

FEATURES AND USEFULNESS OF JSTOR ONLINE DATABASE IN CARVING THE RESEARCH OUTPUT AMONG THE USERS OF ICSSR LIBRARIES CONSORTIA

Nagaraja Chari Sharabhu

Documentation Officer

ICSSR, New Delhi

Email: rajasnchari@gmail.com

Dr. D. Ravinder

Chairman-BOS & Head

Department of Library and Information Science,

Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapuramu

Email: dasharathiravi@gmail.com

Abstract: ICSSR took initiative to disseminate the social science knowledge and information by undertaking supporting activities and interventions through establishing network of libraries among its' supported institutions under one umbrella. Under the Social Science Libraries Network, one of the major activities was consortia based subscription to e-journals with a major financial contribution from ICSSR. For the best utilization of library budgets with the option for a common purchasing and sharing of information resources among all institutes the consortia based subscription to e-resources has been initiated at ICSSR. The present study has been a keen analysis on the satisfactory remarks about the features and facilities of JSTOR consortia database between the library professionals and users of the selected institutes and found that on an average in all the features of the e-resources are acceptable with a positive response about its user friendly nature and enhanced the research output among the research fraternity.

Keywords: Jstor, Online Databases, E-Resources, Icssr, Consortia

Introduction: Social science research, which presupposes freedom of intellectual choice and opinion, needs to be encouraged by a developing nation. India has not only encouraged it, but also promoted it with state patronage. Following the independence of India in 1947, as part of our country-building programme there were efforts to make social science research a holistic expertise system. India's troubles had been unique and the tools to be had to take a look at them have been all invented in the west, which did no longer continually show beneficial and because of this, a robust want changed into felt to expand a method applicable for knowledge Indian complexities inside the discipline of social science studies by integrating our highbrow traditions. Towards this pursuit, the State came forward with its interventionist role to take up the daunting task by establishing the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) as an autonomous organization with a formal launch in May 1969 by the then Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The mission of ICSSR is to nurture, support social science research both in India and abroad. Towards this, ICSSR has initiated range of supporting activities and interventions aimed at creation, dissemination and application of social science knowledge and practices. Its mandate, spelt out in its Memorandum of Association, was to sponsor and give financial support, by way of grants and fellowships to social science research projects in selected areas and topics by individuals, institutions and also encourage international collaboration in research. The Council tries to help researchers in a variety of ways, be in direct funding or by way of support service like: Research surveys of the current state of research in different social science disciplines; Data archives; Training and capacity building programmes; Library and Documentation Services and Special scheme programmes like ICSSR Data Service Centre. ICSSR took initiative to disseminate the social science knowledge and information by undertaking supporting activities and interventions through establishing National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) with the objective to provide library and information support services to researchers; support for the development of data centers. NASSDOC has acquired a good collection of online electronic library databases in various social science branches by way of providing access facility to the users.

1.0 ICSSR Social Science Libraries Network :

Amid the forty eight years of its journey, the ICSSR performed a distinguished role between entire the activities pertaining after the improvement regarding Social Science Research goals. It has played a completely widespread role in encouraging social science studies and teaching in India, now not most effective with the aid of encouraging person researchers however additionally by way of encouraging the boom of establishments with a programme for decentralizing management and large basing social science research within the areas of India. In the Seventies, with the purpose to hold excessive standards of research, many social science institutes have been mounted through the provision of recurring, support and maintenance with the aid of ICSSR. At present the Council is supporting for 24 Research Institutes along with six Regional Centres across the country.

The Council has a forward looking programme to use up-to-date technology to enable wider and easier access to bibliographic and full text databases by building a national network of social science libraries; and move towards consortia based subscription to e-journals. The Social Science Libraries Network (SSLN) is under the consortium mode by involving all ICSSR supported social science institutions and other major social science libraries of India. The objective of this network is to avoid duplication of documentation / information consolidation activities of different libraries / information centres of ICSSR and are to be pooled together and made available to the participants through a network. Under the SSLN, one of the major activities was consortia based subscription to e-journals with a major financial contribution from ICSSR.

2.0 ICSSR E-Resources Consortia

All the ICSSR institutions have their own Library & Documentation Centres and Information Centres to meet the information needs of their officials and researchers. These organizations spend huge amount of their budget to purchase/subscribe books, journals etc for their libraries. Sometimes it has been observed that these libraries purchase common / similar information resources separately. For the best utilization library budgets as well as information resources while opting for a common purchasing and sharing of information resources among all institutes, ICSSR has been initiated consortia based subscription to e-resources in October 2007 under one umbrella. Initially it was set up with 5 ICSSR supported research institutions including NASSDOC by subscribing JSTOR online database access facility to all the participants. By the end of 2010, the no of participating institutions for subscribing JSTOR has been gradually increased to 20 more institutions. Further in the beginning of 2013, the demand for participation in consortia has raised to seven more institutions including 2 regional centres of ICSSR. Besides this, ICSSR consortium gradually added EconLit with full text, Indiastat and ProWessIQ online databases to its credit. As an open-ended consortium, ICSSR has a forward looking policy to support other social science research institutes of India by offering subscription of e-resources through its consortia. Now there are 5 more additional non ICSSR funding institutes have also joined in e-resources consortia of ICSSR in the year 2016.

