

Digital Resources and its Usage Statistics in Assam University Central Library

Saroj Kumar Mandal

Nitumoni Borah

Mihir Kanti Nath

Abstract

The advent of ICT has made a clear and pervasive impact in almost every area of library. Hence, the library environment has undergone a rapid change leading to new generation of libraries with an emphasis on digital resources. Digital resources are growing in vigorously and it has replaced the trend from conventional resources towards the digital resources. Now a day, digital resources are very popular due to its easy access and retrieve in the University Libraries. However, as the popularity of digital resources increases, the librarian and the professional staffs should always be concerned about digital resources ie. selection and evaluation of digital resources. In this paper we have tried to highlight the availability and usage of digital resources in modern libraries particularly in Assam University Central Library.

Keywords: Digital-Resource, Assam University Central Library, UGC-Infonet Consortium, DeLCON Consortium, DELNET

1. Introduction

Now a days, ICT can be considered as a boon for mankind. In the last couple of decades, ICT had drastic and far reaching impact in all aspect of human life in any sector, be it in education, research, industry, entertainment, healthcare, govt. and so on. At the same time, along with ICT revolution the advancement of digital resources has brought a change profoundly the library's landscape. Various digital resources are available now a days, such as E-journals (full text), E-books, E-news, E-directories etc.

Moreover, UGC has initiated a program, name as UGC INFONET Digital Consortium to provide digital access over the Internet to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the university sector in India.

2. Objectives of the Study

- i) To know about the digital resources and its components.
- ii) To study about availability of digital resources in Assam University Central Library.
- iii) To understand about Digital Library Consortium available in Assam University Library.
- iv) To study the usage of Digital resources through UGC Infonet.

3. What are Digital-Resources

Digital-resources or Electronic resources are those which are in electronic or digital forms and which can be easily accessed in high speed, can be searched accurately, which are cost effective (when accessed through consortium), which needs networked as well as multimedia environment. Because of the different advantages of Information Communication Technology the traditional concept



of acquiring information is gradually replaced by electronic resources.

3.1 Components of Digital Resources

We may find different kinds of Digital resources. They are –

3.1.1. E-Books

The Development of electronic version of printed books has been as part of the whole E-Publishing phenomenon. A good number of E-Books are available in most of the subject area online which can be access from internet either free or on payment. Some E-Books are available for browsing online or in some cases downloaded from the internet. E-books can use several features including animation, videos, sound, that traditional books cannot use. E-Books can be updated quickly and distributed almost instantly. In electronic or e-publishing books space is much less limited. For example, a standard CD-ROM can hold the equivalent of more than 160000 pages of single spaced text.

3.1.2. E-Journals

The idea of E-Journals was first described in 1945. The main motive behind it that the information can be brought out to the needful users in our society. E-Journal is a journal for which the end information is available on digital/optical disc over a network or in any other electronic format. Some publishers provides free online access to journals published by them against print subscription of library.

3.1.3. E-Reports

E-Reports are now a day considered as an important resource of library, which contains reports,

published b scientist, research scholars etc. These reports are scanned and converted to searchable PDF documents. Then, these are classified according to subject categories and archived in a server class machine and a detailed entry is made in a database for facilitating search.

3.1.4. E-Newsletter / Magazine

E-newsletter / magazine is simply a newsletter, stored on a file server, distributed of accessed via e-mail or online. It is also called Web-zine.

3.1.5. E-Reference

Hundreds of websites dealing with reference resources are available now a days. Publishers and vendors are providing users various reference sources through their websites and databases, such as dictionaries, yearbooks, encyclopedias, etc.

4. Digital-Resources in Assam University Library

The Assam University Library which is named as “Rabindra Library” is also a member of INFLIBNET and getting the E-journals of the consortium UGC-Infonet. Moreover, the library has some other E-resources (as on 1-03-2011) as follows:

Sl. No	Types of e-resources	Total No.
1.	CD/DVDs Consulted/Viewed by usrs	450
2.	Biological Abstract	20
3.	Theses and Dissertation Abstract	350
4.	Audio Cassettes' (French)	06
5.	Audio Cassettes' (Fine Arts)	39
6.	Online Journal (Through UGC-Infonet)	5000+

The Figure 1 shows how e-resources provide information to the Library users as well as information seekers.

