journals from 25 publishers across the globe can be accessed through the UGC InfoNet. It provides current as well as archival access to core and peer-reviewed journals in different disciplines. So far 122 universities are accessing resources from the programme. Which come under the purview of UGC, have been provided access to these journals and it will soon be extended to affiliated colleges of these universities. It covers almost all areas of learning like Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, Medical, Mathematics and Agricultural science etc., and other subject areas are to be added in the near future. The programme is completely supported and funded by the UGC and monitored by INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad.

## **2. Scope and Coverage**

**Aligarh Muslim university** (AMU) is a premier central university in a north India; Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century created a modern educational institution which, first as M .A.O. College and then since 1920 as Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has been the path breaker in brining Muslim to modern scientific fields and education. The main reason behind the establishment of this institution was the wretched dependence of Muslim, which had been debasing their position day after day their misguided and misleading, religious fanaticism did not let than avail the education facilities provide by the government school and colleges .Sir Syed therefore deemed it necessary to make some special arrangement for their education. Aligarh's "culture of decency" has a compelling appeal. There are 16 halls of residence comprising 69 hostels with more than 35000 students, 2000 around teachers and 7000 non teaching staff. AMU has 12 faculties compromising a wide spectrum of academic disciplines, 91 departments, and 5 institution 13 centers. The university offers 289 courses. Students come from all over INDIA and more than 500 hundred international students in the various academic disciplines from professional to research. We take from sample from the position.

This study is confined to the users of UGC-InfoNet at the Aligarh Muslim University. Only Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Life Science, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science members and research scholars are covered in this survey. The journals out of the purview of UGC-InfoNet are excluded from the scope of this study.

## **3. Objectives of the Study**

Following are the main objectives of the study. They are.

- i) To examine the profile of the users of UGC-InfoNet.
- ii) To identify the extent of awareness of UGC-InfoNet among the users

- iii) To determine the extent of use of E-journals and E-databases
- iv) To identify the alternative sources used, for UGC-InfoNet
- v) Lastly to study the role of librarians in helping the users in the use of UGC-InfoNet.

#### 4. Methodology

Structured questionnaire and interview schedule are used as the ideal method of data collection for this study. Questionnaires were administered among 450 users out of which 325 were obtained. The analysis is based on the responses received from the above said users.

#### 5. Results and Discussion

The results of the survey carried out are presented in the following paragraphs.

##### Sample Population

The faculty members amount to 170 and research scholars are 310. A total of 450 questionnaires were administered. The investigators received 325 completed responses. The sample size accounts to about (325) 72.23%. Nearly 38.46% of the total respondents are faculty members and the remaining 61.54% are research scholars.

##### Status of the Respondents

**Gender:** - 1. Female — 70; 2. Male – 255; Total — 325

In the 325 number of the selected questionnaires 70 is the Female representation 21.54% of the total number and remaining was the male gender of 78.46%.

##### 5.1 Educational Qualifications of the Respondents

Educational qualifications of respondents indicate that, Master Degree holders form majority, scoring 71.69%. Ph.D. holders form the second highest accounting to 20%. M.Phil. holders scoring 6.46% taking the third place. Fourth place goes to Post Doctoral degree holders representing 1.85%.

**Table.I: Qualification (Highest Degree)**

S. No	Qualification	Numbers	%age
1	Master Degree	233	71.69
2	M Phil.	21	6.46
3	D. Phil./Ph.D.	65	20
4	Post Doctoral	6	1.85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table.II: Faculties wise position.**

S. No	Name of faculty	Lect.	Reader	Prof.	R. Sch.	Total	%
1	Faculty of Engineering	15	10	4	35	64	19.69
2	Faculty of Life Science	17	5	10	110	142	43.69
3	Faculty of Medicine	8	4	2	—	14	4.31
4	Faculty of Science	20	7	8	70	105	32.31
	<b>Total</b>	60	26	24	215	<b>325</b>	
	<b>%age</b>	<b>18.47</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>66.15</b>		<b>100%</b>

Majority of the respondents for this study are research scholars scoring 66.15%. The second highest response is from lecturer accounting to 18.47%. Readers form the third highest group of respondents abounding 8%. Professors account for 7.38% of the sample size.

