
USE OF UGC- INFONET CONSORTIUM BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS IN DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY OF GULBARGA UNIVERSITY : A SURVEY

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Abstract

The present paper explains about UGC-Infonet Consortium of the INFLIBNET and examined use of the Consortium by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars. Further, the data is collected through a questionnaire to study the information needs of the Faculty Members and Researchers in Chemistry and Use of UGC-Infonet Consortium by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars in the Dept of Chemistry, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. The paper revealed that UGC Infonet Consortium is much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. There is need to train the faculty members and research scholars in using the UGC-Infonet Journals. Further, there is need to include more number of Journals in the Consortium.

Keywords: UGC-Infonet/ E-Journals Consortium/ Chemistry/User Study

1. Introduction

Among the library services, Inter-library Loan and Resource Sharing, play an important role in providing effective services by reducing costs. It is also known as library co-operation. Library cooperation may be defined as combined effort of two or more libraries to share their resources for providing better services to their user community. In present days no single library could think of organizing library services entirely based on its own collection.

Due to the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications to the library, use of digital information is developed. The resource sharing among the libraries started with the help of Consortia. A Consortium is a group of organizations whose purpose is to collectively facilitate and support the work of a service program in ways that add material and human resources beyond those available to each organization individually.

In library science, Consortium is a group of libraries or other such like organizations that form a partnership to achieve a goal, such as shared cataloguing or resource sharing, which cannot be achieved by the individuals alone. A consortium is helpful in getting co-operation from various libraries in acquiring electronic databases, communication of information and inter library loan. Now-a-days, many of the special and university libraries formed a group for getting online journals. In India, UGC-Infonet is the biggest Consortium of University and Research Libraries.

2. UGC-INFONET Consortium

Indian Universities constitutes one of the largest higher education systems in the world. With 310 Universities academic institutions, 16000 affiliated colleges around 10 million students and 5 lakh teachers¹.

INFLIBNET is a national level Inter-University Centre of UGC in India set up by UGC to promote higher education and research in India. The INFLIBNET centre had already started the subscription of the electronic journals under the consortium for Universities in India. It is planned to extend these facilities college libraries gradually. The consortium covers almost all subjects such as Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics.

The UGC-Infonet is a boon to higher education in several ways. It is a major electronic information source for research scholars to get pin-pointed and latest information in their subject area. The Electronic journal programme is corner stone of the UGC – Infonet effort which aims at addressing the teaching, learning the Universities. It would facilitate free access to scholarly journals and databases in all areas of learning to the research and academic community².

Gulbarga University is also member of UGC- Infonet Consortium and provides access to e-journals to the users. The present paper attempted to find the use of UGC-Infonet journals by the faculty members and research scholars of the Department of Chemistry, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.

3. Objectives of the Present Study

1. To identify the information needs of the Research Scholars and Faculty Members in the Dept of Chemistry, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.
 2. To know the knowledge about UGC-Infonet Consortium among the Faculty members and Research Scholars.
 3. To ascertain whether an orientation programme/Training/Workshop is necessary to educate the users in searching databases and e-journals.
 4. To know the extent of the use of UGC-Infonet Journals.
 5. To know about satisfaction of the information needs of the Research Scholars and Faculty members by e-journals subscribed under UGC-Infonet Consortium.
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6. To find out the problems in respect of UGC-Infonet Consortium.
7. To suggest the valuable suggestion to improvement of the library.

4. Methodology:

Questionnaire survey is the most popular method of collecting data today. The present survey is conducted through a questionnaire method and questionnaires were circulated among the faculty members and research scholars in the Dept of Chemistry, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. In addition, the information is collected through personal interaction with the researchers. Of the total 50 (8+42) faculty and research scholars, only 37 (29+8) are responded. The collected data is analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of report.

5. Scope and Limitations

The present study covered the faculty members and research scholars in the Department of Chemistry, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga. The Department of Chemistry includes various specializations such as Industrial Chemistry, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry etc.

6. Analysis and Interpretation of the Collected Data

6.1 Searching of Information Sources for Information Needs:

It is noted that there are different information sources such as Books, Printed Journals, Electronic Journals, general websites and other sources. The response of the research scholars about searching these sources is stated in Table No.1.

