Effectiveness of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium on Users: A Case Study of Users of Social Science Faculty, Goa University, Goa

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Abstract

The academic and research community in the country is largely depends on the access to information resources. This study presents the evaluation of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by the users of Social Science faculty, Goa University, Goa. This study highlights the UGC –INFONET consortium usefulness, finding and suggestions.

Keywords: User study, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

1.   Introduction

This is an era of information explosion, the information plays an important role not only in the initial stage but throughout the research process. A journal is an important resource for up-to-date information which is always looked for journal articles by the researcher. Now-a-days more than 250000 electronic journals on different disciplines are available online. With the globalization of education and competitive research the demand for journals has increased over the years. Due to financial constraints, increasing cost of print documents, storage problem and publication of larger number of journals, no library is able to procure, process or store all the documents that the library users demand and these libraries cannot afford to acquire even half of all the published material in terms of money required to purchase. The only solution to solve all these constraints is the Library cooperation in the form of Resources sharing. Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Resource sharing plays an important role in providing effective services by reducing the cost of publication. Resource sharing can be achieved by forming a consortium.

 Library Consortia is not a new phenomena. Its origin can be attributed to "Library cooperation" or "Library Resource sharing" activities of 1960's and 1970's. Library Consortium is an association of libraries having a common interest and which comes together for the purpose of resource sharing among its member libraries. It is a group of libraries or other such like organizations that form a partnership to achieve the common goal like shared cataloguing or resource sharing, which cannot be achieved by an individual library.

A consortium among the libraries is helpful in various ways. It will be useful for getting cooperation among its member libraries in acquiring electronic databases, communication of information and Inter Library Loan. It will be helpful for rational use of library budget even small libraries also can derive more benefits out of their small budget. Consortia provide an effective information infrastructure to the member libraries. It provides a platform for discussing and sharing professional issues. Through consortia unit cost of information can be reduced drastically.

Library consortia have come up in many countries of the world. Many libraries in India have set up consortia among themselves. Some of the important consortia pertaining to e-resources are; Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA), Indian National Digital Library in Science and Technology (INDEST), INFONET Digital Library Consortium project of UGC, Health Sciences Library and Information Network (HELINET), CSIR Journals Consortium, Department of Atomic Energy Libraries Consortium and Indian Institute of Management Library Consortium. Besides that the special libraries like ICAR, ICMR, ICSSR and other government agencies formed their own consortia for sharing electronic resources. In India, UGC-INONET Digital Library Consortium is the biggest Consortium of University and Research Libraries in the country. Here is an effort made to know the effectiveness of this consortium on users of Social Science faculty at Goa University, Goa.

2. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

Due to information explosion and scarcity of funds, university libraries in India have been forced to discontinue some scholarly journals, which have great impact to the users. In order to provide the current literature to academia, UGC has initiated the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium in the year 2003. The programme is fully funded by the UGC and monitored by INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad. Under this Consortium, access to a gateway portal is made available to the Universities covered under UGC grants. This gateway portal provides access to more than 10,000 journals in the area of pure science, social sciences and humanities with content and abstract for major collection. This gateway portal also provides customized solutions to access full text for the resources subscribed for the colleges and other institutions such as ICAR and other institutions. The consortium provides current as well as archival access to core and peer-reviewed journals.

UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium aims to serve its member libraries in many ways. It is a vehicle for distance learning to facilitate the spread of quality education all over the country. It is a tool to distribute education material and journals to the remote areas. It encompasses entire university systems for efficient utilization of network resources. E-journal consortium is a major resource for research scholars for tapping the most up-to-date information and it is a medium for collaboration among teachers and students.