## 5.2 Extent of Awareness of UGC-InfoNet

As far as the extent of awareness of UGC-InfoNet is concerned, majority of the respondents are of the view that they are 'somewhat aware' of UGC-InfoNet, scoring 54%. 26.5% are 'fully aware' of the UGC-InfoNet programme. About 11% of the respondents opine that they are 'moderately aware' of the UGC-InfoNet. Where as 8.5% are 'not aware' of it.

### Sources of Awareness of UGC-InfoNet

**Table.1: Sources of Awareness of UGC-InfoNet**

S. No	Particular	Numbers	%age	Rank
1	Consult a knowledgeable person in the field	127	39.07	1
2	Discussion with Librarian or Reference Staff	123	37.85	2
3	Discussion with Colleagues	121	37.23	3
4	Abstracting Journal	115	35.48	4
5	Review Articles	109	33.54	5
6	Consult Supervisor	70	21.54	
7	Any Others	101	31.07	6

In this Table 1 the highest number of user appalling toward there main sources to "Consult a knowledgeable person in the field" 39.07% of believed in the consulting knowledgeable person in the field. Than in the consulting of librarian or discussing with the reference staff come in the second place in the order of Phonics' 2<sup>nd</sup> rank 37.85% persons, and slightly only one percent less believed 37.23% the want to "Discussion with Colleagues" third in the rank. Multiple choices answer.

### 5.3 Extent of Use of E-resources

Highest seek percentage by the faculties members 45.54% use "E. Books" number 1 rank. Second highest use is "Periodical" 31.07% and third one is 26.53% users are of newspaper. Faculty members were asked to indicate the type of information source which they used to seek information. Brown (1999) found that all of the scientists used textbooks, journals and monographs to support teaching activities. Multiple choices Answer.

**Table.2: Extent of use of E-Resources**

S. No	Type Of Materials	Numbers	%age	Rank
1	E. Books	148	45.54	1
2	Periodical	101	31.07	2
3	Newspapers	85	26.53	3
4	Thesis/ research reports	75	23.07	4
5	Reference: books	50	15.38	7
6	Pamphlets	40	12.31	8
7	Government publication	30	9.23	9
8	Patents	14	4.31	11
9	Any other	25	7.69	10

### 5.4 Uses of E-databases

Use of E-databases is presented in Table 3. It may be observed that most popular databases among the user community are 'Emerald', 'Fly base', 'Science Direct', 'Document Image Database' and 'Nature'.

**Table.3: Use of E-databases**

S.No	Names of E-database	Websites address/ URL
1	Emerald	<a href="http://www.emeraldsight.com">http://www.emeraldsight.com</a>
2	Fly base	<a href="http://www.flybase.bio.indiana.edu/">http://www.flybase.bio.indiana.edu/</a>
3	Science Direct	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/">http://www.sciencedirect.com/</a>
4	Document Image Database	<a href="http://www.documents.cfar.umd.edu/">http://www.documents.cfar.umd.edu/</a>
5	Nature database	<a href="http://www.nature.com/nsu">http://www.nature.com/nsu</a>
6	Info librarian	<a href="http://www.infolibrarian.com">http://www.infolibrarian.com</a>
7	Kluwer online	<a href="http://www.springerlink.com/">http://www.springerlink.com/</a>
8	Taylor & Francis	<a href="http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk">http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk</a>
9	Blackwell publication	<a href="http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/">http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/</a>
10	American chemical society	<a href="http://www.pubs.acs.org/">http://www.pubs.acs.org/</a>
11	Royal society of chemistry	<a href="http://www.rsc.org">http://www.rsc.org</a>
12	American physical society	<a href="http://www.aip.org/">http://www.aip.org/</a>
13	Institute of physics	<a href="http://www.iop.org/EJ">http://www.iop.org/EJ</a>
14	Springer link journal	<a href="http://www.springerlink.com/">http://www.springerlink.com/</a>

## 5.5 E-journals Used

The different kind of E-journals used by academic community is shown in Table 4. The E-journals listed under 'Black Synergy', 'Science Direct' is highly used. Among the e-journals, 'Journals of Biological Control' is another journal most often used by the user of AMU, Aligarh. The faculties of life science in particular use Biological Abstract, Nature Journal and Chemical Abstracts.