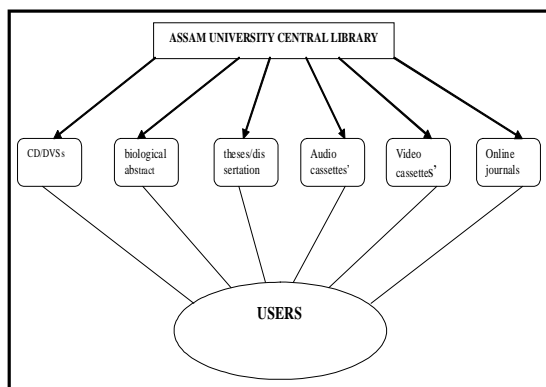


Figure 1: Users' Service in Assam University Library

5. Digital-resource Services from Assam University Library

5.1. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

UGC took an initiative to create a sound environment in the academic libraries in terms of the users' satisfaction. Thus UGC-Infonet came into existence by the effort of INFLIBNET, which is the largest library consortium in India. This consortium gives scholarly electronic journals with full text or bibliographic databases. The consortium provides 5000+ core and peer-reviewed current and archival journals from different publishers. In the first phase 50 nos. of universities were given E-resources and that is in the year 2004.

Assam University is also having the facility of e-resources through UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium in second Phase i.e. from the year 2005. The Consortium provides 22 Nos. of e-resources to this university. Some of the e-journals are available to access from 2010 by the university. The users of this university can access the following e-resources through UGC-Infonet Consortium:

Sl No.	Name of the Publisher	URLs	No. of Title Access
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Full Text E-resources

1.	American Chemical Society	http://www.pubs.acs.org	37
2.	American Institute of Physics	http://journals.aip.org	18
3.	American Physical Society	http://publish.aps.org/browse.php	10
4.	Annual Reviews	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org	33
5.	Blackwell Publishing	http://www3.interscience.wiley.com	908
6.	Cambridge University Press	http://journals.cambridge.org	224
7.	Economic and Political Weekly	http://www.epw.in	1
8.	Elsevier Cell Press	http://www.sciencedirect.com	34
9.	Emerald	http://www.emeraldinsight.com	29
10.	Institute of Physics	http://www.iop.org/EJ	46
11.	JSTOR	http://www.jstor.org	1401
12.	Nature	http://www.nature.com/nature	1
13.	Oxford University Press	http://www.oxfordjournals.org	206
14.	Portland Press	http://www.portlandpress.com/pp/journals/default.htm	9
15.	Project Euclid	http://www.projecteuclid.org	34
16.	Project Muse	http://muse.jhu.edu	411
17.	Royal So.of Chemistry	http://www.rsc.org/publishing/journals	29
18.	Springer Link	http://www.springerlink.com	1389
19.	Taylor and Francis	http://www.informaworld.com	1173

Bibliographical Databases

1.	ISID	http://www.isid.org.in
2.	JCCC	http://www.jccc-ugcinfonet.in
3.	MathSciNet	http://www.oms.org/mathscinet

5.2 DELCON Consortia

DELCON is an E-Journal consortium exclusively for the Dept. of Bio-Technology. It is operational since January, 2009. In India many institutions

relating to Bio-Technology are having the opportunity to have it and in North East India, fifteen institutions are having it, where Assam University is also included. DELCON is covering a total of 971 journals and a Database. All the members of DELCON consortium can access these through DELCON portal (<http://delcon.gov.in>). The abstracts of papers can be viewed and accessed free of cost. The following are the resources which can be accessed through this consortium by the members.

