

Networking and Collaboration among Academic University Libraries in Maharashtra: An Analysis

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Abstract

This paper elaborates contribution of books, theses, and serials bibliographical records by the State Universities Libraries to INFLIBNET databases. The researcher has analysed each database, which is specially used for developing the Networks within all libraries.

The INFLIBNET has provided the special automation projects grants for purchase of hardware and for developing the infrastructure of ICT, in the university libraries, which can collaborate with each other. This will help researchers and students to utilise the resources effectively through ILL and Document Delivery Services. Lastly after analysing the data, author has concluded that all the State University Libraries in Maharashtra must contribute 100% bibliographical records to the Union Databases of INFLIBNET in order to satisfy the NKC's recommendations.

Key words: Networking, Union Catalogue, Document Delivery Services, Inter Library Loan, Academic Libraries - Maharashtra

1. Introduction

The increase in demand to utilise knowledge for societal development requires effective information resource management with a particular emphasis on collaboration. Regional, continental, and global information sharing through effective information resource management will assist Universities in Maharashtra to produce research and highly skilled personnel that can apply scientific and technological research to solve local and global development problems. University libraries, as gateways to information, must therefore engage in joint ventures and collaboration so that information can be transferred to students and scholars in their pursuit of innovations for better standards of living for society.

The use of new technologies in the library is changing the functioning of libraries and providing a new dynamic shape to the age-old concept of collaboration. Lack of effective and efficient technology had been a major hurdle for collaboration in India, besides the lack of co-operation among the participating libraries. Now by use of ICTs, it has become possible to create co-operative functional collaborative library network which is important requirement at this juncture. The economic considerations, information explosion, and specialised needs are forcing the libraries to co-operate. (Mishra R. K., 2000)

The ever increasing complex needs of the information seekers on one side and the information explosion on the other side followed by ever shrinking library budgets, price escalation, etc. have become serious problems in providing adequate and suitable information services. This had led to a change in the collection building and use of ICT, which helps in accessing the electronic resource and sharing the same. Consortia are mainly formed for sharing of resources.

2. Objectives of the Study

Major objective of collaboration and networking is to provide greater access to a wider range of resources at reduced cost using ICT. The other objectives are as follows:

1. To encourage each library to enter into an efficient, cost-effective collaboration, co-operative agreement with libraries in their respective regions, in order to improve the availability of and access to print / electronic information resources using the ICT by library, to users.
2. To know the present collection, services, resources, staff, equipments, ICT infrastructure, hardware, software available in Academic University Libraries in Maharashtra.
3. To explore the possibilities of cross-regional co-operation amongst university libraries in Maharashtra by making their collection accessible regionally and globally.
4. To explore the barriers in collaboration and networking of Academic University libraries in Maharashtra
5. To explore the use of ICT and other factors that enhances sustainable networking and collaboration practices in university libraries in Maharashtra.

3. Significance of the Present Study

Similarly, National Knowledge Commission Report: Report to the Nation 2006-2009 in Summary Recommendations – recommend to serve as a local centre of information and knowledge, and be a local gateway to national and global knowledge. In order to achieve this goal, existing libraries must modernise their collection, services, and facilities.

Effective databases and electronic information management in today's information explosion is the key to sustainable development. This can only be achieved through reliable regional and global information sharing. INFLIBNET Centre encourages all University libraries to pursue similar goals. This will increase the access to databases and electronic/ print information availability in the region.

There is a need for collaboration among all type of libraries. It has almost become a necessity for a library of any kind to work for collaboration activities.

4. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study has adopted the sampling technique. Researcher has used the source list of University libraries available on <http://www.ugc.ac.in>.

In this study the stratified sampling has been used for survey. i.e. out of 24 Universities in Maharashtra, libraries of the universities which are under 12-B of UGC act 1956 have been surveyed. The researcher has surveyed only 10 Universities for the present study. These Universities are as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of the University
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women 's University (Mumbai).
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).
4.	University of Pune (Pune).
5.	Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)
6.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).
10.	Solapur University, Solapur

5. Method of Data Collection and Analysis

For this study the data has been collected from primary and secondary sources. The researcher has examined the INFLIBNET web-site and 10 Universities' websites to collect the data. The data obtained has been analysed using the statistical methods. The relevant data has been used for making contemplated comparisons, analysis, editing, coding, classification, and tabulation as well as for summarising it &organising it.

6. Data Analysis

Table: Establishment year of the Universities in Maharashtra

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Establishment Year
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	1857
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women 's University (Mumbai)	1916
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	1923
4.	University of Pune (Pune).	1948
5.	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	18 th June, 1958
6.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	18 th Nov.,1962
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).	1 st May, 1983
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	1991-92
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	17 Sept 1994
10.	Solapur University, Solapur	1 st Aug 2004

The University of Mumbai was established in the 1857 and the rest of the universities were established after 1900.

