

ROLE OF INFLIBNET IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO N-LIST CONSORTIUM

* Dr. Manisha Jadhar

* Assistant Librarian, SNTD BMK Knowledge Resource Centre, Pune

Abstract:

Academic libraries are changing in response to changes in the learning and research environment and changes in the behaviour of library users. Libraries are adding new, digital resources and services while maintaining most of the old, traditional resources and services. The electronic information resources have attained a main portion of library collections. In sustaining ever growing information needs of academic community, the Library and Information Networks are playing a great role through resource sharing. INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) have taken major initiative in sharing of electronic resources by launching different projects for sustainable development of higher education. In the development of higher education INFLIBNET's role is very important from the post independent period. INFLIBNET has launched many significant projects to fulfill the objectives through the library development programme and for sustainable development of higher education in India, namely, IND CAT, Shodhganga, E-Shodhsindhu and N-List Consortium to defeat the issue of financial crunch faced by the academic libraries, especially for college libraries.

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial Use Provided the Original Author and Source Are Credited.

Introduction:

Modern Indian higher education is transitory through the phase of Information/Knowledge revolution. In sustaining ever growing information needs of academic community, the Library and Information Networks are playing a great role through resource sharing. Academic libraries are changing in response to changes in the learning and research environment and changes in the behaviour of library users. Libraries are adding new, digital resources and services while maintaining most of the old, traditional resources and services. The electronic information resources have attained a main portion of library collections. There is remarkable growth in internet usage and continuing increase and availability of electronic resources. With consortial subscriptions e-resources are made available to a large group of readers from a central place. Academic libraries have now really understood that consortia-based subscription is cost effective and it also avoids unnecessary expenses and duplicate subscriptions. Academic libraries have been able to effect many positive changes in their environment through consortia. INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) have taken major initiative in sharing of electronic resources by launching different projects for sustainable development of higher education. In the development of higher education INFLIBNET's role is very important from the post independent period. INFLIBNET centre is a boon of Indian Higher education. (Karn & Das, 2009)

Literature Review:

A number of studies have been conducted in the world emphasizing the role of INFLIBNET in sustainable development of higher education.

According to Waghmode(2014), In the importance of higher education every country library and information centre's role is very important. Because without library and information resources cannot be implementing, develop and grow the education system and policy. So, Indian Govt. decides the setup the INFLIBNET centre in Ahmedabad in 1991. And its objectives are to promote and establish communication facilities to improve capability in information transfer and access, which provide support to scholarship, learning, research and academic pursuit.

Another study by Khan and Tripathi (2015) at Chandidas Mahavidyala, West Bengal to find out the use of INFLIBNET N-list e-resources by the students and faculty members, shows that the use of e-resources is very common among the teachers and students of Chandidas Mahavidyalaya. Majority of the teachers are dependent on e-resources to get the desired and relevant information.

While Kaushal (2017) in his research on "Usage of the N-list E-resources: An evaluative study of select degree colleges affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh", revealed that the availability and accessibility of electronic resources, that is online consortium based e-resources have an immense impact on the usage of N-List E-resources among the faculty and students considered under the study. The findings of the study indicate that the users are dependent on N-List E-resources for their teaching, learning outcomes, research and updating themselves in the field of specializations.

INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network):

In terms of budget, to meet the requirement of less privileged academic community, University Grants Commission, New Delhi in the year 1991 initiated a major programme – INFLIBNET (INFLIBNET, 2020a). It became an independent Inter university centre (IUC) in the year 1996 since then it is involved in revolutionizing libraries and information centres in India and connecting them through a nationwide high-speed data network. Many institutions are involved in creating infrastructure for sharing of e-resources and services among academic and research Institutions. Among these consortia INFLIBNET is leading in sharing of e-resources. The main goal of INFLIBNET is to achieve complete automation of libraries of educational institutions, create union catalogues of documents available in libraries in online and real-time environment and provide seamless access to scholarly, peer-reviewed electronic resources to the universities.

The vision and mission of INFLIBNET is to provide continuous, reliable and global access to scholarly, peer-reviewed electronic resources to the academic community in all educational institutions with an emphasis on services and tools, processes and practices that support its active use and rise the value of this information. In the development of higher education INFLIBNET's role is very important from the post independent period. INFLIBNET centre is a boon of Indian Higher education. (Karn & Das, 2009)

INFLIBNET has launched to many significant projects to fulfill the objectives through the library development programme and for sustainable development of higher education in India, namely , IND CAT, Shodhgangotri,

Shodhganga, E-Shodhsindhu and N-List Consortium to defeat the issue of financial crunch faced by the academic libraries, especially for college libraries.