Full Text E-Resources

Sl No.	E-resources	URLs	No. of Journal Access
1.	American Association for Advancement of Science	http://www.sciencemag.org	3
2.	American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)	http://www.aacr.org	8
3.	American Chemical Society (ACS)	http://pubs.acs.org	37
4.	Annual Reviews	http://www.annualreviews.org	23
5.	American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	http://www.jbc.org	2
6.	American Society For Microbiology	http://www.asm.org/	12
7.	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press	http://www.cshl.edu	4
8.	Informa Healthcare / Taylor and Francis	http://www.informaworld.com	7
9.	Lippincott William and Wilkins (LWW) / Wolter and Kluwer / OVID	http://www.ovidsp.ovid.com	11
10.	Marry ANN Liebert	http://www.liebertonline.com	7
11.	Nature Publications	http://www.nature.com	40
12.	Oxford University Press (OUP)	http://www.oxfordjournals.org	18
13.	Springer India	http://www.springerlink.com	237
14.	Society for General Microbiology	http://mic.sgmjournals.org	3
15.	Society for Hematology	http://bloodjournals.hematologylibrary.org	1
16.	Wiley-Blackwell	http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/home	86
17.	Elsevier Science (Science Direct)	http://www.sciencedirect.com	415
18.	American Society of Plant Biologist	http://www.aspb.org/	2
19.	American Association of Immunologist	http://www.aai.org/	1
20.	Scopus Database	http://www.scopus.com	1

5.3 DELNET

DELNET, the Developing Library Network, has been established with an aim to promote resource sharing activities among the libraries. Its initiation took place in India International Centre Library in January 1988. In 1992, it was registered as a society. The main objective of DELNET is to promote resource sharing among the libraries through networks. Besides offering computerized services, it also collects, store and disseminate information. It is doing a great job in modernization of libraries in India. DELNET's relentless effort in case of resource sharing is having a very good result. DELNET is compiling a very good number of Union Catalogues with the resources of its member libraries. Now, DELNET has 1945 numbers of members in India and 21 numbers of members in abroad.

DELNET has following databases:

- ❖ Union Catalogue of Books
- ❖ Union List of Current Periodicals
- ❖ Union Catalogue of Periodicals
- ❖ Database of Periodical Articles
- ❖ CD-ROM Database
- ❖ Union List of Video Recordings
- ❖ Union List of Sound Recordings
- ❖ Database of Theses and Dissertations
- ❖ Union List of Newspapers
- ❖ Database of E-books
- ❖ Profile of Member-Libraries

DELNET provides access to:

- ❖ Cambridge Dictionaries online
- ❖ Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations

- ❖ ODLIS : Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science
- ❖ GISTNIC Databases
- ❖ MEDLINE & other Databases of NLM
- ❖ U.S. Patents : Full Text
- ❖ Full Text medical Journals
- ❖ Open Access Journals
- ❖ Engineering and Technology E-journals : Table of Contents
- ❖ Full Text Medical Books
- ❖ Full Text Engineering and Technology E-journals
- ❖ Learning Resources for LIS Professionals
- ❖ Digital Libraries of the World

SI No.	DELNET Database	No. of Records
1.	Union Catalogue of Books – CCF	83,69,299
2.	Union List of Current Periodicals	33,541
3.	Union Catalogue of Periodicals	20,235
4.	Database of Periodical Articles	9,12,042
5.	CD-ROM Database	11,715
6.	Union List of Video Recordings	5,000
7.	Union List of Sound Recordings	748
8.	Database of Theses and Dissertations	44,304
9.	Union List of Newspapers	1,613

Figure 2 shows the access to e-resources from Assam University through UGC-Infonet Consortium, DeLCON Consortium & DELNET.

