Use of E-Resources and UGC-Infonet Consortium by the Teachers and Research Scholars in Manipur University

S Veenapani   Khomdon Singh   Rebika Devi

Abstract

It mentions about UGC–INFONET Consortium. It highlights the objectives, scopes and methodology of the study. The paper deals with the usages of UGC-INFONET Consortium by the teachers and Research Scholars of Manipur University .Analyses the findings of the study in the tabular form. It concludes with some suitable suggestion for further improvement of the system.

Keywords: User Survey, UGC-INFONET Consortium, Manipur University

1.   Introduction

With the globalization of education and competitive research the demand for the journals has increased over the years. Due to scarcity of funds, libraries have been forced to discontinue subscription to the scholarly journals, which have great impact to the users. In order to provide the current literature to academia, UGC initiated the UGC-INFONET in 2003.

UGC-INFONET is an ambitious programme of UGC to interlink all the universities in India with state of the art technology. This programme is wholly funded by the UGC. All universities eligible to receive grants under UGC's purview are the members of the programme, and it will gradually be extended to colleges .The programme is executed by Information and Library Network(INFLIBNET) Centre, Ahmedabad which is an autonomous institution under the UGC through which access to about 4000 scholarly journals and databases are made available to 100 universities .Access to various E-journals strated from January 1,2004,however trial access was stated much ahead from October-December 2003.Manipur University Library ,which was one of the INFLIBNET centres in the first batch get the opportunity to implement the said programme since 2003 with the expectation that the different groups of the users of the library will be more benefited to meet their information need. The present paper is an attempt to analyze and interpret the data collected on the use of UGC-INFONET Consortium by the teachers and Research Scholars of Manipur University.

2.   Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

- ◆   To identify the use pattern and impact of UGC-INFONET Consortium
- ◆   To know the significance of e-journals over print journals
- ◆   To know the problems faced by teachers and Research Scholars of MU in accessing the e-resources
- ◆   To ascertain the need for user orientation programme in accessing e-journals

◆ To measure the frequency of access to the consortium
◆ To draw opinions and suggestions from the users towards improving the accessibility of the e-resources through the consortium.

3. Methodology

The study has been carried out by using a questionnaire. Only 100 questionnaires were distributed to the teachers and research scholars of the university. Out of the respondents a few were half done. Ultimately 60 properly filled in questionnaire were supplemented by interview.

The finding of the present study is thus based purely on the responses made in the questionnaire returned by the respondents and the interviews conducted informally.

4.   Scope of the Study

The scope of the present study is limited to

◆   Manipur University
◆   UGC-INFONET Consortium
◆   Teachers and Research Scholars

5.   Analysis and Interpretation of Data

5.1   Awareness of UGC-INFONET Consortium

Respondents	Awareness of UGC-INFONET Consortium		Total
	Yes	No	
Teacher	17(56.67%)	13(43.33%)	30(100%)
Research scholar	16(53.33%)	14(46.67%)	30(100%)
Total	33(55%)	27(45%)	60(100%)

Table1. Awareness of UGC-INFONET Consortium

Table1 indicates that out of 60 respondents, only 33(55%) respondents are aware of UGC-INFONET Consortium and remaining 27(45%) respondents are not aware of this programme. It is evident that awareness programme to access the e-resources of the UGC-INFONET Consortium is very much necessary.

5.2   Guidance of using UGC-INFONET

The respondents were asked about their guides of using the UGC-INFONET. The following table shows the category of guides who helped the library users.

Respondents	Library Professional	Teacher/Guide	Colleague	Others
Teacher	10	Nil	8	7
Research Scholar	7	8	7	1
Total	17(51.52%)	8(24.24%)	15(45.45%)	8(24.24%)

Table2. Guidance of using UGC-INFONET

Out of 60 respondents, only 33(55%) respondents are aware of UGC-INFONET Consortium .Among the 33 respondents, 51.52% of respondents are known from library professionals followed by 45.45% of respondents from colleague   and 26.67% of respondents from teacher or guide and others.

5.3   Need for Orientation/Training Programme

Respondents	Need for Orientation /Training Programme		Total
	Yes	No	
Teacher	20(66.67%)	10(33.33%)	30(100%)
Research Scholar	27(90%)	3(10%)	30(100%)
Total	47(78.33%)	13(21.67%)	60(100%)

Table3. Need for Orientation /Training Programme

Table 3 reveals that out of 60 respondents 78.33% of the respondents have expressed that they are in need of orientation /training programme to access the e-resources through UGC-INFONET Consortium. It is evident that majority of the respondents need orientation /training programme to access the e-resources of UGC-INFONET Consortium. Therefore, authority of the MU should conduct the orientation/training programme regularly.