**Table.4: List of E-journals used**

S.No	Names of E-journals	Websites address/ URL
1	Black Synergy	<a href="http://www.blackwell.synergy.com/">http://www.blackwell.synergy.com/</a>
2	Science Direct	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/">http://www.sciencedirect.com/</a>
3	Annual Reviews	<a href="http://annualreviews.org/">http://annualreviews.org/</a>
4	Journals of Biological Control	<a href="http://helios.bto.ed.ac.uk/">http://helios.bto.ed.ac.uk/</a>
5	Journal of the American Society for Information Science. (JASIS)	<a href="http://www.asis.org/">http://www.asis.org/</a>

## 5.6 Reasons for Not Using UGC-InfoNet

The study indicates that most of the respondents are not aware of the UGC-Infonet. Obviously the usage is less. Hence the investigator tried to find out why it is so? The data given in the table shows that, they are not able to use the Infonet, for want of training and orientation scoring 45%. The second reason quoted is that the aware, but internet connection is not proper 32.5. Some of them are of the view that they are aware but have no time to access it (14%).

**Table.5: Reasons for not using UGC-InfoNet**

S.No	Reasons	Percentage
1	You are not aware	8.50
2	You are aware but, no time to access	14.00
3	You are aware, but internet connection is not proper	32.50
4	You are aware but need, training/orientation	45.00
5	Total	100.00

## 5.7 Success of Use of UGC –InfoNet

Success of use of UGC-Infonet by the respondents is presented in Table 6. Majority of the respondents say that they are occasionally successful in using UGC-Infonet representing 46%. About 25.5% of them are rarely successful in using UGC-InfoNet. About 18% are moderately successful in using UGC-Info net. Those who are extremely successful and very successful in using UGC-Infonet abound 5%.

**Table.6: Success of use of UGC –InfoNet**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Success of use</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Extremely Successful	5.50
2	Very Successful	5.00
3	Moderately Successful	18.00
4	Occasionally Successful	46.00
5	Rarely Successful	25.50

### **5.8 Accessing full text E-journals**

The various methods of accessing full text E-Journals are shown in table. Users have resorted to two popular methods of accessing E-Journals 'Through publisher website' 35% and 'Gateway portal' 65%.

**Table.7: Accessing full text E-journals**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Accessing full text E- journals</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Through gateway portal	65
2	Through publisher website	35

### **5.9 Accessing Full Text E-journals not Subscribed by UGC-InfoNet**

The use and access of full text journals articles not available at the UGC-InfoNet consortia is shown in table. It may be observed from the Table 8 that respondents largely depend on 'friends and colleagues' to access such literature forming 56%. The second most preferred mode for accessing such full text articles is other libraries 20%. The third most preferred method is to access through 'Through library document delivery service' 10%. 'Through membership to learned societies and professional bodies' 9% and 'Inter library loan' are the least preferred modes of accessing full text articles scoring 5%.

**Table.8: Accessing full text E-journals not subscribed by UGC-InfoNet**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Sources of getting full text journal articles</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Through friends/ colleagues	56
2	From other libraries	20
3	Through membership to learned societies/professional bodies	9
4	Through library's document delivery services	10
5	Through inter-library loan.	5

### **5.10 Methods Adopted to Use UGC-InfoNet**

The data presented in Table 9 indicates the methods adopted to learn UGC-Infonet effectively by respondents. The data indicates that majority of the respondents have learnt by 'Trial and Error' with a value of 45%. Second method most used by respondents is 'to learn from friends/colleagues' with a score of 30% and this is followed by 'got guidance from library staff' and 'through AMU library

orientation and training programme' respectively with the of 15% and 10% responses each.

**Table.9: Methods adopted to use UGC-InfoNet**

S.No	Sources of use	%age
1	Got guidance from library staff	15
2	Learnt from friends/ colleagues	30
3	By trial and error	45
4	Through AMU, University library orientation and training programme	10

### 5.11 Satisfaction of Use of E-journals/ E-database services

The level of satisfaction among the respondents regarding the use of E-Journals and E-Database offered at UGC-InfoNet indicates that nearly 44% of the respondents are 'very little satisfied'. About 28% of the respondents are 'not satisfied'. Just about 18% are 'some what satisfied'. Very few respondents are 'highly satisfied' (6%) and moderately satisfied respondents are only 4%.