Table: 1. searching of Information from different sources:

Sl. No.	Information Sources	Respondents		Percentages	
		Researcher	Faculty	Researcher	Faculty
1	Books	10	4	34.48	50
2	Printed Journals	22	7	75.86	87.5
3	Electronic Journals	19	8	65.52	100
4	General Web Sources	7	2	24.14	25
5	Open Archives/eprints	7	4	24.14	50
6	Others	1	1	3.45	12.5

It is observed from the above table that 75.86% of the research scholars refer printed journals, followed by 65.52% researchers refer Electronic Journals, 34.48% of the research scholars refer books, 24.14% of the research scholars search general web sites, 24.14% of the research scholars search Open Archives/e-prints and only 3.45% of the research scholars covered under the study refer other kinds of information sources for their information needs.

It is also observed from the above table that about 87.5% of the faculty members refer printed journals, followed by 50% faculty members refer books, all the (100%) of the faculty members refer electronic journals, 25.00% of the faculty members search general web sites, 24.14% of the faculty members search Open Archives/e-prints and only 3.45% of the faculty members covered under the study refer other kinds of information sources for their information needs.

6.2 Knowledge about UGC-Infonet Journals

A question was asked to the research scholars about whether they know about UGC-INFONET Consortium and Electronic Journals subscribed under the consortium. The response of the research scholars is as under:

Table.2: Knowledge about the UGC-Infonet Consortium:

Particulars	Response		Percentage	
	R.S	Faculty	R.S	Faculty
Know about UGC-Infonet Consortium	22	7	75.86	87.5
Do not know about UGC Infonet Consortium	7	1	24.14	12.5

Among the research scholars responded to the survey, 75.86% (22) responded that they know about the UGC Infonet Consortium and the remaining 24.14% (7) Researchers do not know about the same. Among the faculty members covered under the study, 87.50% faculty members have responded that they know about the UGC-Infonet Consortium and remaining 12.50% faculty members responded that they do not about the Consortium.

6.3 Source through which Consortium is known:

It is noted that there are different sources such as guidance of the library professionals and teachers, advertisements or through web searching, the consortium is known to research scholars. The following table stated the responses of the research scholars regarding source through which UGC Infonet Consortium is known.

Table.3: Source through which Consortium is known:

Sl. No.	Sources	Respondents		Percentages	
		Researcher	Faculty	Researcher	Faculty
1	Books	10	4	34.48	50
1.	Library professionals	9	3	31.03	37.50
2.	Teacher/Research Guide	8	-	27.59	—
3.	Advertisement	1		3.45	
4.	Co-Research Scholar/ Colleagues	7	3	24.14	37.50
5.	Web	4	1	13.79	12.50

It is interesting to note that among the research scholars responded under the study, 31.03% (9) responded that they know the UGC Infonet Consortium by Library Professionals, followed by 27.59% (8) of the Researchers know the same by their teacher and research guide, 24.14% (7) know the consortium by their co-researchers, 13.79% (4) know the consortium by searching web and only 3.45% (1) researcher responded that he know the consortium by searching general web. It is also clear that 37.50% faculty members know about the Consortium through Library professionals, followed by 37.50% of the faculty members know the same through Colleagues and remaining 12.50% know about the consortium through the web searching.

6.4 Need and Importance of Bibliographic Databases and Portal Services

To know about the knowledge of the researchers on bibliographic databases such as Chemical Abstracts and Portal Services like J-Gate, a question was asked to the research scholars. The response of the researchers of the research scholars is depicted in the following table.

Table.4: Need for and Importance of Databases and Portals.

Database/Portal	Essential				Not Essential			
	Researcher		Faculty		Researcher		Faculty	
	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%	No's	%
Bibliographic Database	20	68.96	4	50.00	9	31.04	4	50.00
Portal Service	6	20.69	4	50.00	23	79.31	4	50.00

Of the research scholars responded, 68.96% (20) are stated that Bibliographic database is essential and the remaining 31.04% (9) researchers stated that it is not essential. Regarding Portal Service, only 20.69% (6) research scholars stated that Portals are essential and the remaining 79.31% (23) research scholars stated that portals are not essential. It is noted that of the faculty members covered under the study, 50% are stated that Portals and database is not essential and the remaining 50% are stated that these are essential.

6.5 Searching Full Text Electronic Journals

Most of the journals in chemistry are published by the Academic Press, American Chemical Society, Kluwer Online and Springer Publishers. The research scholars search the full text journals published by these publishers as under.