Table: Phase wise selected State Universities of Maharashtra by INFLIBNET for Automation Project

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Selection Phase
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	Phase I
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	Phase III
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	Phase I
4.	University of Pune (Pune).	Phase I
5.	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	Phase II
6.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Phase I
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).	Phase II
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	Phase II
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	Phase III
10.	Solapur University, Solapur	—

In phase I UGC-INFONET, only 4 Universities out of 10 in the sample were selected from Maharashtra after ensuring availability of network infrastructure for accessing e-resources based on static IP facility, in the year 2004.

In Phase II 3 more universities out of the sample were selected under the Consortium initiatives, and were given the network infrastructure under the UGCINFONET Programme in the year 2005.

In Phase III the remaining 2 universities were selected.

Only at Nagpur University (Nagpur), Amaravati University (Amravati), North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon), Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded), the post of Information Scientist has been sanctioned so far.

Table: Number of professional Staff Available in the Universities of Maharashtra

Sr. No.	Name of the University	UL	DY	AL	Total
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	1	4	3	8
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	1	3	4+7	15
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	1	--	2	3
4.	University of Pune (Pune).	1	1	8 + 14	24
5.	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	1	--	3 + 8	12
6.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	1	--	2 + 8	11
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).	1	--	3 + 6	10
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	1	1	1	3
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	1	1	--	2
10.	Solapur University, Solapur	I/c.	--	3	4

*UL-University Librarian, DL, Dy. Librarian, AL- Assistant Librarian

The above table shows that the Pune University has maximum staff.

A non-recurring grant of rs 6.50 Lakh was sanctioned to all the ten Academic Universities of Maharashtra by INFLIBNET under automation project for hardware and networking.

Table: Software used by the State Universities

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Software used
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	SOUL
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	SOUL
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	Libsys
4.	University of Pune (Pune).	Libsys
5.	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	SOUL
6.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	SOUL/ Libsys
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).	—
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	—
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	SOUL 2.0
10.	Solapur University, Solapur	—

Seven Universities are using the software for computerisation, out of that 4 universities are using SOUL software, and 3 universities are using Libsys software.

Table: The book Collection available in State University Libraries.

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Book Collection
1.	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	777909
2.	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	383774
3.	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	384389
4.	University of Pune (Pune).	442969
5.	Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	314856
6.	Shivaji University (Kohlapur).	256909
7.	Amaravati University (Amravati).	91970
8.	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	52744
9.	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	43586
10.	Solapur University, Solapur	22481

In the sample, only one university has a collection of 7 lakh, and 4 universities have 2.50 Lakh book collection.

Table: Theses Collection available in State University Libraries.

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Number of theses collection
1	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	20228
2	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	9942
3	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	11662
4	University of Pune (Pune).	13358
5	Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	3574
6	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	9306
7	Amaravati University (Amravati).	1518
8	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	2146
9	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	672
10	Solapur University, Solapur	1075

Only 4 universities have 9 thousand and above theses in their collection.

Table: Number of Bound Volumes available in State University Libraries.

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Number of Bond Volume
1	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	75344
2	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	—
3	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	35370
4	University of Pune (Pune).	3705
5	Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	40000
6	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	32698
7	Amaravati University (Amravati).	5466
8	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	5282
9	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	4976
10	Solapur University, Solapur	526

Four universities in the sample have a bound volumes collection of thirty thousand and above.

Table: Current Serial Collection in State University Libraries.

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Serial Collection
1	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	631
2	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	569
3	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	326
4	University of Pune (Pune).	251
5	Dr. B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	205
6	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	225
7	Amaravati University (Amravati).	413
8	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	152
9	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	151
10	Solapur University, Solapur	146

Five universities subscribe to 200 and above current serials.

