

# **E-resources under UGC-INFONET**

## **Introduction**

- Uncertain financial environment in the university libraries
- Increase in the electronic publishing and reduced cost of electronic access to resources
- Advent of E-publishing brought a revolution in journals publication, subscription and access
- The age of library consortia is at the doorsteps
- Library consortium is the one of the emerging tool kit
- Move from organizational self sufficiency to a collaborative survival mode
- Information Technology enable much broader and deeper cooperation than ever before.
- Technology provides the solution for easy access to users
- Databases licensed to a consortium available all at the same time.

## **What is consortia?**

- Strategic alliance of Institutions with Common Interests
- Group of libraries come together to form consortium.
- One of the libraries or agencies work as coordinator
- Aim of Consortia is to achieve what the members of the group cannot achieve individually.
- Increase the cost benefit per subscription.

## **Need for consortia subscriptions**

- Access is important than collection building
- Facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost
- Difficulty to maintain subscriptions to core journals
- Shrinking fiscal resources, price hike
- Academic and Research users can now hope to have access to their learned journals
- Rational utilization of funds
- Improve access-base of literature to the research community
- Availability of information in electronic form
- Provide better, faster and cheaper services for less money.
- Reduction in the staff strength
- Greater buying power and Increased access to sources.

## **UGC-Infonet consortium**

- The Infonet Paradigm
- Access to Literature
- E-resource subscription scope : users, resources
- Evolving model
- Implementation mechanism
- Advantages/benefits
- Present Status
- Subscription for immediate future
- Further initiatives

## The Infonet Paradigm

- Provide Internet connectivity to University sector.
- Provide access to literature and research publications in all areas of learning
- Facilitate the creation of multimedia content to supplement and aid the traditional learning process.
- Provide training to the community through orientation and refresher courses.

## Access to Literature

- Access to research literature, reviews and databases
- University libraries are depleted of these resources
- Infonet programme will provide E-access to the literature.
- Funds will be provided by the UGC, and the programme will be administered by INFLIBNET.
- Subscriptions will be provided to over 50 Universities in the next few month.

## Who are our users?

- ✍ Universities
  - ✍ Total No. : 311+
  - ✍ UGC assisted : 150+
  - ✍ INFLIBNET supported : 142

These 142+ universities - core group to begin with

- ✍ Colleges
  - ✍ More than 14,000
  - ✍ Govt.- 20%, Private – 80%

## What is the journal collection base?

- Current journals collection
  - ✍ Average number of titles subscribed: 250
  - ✍ 60% titles : Indian publications
  - ✍ Few universities do not subscribe to any foreign journals
- ✍ Abstracting/ indexing journals (e.g)
  - ✍ Chemical Abstracts : 25

(98 Chemistry Depts)

✍ Biological Abstracts : 9

✍ (101 Biological Sciences Depts)

### Why is this problem?

#### ■ Known universal problem

- ✍ Increase in price
- ✍ Fluctuation in conversion rates
- ✍ No proportionate funding to sustain the collection

#### ■ What is the way out?

- ✍ Large number of journals are available in e-form
- ✍ Access is provided on the Internet through web
- ✍ Subscription under consortia/ national site licensing

✍ **Therefore the initiative of e-resources subscription from UGC & INFLIBNET in the 10th Five year plan to provide wider and larger access to electronic journals and databases**

### What does e-resources subscription cover?

- ✍ Full text of journals
- ✍ Bibliographic databases like Chemical Abstracts, Psychological Abstracts
- ✍ Other sources

### An evolving model

- ✍ Provides access to and supports only electronic version
- ✍ Not to be linked with print subscription
- ✍ Perpetual access to subscribed resources Archival access for back issues  
Provision for DDS/ILL
- ✍ Few print subscription proposed
- ✍ Subscription for minimum 3 years initially
- ✍ To be reviewed at the end of three years