Table.5: Searching of Full text Electronic Journals from different publishers:

Sl. No.	Publisher	Searching		Not Searching	
		Researcher	Faculty	Researcher	Faculty
1.	Academic Press	03 (10.34%)	04(50.00)	26 (89.66%)	04(50.00)
2.	American Chemical Society	21 (72.41%)	07(87.50)	8 (27.59%)	01(12.50)
3.	Kluwer	09 (31.03%)	05(62.50)	20 (68.97%)	03(37.50)
4.	Springer	12 (41.38%)	06(75.00)	17 (58.62%)	02(25.00)
5.	Other Publishers	11 (37.93%)	02(25.00)	18 (62.07%)	06(75.00)

It is noted that American Chemical Society is the leading publishers as 72.41% (21) Research Scholars responded in the study are searching electronic journals published by American Chemical Society, followed by 41.38% (12) Research Scholars search journals published by Springer, 37.93% (11) research scholars search journals published by other publishers, 31.03% (9) research scholars search journals published by Kluwer Online and only 10.34% (3) research scholars are searching the full text journals published by Academic Press.

Regarding the leading publishers, the American Chemical Society is the leading publisher as 87.50% faculty members are searching the same, followed by 75% of the faculty responded that they are searching Springer, 62.50% faculty members stated that they are searching Kluwer Online, about 50% of the faculty members stated that they are searching publications of the Academic Press and only 25% of the faculty members search for publications from other publishers.

6.6 Need for Orientation Programme/Training Programme

It was asked to the research scholars that any training programme or orientation programme is needed to know and search the UGC-Infonet Journals. The response of the Scholars is shown below:

Table.6: Need for Training/Orientation Programme:

Particulars	Response		Percentage	
	R.S	Faculty	R.S	Faculty
Know about UGC-Infonet Consortium	22	7	75.86	87.5
Needed Training/Orientation for Searching UGC Infonet	27	06	93.10	75.00
No Need for any Training/Orientation for searching /INFONET	2	02	6.90	25.00

It is observed from the above table that 93.10% (27) of the research scholars responded that there is need for training or orientation programme to know searching of the UGC Infonet Journals and the remaining 6.90% (2) of the research scholars responded that

they are not needed such training/orientation programme. It is noted that 75% of the faculty members does not need training for searching UGC/Infonet Journals and the remaining 25% faculty members stated that they does not need any training for the use of the consortium.

6.7 Need for Printed Journals in addition to Electronic Journals

There is a question as whether Print format of journals is essential in addition to Electronic format of the journals. The Faculty Members and Research Scholars responded to the question as under:

Table.7: Need for Print Journals in addition to Electronic Journals:

Particulars	Response		Percentage	
	R.S	Faculty	R.S	Faculty
Print format Journals are Needed in addition to e-journals	28	04	96.55	50
Print format Journals Not-needed	1	04	3.45	50

It is surprising to note that Print Journals are also needed in addition to Electronic Journals by a majority 96.55% (28) Research Scholars and only 3.45% (1) Research Scholar stated that Print format of journals is not needed. About 50% of the faculty members covered under the study stated that there is need for printed journals along with the electronic copies of the same and the remaining 50% of the faculty members were responded that there is no need for printed journals.

6.8 Need for More Electronic Journals in UGC-Infonet Consortium:

It was asked to the Research Scholars that whether more number of full text journals are needed in UGC Infonet Consortium. The response of the Research Scholars is as under:

Table.8: Need for More number of Journals in the UGC Infonet Consortium:

Particulars	Response		Percentage	
	R.S	Faculty	R.S	Faculty
More Number of Journals are Needed	29	8	100	100
More Number of Journals are Not-Needed	—	—	—	—

It is emphasized by all the Research scholars and Faculty Members that there is need for more number of journals to be added in the consortium.

6.9 Need for Other Services

The consortium provided many databases and full text articles to the users. In addition to this service, there are many other services such as Current Article Alert Service,

Electronic Document Supply through Mail etc. The need for such services is stated in the following table.

Table.9: Need for Other Services:

Sl. No.	Services	Respondents		Percentages	
		Researcher	Faculty	Researcher	Faculty
1.	Current Article Alert Service	20	06	68.97	75.00
2.	Electronic Document Supply	23	05	79.31	62.50
3.	Other Services	8	01	27.59	12.50

From the above table it is clear that the faculty members and research scholars need special services such as Current Article Alert Service, Electronic Document Supply, Browsing and others. Among the Research Scholars covered under the study, 68.97% (20) are in need of Current Article Alert Service, 79.31% (23) are stated that they need Electronic Document Supply and 27.59% (8) Research Scholars responded that they need other kinds of services also. About 75% faculty members responded that they need the Current Article Alert Service, 62.50% of the faculty members stated the need for the Electronic Document Supply service and 12.50% faculty members stated that there is need for such other services.