- IND CAT (<https://indcat.inflibnet.ac.in/>)
Union Catalogue of Indian Universities (IndCat) is a by-product of the library automation of the INFLIBNET Centre wherein universities that are signatory to the MoU on library automation contribute the bibliographic records of documents that are available in their libraries.
- SHODHGANGOTRI(<https://shodhgangotri.inflibnet.ac.in/>)
Under this initiative, research scholars/research supervisors in universities could deposit an electronic version of approved synopsis submitted by research scholars to the universities for registering themselves under the PhD programme.
- SHODHGANGA (<https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/>)
Shodhganga is a digital repository set-up for submission of electronic versions of theses and dissertations by students /research scholars in universities in India and make them available in open access to the world-wide academic community.
- E-SHODHSINDHU (<https://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/>)
E-ShodhSindhu is an initiative of Consortium for Higher Education Electronics Resources by Ministry of Education. It provides access to e-resources (10000+ full-text journals, 164300+ e-Books and 4 databases through e-ShodhSindhu and 600000 e-Books through NDL) to Universities, Colleges and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions in India.
- N-LIST (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content)

The Project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)", provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other recipient institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. INFLIBNET launched N-list to facilitate access to e-resources to students and teachers in colleges. The consortium enables the academic libraries to access a large number of scholarly journals from reputed publishers. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publishers' website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

The Project N-LIST, provides access to more than 6,000 + e-journals and 1,64,300 + e-books, and 6,00,000e-books through NDL to students, researchers and faculty members from colleges (covered under section 12B of UGC Act) and other recipient institutions. Besides 12B/2F colleges, N-LIST Programme is now opened to Non-Aided Colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing). With subscription of N-list all users can get access to E-resources with user ID and password by 24/7 at anywhere.

Training and Support of N-LIST:

The INFLIBNET Centre conduct awareness and training programmes in various Universities to create awareness about accessibility about e-resources to colleges under the N-List Project. Besides, universities are also being encourages to conduct awareness training programmes for its affiliated colleges. Apart from this N-List Website

host online tutorials and guide for e-resources covered under the programme.

N-List is an excellent initiative, which should greatly help research activity in colleges/universities. More students and staff would be able to incorporate these resources as an integral part of their curriculum N-LIST will be useful for researches and students community. The e-resource facility is really a great tool made open to the scholar user.

The N-LIST e-resources are beneficial for all the users whether they live in academically well-equipped cities or insufficiently equipped small towns and villages. It is unbelievable that an access to so many books and e-journals are provided. Surely, this would increase the learning abilities of individuals and increases the rate of research publications with this venture. This is an excellent way for teachers, students and researchers to search reference material and books related to their specific subjects. It would also benefit teachers to update their knowledge through e-journals and e-books.

Membership of N-List Consortia:

Colleges, wishing of accessing e-resources, are required to register themselves with the N-LIST (INFLIBNET, 2020i), visit the N-LIST Website and click on Register on the navigation bar. Fill-in the Registration Form online and submit it. All Govt aided colleges covered under Section 12B of UGC Act are eligible to access e-resources through the N-LIST programme. Non-Aided colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) can get benefit from the N-LIST programme by joining the programme. Registered colleges covered under 12B section of UGC are required to pay Rs. 5,900.00 (Rs. 5000/- Membership Fee + Rs. 900/- (18%) GST) extra as annual membership/renewal fee. Non aided Colleges registered for N-LIST Programme are required to pay Rs. 35,400.00 (Rs. 30,000/- Membership Fee + Rs. 5400/- (18%) GST) extra as annual membership/renewal fee. The period of membership is valid from April to March every financial year.

