Use and Impact of UGC-INFONET Consortium Resources by the Science Scholars of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli: A Survey

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Abstract

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library consortium is providing 7500+ Journals, Bibliographic Databases and Open Access Journals. This survey reveals the impact of UGC-INFONET resources by the Science scholars in Bharathidasan University. A structured questionnaire was distributed to Science Scholars of the Bharathidasan University to collect data regarding the use of UGC-INFONET resources. This study would help to assess the impact of this project on university users and also this study will help for any modifications or improvements to be made in the existing UGC-INFONET e-journals consortium project.

Keywords

UGC-INFONET, Digital Library, Consortia, Science Scholars.
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Electronic access

The journal is available at www.jalis.in

INTRODUCTION

The UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium is an ambitious program initiated by UGC to facilitate access to scholarly electronic journals and databases in view of limited resources subscribed by majority of universities. This project is our pride in the field of education and research which was formally launched the concluding day of UGC golden jubilee celebrations by his Excellency the president of India *Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam* at *Vigyan Bhavan* on 28 December 2003 by dedicating a bouquet of e-journals to the nation. More than 4000 scholarly journals and databases from around 23 major publishers/vender's made available to around 100 Universities and the remaining universities will be provided access in stages, from the user's point of view it is great bonanza for them is the absence of such access.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find out, who frequently accessing and time spending of UGC Infonet.
2. To study the Purpose of using UGC-INFONET
3. To Study the usage level of different publishers/aggregators, that are included in the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium.
4. To identified the other service Expectation in UGC –Infonet Consortium.
5. To study the users Preferred Place of Accessing UGC-INFONET Resources

METHODOLOGY

Primary data was collected from two different types of respondent. They are M.Phil Scholars and Ph.D Scholars. Based on the collected data pertaining to both the Scholars interpretation, tabulation were analysed.

Secondary data was collected by records of the UGC Infonet Consortium. Based on the collected data interpretation and tabulation have been given.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the present study is limited to Bharathidasan University, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and Science Scholars.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Distribution of Total Respondents

S.No.	Respondents	Total
1	M.Phil Scholar	34(43.04%)
2	Ph.D Research Scholar	45(56.96%)
	Total	**79(100%)**

Table 1 reflect the total number of respondents responded to the questionnaire. As we mentioned in the methodology we were distributed the questionnaire to 90 respondents we received 79 filled questionnaire which is 90 percentage of the total distribution. The respondent includes M.Phil Scholar and Ph.D Research scholars. Out of total 40 M.Phil Scholars 34 responded, out of 50 Ph.D research scholars 45 were responded.

Table 2: Gender-wise distribution

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage
Male	46	58.23%
Female	33	41.77%
Total	**79**	**100%**

Table 2 indicates the Bharathidasan University science Scholars are grouped in two categories as male and female. The respondent of our study shows that 46(58.23%) of Male and 33(41.77%) female members are accessing the UGC-INFONET of Bharathidasan University library.

Table 3: Time spend on Accessing UGC-NFONET per week

Time spend on Access UGC INFONET	M. Phil Scholar	Ph.D Research Scholar	Total
01-05 hrs	6	2	8(10.13%)
06-10 hrs	14	7	21(26.58%)
11-15 hrs	9	11	20(25.32%)
More than 15 hrs	5	25	30(37.97%)
Total	**34**	**45**	**79(100%)**

It is evident from table 3 that the 8 (10.13%) of scholars time spent on the UGC-INFONET, 1-5 hours per-week to meet their searching of information, 21(26.58%) of scholars, spend 6-10 hours per-week in accessing UGC-INFONET, 20(25.32%) of scholars, spend 11-15 hours per-week in accessing resources and majority 30(37.97%) of scholars, spend more than 15 hours per-week in accessing resources. This shows the significant result in accessing of UGC-INFONET by the scholars by more than15 hours per-week.