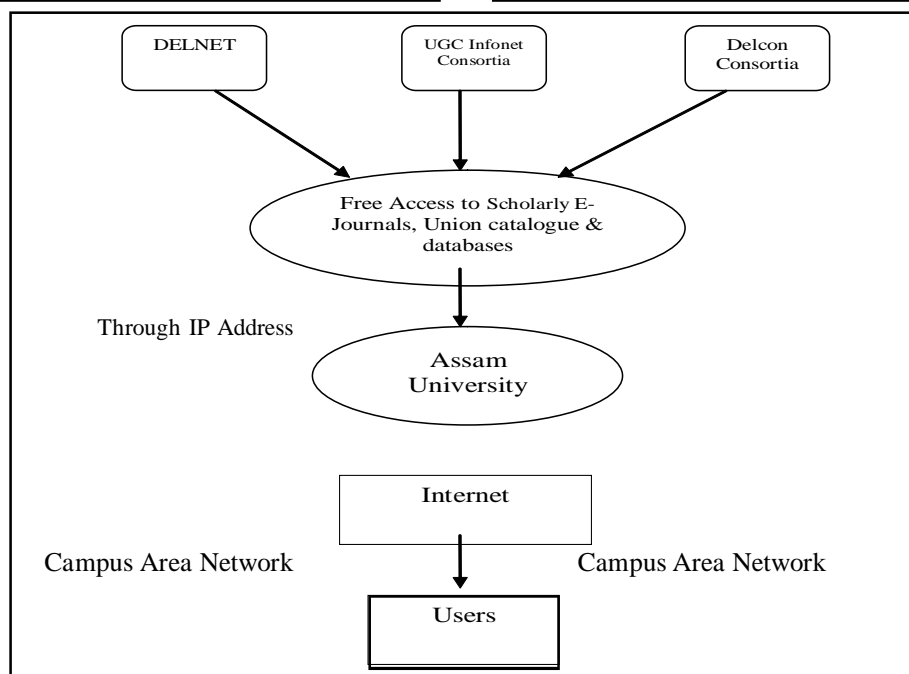


Figure 2: Access to e-resources from Assam University

6. Usage statistics of Digital-Resources through UGC-Infonet in Assam University

Publisher	2009											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
American Chemical Society	79	374	191	115	26	124	68	102	35	10	92	392
American Institute of Physics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Annual Reviews	8	2	9	12	30	0	21	7	5	1	1	4
Blackwell Publishing	31	30	41	64	64	13	45	47	33	27	44	44
Cambridge University Press	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Institute of Physics	37	42	48	85	40	6	44	64	16	4	25	39
JCCC	1	9	14	0	55	110	10	545	63	94	7	60
Oxford University Press	0	38	55	87	41	32	69	32	95	14	24	64
Project Muse	23	16	33	59	13	5	1	5	12	2	5	4
Royal Society of Chemistry	48	65	8	16	6	7	16	12	9	1	7	343
Springer Link	106	353	551	342	344	209	271	377	309	103	438	488
Taylor & Francis	271	96	42	25	49	76	66	40	21	5	37	63

Figure 3: Graphical Representation of Access to E-journals of Different Publishers

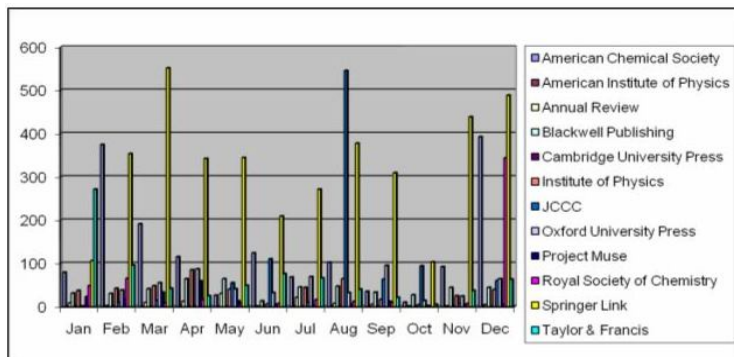


Figure 3: Graphical representation of Access to E-journals of different Publishers

Publisher	2010												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
American Chemical Society	485	231	25	161	25	11	93	336	958	108	177	32	
American Institute of Physics	9	5	0	12	12	0	9	24	19	2	6	1	
Annual Reviews	8	2	3	5	0	0	5	14	55	3	8	0	
Blackwell Publishing	166	149	13	53	13	1	10	182	162	127	71	8	
Cambridge University Press	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	39	0	0	0	0	
Institute of Physics	60	30	20	95	22	3	24	59	116	4	8	0	
JCCC	214	135	46	143	79	0	34	700	377	46	81	0	
Oxford University Press	4	5	63	16	32	25	7	19	94	102	17	32	14
Project Muse	47	4	4	28	3	0	0	1	2	5	1	0	
Royal Society of Chemistry	32	17	1	11	9	0	28	291	178	71	69	5	
Springer Link	580	577	317	767	654	224	974	1049	752	78	363	60	
Taylor and Francis	62	57	13	21	15	14	35	736	142	61	74	46	

Table 2: Usage statistics of UGC-Infonet by the Users of Assam University in 2010