E-Resources Subscribed under N-List Consortium

S. No.	E-resources/ Publishers of Electronic Journals	Publishing Country	No. of Journals	Back files from
1.	American Institute of Physics (AIP)	USA	18	Ten years
2.	Annual Reviews	USA	33	Ten years
3.	Cambridge University Press (CUP)	UK	224	Ten years
4.	Economic and Political Weekly	India	1	1966+
5.	Indian Journals.com	India	180	2007+
6.	Institute of Physics	UK	46	Vol. 1+
7.	Oxford University Press (OUP)	UK	262	1996+
8.	Royal Society of Chemistry	UK	29	Ten years
9.	J-Stor	USA	2500+	1+

10.	Wilson Omnifile	USA	3000+	1982+
	Total		6000+	
Electronic Books				
11.	E-brary	USA	150000+	250
12.	Hindustan Book Agency	India	65+	1
13.	Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books	India	382	1
14.	EBSCOHost –Net Library		936	
15.	Mylibrary-McGraw Hill	USA	1124	1
16.	Cambridge University Press		1800	
17.	Oxford Scholarship	UK	1402+	1
18.	Springer eBooks	Germany	2300+	1
19.	Sage Publications eBooks		1000	
20.	South Asia Archive		Through NDL	
21.	Taylor and Francis E-books	UK	1800+	1
22.	World ebooks Library		Through NDL	

License Agreements and Guidelines for use of N-list E-resources:

The INFLIBNET Consortium subscribes to thousands of electronic journals including full-text electronic resources and bibliographic databases for its member institutions. All electronic resources available through the N-List Consortium are governed by license agreements. The terms and conditions for using these resources are spelled out in license agreements that are signed with each publisher by the INFLIBNET Consortium on behalf of its member institutions. The licenses for electronic resources subscribed under N-List (INFLIBNET, 2020j) enforce two types of limitations on its usage, namely i) who can use these resources; and ii) how the resources can be used. The first restriction defines authorized users for e-resources, which generally includes students, faculty, staff and onsite visitors of a subscribing institution. The second restriction deals with how these resources can be used. It is the responsibility of individual users to ensure that e-resources are used for personal, educational and research purposes only. Most of the agreements entered into by the Consortium and publishers specify items that users are prohibited to do.

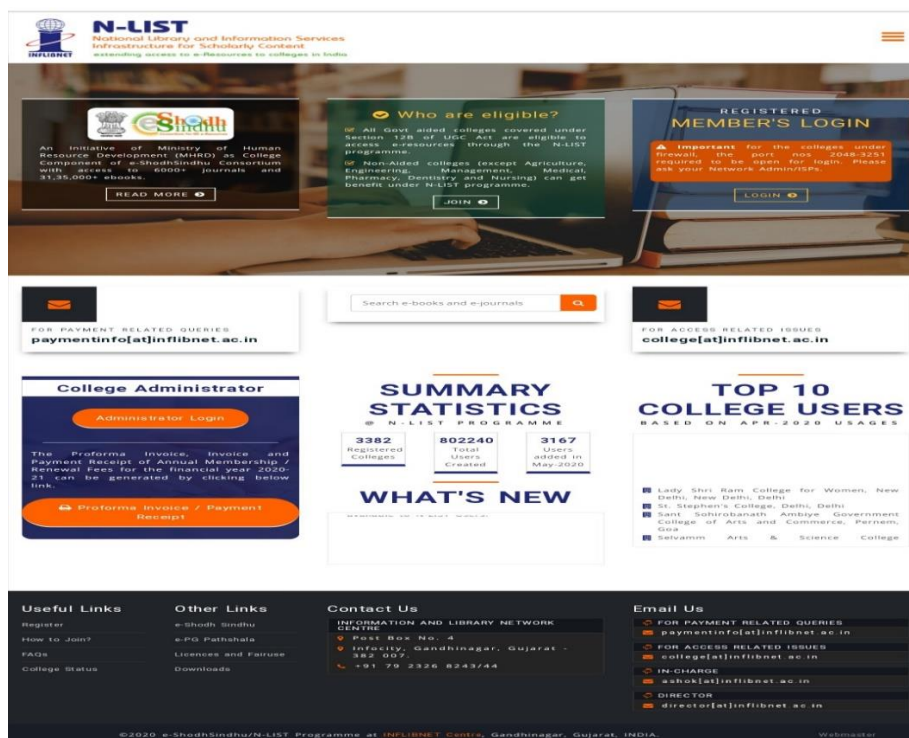
Honours and Awards: The N-LIST was honoured with three awards in the years 2010 and 2011, namely i) e-India Jury Choice Award 2010; ii) Manthan South Asia Award 2010 in Digital Learning Category for the year 2010; and iii) Skoch Digital Inclusion Awards 2011 in Technology in Education Category.