Table 4: Purpose of using UGC-INFONET

Purpose	M.Phil Scholar	Ph.D Research Scholar	Total
Research purpose	7	15	22(27.85%)
Publishing articles	11	12	23(29.11%)
Keeping up to date subject information	5	7	12(15.20%)
Finding the relevant information on area of specialization	10	9	19(24.06%)
Others	1	2	3(3.78%)
Total	**34**	**45**	**79(100%)**

The purpose of using UGC-INFONET is found that by the table 4 majority 23(29.11%) of respondents using the UGC-INFONET for publishing articles, and followed by 22(27.85%) of respondents using for research purpose only 3(3.78%) of the respondents using for other purpose.

Interpretation: The data presented in table 5 gives the details of the extent to which these resources have been used by the Science Scholars. The Springer link resources used comparatively by a more number of respondents 67 (84.81%) followed by the resources from Science Direct 65 (82.28%) The Economic & Political Weekly 11 (13.92%) is found to be less popular among the respondents

Table 5: Resources used by the scholars accessible from different publishers/aggregators

Publishers/ Aggregators	M.Phil Scholar	Ph.D Research Scholar	Total
American Chemical Society	16	22	38(48.10%)
American Institute of Physics	14	19	33(41.77%)
American Physical Society	15	21	36(45.57%)
Annual Reviews	5	9	14(17.72%)
Cambridge University Press	10	28	38(48.10%)
Economic & Political Weekly	4	7	11(13.92%)
Institute of Physics	16	18	34(43.04%)
ISID	7	6	13(16.46%)
JCCC	18	24	42(53.16%)
JSTOR	22	26	48(60.76%)
Oxford University Press	16	21	37(46.84%)
Project Muse	5	7	12(15.19%)
Royal Society of Chemistry	7	11	18(22.78%)
Science Direct	29	36	65(82.28%)
Springer Link	29	38	67(84.81%)
Taylor & Francis	14	19	33(41.77%)
Web of Science	13	18	31(39.24%)
Wiley-Blackwell	7	12	19(24.05%)

Table 6: Expecting other services under UGC-INFONET Consortium

Services	M.Phil Scholar	Ph.D Research Scholar	Total
Current Articles Alert Service	18	23	41 (51.90%)
Electronic Document Supply	3	5	8 (10.13%)
SDI	12	15	27 (34.18%)
If any other Service	1	2	3 (3.79%)
Total	**34**	**45**	**79 (100%)**

Table 6 shows expectation of other services from UGC-INFONET programme respondents expecting the current article alert service, electronic document supply service and selective dissemination service through this project. Majority of the respondents from all these categories are expecting the current article alert service followed by the SDI service. 41 respondents which are 51.90 % of total respondents requesting current article alert service. This is really a great step if CAS and SDI are implemented through this programme which can also further enhance the utility of services under this novel programme.

Table 7: Preferred Place of Accessing UGC-INFONET Resources

Access Point	M.Phil Scholar	Ph.D Research Scholar	Total
Department Computer Labs	7	18	25 (31.65%)
University Library	18	12	30 (37.97%)
Hostel	9	15	24 (30.38%)
Outside of the Campus	0	0	0 (0%)
Total	**34**	**45**	**79 (100%)**

Table 7 indicates the place from where scholars accessed UGC-INFONET Resources. It was found that the University Library is the most preferred place 30(37.97%) to access resources, followed by department computer labs. No one accessed UGC-INFONET resources from outside the campus.

CONCLUSION

Present study shown the better impact and usage of UGC-INFONET E-Journals in Bharathidasan University and it found further expectations from this initiation which can be considered by the executing authority in further enhancement process. The users in the present environment in which UGC-INFONET has to play a major role to support academicians and researchers. The science scholars used UGC-INFONET more than15 hours per-week. Majority of the respondents using the UGC-INFONET for publishing articles. The respondents were expecting

the current article alert service and electronic document supply service through this project.

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