

From Hidden Stacks to Open Web with INFLIBNET: A Torchbearer for N.E. Indian Universities

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Abstract

INFLIBNET centre since its establishment carried out a number of programmes for the university libraries of India and NE Indian universities are also no exception to it. University libraries of N.E India are professionally networked with INFLIBNET through different programmes like automation and networking, UGC Infonet internet connectivity, Consortium of e-resources, union catalogue, resource sharing through DDS, Shodhganga programme, HRD, etc. The paper tries to find out the different level of facilities and opportunities that are availed by the university libraries of NE India. It also reflects the status of the works of different NE Indian universities using INFLIBNET facilities. The paper tried to access the contribution of the Universities to union catalogue of INFLIBNET. It also tries to assess the work of ILL document delivery centres of NE India. The paper puts forward certain suggestion at the end.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, Document Delivery Service, Shodhganga, Inter Library Loan

1. Introduction

Modern day libraries are using the computerization and networking the two basic concepts for automation, digitization and virtualization. INFLIBNET Centre (Information and Library Network) since its inception has strongly set its goals, mission and objectives for creating information superhighway of the higher educational, R & D institutions through its different programmes and facilities. NE Indian universities have signed different MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with INFLIBNET Centre so as to make its equal contribution in building the national library network for the university libraries. During the last three decades (including the present one), the university libraries of the region have been benefitted with

different programmes of INFLIBNET like library automation, union catalogue, internet connectivity, E-Resources, DDS (Document Delivery Service), Shodhganga and above all HRD (Human Resource Development). From the literature study, it is evident that INFLIBNET Centre realized certain technical problems that libraries were facing during 1990's. Accordingly, INFLIBNET Centre has proposed UGC to create the post of information scientist in funded universities during the initial period of library computerization. The creation of this post in the universities has given fresh oxygen to the library system.

A need has been felt to ascertain whether the various privileges provided through the INFLIBNET have been used by the university libraries of the region or not.



2. Objectives of the Study

Following are the main objectives of the study:

- ❖ To identify the university libraries which have availed computerization and automation grants from UGC under INFLIBNET programme.
- ❖ To identify the universities which have recruited the Information Scientist.
- ❖ To assess the records / contribution of N.E Indian Universities during the last nine years (2006-15) in the Union Catalogue of INFLIBNET
- ❖ To assess the works of the two ILL designated centres of N.E India.
- ❖ To identify and find out the work level of N.E Indian Universities under Shodhganga and Shodhgangotri programme of INFLIBNET.

2.1 Limitation of the Study

The study is confined to the universities established on or before 2005. Only the UGC recognized universities under 2(f) and 12(B) is considered for the purpose of the study. Private, deemed and distance learning universities are excluded from the purview of the study.

2.2 Methodology

The study is based on the data that are scattered in the INFLIBNET website, INFLIBNET annual reports, INFLIBNET Newsletters, websites and annual reports of the universities. Analysis was done on the collected data from the published primary sources.

3. Present Status of the Surveyed Libraries

Table 1: Present Status of the Surveyed Universities

Name of the University Scientist	Software used	Abbreviation used in the Study	Post of Information	Non-recurring grants of Rs.6.5 Lakhs
Gauhati University	SOUL 2.0	GU	No	1993-1994
Dibrugarh University	SOUL 2.0	DU	No	1999-2000
North Eastern Hill University	KOHA	NEHU	Yes	1993-1994
Manipur University	SOUL 2.0	MU	Yes	1993-1994
Tripura University	Not Yet	TRU	Yes	1996-97
Tezpur University	LIBSYS	TU	Yes	1997-98
Nagaland University	SOUL 2.0	NU	Yes	1998-99
Assam University	KOHA	AU	Yes	1998-99
Rajiv Gandhi University (previously as Arunachal University)	KOHA	RGU	-	1996-1997
Mizoram University	KOHA	MZU	Yes	1998-99

Source: INFLIBNET Newsletter, Annual Reports & University Websites

Table 1 reflects that at present, four libraries are using the INFLIBNET developed ILMs package SOUL 2.0 and rest except TRU are using the open source software KOHA. The table also reveals that except the two state universities of Assam (GU & DU), all the other Central universities except RGU have recruited the post of Information scientist. Out of 142 different Indian universities funded by UGC for computerization and automation, all the ten universities of the N.E-India were also selected for a non-recurring grant of 6.5 lakhs as a part of INFLIBNET programme. The grants were provided for acquiring computer system, site preparation, networking connectivity, etc.