As a nodal office of the Consortium, NASSDOC is looking after all the administrative, financial and management activities of ICSSR e-resources Consortia. The present study covered 26 selected libraries of ICSSR including NASSDOC and the list of participating institutions of ICSSR e-resources consortia are listed in below table.

Table 1 – List of selected institutions for the study

1	A N Sinha Institute of Social Sciences	Patna
2	Centre for Development Studies	Trivandrum
3	Centre for Economic and Social Studies	Hyderabad
4	Centre for Multidisciplinary Development Research	Dharwad
5	Centre for Policy Research	New Delhi
6	Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development	Chandigarh
7	Centre for Social Studies,	Surat
8	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences	Kolkata
9	Centre for the Study of Developing Societies	New Delhi
10	Centre for Women's Development Studies	New Delhi
11	Council for Social Development	Hyderabad
12	Giri Institute of Development Studies	Lucknow
13	Gujarat Institute of Development Research	Ahmedabad
14	Institute for Social and Economic Change	Bangalore

15	Institute for Studies in Industrial Development	New Delhi
16	Institute of Development Studies	Jaipur
17	Institute of Economic Growth	New Delhi
18	Institute of Public Enterprises	Hyderabad
19	M.P. Institute of Social Science Research	Ujjain
20	Madras Institute of Development Studies	Chennai
21	Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies	Bhubaneswar
22	OKD Institute of Social Change and Development	Guwahati
23	Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research	Ahmedabad
24	National Social Science Documentation Centre, ICSSR	New Delhi
25	ICSSR North-Eastern Regional Centre	Shillong
26	ICSSR Southern Regional Centre	Hyderabad

3.0 JSTOR Online Database

JSTOR is a notably selective online archival database of academic content material in lots of codecs and disciplines. It provides get entry to complete text journal articles from more than 2,000 pinnacle scholarly journals inside the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. JSTOR is having a tie up with nearly twelve hundred publishers from greater than 57 nations to preserve and make their content material digitally available in greater than 50 disciplines. The gathering consists of both backlist and the front list titles, and there aren't any limitations at the variety of uses or downloads. The subjects covered are: Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology and Criminal Justice, Education, Geography, Psychology, Public Policy, Asian Studies, Library Science, Management, Population Studies, Business, Marketing and Finance, History, Public Affairs, etc. At present JSTOR is subscribed by ICSSR and is accessible at 22 ICSSR Research Institutes and two Regional Centres along with NASSDOC, New Delhi.

4.0 Objectives of the study

The users can be utilized the online databases services at maximum extent, when the accessibility features of all available e-resources are more user friendly and search friendly. The library professionals have to take utmost care on providing the relevant information in timely and in an easiest way. The present study has been a keen analysis on the satisfactory remarks about the features and facilities of JSTOR online database of ICSSR e-resources consortia among the library heads /in-charges of the selected institutes. Also studied about the role of JSTOR online database which has a significant portion of contribution among social science scholarly content and measured the usefulness of carving research from the selective user groups of ICSSR institutes. The objectives of the study are:

- To find out the satisfactory remarks on the navigation/hyper links, search interface of JSTOR.
- To know the satisfaction about the area of subject coverage and to check about relevant up-to-date content in JSTOR.
- To check the satisfaction on user friendliness about the format, printing, download and mail attachment facilities of JSTOR.
- To study the usefulness of JSTOR online database in carving the user research through assessing the opinions of the user groups.

5.0 Methodology of the Study

The present study initiated a survey to evaluate the satisfaction of the library in-charges on the features of the subscribed JSTOR and its access facility; problems and issues involved in accessing; user satisfaction about the JSTOR subscription among the 26 selected libraries. In this study, to collect data from the user community and from the Library Professionals, two different types of structured questionnaires have been distributed. One questionnaire is to collect data from the user community and the second one is for the librarians and Library Professionals. The user community was classified into four user groups, viz. 1) Faculty; 2) Research Scholars; 3) Research Students; and 4) Research Staff.

For the library professionals' questionnaire point of view, all the 26 filled in responses have been received from the library heads / in-charges and the response rate is about 100%. Out of the distributed 650 user questionnaires, 345 filled in questionnaires have been received from the respondents and the response rate is about 53%.

5.0 Analysis

An attempt is made to evaluate the satisfactory remarks of library professionals through seven variables, indicating the existing services and features of JSTOR of ICSSR E-resources Consortia. These variable are listed in a table, followed by 'Yes' or 'No' options, to assess the library professionals satisfaction. Further a study carried out to know the usefulness of JSTOR online database in enhancing the research output among the defined user groups with Yes' or 'No' options.

