

# USE OF UGC-INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM BY PG STUDENTS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA

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**Abstract:** UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is an innovative project launched by UGC to provide access of full text electronic resources and bibliographic databases to the research and academic community in India. The present paper is an attempt to study the Use of UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium by PG Students and Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra. 200 questionnaires were distributed to the users and 170 questionnaires were received back for an analysis of the data. The study reveals that the Research Scholars are more aware about the Consortium in the place of PG students. Majority of respondents are partially satisfied with the coverage of journals in the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**Keywords:** UGC INFONET, Digital Library Consortium,

## 1.0 Introduction

“Change is the law of nature and as it is very apparent in the present library culture, libraries are not untouched by the change which is affecting almost every activity in the library. A few decades back Lancaster talked about the “paperless society”. R.G. Parashar stated in his one book “paperless society” is a distant dream. That day has gone when it was only a dream, now that very idea sounded whimsical all over the world. However, we took a step towards a paperless society very rapidly and the most of libraries particularly university & special libraries, began allocating separate funds for e-resources” (Bajpai and others 2009). “Recent advances in computer applications have brought radical changes in the way the information is generated, stored, organized, accessed, retrieved and consumed. The developments in information technology have brought ample opportunities for creating and developing electronic information resources” (Bhatt 2010).

E-resources play a vital role in the process of information storage and retrieval. The environment of the library has been renovated in the emergence of e-journals and databases. The concept of consortia provides a wide access of e-resources in the higher education system especially in universities. The accessibility of a wide array of information resources is enabled with a mouse click on the desktop. The role of UGC INFONET has redefined the processing speed of information retrieval very effectively and efficiently to the learning, research and education environment of the universities.

## 1.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the study are as under:

1. To study the awareness of users for UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.
2. To find out the use pattern of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium
3. To find out the purpose of using UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

4. To find out the frequency of access to the consortium.
5. To find out the satisfaction level of the users regarding coverage of journals in the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.
6. To find out the problems faced by the users while accessing UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

## **2.0 Review of Literature**

**Boriwal (2017)** conducted a study on awareness and use of INDEST-AICTE consortium in Indian Institute of Technology, Indore: A survey. The study found that 43% respondents were aware of the consortium, 28% respondents used this consortia 2-3 times a week. 73% respondents used it for research purpose. The study also found that 92% users used consortia in University/ College library, 85% users evaluate the consortia as good and 15% unsatisfactory.

**Mishra and Ravindra Kumar (2017)** conducted a study on Development of Special Library Consortia in India: A comparative study of DeLCON and NKRC. The study showed that Elsevier had a maximum 415 in DeLCON and 1866 resources in NKRC. Both DeLCON and NKRC preferred IP based access model for usage of resources in consortia.

**Chanchinmawia and Verma (2016)** conducted a study on use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by Faculty members and Research Scholars in school of Physical Science, Mizoram University: A case study. The study showed that most of the Faculty members and Research Scholars were aware about UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. The friends/colleagues were the major source of awareness about UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. The study also showed that department was the most preferred place for usage of consortium. 49% of respondents felt that the consortium was very useful.

**Khan (2016)** the study conducted on use of UGC-INFONET e-journals consortium by users of Gautam Buddha University revealed that the majority of respondents preferred to use journals in both print & electronic format. 61.11% of UG respondents were using e-journals for update subject knowledge. 51.61% PG and 86.52% of Research Scholars used e journals for research work. The study also showed that the majority of the users satisfied for using e-journals.

**Uvraj and Mohan Kumar (2015)** conducted a study on use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium resources by Thiruvallur University users: A case study in which it revealed that the majority of the Faculty members and Research Scholars were aware about the UGC-INFONET Digital library Consortium. Most of the respondents use consortium for their research purpose. 29.2% of respondents required more journals in UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium in addition to the present journals. The study also showed that the majority of the respondents i.e. 59.2 % evaluate UGC –INFONET Digital Library Consortium as good.