UGC has sanctioned the required amount for the development of infrastructure facilities in their campus to the most of the universities in the country. Today many universities having better infrastructure and Internet Protocol addresses started accessing these resources but the usage is limited due to various reasons. The Goa University Library (GUL) is also being the member of UGC-INFONET program avails the IP authenticated E-Journals Subscription facility extended by the INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad. The library has been given access to more than 4000 electronic journals to its users in various disciplines like Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Library and Information Sciences, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics etc. All the users of the library can access these e- journals through the Intranet:

http://http://192.168.101.30:9095/gulibrary/Index.htm
http://goalnet.unigoa.ac.in/gulibrary/index.htm

This site brings together all the electronic resources in one single window. Articles, Indexes and Abstracts, full text databases, online journals, online Encyclopedias, and other materials can be accessed through this window.

List of Resources provided under UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium at Goa University Library, Goa

Sl No.	Name of the Publisher	Number of Journals	Website address
1.	American Chemical Society (1876)	31 Journals	http://www.pubs.acs.org/
2.	American Institute of Physics	19 Journals	http://www.aip.org/
3.	American Physical Society	8 Journals	http://www.aps.org/
4.	Annual Reviews	31 Journals	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org
5.	Biological Abstracts	One Database	http://web5.silverplatter.com/webspirs/start.ws
6.	Blackwell	489 Journals	http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/
7.	Cambridge University Press	189 Journals	http://journals.cambridge.org/
8.	Elsevier Science	34 Journals	http://www.sciencedirect.com/
9.	Emerald	29 Journals	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/
10.	Encyclopaedia Britannica	National site Licensing	http://search.eb.com/
11.	Gateway Portals Ingenta	10,000 Journals up to abstract level	http://www.gateway.ingenta.com/
12.	Institute of Physics	36 Journals	http://www.iop.org/EJ/
13.	J-Stor	582 Journals	http://www.jstor.org/
14.	Math Sci Net	One database	http://web5.silverplatter.com/webspirs/start.ws
15.	Nature	1 Journals	http://www.nature.com/
16.	Portland Press	4 Journals	http://www.portlandpress.com
17.	Project Muse	293 Journals	http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/
18.	Royal Society of Chemistry	23 Journals + 6 database	http://www/rsc.org/
19.	Science Online	1 Journal	http://www.scienceonline.org/
20.	Springer & Kluwer	1200+Journals	http://www.springerlink.com/
21.	Taylor & Francis	1100+Journals	http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk
22.	Project Euclid	18 Journals	http://projecteuclid.org
23.	Oxford University Press	169 Journals	http://www.oup.co.uk/

3. Objectives of the Present Study

1. To identify the information needs of the research scholars and faculty members of Social Science Departments of Goa University, Goa.

2. To identify the knowledge about UGC-INFONET Consortium among the faculty members and research scholars.

3. To know the significance and importance of electronic journals over print journals.

4. To assess the information needs of the research scholars and faculty members by e-journals subscribed under UGC-INFONET Consortium.

5. To know whether an orientation programme/training/workshop is necessary to educate the users in searching databases and electronic journals.

6. To find out the problems faced by social science users in accessing electronic information.

7. To suggest the ways and means for effective use of the UGC-INFONET programme.

4. Need for the Study

As a library generates all its services on the basis of the information sources available with it which are called information resources. Due to the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) the printed resources are available in electronic format. However, the resources in electronic format are the e-resources which have become more popular in the present environment because of their distinct advantages. Electronic Journals (E-Journals) plays an important role in automated library providing access to "Online full-text Information". Considering the importance of electronic information services, a study has been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of UGC sponsored INFLIBNET electronic information services to Social Science users of Goa University Library in which an attempt have been made to know the requirements of the faculty and research scholars.

5. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The present study focuses on the use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by Social Science users in Goa University. An attempt has been made to identify the needs and requirements of users in general and to know the use of UGC-INFONET resources in Goa University by the Social Science users in particular. The study is confined to faculty and research scholars of the Social Science Departments (Dept. of Economics, Dept. of History, Centre for Latin American Studies, Centre for Women Studies, Dept. of Political Science, Dept. of philosophy, and Dept. of Sociology) of Goa University, Goa.