4. IndCat Programme for Books

INFLIBNET has developed a special subset of INDCat for N.E-India known as NERCat (Online Catalogue of Books in University Libraries of North - East Region). At present all the ten universities are the members of NERCat.

Table 2 statistically shows during the period from 2006-2015, 451195 (Four Lakh fifty one thousand one hundred Ninety five) records with an average of 5570 records (approx.) per year were sent by all University libraries of N.E-India except Tripura University. Till 2014-15, except Gauhati University (GU), there is no any contribution of new records by the University libraries of N.E-India. If we subset the above table then it is observed that, after 2008-09 to till 2015, there is no new contribution of six Universities to IndCat (DU, NEHU, NU, AU, RGU, and MZU). Similarly TU after 2009-10 and AU after 2011-12 have not contributed any records in IndCat.

Table 2: Status of Records Contribution

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
GU	2135	NNRC	7865	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	108962	118962
DU	57362	NNRC	104	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	57466
NEHU	84477	NNRC	46	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	84523
MU	51862	NNRC	13054	NNRC	NNRC	6631	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	71547
TRU	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
TU	18414	NNRC	1586	5888	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	25888
NU	15549	NNRC	07	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	15556
AU	3270	NNRC	16730	NNRC	NNRC	12668	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	32668
RGU	22358	NNRC	2642	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	25000
MZU	NC	NC	19585	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	NNRC	19585

Source: Annual Reports INFLIBNET

NNRC-No New Records Contribution

NC-No Contribution

Table 3: Shows the Process of Authentication of INDCat data

	Received by INFLIBNET	Imported by INFLIBNET	Duplicate Records	De-duplicate Records	Merge
GU	118962	118962	4179	58	114725
DU	57466	57362	4214	6905	34037
NEHU	84528	84474	3795	796	79883
MU	52000	51862	11058	2065	38739
TRU	917	914	1	44	869
TU	25883	25883	1854	2302	21727
NU	15556	15549	64	801	14684
AU	3270	3270	35	5	2230
RGU	22357	22357	1306	1025	20027
MZU	19252	19252	15	1941	17296
TOTAL	400191	399885	26521	15942	344217

(Source:INFLIBNET Annual report(2006-12)

Table 3 reflects that INFLIBNET has tried to reduce the duplication of records. Till August 2016, out of total records received by INFLIBNET centre, 86.07

% of records were merged in the IndCat server and the remaining records were duplicate and de-duplicate records (6.63 % of records were duplicate records and 3.98% of records were de-duplicate records).

5. UGC Infonet Network Connectivity(Now NKN) and DL Consortium (Now e-ShodhSindhu)

Table 4: Bandwidth of Network Connectivity and E-Resources Consortium

	2005-06	2008-09	UGC Infonet 2.0 Connected during 2010	UGC-INFONET 2.0 Subsumed to NKN	Digital Library Consortium
GU	LL 512 kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase I
DU	SCPC 256kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1Gbps	Phase II
NEHU	SCPC 1 mbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase I
MU	SCPC 1 mbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase I
TRU	SCPC 512 kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase II
TU	SCPC 512 kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1Gbps	Phase I
NU	BBVSAT 512 Kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase II
AU	SCPC 512 kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1Gbps	Phase II
RGU	SCPC 1 mbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1 Gbps	Phase II
MZU	BBVSAT 512 Kbps	LL-2 mbps	10 mbps	1Gbps	Phase III

Source: Annual Reports INFLIBNET

Table reflects that all the University libraries have used facilities of UGC Infonet network connectivity since the inception of the programme. All the universities have migrated to 1 Gbps bandwidth of NKN (National Knowledge network).

