

## AWARENESS AND USE OF UGC INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM BY RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF THAPAR UNIVERSITY, PATIALA: A STUDY

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***Abstract** - The purpose of this paper is to examine the awareness and use of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium by Research Scholars of Thapar University, Patiala. A well-structured questionnaire was designed to collect the data about the level of awareness and use of e-resources, purpose of using and access, problems, user awareness, future prospects and suggestion for improving the use of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. The finding shows that majority of the scholars (63.70 percent) are aware and (36.30 percent) are not aware of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. It reveals that library professionals (39.13 percent) initiate UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium to maximum scholars. Apart from these Friends (36.52 percent) also played vital part in creating awareness among the scholars. It also indicate that that most of the scholars (63.44 percent) face problem accessing e-resources while scholars (36.55 percent) did not face any problems. There are a number of studies conducted on the awareness and use of e-resources and journals under UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, but this is the first of its kind initiated in the Thapar University, Patiala.*

**Keywords:** - E-resources, E-journals, Awareness and use, Libraries.

### 1. Introduction

Today we are living in information explosion period, with the help of electronic resources users can access online and offline with vast amount of information with speed and accuracy. Information technology has created new challenges to the libraries. It has shown a new potential on the on the resources and services for the libraries. With the advancement of Information and communication technology there has been enormous growth of e-resources such as e-journal, e-

databases, e-books, e-theses, e-journals etc. It has resulted in reducing the size of the libraries and maximizes the number of e-resources. E-resources help the teachers, research scholars and students in their teaching, learning and research process. It can be accessed via computing devices such as computer, laptops, and smart phones. It helps the scholars in accessing up to date information at the right time with multi access, reduce in cost, searching and browsing facilities, storing and easy dissemination of information. Journals and periodicals are playing vital role in scholarly communication. Due to advanced Technology, files and formats have changed the way of Information communication and e-publishing which enhanced the e-resources in the market. These electronic periodicals are popularly known as e-journals or online journals.

## **2. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium:**

UGC and Information and Library Network INFLIBNET has started the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, to assist access to scholarly journals and databases in all areas of disciplines and subjects to the research and academic community all over the India. The programme was inaugurated by his Excellency the President of India, Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on 28th December 2003. Under the consortium, about 4,500 full text scholarly electronic journals from 23 publishers including Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, etc across the globe can be accessed. It facilitates the current as well as archival access to core and peer-reviewed journals. The whole programme has been implemented in three different phases and covered 171 Indian Universities. Which come under the purview of UGC, have been provided access to these journals. Two hundred fourteen (214) private universities and academic institutions ( 1 Central Universities, 58 Centrally Funded Technological Institute , 5 under 2 (f) State Universities , 5 Open University , 25 Private Universities , 97 Others , 23 Deemed Universities (Sec 3) have registered under the Consortium as Associate Members and many other requests are under process. IUCs and other Institutions (06) National Law Schools/Universities (14) are also covered.

## **3. Thapar University, Patiala**

Thapar University was formerly known as Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology University, established in 1956 by the great captions of Indian Industry, the Late Lal Karam Chand Thapar with the collaboration between the state of PEPSU ((Patiala and East Punjab States Union), the Central Government and the Patiala Technical Education Trust (PTET). It represents the best example of joint venture between public and private sector in Higher Technical Education. Today it is recognized as the premier Deemed University of engineering and technology of North –western region of India. It is situated in more than 250 acres.

## **4. Central Library**

Central Library is a member of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium and INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network), a UGC Inter-University Centre. The Centre is involved in Library Automation, Database development, Resource sharing and Networking of Libraries. The

library has established access to a large number of online and CD-ROM based electronic information resources, such as bibliographic databases and electronic journals. Theses and dissertations submitted to the Institute in electronic format since 2003 are also now available online on DSpace server. The library provides the Book Bank Facility, OPAC, Inter Library Loan and Reservation of books facility, Document Delivery Service etc.

## 5. Literature Review

**Singh, Nizam and Singh (2008)** in their study, “Awareness and use of online journals by the faculty members, researchers and students in the faculty of natural sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia University: a survey” found that 85.71 per cent of the respondents were aware and rest 14.29 per cent were not aware with the accessibility of online journals. It also highlights that majority of the respondents were using e-journals for their research works followed by study, subject knowledge, article publication, teaching and learning respectively. **Veenapani, Singh and Devi (2008)** has found in their study that 55 per cent respondents were aware with UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortia where as 45 per cent were not aware. Major problems were encountered by the respondents were includes ICT illiteracy, power failure, slow net, insufficient number of computers and infrastructure etc. **Pramnathan and Baskaran (2014)** study reveals that 230 (58.4%) of the research scholars covered under the study involve that internet provides required information which satisfactorily or fulfilling their research at Large Extent. Majority of the respondents access electronic resources through the Electronic mail 252 (63.95%). It suggests that scholars must get proper guidance, awareness and training for accessing the UGC INFONET. **Santanu Das (2014)** in his paper examines the awareness, utilization and satisfaction level of the students regarding the consortium resources. It shows that students are not aware of consortium resources. It recommends that the library should organize and conduct awareness and training programmes on regular basis to enhance the effective use of the Consortium. **Suseela (2014)** suggested that consortia or academic institutions need to identify the core resources and assess the levels of usage of peripheral titles and find out the various loop holes in the system. **Harish Kumar (2014)** found that 73(86.90%) respondents have shown intense interest in print journals in addition to e- journals. The study also shows that the majority of the respondents (72.62%) evaluate UGC INFONET consortium as good. The most common problem faced by the respondents was the restricted access followed by time consuming while accessing e- journals.