Table 2 – Professionals Satisfaction about the Features of 'JSTOR' of ICSSR Consortia

S. No.	Features	No. of respondent professionals		
		YES	NO	Total
1	Navigation / Hyper Links	23 (88.46%)	3 (11.54%)	26 (100%)
2	Relevant up-to-date Content	21 (80.77%)	5 (19.23%)	26 (100%)
3	Search Interface	24 (92.31%)	2 (7.69%)	26 (100%)
4	Subject Coverage	21 (80.77%)	5 (19.23%)	26 (100%)
5	Format & Printing	19 (73.08%)	7 (26.92%)	26 (100%)
6	Download Facilities	21 (80.77%)	5 (19.23%)	26 (100%)
7	Attachment to e-mail	22 (84.62%)	4 (15.38%)	26 (100%)

The data analysis of the variable 'search interface' shows the highest under the option 'yes' with 24 (92.31%) and the option 'no' indicated 2 (7.69%) and occupied the first priority; followed by the variable 'navigation/hyperlinks' under option 'yes' with 23 (88.46%) followed by option 'no' with 3 (11.54%) and placed in the second priority. And the 'subject coverage' under option 'yes' indicated 21 (80.77%) and option 'no' with 5 (19.23%) and stood in the third priority. But the variables 'relevant up-to-date content', 'subject coverage' and 'download facilities' exhibited with 21 (80.77%) each followed by option 'no' with 5 (19.23%) each and occupied the fourth priority and the variable 'format and printing' placed in the last priority.

Table 3 – Usefulness of JSTOR in Carving Research among User groups

S. No.	User Groups	Response			Total
		Yes	No	Not sure	
1	Faculty	115(40.93) (83.33)	17(34.69) (12.32)	6(40.00) (4.35)	138(40.00) (100.00)
2	Research Scholars	96(34.16) (75.00)	25(51.02) (19.53)	7(46.67) (5.47)	128(37.10) (100.00)
3	Research Students	41(14.59) (95.35)	1(2.04) (2.33)	1(6.67) (2.33)	43(12.46) (100.00)
4	Research Staff	29(10.32) (80.56)	6(12.24) (16.67)	1(6.67) (2.78)	36(10.43) (100.00)
Total		281(100.00) (81.45)	49(100.00) (14.20)	15(100.00) (4.35)	345(100.00) (100.00)

The analysis of data under the option 'Yes', the Faculty expressed the highest with 40.93%, followed by Research Scholars 34.16%, Research Students 14.59% and Research Staff 10.32% in the order of priority. While under option "No", Research Scholars expressed the highest with 51.02%, followed by the Faculty 34.69%, Research Staff 12.24% and Research Students 2.04% in the order of priority. Under the option 'Not Sure', the Research Scholars exhibited the highest with 46.67%, followed by Faculty with 40%, and the Research Students Research Staff indicated 6.67% each and are in third place.

6.0 Conclusion

The consortia-based subscription to e-databases became efficaciously deployed in all the respected libraries of ICSSR and met the pressures consisting of diminishing finances, increased users' demand for and rising value of journals. The libraries of ICSSR institutes are to be more worried in all styles of consortium activities in any respect stages with an objective to take benefit of contemporary global community to promote better, quicker and greater cost-effective ways of presenting electronic information sources to the research community. It is far suggested, that current feature of JSTOR of ICSSR consortia need to be progressed to draw the coolest variety of user network, as well to improve the functioning speed, time consumption, creation of new technology will beef up the skills and capabilities most of the professionals in their everyday activities. It is concluded, that the

JSTOR is more useful in carving/moulding their research output, on an average faculty conceiving/receiving extra benefit.

7.0 References

1. Chari, S.N., (2012). Revamping of NASSDOC Web Portal: Pathway to Information Gateway of Social Science Research (IGSSR). In. Jose, Antony (Ed.) Digital Libraries and Knowledge Organization, New Delhi, Macmillan Publishers, 52-60.
2. <http://icssr.org/>
3. <https://www.jstor.org/>
4. Jain, P.K. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Maintained Research Institutes' Libraries in India: Towards Digitization and Networking, The International Information & Library Review, 2003.
5. LaGuardia, C. (2012). JSTOR. Library Journal, 137(18), 92-93.
6. Nagaraja Chari, S & Ravinder, D. (2015). Consortia based subscription of e- resources: library trends towards sustainable growth. In: Chandraiah, I. (Ed.). Contemporary Trends in Librarianship. New Delhi: SBW Publishers, 138-144.
7. Nagaraja Chari, S & Ravinder, D. (2017). User Satisfaction about the Services provided by the ICSSR E-Resources Consortia and its usage: A Case Study. International Journal of Information Movement, 2(6), 166-173.
8. Rao, S. S. (2016). Use of Knowledge Management Tools and Techniques in Academic Libraries in India: A Study. SRELS Journal of Information Management, 53(5), 1-8.