6.   Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were formed for the study:

1. Usage of Internet has become routine activity for all the faculties of Social Science department.

2. Faster communication is the key factor that motivates the maximum number of users to use the Internet.

3. Library is major source for propagating UGC-INFONET usage.

4. The users of UGC-INFONET prefer full text rather than abstract of the research article.

5. Users of Goa University Library interested in parallel collection of print and electronic resources.

7.   Methodology

The data has collected through the questionnaire method. A structured questionnaire was prepared and circulated among the Faculty Members (F.M) and Research Scholars (R.S) of Social Science department of Goa University. In addition, the required information is also collected through the personal interaction with the social science users. Out of 125 (16+109) users, 92 (12+80) users have responded positively and the total response is 73.6%. The collected data is analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of a report.

8.   Analysis and Interpretation of Data

A total of 125 questionnaires were distributed to the faculty members (16) and research scholars (109) of Social Science departments of Goa University and sufficient time was given them to complete the same. Of the total distributed questionnaire 92 (12+80) candidates' users have responded positively and the total response rate is 73.6%. The collected data is analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in the form of a report.

8.1   Usage of Internet Facility

Internet is the networks of computers, usually made up of different kinds and varied technologies which are connected together in such a way that they appear as a single network. The internet has revolutionized the entire society and it can be accessed in every office, Institute and even home also. The distribution of the candidates using Internet facility at various locations presented in Table -2.

Table – 1 : Usage of Internet facility

Sl. No.	Locations	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Department	12	100	80	100
2.	Library	–	–	2	2.5
3.	Residence	5	41.6	6	7.5

It is interesting to note from the Table-2 that all the faculty members and research scholar are browse the Internet facility at their department only. 41.6% (5) faculty members and 7.5% (6) research scholars using the Internet facility available at their department as well as their home also. Only relatively small percentage (2.5%) research scholars use the above facility at the library. Hence, the hypothesis-1, "Usage of Internet has become routine activity for all the faculties of Social Science" is accepted.

8.2 Frequency of use of Internet and E-Mail Facility

Electronic Mail (E-mail) is the most commonly used services of the Internet to communicate with people all over the world which was become the lifeblood with millions messages exchanged across the globe daily.

Table 3: Frequency of use of Internet and E-Mail facility

Sl. No.	Frequency	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Everyday	12	100	4	5
2.	Twice in a week	–	–	17	21.25
3.	Once in a week	–	–	9	11.25
4.	Fortnightly	–	–	–	–
5.	Occasionally	–	–	50	62.5

It was found from the survey that all the faculty members (100%) and 5% (4) of research scholars are browse the Internet and using the e-mail facility every day. Majority of research scholars (62.5%) using the Internet and the e-mail facility very occasionally followed by 21.25% (17) are using the above facility twice in a week. Remaining 11.25% (9) are browse the Internet and using the e-mail facility only once in a week.

8.3 Factors Influenced on Internet Use

There are many factors that motivate users to use Internet. The question was asked social science users, to know the factors that motivate the usage of Internet. The respondents gave different opinion based on their usage.

Table 4 : Factors Influenced on Internet use

No.	Factors	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1	For faster communication	8	66.6	64	80
2	Send papers to Journals / Conferences	6	50	–	–
3	To keep abreast in the area of research	8	66.6	11	13.75
4	To obtain reprints	5	41.6	7	8.75
5	To save time	5	41.6	7	8.75
6	Any other purpose/reasons	1	8.3	2	2.5

Table-3 stated that the factors like faster communication and to keep abreast in the area of research are the major factors that motivated them to use the Internet as per the opinion of the majority of faculty members (66.6%). For 50% (6) users the Internet was influenced them to send papers to journals/conferences. An equal number of faculty members (41.6%) opined that to obtain reprints and to save time are the two main factors influenced them to use the Internet. Only one (8.3%) faculty member says that he was influenced by some other factor to use the Internet.