## 6. Methodology

The survey method was adopted for the completion of the study. The detailed questionnaire was prepared with closed and open ended questions. The research scholar personally visited to the Thapar University, Patiala for the collection of the data. The collected data is presented in the tables. It has analyzed by using a simple method of calculation.

## 7. Scope of the Study:

The scope of the study was conducted on the awareness and use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium by the research scholars of Thapar University, Patiala.

## 8. Data analysis and Interpretation

A total of 146 out of 208 returned their questionnaires giving a response rate of 70.19 per cent. The responses received from the research scholars analyzed as follows.

### 8.1 Awareness of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

Respondent	Response		Total
	Yes N (%)	No N (%)	
<b>Research scholar</b>	93 (63.70%)	53 (36.30%)	<b>146 (100%)</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

A question was asked by the research scholars about whether they know about the UGC-Infonet Consortium. The above table shows that sixty one research scholars (63.70 percent) are aware about the Consortium and remaining twenty scholars (36.30 percent) are not aware of this Consortium. It shows that majority of the scholars are aware of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium.

### 8.2 If you are aware, how do you know about UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium?

Sources	Research Scholar	Percentage
Library Professionals	45	39.13
Library website	26	22.61
Friends	42	36.52
Any other	02	1.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data* (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

A question was asked to know, through which sources they came to know about UGC-Infonet Consortium. As indicated in table, it is interesting to note that among forty five scholars (39.13 percent) by the library professionals, twenty six scholars (22.61 percent) by the library website, forty two (36.52 percent) from their friends and two (1.74 percent) by other means.

### 8.3 Awareness of e-resources available under UGC-Infonet Consortium

E-resources	Research Scholar	Percentage
Full text e-resources	43	17.55
Bibliographic databases	22	8.98
Open Access resources	55	22.45
e-journals	78	31.84
e-books	47	19.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data* (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

A question was asked to know, awareness of e-resources available under UGC-Infonet Consortium. As indicated in table, forty three scholars (17.55 percent) aware of full text, twenty two scholars (8.98 percent) aware of Bibliographic databases, fifty five scholars (22.45 percent) aware of Open Access resources, seventy eight scholars (31.84 percent) aware of e-journals, forty seven scholars (19.18 percent) aware of e-books. This shows that research scholars are mostly aware of e-journals and open access resources.

#### 8.4 Number of e-journals that you are aware in your discipline

Number of e-journals	Research Scholar	Percentage
1-2 journals	21	22.58
3-5 journals	17	18.28
More than 5 journals	36	38.71
Unlimited	18	19.35
Not any	01	1.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary Data

A question was asked to know, number of e-journals aware in their discipline under UGC-Infonet Consortium. As indicated in table, twenty one scholars (22.58 percent) aware of 1-2 journals, seventeen scholars (18.28 percent) 3-5 journals, thirty six scholars (38.71 percent) more than 5 journals, eighteen scholars (19.35 percent) are aware of unlimited journals and one research scholar (1.08 percent) are not aware of any journal. This results shows that majority of research scholars are aware of more than 5 journals.

#### 8.5 Place of accessing and use of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium.

Place	Research Scholar	Percentage
University Library	44	38.94
Department	51	45.13
Hostel	15	13.27
Any Other	03	2.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary Data (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

From the above table it is inferred that forty four (38.94 percent) of the research scholars are access from the University library, fifty one scholars (45.13 percent) are accessing from the Department, fifteen scholars (13.27 percent) from the Hostel and three scholars (2.65 percent) from other place. So results shows that most of the scholars are access UGC-Infonet consortium from the University Library, followed by Department and hostel respectively.

### 8.6 Purpose of using and access of UGC-Infonet Consortium. (Multiple Choice)

Purpose and access of UGC-Infonet	Research Scholar	Percentage
Publishing Articles	40	21.28
To update Subject knowledge	56	29.79
Study and Research work	92	44.30
Any other	00	-----
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data* (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

As regards the purpose of using and access of UGC-Infonet Consortium, it is visible from the table that the forty research scholars (21.28 percent) for Publishing Articles, fifty six scholars (29.79 percent) for updating Subject knowledge, ninety two scholars (44.30 percent) for Study and Research work. It shows that majority of the scholars use and access for study and research work.