Present Status of N-List Programme: From Year 2014, NLIST Programme is subsumed under e-ShodhSindhu Consortium as college Component. The colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) in India are eligible to get access e-resources under NLIST Programme.

As on August 2020, a total number of 3548 Govt./Govt.-aided colleges covered under the section 12B of UGC Act as well as Non-Aided colleges. Log-in ID and password for accessing e-resources has been sent to the authorized users from these 3548 colleges.

All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible to these 3548 colleges through the N-LIST website (<http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>). Through this programme a very large amount of information was made available to the academic community.

N-List Website:



The screenshot displays the N-LIST website interface. At the top, it features the N-LIST logo and tagline: "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content, extending access to e-Resources to colleges in India". Below this, there are three main sections: "Who are eligible?", "REGISTERED MEMBER'S LOGIN", and "College Administrator". The "Who are eligible?" section lists criteria for government-aided and non-aided colleges. The "REGISTERED MEMBER'S LOGIN" section includes a login form and a note about IP addresses. The "College Administrator" section provides links for login and invoice generation. Below these, there are sections for "SUMMARY STATISTICS" (showing 3382 registered colleges, 802240 total users, and 3167 users added in May 2020) and "TOP 10 COLLEGE USERS". The bottom of the page contains "Useful Links", "Other Links", "Contact Us", and "Email Us" sections.

N-List maintains a separate, dedicated website with search and browse interface for e-resources covered under the N-List programme. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST are now accessible to these colleges through N-LIST website. <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>. The web site provides an interface for online registration of colleges and detailed information about registration under the programme. The website provides list of registered colleges with search interface to find registered colleges. The N-List website also hosts user guide for e-resources subscribed under the N-List programme.

Advantages of N-List:

- N-list is available at very low cost, colleges are required to pay Rs. 5000/ only.
- For N-list access minimum infrastructure is required. Colleges should have adequate number of Internet enabled PCs and connectivity to Internet, so as to access E-resources through N-list.
- N-list is accessible at anywhere. N-list improve the efficiency of library to render service to end users and provide effective information services to faculty and research scholars and students in achieving their goal.

N-LIST project is a good step towards the quality higher education, where everyone can use the e-resources at the best possible way at the minimum cost. N-List is a boon for the college community and can go a long way in attainment of the research needs at the college level. One need not travel long distance but can have access to “His book as per the 2nd Law of Library Science.

Conclusion: In every country, library and information centre’s role is very important in the sustainable development of higher education because without library and information resources there will not be the implementation of development and growth in the education system. INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) have taken major initiative by launching different projects for sustainable development of higher education. In the development of higher education INFLIBNET’s role is very important from the post independent period. INFLIBNET centre is a boon of Indian Higher education. All the projects launched by INFLIBNET, i.e. INDCAT, E-Shodhsindhu, Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri and N-List are excellent initiatives, which should greatly help research activity in higher education.

References:

- INFLIBNET. (2014). *About us*. Retrieved January 27, 2014, from INFLIBNET: www.inflibnet.ac.in
- INFOPORTAL. (2014). *INFLIBNET Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources*. Retrieved January 27, 2014, from About INFOPORT: *INFLIBNET Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources*: <http://infoport.inflibnet.ac.in/about.aspx>
- Karn, S. K., & Das, B. K. (2009). *Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) :A Boon for Higher Education in India*. International Conference on Academic Libraries (ICAL-2009) (p. 698700). Delhi: Delhi University.
- Kaushal, S. (2017). *Usage of the N-list E-resources an evaluative study of select degree colleges affiliated to Punjab University, Chandigarh (Doctoral dissertation)*. Chakravarty, R.: Punjab University, Chandigarh. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/14195> on 4 January 2019.
- .Khan A. and Tripathi T.(2015). *Use of E-resources through Inflibnet N-list by the users of Chandidas Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal: A survey*, Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, 3(6), 52-58.
- Waghmode, S.S.(2014).*Role of INFLIBNET in Growth and Development of Higher Education in India*. University News, 52, Retrieved from <http://eprints.rclis.org/>. on December 20,2023.

Cite This Article: Dr. Jadhar M. (2024). Role of INFLIBNET in Sustainable Development of Education with special Reference to N-List Consortium. In Educreator Research Journal: Vol. XI (Issue II, pp. 50–56). ERJ. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10904623>