**Venkateswarlu (2015)** conducted a study on Problems in accessing UGC INFONET e-journals Consortium among the Research Scholars: A Survey of Sri Venkateswara University Library, Tirupati, A.P. The study found that 75.46% of the respondents were aware about UGC-INFONET Consortia. Library professionals were the major sources from where the researchers were guided to search their subject related information. The study also found that the majority of the respondents i.e. 96.36% were using e-journals for research work. 93.63% were using e-journals for publishing articles and books. 89.09% were using e-journals to keep up-to date with new subjects. 72.72% of the Research Scholars indicated that lack of adequate number of computers were the major problem in accessing UGC INFONET e-journals Consortium.

## **3.0 Methodology**

The respondents taken under study include Research Scholars; Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students. The survey method was adopted to collect the data from the respondents. A well structured questionnaire was distributed amongst the respondents. A total of 200 questionnaires were distributed amongst the users and 182 (91%) respondents have responded to the questionnaire but only 170 (85%) questionnaires have been found for further analysis.

## **4.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Data collected through questionnaire was carefully analysed and processed. Analysis of data has been tabulated.

**Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire and responses received**

Respondents	No. of questionnaire distributed	No. of Questionnaire filled	Percentage (%)
PG Students	150	125	83.33
Research Scholars	50	45	90
Total	200	170	85

Table-1 shows that 200 questionnaires were distributed and 170 filled up questionnaire were received back. The response rate was about 85%.

**Table 2: Gender wise distribution of respondent**

Gender	No. of Responses	Percentage (%)
Male	102	60
Female	68	40
<b>Total</b>	170	100

Table 2 shows that out of 170 respondents 102 (60%) were male and 68 (40%) were females.

**Table 3: Awareness about UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Respondent	Yes	No	Total
PG Students	41 (32.8%)	84 (67.2%)	125 (73.53)
Research Scholars	30 (66.66%)	15 (11.11%)	45 (26.47)
Total	71 (41.76)	99 (58.23%)	170 (100)

Table 3 shows that the majority of the users 99 (58.23%) were not aware and 71 (41.76%) were aware about UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**Table 4: Experience of Use of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Frequency	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
Less than 6 months	10 (24.39%)	5 (16.67%)	15 (21.13%)
6 months- 1 year	29 (70.73%)	13 (43.33%)	42 (59.15%)
1-2 years	1 (2.44%)	9 (30%)	10 (14.08%)
2-4 years	1 (2.44%)	2 (6.67%)	3 (4.23%)
More than 4 years	0	1 (3.33%)	1 (1.41%)
Total	41	30	71 (100%)

Table 4 shows that 59.15% of the respondents have 6 months- 1 year experience, 21.13% of the respondents have Less than 6 months experience, 14.08% of the respondents have started using the Consortium from 1-2 years. 4.23% of respondents have 2-4 years of experience in use of consortium. Whereas only 1.41% of respondents have more than 4 years of experience in use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**Table 5: Frequency of Use of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Frequency	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
Daily	3(7.32%)	1(3.33%)	04(5.63%)
2-3 times in a week	17(41.46%)	20(66.66%)	37(52.11%)
2-3 times in a month	16(39.02%)	07(23.33%)	23(32.40%)
Once in a month	5(12.20%)	02(6.66%)	07(9.86%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 5 shows that 52.11% of the respondents use UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium 2-3 times in a week followed by 32.40% use 2-3 times in a month. 7% use once in a month and only 5.63% of the respondents use UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium every day.

**Table 6: Use of Search Strategy**

Strategy	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
Boolean operator	11(26.83%)	08(26.67%)	19(26.76%)
Truncation	02(4.88%)	00	02(2.82%)
Field Search	24(58.53%)	21(70%)	45(63.38%)
Other	04(9.76%)	01(3.33%)	05(7.04%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 6 indicates that most of respondents i.e. 63.38% were using field search techniques, followed by 26.76% using Boolean Operators, 2.82% uses truncation as search techniques. Only 7.04% resounded that they use other techniques for searching.

**Table 7: Use of location for Consortium**

location	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
University Library	35(85.36%)	19(63.33%)	54(76.06%)
Dept. Computer Lab	04(9.76%)	10(33.33%)	14(19.72%)
Hostel	02(4.88%)	01(3.33%)	3(4.22%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 7 depicts where the respondents accesses Consortium. Majority 76.06% of the respondents were accessing the E-journals from University Library access terminal whereas 19.72% respondents were accessing E-journals from Department Computer Labs. Only 4.22% respondents were accessing E-journals from hostel.