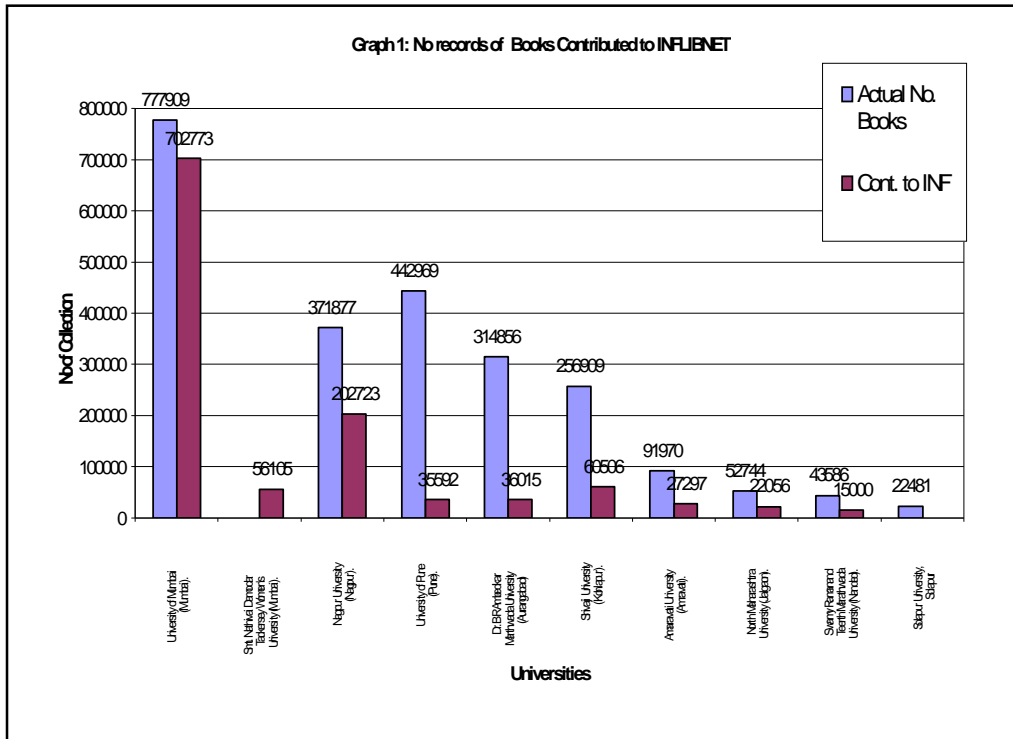
Table: Number of Theses records contributed to INFLIBNET under automation project

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Number of theses
1	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	6007
2	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	665
3	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	10381
4	University of Pune (Pune).	3144
5	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	2404
6	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	1371
7	Amaravati University (Amravati).	133
8	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	344
9	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	468
10	Solapur University, Solapur	60

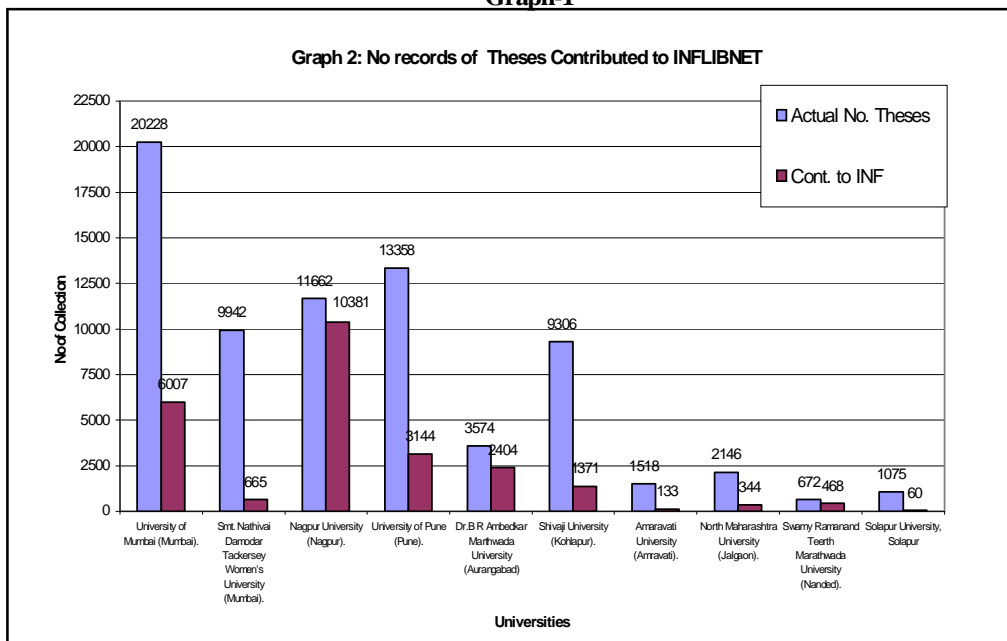
Table: Number of Serials records contributed to INFLIBNET under Automation Project

Sr. No.	Name of the University	Number of serials
1	University of Mumbai (Mumbai).	1388
2	Smt. Nathivai Damodar Tackersey Women's University (Mumbai).	871
3	Nagpur University (Nagpur).	434
4	University of Pune (Pune).	1793
5	Dr.B R Ambedkar Marthwada University (Aurangabad)	356
6	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	345
7	Amaravati University (Amravati).	102
8	North Maharashtra University (Jalgaon).	
9	Swamy Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).	138
10	Solapur University, Solapur	155

