Chapter 21
Use of UGC–Infonet Digital Library Consortium among Distance Education Faculty Members of Annamalai University

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ABSTRACT

This chapter presents a questionnaire-based survey finding that 85.96% of the science faculty members are aware of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, but only 71.42% of arts faculty. The study reveals that most of the respondents (84.03%) use the UGC-Infonet resources for the purpose of research work followed by 55.86% for writing papers.

INTRODUCTION

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003 by Honourable Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the President of India soon after providing the Internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonetprogramme. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries, which have been discontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "Serials Crisis." The term "serials crisis" refers to exponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals. The crisis is a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, increase in number of journals, and the paucity of funds available to the libraries (see Table 1 for a state-wise membership list).

OBJECTIVES

- To know the extent of awareness and use of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium by faculty members of distance education in Annamalai University.
- To find out the awareness of users' about available e-resources.
- To find out the frequency of access to Internet.

Table 1. State-wise membership list

Sl. No	Name of the State / Union Territory	Total Nos.	Sl. No.	Name of the State / Union Territory	Total Nos.
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	17	Maharashtra	29
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	18	Manipur	1
3	Assam	5	19	Meghalaya	1
4	Bihar	10	20	Mizoram	1
5	Chandigarh	1	21	Nagaland	1
6	Chhattisgarh	4	22	New Delhi	1
7	Delhi	11	23	Orissa	11
8	Goa	1	24	Pondicherry	1
9	Gujarat	20	25	Punjab	8
10	Haryana	7	26	Rajasthan	14
11	Himachal Pradesh	4	27	Sikkim	1
12	Jammu and Kashmir	3	28	Tamil Nadu	22
13	Jharkhand	4	29	Tripura	1
14	Karnataka	18	30	Uttar Pradesh	22
15	Kerala	12	31	Uttarakhand	7
16	Madhya Pradesh	14	32	West Bengal	19
				Total	**277**

- To examine the respondents' purpose of gathering e-resources.
- To study the respondents' e-resource use pattern and extent of usage in their profession.
- To study the respondents' satisfaction and problems in utilizing the e-resources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kannappanavar (2008) highlights the use of e-learning resources in medical colleges. The study has found that Medical education popularized only after the independence of the country. It is found that majority of the colleges under the study area have e-information resources, e-databases. Almost all colleges under study are also becoming members of a consortium. As far as the infrastructure facilities are concerned, almost all colleges under study have provided very good infrastructure facilities to their libraries to serve their clients effectively.

Varatharajan (2007) found that digital libraries and digitization play an important role in preserving and disseminating knowledge in art and culture, education, science and technology, literature and humanities, media and entertainment, cultural heritage, and history. In India, a substantial number of libraries and information centres have initiated digital library activities. Indian society has created and preserved the resources of traditional and cultural heritage in various forms; however, thousands of ancient books and manuscripts that remain in perishable palm leaves urgently need digitization. This article describes some of the digital libraries and institutional repositories of India.

Lohar (2006) analyzed the collected data to cover the use of electronic resources and how the electronic resources have improved the academic

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