5.4   Requirement of Print journals in addition to e-journals

Respondents	Requirement of Print journals in addition to e-journals		Total
	Yes	No	
Teacher	27(90%)	3(10%)	30(100%)
Research Scholar	28(93.33%)	2(6.67%)	30(100%)
Total	55(91.67%)	5(8.33%)	60(100%)

Table4. Requirement of Print journals in addition to e-journals

Table 4 reveals that out of 60 respondents, only 55(91.67%) respondents are shown keen interest in print journals in addition to e-journals but remaining 5(8.33%) respondents did not feel the requirement.

5.5 Expectation of more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Programme

Respondent	Expectation of more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Programme	
	Yes	No
Teacher	17	Nil
Research Scholar	16	Nil
Total	33(100%)	

Table 5 Expectation of more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Programme

Out of 60 respondents, only 33(55%) respondents are aware of UGC-INFONET Consortium .Among the 33 respondents, 100% of the respondents expect more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET programme.

5.6 Problem faced to Access the e-resources

Respondents	Problem faced to access the e-resources		Total
	Yes	No	
Teacher	24(80%)	6(20%)	30(100%)
Research Scholar	23(76.67%)	7(23.33%)	30(100%)
Total	47(78.33%)	13(21.67%)	60(100%)

Table6. Problem faced to access the e-resources

Table 6 reveals that 78.33% of the respondent's encounters problems in the use of the e-resources through the UGC-INFONET Consortium .The major problems which they encountered include the followings:

- ◆ They are not aware of UGC-INFONET Consortium.
- ◆ Illiteracy of ICT and its Knowledge
- ◆ Frequent power failure disturbs them.
- ◆ The speed of the internet is very low.
- ◆ The number of computer available is not sufficient to serve the users.
- ◆ Problem in the selection of desired title of journals

5.7 Frequency of Access

Respondents	Daily	Weekly	Occasionally	Monthly	Total
Teacher	3(17.65%)	7(41.18%)	6(35.29%)	1(5.88%)	17(100%)
Research Scholar	2(12.5%)	8(50%)	4(25%)	2(12.5%)	16(100%)
Total	5(15.15%)	15(45.46%)	10(30.30%)	3(9.09%)	33(100%)

Table7. Frequency of access to UGC-INFONET

Table 7 reveals that most of respondents access to e-resources only once in a week. 5 (15.15%) respondents access e-resources daily while 15(45.46%) respondents access to e-resources weekly with 10(30.30%) respondents access to e-resources occasionally and 3(9.09%) respondents access to e-resources monthly. Current information is essential for teachers and research scholars. The UGC-INFONET Consortium, by subscribing to and providing e-resources, will help to improve the reading habits and academicians.

5.8. Towards Improving the e-journals Service

In the opinion of the respondent the different points with which the access of e-resources through UGC-INFONET Consortium can be improved upon include the followings:

♦ Regular conduct of Orientation /Training programme for the UGC-INFONET Consortium
♦ Installation of more computer terminals and increasing network accessibility.
♦ Regular Power supply.
♦ Providing better infrastructure facilities for the improvement of internet speed.

6. Findings

♦ 55% of the respondents have got awareness about the UGC –INFONET programme.

♦ Majority of the respondents (86.67%) felt that they are in need of regular training programme to make effective use of UGC-INFONET programme.

♦ 91.67% of the respondents are recommended for print journals in addition to e-journals.

♦ All the respondents (100%) who are aware of UGC-INFONET expect more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Consortium.

7. Conclusion and Suggestions

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 academic and research community. To assist the academic community, the opinion and suggestions of them for the improvement of the system required to be translated into reality by the authority of

Manipur University so that effectiveness and accountability of the same can be maintained to serve the users community in a better way.

8. Reference

1. Kumbar B. D. Use of UGC-INFONET Consortium by the faculty members and Research Scholars of Department of Chemistry ,Karnatak University, Dharwad : A Study. http://www.google.com

About Authors

Mr. S Veenapani,

E- mail :slcveenapani@rediffmail.com

Mr. Khomdon Singh, Research Scholar, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur.

Ms. Rebika Devi, Deputy Librarian, Manipur University Library, Imphal, Manipur