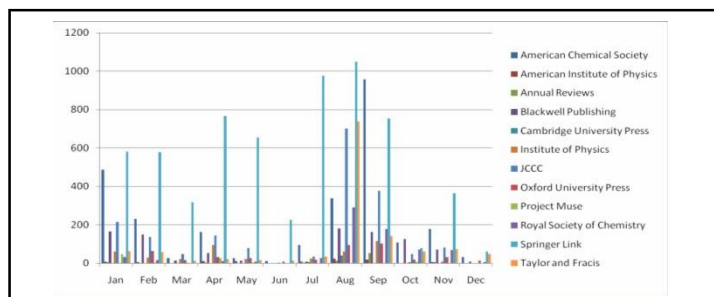


Figure 4: Graphical representation of Access to E-journals of different Publishers

Publishers	Years 2009	Total 2010	No. of Hits
American Chemical Society	1608	2642	4250
American Institute of Physics	3	99	102
Annual Reviews	200	103	303
Blackwell Publishing	483	955	1438
Cambridge University Press	NA	46	46
Institute of Physics	450	441	891
JCCC	968	1855	2823
Oxford University Press	551	466	1017
Project Muse	178	95	273
Royal Society of Chemistry	538	712	1250
Springer Link	3891	6395	10286
Taylor and Francis	791	1276	2067

Table 3: Total no. of usage of E-Journals during the year 2009-2010

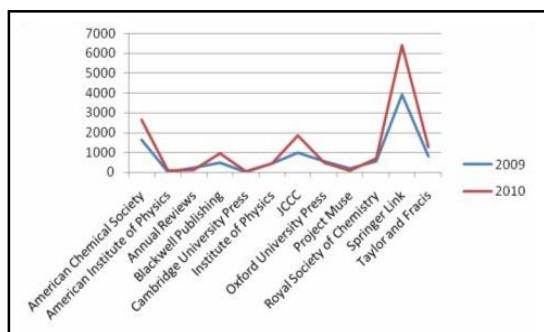


Figure 5: Graphical Representation of Total Hits of E-journals in the year 2009-2010

From the table 3 we have found the access hits of Springer Link is more than the other publisher, while the access of Cambridge University Press is very low. However, the access of E-Journals increases to some extent in 2010 comparatively

from the year 2009. The usage of some other publishers is varied time to time covering both the years 2009-2010.

7. Impact of Digital-Resources on the User Community in Assam University

In the age of Information Communication Technology the traditional concept of acquiring information is gradually replaced by accessing information on-line. With the emergence of Internet, it has become very easier to go through the publication of digital-resources by the users' community for the following reasons:

- ❖ A good number of search engines are available to search in Internet, from where user can access and retrieve relevant articles.
- ❖ Multiple accesses through Internet as well as Intranet have become easier.
- ❖ Alerting the users regarding the publication of new issues and articles of their interest has become easier in electronic media.
- ❖ The Speed of publication and delivery of journal issues is very faster in comparison to print versions.
- ❖ Downloading and printing of relevant articles instantly is possible for the end users.
- ❖ Archival access and preservation of digital-resources is possible through digital library e-consortium.

Thus we have come to know that the Digital-Resources are helping the users in many ways and it has become easier due to the emergence of internet. The no of users are also gradually increasing for the above mentioned advantages. Access to high-quality digital-resources also helps

to improve scholarly activity and research works, student learning, teaching excellence, and curricular development to academia in the university.

8. Conclusion

ICT explosion and the rapid advancement along with computer technology, Libraries and Information Centre gradually shifting towards the Digital Library environment with the Digital Resources. The expectation of library users is also changing and they become more depended upon digital document than the traditional one. So, to keep pace with the changing environment and demands, librarian should include online/offline Digital Resources in the collection development policy. However, the use of E-journals in Assam University yet to take the real pace. Hence, the library staff should motivate and provide training to the users community so that the user can make the best use of Digital Resources.

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About Authors

Mr. Saroj Kumar Mandal, Library Assistant, Assam University Central (Rabindra).
E-mail: sarojlis@gmail.com

Ms. Nitumoni Borah, Library Assistant, Assam University Central (Rabindra) Library.
E-mail: nitumonilis@gmail.com

Mr. Mihir Kanti Nath, Professional Assistant, Assam University Central (Rabindra) Library.
E-mail: mihirnath2007@gmail.com