### 5.12 Training /Awareness Programme Attended

Considering the usage of UGC-InfoNet in the survey it looks that there is a definite need for training and orientation to the AMU academic community in using UGC InfoNet. It is observed that most of the users have not had an opportunity to attend such training and orientation programme, accounting to 86%. Only 14% of them seem to have attended the training programme.

### 5.13 Importance of Printed Journals

The important of printed journals to the InfoNet users is presented in Table 10. It may be observed from the table that printed journals are very important accounting 78% nearly 18% feel that printed journals are 'Moderately important' very few users say that the print journals are not important accounting to 4%.

**Table.10: Importance of printed journals**

Sl.No	Extent of importance	Percentage
1	Very important	78
2	Moderately important	18
3	Somewhat important	4
4	Not important	—
5	Don't know	—
6	Total	100.00

### 5.14 Problems Faced in Accessing E-journals/E-databases.

Problems faced by respondents while accessing E-journal/E-databases are shown in Table 11. It may be seen from the table that majority of respondents say that they Inadequate computer system



56%, 'Poor internet connectivity 25% 'Lack guidance and training' 9% respectively.

**Table.11: Problems faced in accessing E-journals/E-databases**

S.No	Types of problems	% age
1	Poor internet connectivity	25
2	Consumes too much time	10
3	Frequent power cuts	0
4	Inadequate computer system	56
5	Lack guidance and training.	9

#### 5.15 Alternatives for UGC-InfoNet use:

The alternatives for use of UGC-InfoNet for information access are presented in Table 12 'browsing the internet' is the first best alternative with a 45%. Second most is using university central library 32% the third most sought after choice with 12% use of Seminar library of the departments. Fourth most opted alternative with 3% 'Get a soft copy through e-mail from the authors' etc.

**Table.12: Alternatives for UGC-InfoNet use**

S. No	Types of alternatives	% age
1	Browse the internet	45
2	Visit AMU library, Aligarh.	32
3	Obtain reprints directly from the authors	2
4	Get a soft copy through e-mail from the authors	3
5	Seminar library of the department	12
6	Contact to librarian	6

#### 5.16 Search Engines often used for Information Access:

All respondents (76.93%) use search engines, especially Google, followed by Yahoo 10.77%, AltaVista 5.54% and Lycos 2.76%. Etc. The Google search engine is mostly used because it is fast in access, regularly updated and links are provided to web sites in the world.

**Table.13: Search Engines used**

S No	Search Engine Use	Numbers	%age	Rank
1	Google	250	76.93	1
2	Yahoo	35	10.77	2
3	AltaVista	18	5.54	3
4	Lycos	9	2.76	4
5	MSN	5	1.54	5
6	Scifinder (Database)	5	1.54	6
7	Askjeeves	3	0.92	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>	

### 5.17 Meta Search Engines Used for Information Search

Meta search engines used by the users for accessing information are shown in table 13. It may be seen from the table 14, that the Meta search engines which are most often used are 'Vivisimo' 55% 'Dogplie' is the next most preferred Meta search engines by the respondents 20 Third most preferred meta search engines by the respondents is 'Teoma' 15% .The other Meta search engines being 'Meta crawler', 'Mamma' 3.5% and 'Kartoo' with 2.99% respectively..

**Table.14: Meta search engines used**

S. No	Types of meta search engines	Percentage
1	Vivisimo	55
2	Metacrawler	3.5
3	Mamma	3.5
4	Dogplie	20
5	Kartoo	2.99
6	Teoma	15

### 6. Conclusion

The present survey has clearly indicated that, the electronic resources are highly useful for the research and academic community in the present environment. In which the UGC-INFONET has to play a significant role to assist the academic community in the provision of this unique service to the academic and research community. To assist the academic community the authorities of the university library must conduct the user awareness programs to train the research and academic community in the maximum utilization of these electronic resources more effectively and efficiently at the AMU campus.

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