6.10 Satisfaction with existing Internet Facilities:

For browsing electronic journals, there is need for sufficient internet facilities in the library. The response of the research scholars regarding internet facility is as under:

Table.10: Satisfaction with the existing Internet facility in the Library

Particulars	Response		Percentage	
	R.S	Faculty	R.S	Faculty
Satisfied with existing Internet Facility	11	04	37.93	50.00
Not Satisfied with the existing Internet Facility	18	04	62.07	50.00

From the above table it is revealed that of the research scholars responded, 62.07% (18) are responded Internet facility is not satisfactory and the remaining 37.93% (11) research scholars responded that the internet facility is satisfactory. Regarding the satisfaction with the internet facility in the library, 50% of the faculty members responded that they are satisfied with the existing internet facility in the library and the remaining 50% faculty members stated that they are not satisfied with the existing internet facility.

6.11 Evaluation of UGC-Infonet Consortium:

There is a need to evaluate the UGC-Infonet Consortium. By searching information, the users only can decide the usefulness and satisfaction of the services. The responses of research scholars on the usefulness and satisfaction are stated as under:

Table.9: Evaluation of the UGC-Infonet Consortium:

Sl. No.	Grade	Respondents		Percentages	
		Researcher	Faculty	Researcher	Faculty
1	Books	10	4	34.48	50
1.	Excellent	13	02	44.83	25.00
2.	Good	10	04	34.48	50.00
3.	Satisfactory	4	02	13.79	25.00
4.	Poor	2	—	6.90	—

The above table revealed that, 44.83% (13) of the research scholars covered under the study stated that the Consortium is Excellent, followed by 34.48% (10) Research Scholars rated that it is good, 13.79% (4) are stated that it is Satisfactory and the remaining 6.90% (2) research scholars stated that the Consortium is Poor. About 25% of the faculty members covered under the study expressed that the UGC-Infonet Consortium is excellent followed by 50% rated the same as good and the remaining 25% of the faculty members expressed that it is satisfactory.

7. Findings of the study

- 69.23% of respondents search information by electronic journals.
- 78.37% of respondents search information by printed journals.
- 35.89% of respondents search information by books.
- 21.62% of respondents do not know how use of UGC_Infonet Consortium.
- 32.43% of respondents know the UGC-Infonet Consortium by Library staff members.
- 64.86% of the respondents stated that Bibliographical database is essential and remaining 35.14% respondents stated that is not necessary.
- 75.67% respondent's searches full text journals of American Chemical Society, which retrieve the information as early as passive.
- 89.19% respondents needed training or orientation programmes how to search information under UGC-Infonet.
- 86.48% of respondents needed printed journals for there study.
- 100.00% responded stated that is needed to include more journals in information's.
- 75.67% of the respondents needed electronic document supply service.
- 59.46% of the respondents not satisfied with existing internet facility in library.
- 16.21% of respondents are stated that there is need to evaluate of the UGC-Infonet Consortium out fully satisfied.

8. Suggestions

- The faculty members and research scholars should refer more electronic journals for getting latest information.
- The faculty members and research scholars try to avoid printed version of books because these may out dated.
- The University Librarian and staff members should conduct an Orientation/ Training programme to faculty members and research scholars how to search information under UGC-Infonet.
- The faculty members and research scholars should refer electronic journals which were published by Academic press, Kluver, Springer, etc.
- There is a need to include more number of journals in UGC-Infonet Consortium.
- There is a need to introduce electronic document supply service by library.
- There is need to improve the internet facility in the library.
- There is a need to evaluate the UGC-Infonet Consortium and include more number of journals in the consortium.

9. Conclusion

From the above study, it is revealed that majority of the Faculty Members and Research Scholars search Printed Journals and Electronic Journals. UGC Infonet Consortium is much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. Of the publishers subscribed under the Consortium American Chemical Society is a leading publisher in Chemistry. There is need to train the faculty members and research scholars in using the UGC-Infonet Journals. Further, there is need to include more number of Journals in the Consortium. Users also expected other kinds of Services along with the UGC Infonet Service. Majority of the users rated the Consortium as excellent and good. But there is need to improve internet facility.

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