6. Document Delivery Centres (DDS)

N.E. region is fortunate to have two ILL designated centres for DDS which are responsible for carrying out the task of DDS of INFLIBNET. One is the NEHU, Shillong and another is Assam University, Silchar.

the request, 19% (approximate) request are partially satisfied and 33% (approximate) request are Unfulfilled. Considering the same period 2010-15 for Assam University, out of the total requests received by the university, it is found that no request were processed for delivering the documents.

7. Shodhganga Programme

Table 5: Document Delivery Request Receiving Status by NEHU & AU

		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
Total DDR Received	NEHU	935	244	134	44	5	1362
	AU	111	40	113	81	7	352
DDR-F	NEHU	493	130	52	3	0	678
	AU	0	0	0	0	0	0
DDR-P	NEHU	156	14	29	38	5	242
	AU	111	40	113	81	7	352
DDR-UF	NEHU	286	100	53	3	0	442
	AU	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Annual Reports INFLIBNET **DDR-F** Document Delivery Request Fulfilled **DDR-P** Document Delivery Request Partially Satisfied **DDR-UF** Document Delivery Request Unfulfilled

The table reflects that during the period of last five year (2010-15), NEHU and Assam University has received 1362 and 352 numbers of users demand for document delivery from the users of the different Participating member universities under UGC-Infonet DL Consortia. Analyzing this period of five (2010-15), it is found that out of total request received by NEHU Library, it has fulfilled 48% (approximate) of

Shodhganga is another programme of INFLIBNET that deals with ETD (Electronic Thesis and Dissertations) and Shodhgangotri deals with the synopsis. All total 164 Universities from India have signed MoU with INFLIBNET for participating in Shodhganga Programme of which 145 Universities have started the work of uploading the Thesis.

Table 6: Status of Universities on Sodhganga Programme

Work done at INFLIBNET Level			Work done at University Level	
	MOU	Anti Plagiarism provided	Thesis Submitted	Synopsis Submitted
GU	18 th July 2011	Yes	3114	0
DU	30 th June,2015	Eligible	18	0
NEHU	9 th March, 2011	Yes	1096	0
MU	17 th Mar,2011	Yes	657	0
TRU	21 st Jan,2013	Yes	16	0
TU	1 st Aug,2013	Yes	428	0
NU	11 th Aug,2015	Eligible	65	0
AU	31 st Jan, 2013	Yes	986	0
RGU	17 th Oct,2014	Yes	0	0
MZU	17 th Oct,2013	Yes	20	0

Source: <http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in>

Table 6 reveals that all the ten surveyed Universities have signed MOU for Sodhganga. These universities have also received the Anti-Plagiarism software from INFLIBNET except DU and NU. Out of participating surveyed members except RGU all other Universities have started the process of uploading the Thesis.

The above Table also shows that, out of 3488 synopsis uploaded in Shodhgangotri by 47 Universities all over India, no any synopsis were submitted in the Shodhgangotri domain of N.E-Indian Universities

8. Findings

Following are the findings of the study.

- ❖ All the ten surveyed university libraries have avail the computerization and Automation grant from UGC as a part of INFLIBNET programme (Table 1)
- ❖ Although University libraries have joined INDCat but still it is observed that most of the universities have not sent the updated records to INFLIBNET. (Table 2)
- ❖ Out of two ILL designated centres for DDS from the region, it is found that one ILL Centre has not processed any request during the last five year. (Table 5)

- ❖ All the university libraries of the region have joined the Shodhganga programme. (Table 6)

9. Suggestions

Following are certain suggestions after getting the findings of the study:

- ❖ Every year the updated records should be sent by University libraries to INFLIBNET. Also bibliographic data of affiliated Colleges from the region zone wise can also be included in the IndCat.
- ❖ One more ILL University centre for DDS of INFLIBNET from the region can be increased based on the total number of existing staff of that university.
- ❖ The work of digitization for ETD should be completed out as soon as possible.

10. Conclusion

INFLIBNET has been trying its best to develop the university libraries of India in general and North East in particular through its different special schemes. In spite of various hurdles, N.E-Indian universities are putting their sincere effort to fulfill the vision set by the INFLIBNET. Due to high expectations of the university learners there is a urgent need of a very strong, innovative and dynamic information environment which only can satisfy the thirst of the users.

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