### 8.7 Frequency of using UGC-INFONET Digital library Consortium.

Frequency of using UGC-Infonet	Research Scholar	Percentage
Daily	35	37.63
Weekly	21	22.58
Monthly	33	35.48
Occasionally	04	4.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

The above table shows the frequency of using UGC-INFONET Digital library Consortium, thirty five scholars (37.63 percent) use daily, twenty one scholars (22.58 percent) use weekly, thirty three scholars (35.48 per cent) uses monthly and four scholars (4.30 percent) use Occasionally. Study shows that majority of the scholars uses daily. However, it is remarkable that not a single research scholar uses these sources occasionally

### 8.8 Accessing of journals available under UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium.

Access of Journals	Research Scholar	Percentage
Less than 5	63	67.74
6-10	18	19.35
More than 10	12	12.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

The table shows the accessing of journals under consortium, sixty three scholars (67.74 percent) access less than 5 journals, eighteen scholars (19.35 percent) access 6-10 journals, and twelve scholars (12.90 percent) access more than 10 journals. Results show that majority of the scholar's access less than 5 journals.

**8.9 Problem while accessing e-resources.**

Problem in accessing e-resources	Research Scholar	Percentage
Yes	59	63.44
No	34	36.55
Total	93	100

*Source: Primary Data*

The above table shows that most of the fifty nine scholars (63.44 percent) face problem in accessing e-resources while thirty four scholars (36.55 percent) did not face any problems. It shows that most of the scholars are facing problems in accessing e-resources.

**8.10 Various problems in accessing e-resources**

Various problems	Research Scholar	Percentage
Internet speed	30	26.79
No remote Access	17	15.18
Inadequate e-resources	08	7.14
Inadequate infrastructure	05	4.46
Any other	00	00
Total	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data* (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

The above Table shows the problems faced by the research scholars in accessing UGC-Infonet e-resources. Thirty scholars (26.79 percent) problem with Internet speed, seventeen scholars (15.18 percent) face No remote access, eight scholars (7.14 percent) faced with inadequate e-resources and five scholars (4.46 percent) faces inadequate infrastructure.

**8.11 Problems faced while using e-resources.**

Various problems	Research Scholar	Percentage
Reading on computer	54	40.91
Displaced Images	08	6.06
Copying	03	2.27
Downloading	61	46.21
Printing	05	3.79
Any other	01	0.76
Total	<b>132</b>	100

*Source: Primary Data* (NB: Multiple answers permitted)

The Table shows the problems faced by the research scholars in using UGC-Infonet e-resources. Fifty four scholars (40.91 percent) are reading on computers, eight scholars (6.06 percent) faced with displaced images, three scholars (2.27 percent) find it difficulty in copying, sixty one scholars (46.21 percent) in downloading, five scholars (3.79 percent) admit that they cannot print full-text, one scholars (0.76 percent) report the other reasons.

### 8.12 future prospects of electronic journals available under UGC Infonet

Future prospects of e- journals	Research Scholar	Percentage
Co-exist with print	54	58.06
Replace the print	17	18.27
Supplement	12	12.90
Don't know	10	10.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

The above table shows the future prospects of e-resources under UGC-Infonet. Fifty four scholars (58.06 percent) Co-exist with print, seventeen scholars (18.27 percent) feel it will replace the print, twelve scholars (12.90 percent) supplement and ten scholars (10.75 percent) don't know.

### 8.13 User awareness or training programmes on using electronic resources.

User awareness or training programmes	Research Scholar	Percentage
<b>Yes</b>	114	78.08
<b>No</b>	32	21.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

The above question was asked to know the user awareness or training programmes on using e-resources under UGC-Infonet. It reveals that one hundred fourteen research scholars (78.08 per cent) wanted training in using e-resources. However, remaining thirty two scholars (21.92 per cent) stated that the training programme is not required. The reason behind this probably is that they are familiar with the skills and techniques for accessing and searching information available under the consortium.

### 8.14 Frequency of user awareness or training programmes on using electronic resources.

Frequency	Research Scholar	Percentage
Weekly	01	0.88
Monthly	43	37.72
Occasionally	68	59.65
Any other	02	1.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary Data*

A question was asked to know, frequency of user awareness or training programmes on using electronic resources UGC-Infonet Consortium. As indicated in table, one scholar (0.88 percent) wanted weekly, forty three scholars (37.72 percent) need on the monthly basis, sixty eight scholars (59.65 percent) required occasionally and two scholars (1.75 percent) opined any other. It shows that most of the scholars need monthly and occasionally basis.

## 9. Findings

The various findings of the data analysis regarding the awareness and use of UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium shows that majority of the ninety three scholars (63.70 percent) are aware and fifty three scholars (36.30percent) are not aware of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. It further reveals that library professionals (39.13 percent) initiate UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium to maximum scholars. Research scholars are mostly aware of e-journals (31.84 percent) and open access resources (22.45 percent) available under UGC-Infonet Consortium. It further shows that most of the research scholars (63.44 percent) face problem accessing e-resources while research scholars (36.55percent) did not face any problems. Majority of the scholars (66 percent) feel electronic resources will co-exist with print resources. The study reveals that research scholars (78.08 per cent) wanted training in using e-resources.

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