It can be noted from the above Table that 80% (64) research scholars were influenced by faster communication and 13.75% (11) of them were influenced by the factors like to keep abreast in the area of research to use the Internet. To obtain reprints and to save the time are the two factors that motivated to use the Internet for 8.75% (7) research scholars. Only 2.5% (2) research scholars were influenced by some other reasons/purposes to use the Internet.

From the above analysis it is clear that faster communication is the key factor that motivates the maximum number of users to use the internet. Hence, the hypothesis-2 "Faster communication is the key factor that motivates the maximum number of users to use the Internet" is accepted.

8.4   Knowledge of UGC-INFONET, E-Journal Consortium

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated the UGC-INFONET programme to provide electronic access to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the university sector in India over internet.

Table 5 : Knowledge of UGC-INFONET , E-Journal Consortium

Sl. No.	Particulars	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Know about UGC-INFONET Consortium	12	100	48	60
2.	Unknown about UGC-INFONET Consortium	–	–	32	40

It was observed from the study that 100% (12) faculty members and 60% (48) research scholars are aware of UGC-INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM, whereas 40% (32) research scholars are unaware about this programme.

8.5   Source through which UGC-INFONET known

There are different sources such as guidance of the library professionals and teachers/guides, advertisements or through library orientation, the consortium is known to the social science users. Table-6 stated the response of the candidates regarding sources through which UGC-INFONET Consortium is known.

Table 6: Source through which UGC-INFONET known

Sl. No.	Sources	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Library Orientation	7	58.3	2	2.5
2.	Library Professionals	3	25	9	11.25
3.	Teachers/Guide	2	16.7	35	43.75
4.	Advertisements	—	—	1	1.25
5.	From Co-researchers	3	25	1	1.25

Among the faculty members under the study, 58.3% (7) knew about the UGC-INFONET consortium through the library orientation programme followed by 25% (3) of the faculty members knew the same from the library professionals and from their co-researchers, and remaining 16.7% (2) knew the UGC-INFONET programme from their teachers and research guide.

It is clear from the above table that 43.75% (35) research scholars knew the UCG-INFONET programme by their teachers/research guide, 11.25% (9) knew the same from the library professionals and 2.5% (2) research scholars knew about consortium through the library orientation programme followed by 1.25% (1) knew the same through advertisements and from their co-researchers.

From the above analysis and observation, it is clear that library is major source for propagating UGC-INFONET usage. Hence, the hypothesis-3 "Library is major source for propagating UGC-INFONET Usage" is accepted.

8.6 Problems in Accessing E-Journals

Table 7: Problems in accessing E-Journals

Sl. No.	Problems	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Speed of Internet is very slow	2	16.7	21	26.25
2.	Search sites consumes too much time	—	—	32	40
3.	Very few systems at GUL	1	8.3	2	2.5

According to Table-7, 16.7% (2) faculty members are not able to access the journals through UGC-INFONET Consortium due to slow Internet problem, 8.3% (1) of them also says that they are not able to access their required journal from UGC-INFONET Consortium due to limited systems available in their library.

Of the total research scholars responded 40% (32) blames that their search sites consumes lot of time to access the journal, 26.25% (21) of them opined that they are facing slow Internet problem for accessing their journal, whereas 2.5% (2) research scholars says that due to limited systems in the library they are not able to access the required journal for their study/research.

8.7   Types of full Text Journals

Varieties of full text journals like Publishers Full Text Journals, Subject wise Full Text Journals are available on the Internet. Table-7 shows the different types of full text journals used by social science users.

Table 8: Types of full text Journals

Sl. No.	Types of full text journals	Faculty		Research Scholars	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Publishers full text journals	2	16.7	10	12.5
2.	Subject wise full text Journals	12	100	58	72.5

As per the Table-7 all the faculty members (100%) accessing the Subject wise full text journals and 16.7% (2) of them preferred both, the Publishers full text journals as well as Subject wise full text journals for their study/research.