**Table 8: Purpose of using UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Purpose	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
For research purpose (Theses/Dissertations/Project work)	02(4.88%)	29(96.67%)	31(43.66%)
For publishing Articles/Books	00	00	00
For keeping up-to-date subject information	10(24.39%)	01 (3.33%)	11(15.49%)
For finding relevant information	03(7.32%)	00	03(4.23%)
For UGC NET exam	13 (31.70%)	00	13(18.31%)
For completion of assignments& seminars	13(31.70%)	00	13(18.31%)
Total	41	30	71 (100%)

Table 8 shows that 43.66% majority of the respondents using Consortium for research work, and 18.31% respondents were using for completion of assignments& seminars, 18.31% were using Consortium for preparing UGC-National Eligibility Test, 15.49% using Consortium for keeping up-to-date subject information and 4.23% using Consortium for finding relevant information.

**Table 9: Methods of browsing the information from UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Methods of browsing	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
University library website	17(41.46%)	16(53.34%)	33(46.48%)
Use search engines	23(56.10)	13(43.33%)	36(50.70%)
Type web address directly	01(2.44%)	01(3.3%)	02(2.82%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 9 shows that 50.70% of the respondents use the search engines for browsing the information. 46.48% of respondents browsing the information through University library website and 2.82% of respondents type the web address directly for browsing the information. It is highlighted from the table that a majority of respondents use search engines for browsing the information from UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**Table 10: Users satisfaction with the coverage of journals in the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Satisfaction Level	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
Fully satisfied	02(4.88%)	02(6.66%)	04(5.63%)
Partially satisfied	26(63.41%)	26(86.67%)	52(73.23%)
Least satisfied	11(26.83%)	02(6.66%)	13(18.32%)
Not satisfied	02(4.88%)	00	02(2.82%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 10 shows that majority of respondents 73.23% have partially satisfied with the coverage of journals in the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. On the other hand 18.32% respondents have least satisfied, 5.63% respondents have fully satisfied and only 2.82% have not satisfied with UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**Table 11: Problems faced by the users while using UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

Problem faced by the users	PG Students	Research Scholars	Total
Slow access speed	20(48.78%)	10(33.33%)	30(42.25%)
Difficulty in finding relevant information	05(12.20%)	02(6.67%)	07(9.87%)
Lack of knowledge to use	03(7.32%)	01(3.33%)	04(5.63%)
Technical problems	08(19.51%)	05(16.67%)	13(18.31%)
Frequent power cut	02(4.88%)	04(13.33%)	06(8.45%)
Lack of assistance by library staff	01(2.43%)	00	01(1.41%)
No problem	02(4.88%)	08(26.67%)	10(14.08%)
Total	41	30	71(100%)

Table 11 highlights that 42.25% of the respondents faced problem of slow access speed, 18.31% respondents faced technical problems, 8.45% respondents faced problem of frequent power cut, 9.87% respondents faced difficulty in finding relevant information, 5.63% faced Lack of knowledge to use. Only 1.41% respondents faced the problem of Lack of assistance by library staff and 14.08% of respondents have no problem. It is evident from the table that a majority of respondents faced problem of slow access speed while using UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium.

**5.0 Conclusion** There are a number of library consortia in operation in India. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium envisions emerging as a leader to serve the R&D sector with much needed information to strengthen the research and development system in the country. The present study shows that 41.76% of PG Students and Research Scholars are aware about UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. Most of the users use consortium for their research purpose i.e. for completion of Theses/Dissertations and Project works. 76.06% users were accessing e-journals from University library access terminal. There is need to aware users about the e-resources subscribed by the UGC-INFONET so that they can reap maximum benefits from the use of scholarly content. It is recommended that the user awareness programme should be held from time to time to increase the utilization of UGC-INFONET Consortia. To provide the E-Journals facility effectively the number of PCs and printers must be increased in the departmental Computer labs and High speed bandwidth and opening libraries for longer hours even 24×7 days. The new generation 4G & 5G internet connections with very high speed can solve their problems of bandwidth & downloading time. There should be continuous evaluation of services by conducting surveys to fulfill future needs of the users.

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