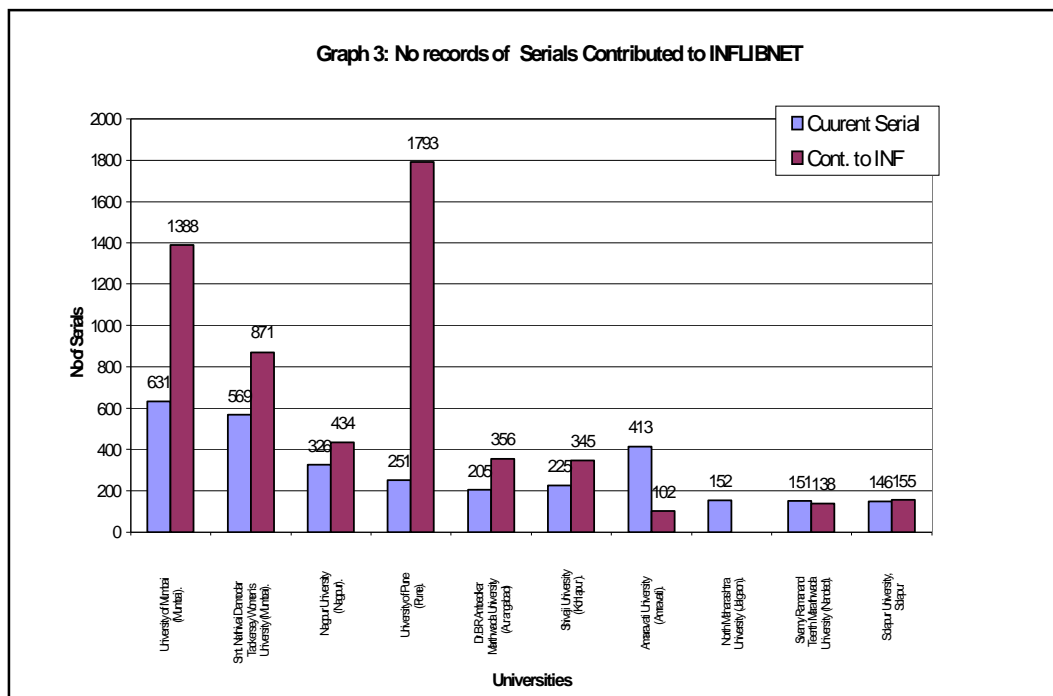
A comparison of the actual collection and records contributed to INFLIBNET is shown in Graph-1, Graph-2, and Graph-3 for books, theses, and serial respectively.



Graph-1



Graph-2



Graph-3

7. Findings and Suggestions

Some of the findings and suggestions of the study are given below:

- ◆ No single library can satisfy all the information needs of its users.
- ◆ Duplication of already acquired materials, particularly periodicals, which needs be avoided.
- ◆ There is an inadequate infrastructure facilities, manpower, storage space etc in individual libraries to cope with modern trends.
- ◆ Graph1, Graph2 and Graph3 show that only few universities have contributed the 90% of data to INFLIBNET.
- ◆ All universities in the sample have a rich collection of books, theses, and serials. They must contribute the all the records to INFLIBNET Union Database.
- ◆ All the universities should establish network though ICT application.
- ◆ All universities can collaborate with each other and develop inter library loan and document delivery service with the help of union catalogue and ICT facilities.
- ◆ By using the union catalogue of theses' database, researchers can avoid duplication of research work and they can refer the theses directly by visiting concerned universities.

University libraries are facing difficulties in proper planning for infrastructure, selection of hardware, software, website design, and web-based services for improvement in information access, library functions, networking, and collaboration.

The INFLIBNET has developed the software SOUL. Earlier they provided training of CDS/ISIS software to librarians, and provided special automation projects grants for purchase of hardware and for developing the infrastructure of ICT. The researcher and students can utilise the resources effectively through the ILL and Document Delivery Services. Lastly after analysing data, it is concluded that all the State Academic University Libraries in Maharashtra must contribute 100% of their bibliographical records to Union Databases of INFLIBNET, only then NKC's recommendations will be satisfied truly.

Effective information management in the information age is the key to sustainable development. This management is enhanced through ready availability of information for users at all the levels. This can only be achieved through reliable regional, national, and global information sharing. Archiving, collaboration, and networking in sector of higher education in Maharashtra will encourage other sectors to pursue similar goals.

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