From the total respondents majority (72.5%) of research scholars (58) accessing the Subject wise full text journals and 12.5% (10) of them preferred the Publishers full text journals for their study/ research.

Hence, the hypothesis-4 "The users of UGC-INFONET prefers full text rather than abstract of the research article" is accepted.

8.8   Need and Importance of E-databases and Portal Services

Table 9: Need and importance of e-databases and Portal services

Type of databases	Database	Essential				Not essential			
		Faculty		R.S		Faculty		R.S.	
Portal Services	J-Gate	3	(25)	1	(1.25)	—		—	
	INGENTA	5	(41.7)	1	(1.25)	—		1	(1.25)
	J-STOR	10	(83.3)	4	(5)	—		—	

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage

A question was asked to faculty members and research scholars to know about the knowledge of bibliographic databases such as Portal services like J-Gate, Ingenta and J-STOR. Of the faculty members responded under the study, 83.35% (10) opined that the J-STOR is the most essential database service, 41.7% of them says Ingenta is the essential database and the remaining 25% (3) faculty members stated that J-Gate is the essential database services.

It is noted from the study that 5% (4) research scholars preferred J-Stor as the essential database service for them, followed by an equal number (1.25%) of them states that J-Gate and Ingenta are also an essential database services.

8.9 Searching of Full Text Electronic Journals

From the observation it is found that most of the journals provided under UGC-INFONET are published by Gateway Portals Ingenta.

Table 10: Searching of Full Text Electronic Journals

Type of databases	Database Publishers	Important		Less important	
		Faculty	R.S	Faculty	R.S.
Electronic Journals	Academic Press	3 (25)			
	Kluwer Online	8 (66.7)	–	–	–
	Springer	7 (58.3)	–	–	–
	Emerald	5 (41.7)	1 (1.25)	–	–
	Project MUSE	5 (41.7)	–	1 (25)	–
	J-STOR	8 (66.7)	3 (3.75)	–	–
	ERIC	4 (33.3)	–	–	–
	Others	–	–	–	–

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage

It may be noted from the survey that Kluwer Online and J-Stor are the leading publishers as 66.7% (8) faculty members responded in the study are searching electronic journals published by the Kluwer Online and J-Stor publishers, followed by 58.3% (7) faculty members search the journals published by Springer. An equal number (5) of faculty members (41.7%) preferd the journals published by Emerald and Project Muse and 33.3% (4) of staff members are searching the journals published by ERIC. Only 25% (3) faculty members are searching the full text journals published by Academic Press.

Regarding the leading publishers, J-Stor is the leading publisher as 3.75% (3) research scholars are searching the same, followed by 1.25% (1) of them stated that they are searching their required journal articles from the Emerald publishers.

8.10   Need for Orientation/Training Programme

Since the UGC-INFONET programme was introduced by the UGC and many are not well versed in the use of e-resources. In view of this a question was asked to the researchers that any orientation/ training programme is essential or not to search the required journals through UGC-INFONET programme.

Table 11: Requirement of user Orientation programme

Factors	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Need for Orientation/Training Programme	4	33.3	73	91.25
No need for Orientation/Training Programme	8	66.7	7	8.75

It was observed from the study that majority of the faculty members i.e., 66.7% (8) are familiar to access the e-resources provided through UGC-INFONET consortium without any training, whereas 33.3% (4) of them are in need of such orientation/training programme to search the required e-journals through UGC-INFONET.

Out of the total respondents 91.25% (73) research scholars have expressed that they are in need of orientation/training programme to use the e-resources more effectively but 8.75% (7) of them opined that they can freely access their required journal through UGC-INFONET without any orientation/training programme.

8.11   Requirement of Print Journals in Addition to e-journals

A question was asked to the users to know whether print journals are required in addition to e-journals.