## Present Status

- UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium is quite an ambitious program initiated by chairman UGC to facilitate access to scholarly journals in all areas of learning.
- The program is being executed by Director INFLIBNET Ahmedabad
- Quite a good number of scholars and academicians are helping for this noble initiative.
- We have conducted Regional meetings at different places to take the expert opinions of university librarians across the country while selecting the journals
- Expert opinions have also been taken from existing consortiums in few subjects;
- National Negotiation committee set up by UGC recommended number of resources to be subscribed in different areas of learning;
- The very purpose of this initiative is
- Indian Universities constitute one of the largest higher education systems in the world.
- Comprises of more than 310 universities/institutions, 14000 affiliated colleges, 10 million students and 5 lakhs teachers; it is a complex system.
- Universities across the country are now facing acute shortage of funds to subscribe the costly journals and are deprived of access to latest literature published.
- The situation calls for optimum use of resources through rational use.
- Thanks to the electronic publishing industry which made it possible to access the resources at much affordable cost.
- This consortia initiative has helped to get discount of more than 85-90% on many scholarly journals and databases.
- The research and academic community can now have an access to resources at their finger tips through this initiative.
- The beauty of this initiative is many publishers offer back year access for almost 7 to 8 years along with the current year access and for few publishers the access starts from volume no.1 issue number 1.
- This facility enables the subject experts and academicians to browse, download print the relevant articles for their research and academic development.

- Databases / journals licensed to a consortium available to all at the same time simultaneously.
- Facilitates the libraries to get the benefit of wider access to electronic resources at affordable cost
- More importantly the entire program is wholly funded by UGC and is executed by the Director INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad.
- INFLIBNET will also maintain one print copy of the journals subscribed for many titles as a national archive at Ahmedabad, which can be accessed by the research and academic community across the country.
- The resources are accessed based on the IP address at individual universities and University signs MOU with INFLIBNET and UGC to use the resources for academic cause.
- This will also facilitates sharing of resources among the participating universities
- The consortium received number of proposals and finalized with 15 publishers / vendors to cover journals and databases in sciences, humanities, social sciences.
- Many other journals and databases are also under consideration and are being taken up.
- This model provides access to and supports only electronic version and not to be linked with print subscription. Supplement to existing collection.
- Perpetual access to subscribed resources with archival access.
- Subscription for minimum 3 years initially and to be reviewed at the end of three years
- The electronic resources subscribed under the consortium are:

## E-Resources Subscribed under UGC-Infonet

Journal of the American Chemical Society

Encyclopedia Britannica

RSC

IOP 36

APS 23 + 6 DB

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Project MUSE 222

ELSEVIER 34 Life Sci.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS 8

Springer Link 19

kluwer online

100 + 100 subscribed, Access all 1200 titles

nature 28 Lib. Sci.

Emerald

JSTOR 319

ANNUAL REVIEWS  
Intelligent Synthesis of the Scientific Literature  
Nonprofit Publisher of the Annual Review of™ Series

BIOSIS

Science online

In addition - Access to 2 Gateway portal services to 28 univ. each

**More is yet to come !!**

### To Conclude

- Many commercial publishers have taken initiative to provide trial access for two to three months for their full text journals viz. Elsevier, John Wiley and many others. This shows their academic interest to enter into this consortia and to become a part of this noble initiative.
- This initiative is expected to bring remarkable change in the higher education system in India.
- It is time now to inform our scholars to take the advantage and use the resources extensively and get the benefit.

- There is a famous saying that ‘ one who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow will be uneducated the day after. So learning is a continuous process and our earnest request to the academicians to get the maximum benefit of this program.
- We will be able to cover many more universities including colleges at much cheaper cost, as the major cost is paid for first 50 universities / institution.
- With time, via Infonet, we hope that, education in Indian universities will shine at the global level, which indicates that no one should be deprived of education because of location or time inconvenience.
- *When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people; those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened.”*  
*- J.M. Richardson, Jr.*
- *It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.*  
*Charles Darwin*
- User Perspective today is -Don’t bother me with the details, just get me to the stuff I want – preferably online –preferably NOW!