

## Chapter 14

# Scholarly Information Access Pattern of UGC–Infonet Digital Library Consortium by Faculty and Research Scholars in Gandhigram Rural Institute– Deemed University (India)

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### ABSTRACT

*The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium is the most important consortium providing access to a large array of e-resources to all academic universities and colleges in India, and thus facilitates the prompt access and efficient and effective usage of e-resources for teaching and research activities. It facilitates free access to scholarly journals and databases in all areas of learning to the research and academic community. The chapter deals with the usage of UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium by the faculty members and research scholars of the Gandhi Gram Rural Institute University, Tamil Nadu.*

### INTRODUCTION

INFLIBNET Centre, an autonomous IUC of the UGC, is the nodal agency for coordination of the UGC-Infonet and facilitates linkage between ERNET and the universities. The UGC-Infonet will be overlaid on ERNET infrastructure to provide assured quality of service and optimal utilization of bandwidth resources. The project is being funded by the UGC with 90% capital

investment and 100% recurring cost during the X Plan period. UGC-Infonet will be a boon to the higher education system sharing the access of high quality scholarly publication databases to the research carried out countrywide.

University Grants commission has launched an ambitious programme to bring about a qualitative change in the academic infrastructure, especially for higher education, under this initiative UGC, is modernizing the university campuses with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and setting up its own nationwide communication network named UGC - Infonet.

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## WHY CONSORTIUM ONLY?

“Library is a growing organism,” one of the Five Laws of Library Science given by Dr. S R. Ranganathan, leads the whole world to the flap of Consortium. Consortium is the joint venture of homogeneous institutions working for the same objectives. Being a part of consortium an individual library can spread its wings all around the world with more resources and more services. In today’s scenario consortium is the need of the hour, especially for libraries. Library consortium is the virtual way to cope with the different problems of libraries through proper coordination and cooperation. Apart from these, duplication can be avoided as the situation calls for optimum use of resources by rational use of funds and it can be worked as platform for training and workshops for providing strength to the information professionals as well as users.

## WHY E-RESOURCE ONLY?

‘E-resource’ is “a term used to describe a variety of resources in an electronic format, e.g. databases, ‘the Web’, e-journals” (Murthy, 2005). No doubt the print mode of information is still dominant medium but now it becomes the secondary mode due to the innovations in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its involvement in managing, manipulating, and disseminating the information. Today, user needs latest and authentic information with minute time lag. we cannot wait for weeks or months to get needed information. Here electronic resources are enabling to fulfill these needs; therefore, the whole world is shifting from print resources to electronic resources (Murthy, 2005). Some of the advantages of e-resources are:

- **Speedy Information:** One can get the information very quickly through e-resources even many weeks before as compared to print issues.

- **E-mailing:** One can e-mail the output or important article at his/her e-mail account or any researcher or academicians e-mail account but that one should be limited to copyright issue.
- **E-mail alert:** User can get information according to his/her desired journals or topics by registering oneself in the publisher’s site.
- **Hyper links:** An E- resource contains the links to other cited articles, e-journals, and other supporting material making like audio, visual aids, etc.
- **Maintenance:** E-resources have not the problem of wearing and tearing, stolen, binding and shelving, etc.
- **Multi access:** E-resources have the facility to change the concept of single user to multi user access at one time. In simple words, more than one user can access the same information simultaneously.
- **Search facilities:** E-resources have the different search options like simple or quick, advance search, which is totally based on Boolean- logic, and search within the search result.
- **No time limit:** There is no limit or restriction in respect of time, e-resources can be used on the terms of 24 x 7 hours.
- **Economical:** The access to electronic resources can be provided with 85-90% discount compared to print collections. This means access to more resources for less money.

Apart from the above quoted benefits of e-resources, downloading facility is there. One can download the data in different formats, e-resources needs less space, users can keep up to date themselves by availing different services like article alert service, Table Of Contents (TOC), As Soon As Published (ASAP) articles, etc.

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