Table 12: Requirement of print journals in addition to e-journals

Sources	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Need for print journals in addition to electronic journals	9	75	36	45
No need for print journals in addition to electronic journals	3	25	44	55

The data presented in the Table-12 examined that out of the total respondents responded, 75% (9) faculty members are in need of more print journals in addition to existing e-journals, but 25% (3) of them are satisfied with the existing e-journals provided through UGC-INFONET programme.

It was examined from the above Table that 55% (44) research scholars are expecting more number of print journals whereas 45% (36) of them responded that they are not required any more print journals in addition to existing e-journals available through UGC-INFONET programme.

It is clear from the survey that social science users are equally interested in making use of print journals in addition to e-journals. Hence, the hypothesis-5"The Social Science Users of Goa University library interested in parallel collection of print and electronic resources" is accepted.

8.12   Need for more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC- INFONET programme

Due to information explosion a number of journals doubling every year and price is also another hurdle to subscribe all published materials. The UGC-INFONET may not cover all the journals interested to social science users. So the question was asked to the users whether they are in need of more number of full text journals or not.

Table 13: Need for more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Programme

Sources	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Need for more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC- INFONET programme	11	91.7	77	96.25
No need for more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET programme	1	8.3	3	3.75

Table-13 indicates that 91.7% (11) faculty members are expecting more number of e-journals to be included in UGC-INFONET programme and the remaining 8.3% (1) faculty member are satisfied with the existing e-journals available through UGC-INFONET programme.

Of the total respondents, majority of research scholars i. e., 96.25% (77) are in need of more number of e-journals to be added in UGC-INFONET consortium. Only 3.75% (3) research scholars are happy with the available e-journals in UGC-INFONET consortium.

8.13   Requirement of other Services

Question was asked to the faculty members and research scholars in addition to UGC-INFONET e-journal services whether they required other services like Article Alert Services, Seminar/Workshop Alert Services etc.

Table 14: Requirement of other services

Types of other services	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Article Alert Service	6	50	4	5
Recent happenings in your Field	5	41.7	63	78.75
Seminar/Workshop Alert Services	4	33.3	10	12.5
Any other	—	—	—	—

Table-14 states that 50% (6) faculty members required the services like Article Alert Services, followed by 41.7% (5) are interested in recent happenings in their area of research. However 33.3% (4) faculty members are interested in searching the information related to Seminar/Workshop Alert Services.

Among the research scholars responded 78.75% (63) are in need of the information about the recent happenings in their area of research, 12.5% (10) of them required other services like seminar/ workshop alert service and the remaining 5% (4) are in need of article alert services.

8.14   Number of Articles Downloads Per Month

Users' response regarding the downloading articles from online journals per month is presented in Table-14.

Table 15: Number of articles downloads per month

No. of articles down loading per month	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
5+	9	75	57	71.25
10+	3	25	23	28.75
20+	—	—	—	—
30+	—	—	—	—
50+ or more/less	—	—	—	—

It can be observed from Table-15 that 75% (57) faculty members down loading more than 5 articles followed by 3 (25%) of them are down loading more than 10 articles per month.

The above Table states that 71.25% (57) research scholars down loading more than 5 articles per month whereas 28.75% (23) of them are downloading 10+ articles per month from online journals provided by UGC-INFONET programme..

8.15   Reference of Back volumes of Online Journals

Similar data is collected regarding the back volumes of online journals. The response is summarized in Table-15.

Table 16: Reference of Back volumes of Online Journals

Frequency of reference	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Once in a week or daily	3	25	13	16.25
Once in fortnightly	—	—	2	2.50
Once in a month	3	25	8	10

Table-16 describes that 25% (3) of the total faculty members are refer the back volumes of online journals only once in a week/daily/month.

It can be observed from the Table-16 that 16.25% (13) research scholars preferred to refer the back volumes of online journals once in a week/day. It can also be noticed that 10% (8) research scholars refer those online journals only once in a month and remaining 2.5% (2) of them refer the back volumes of e-journals once in fortnightly.

8.16   Satisfaction with the Existing Internet Facility

The internet facility in the library is essential for browsing any kind of information from the net. In this regard opinion was asked from the users whether they are happy with the existing internet facility in their library or not.

Table 17: Satisfaction with the existing Internet facility

Factors	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Satisfied over Internet facility	8	91.7	32	40
Un-satisfied over Internet facility	3	8.3	48	60

It is found from the survey that 91.7% (8) faculty members are satisfied with the Internet facility provided in the library whereas 8.3% (3) of them are not satisfied.

Among the research scholars 60% (48) are happy and remaining 40% (32) of them are not happy for the internet facility available in the library.

8.17   Level of Satisfaction with the UGC- INFONET Programme

Finally the question was asked to social science users about how much satisfied they are about the online journal services provided by the UGC- INFONET programme. Table-18 explains the level of satisfaction.

Table 18: Level of Satisfaction with the UGC- INFONET programme

Factors	Faculty		Research Scholars	
	Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfied	4	33.3	9	11.25
Satisfied	6	50	40	50
Neither satisfied nor Dissatisfied	–	–	–	–
Dissatisfied	–	–	–	–

Table -18 shows that 50% (6) faculty members are satisfied and 33.3% (4) of them are highly satisfied with the online journal services provided through UGC-INFONET programme.

Similar data reveals that once again 50% (40) research scholars are satisfied with the UGC-INFONET online journals programme and 11.25% (9) of them are highly satisfied.

9.   Findings

1. It was observed from the study that all the faculty members and 60% research scholars as the knowledge of UGC-INFONET programme.

2. Maximum number of faculty members (58.3%) learnt the UGC-INFONET programme through library orientation, and 43.75% (35) research scholars learnt the from their teachers and research guide.

3. Majority of research scholars (91.25%) are in need of regular training programme to make an effective use of INFONET programme.

4. More than 75% of faculty members and 45% of research scholars have recommended print journals in addition to e-journals.

5. The data reveals that majority of the social science users (91.7% faculty members and 96.26% research scholars) are expecting more number of journals to be added in the UGC-INFONET programme.

6. Majority of faculty members are satisfied with the existing internet facility in their library.

10.   Suggestions

1. UGC-INFONET Consortium should make arrangement for supplying CD's on all archival access on electronic journals.

2. Majority of the social science users felt that the number of e-journals included in the UGC-INFONET Consortium is not sufficient for their study/research. In view of this it has been suggested that the UGC-INFONET programme should cover more number of e-journals particularly on social science subjects.

3. The library authorities should arrange conduct more number of demonstration/user orientation programme for the students on how to search online journals and dttabases.

4. Since more than 75% faculty members are interested in making use of print journals, the library should make necessary arrangement for continuing the subscription of print journals in addition to e-journals.

11. Conclusion

The increasing cost of information resources, technological advancement that offer newer method of information processing, retrievals and dissemination are some of the factors which led to the information e-journal consortium. The development of the consortium is the outcome of the desire for resource sharing.

UGC explored the possibilities of alliances with the publishers for adapting consortia based approach for e-subscription of journals and these journals are available over UGC-INFONET to all the universities. Majority of these journals are available in electronic form. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is the main source for accessing current information published by 25 publishers. The consortium facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost. The motto of forming a consortium is that the libraries can accomplish more by working together than they can individually. A consortium, with the collective strength of resources of various Institutions available to it, is in a better position to address and resolve the problem of managing, organizing and archiving the electronic resources. New research publications are available on the net as free ware, there by making quality information available to a wider scholar base spread across the country at an affordable cost.

The study presents the state of Art report for the usefulness of electronic e-resources for the research and academic community in the present environment. In which the UGC-INFONET has to play very 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 library should provide an active orientation programme to the research and academic community by presenting the existing library facilities and their utilities. The teachers should assign the research projects and the student should be directed to maximum utilization of the existing electronic resources more effectively and efficiently.

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