



E – SODHSINDHU: CONSORTIAL GATEWAY DIGITAL REPOSITORY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Abstract- This paper explains about terms and definitions of Digital libraries, e resources in E-sodhsindhu followed by aims and objectives of E- Resources , types of consortia. It also explains how remarkable change had occurred with advent of E- sodhsindhu with reference to both print and online e-Journals. It also explains about subscription, usage and ease of publishing the Journal in terms of Money and Time. It also explains how Libraries transforming themselves and satisfying present user needs and requirements with greater speed and passing towards success In to Digital India the Information for all Project.

Key Words- INFLIBNET, Consortia, E-SodhSindhu, Repository, Networking, Digital Library, Higher Education, Digital Library Consortium, NLIST, INDEST –AICET Consortium, Digital India.

INTRODUCTION:

LIBRARY CONSORTIUM:

A consortium is said to be “A co-operative arrangement among groups or institutions, or an association or society”. By (American Heritage Dictionary). On the basis of information requirement of users libraries form a group and share resources, procure resources, avoid duplication, and reduce expenditure called Library Consortium.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF DIGITAL LIBRARIES:

The primary objectives and functions of digital Libraries are

- To collect, store, organize and access information in digital form via communication channels.
- To save time of library staff by avoiding routine job.
- To serve widely dispersed communities throughout the network.
- To reduce the cost involved in various library activities.
- To digitize documents for preservation and for space saving.
- To introduce and provide user friendly interface and new services.
- To support advanced search and retrieval to enable greater access for information.

SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL MODEL DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM:

- Portrait of a Consortium: ANKOS (Anatolian University Libraries Consortium)
- The International Barley Sequencing Consortium: At the Threshold of Efficient Access to the Barley Genome.
- The ENIGMA Consortium: large-scale collaborative analyses of neuroimaging and genetic data
- CALIS, CASHL Library consortium in china.
- AMICO, (Art Museum Image consortium)
- GALILIO in USA
- OhioLink in USA
- TexShare in USA
- VIVA in USA
- SUNYConnect in USA
- CONCERT in Taiwa

EMERGENCE OF E- SODHSINDHU:

E- SodhSindhua consortium for higher education electronic resources emerged by recommendations of expert committee the MHRD formed e- SodhSindhu merging three consortia Initiatives namely UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium, NLIST, and INDEST- AICET consortium.



It provides more than 15000 core and peer reviewed journals and bibliographic databases. The 21st century we can see tremendous ways of information explosion, the needs from R & D Scientist to common man is ever growing at challenging rate. To manage, to sort and serve to user at usable easy usable form is challenging task to Information scientist. The budgetary requirements for the Information centers and to the libraries are depredated day by day. Cooperation of library resources among core group of libraries is being practiced since decades. With the advent of Internet particularly World Wide Web, it is very easy for authors, publishers to publish their articles, in journals with less time and economy. The libraries with diminishing budgetary requirements search the ways to cope the resources of the user's satisfaction resulting the topic of resource sharing. As the availability of Internet, World Wide Web and availability of IT based electronic information products and resources leads the formation of e- consortium of like core discipline of subjects.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF E-SODHSINDHU :

- a) To develop e- Journal archives e- journals and e- Books on perpetual access system.
- b) Promote usage of e resources in higher education through various orientation programmes, lecturers and training programmes.
- c) Subscription based access to all educational Institutions
- d) Striving towards success In digital India concept Information for all.
- e) To provide access to e resources to all academic institutions like universities and colleges at low rates and most favorable terms and conditions.
- f) To promote use of ICT in teaching and learning in universities in India
- g) with aim of optimization of use it provides training to Librarians, research scholars and faculty members of the institution.
- h) To promote use of e- resources with gradual decrease in print subscription.
- i) To promote Inter library loan facility with in member universities
- j) To provide statistical data of usage popular Journals, hits and downloads.
- k) To bring qualitative change in teaching, learning.

UGC INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM: In this paper we mainly focus on E-SodhSindhu. To bring a qualitative change among Libraries In higher education University Grants Commission bought a major Initiative by Initiating UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium formally launched by DR. APJ Abdul Kalam the then president of India In December 2003. University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched two ambitious and revolutionary programmes for academic community in higher education institutes under its purview. The first initiative namely "UGC-INFONET connectivity Programme" aims at networking university campuses with state-of-the-art campus wide networks and Internet bandwidth and the second initiative is known as "UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium" which provides access to selected core and peer reviewed electronic journals and databases in various disciplines.

MEMBERSHIP

This Consortium has currently following types of members:

UNIVERSITIES UNDER PURVIEW OF UGC (CORE MEMBERS):

All Universities covered under 12B of UGC Act are entitled to be the member of the Consortium. These Universities are considered as core members. All expenses on subscription to e-resources for these universities are borne by the UGC. As per the diversity of resources needed and ICT infrastructure available in these universities, 158 universities currently covered under the programme under the following three phases:

- Universities covered under Phase I – 50
- Universities covered under Phase II – 50
- Universities covered under Phase III – 58
- IUCs & Other Institution - 04

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Associate Membership programme for the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium has recently been introduced wherein e-resources subscribed by the Consortium are made available on subscription to private universities and other academic institutions at low rates of subscription and favourable terms and conditions of subscription. Currently total number of Associate Members is 27.

STATUS OF E-RESOURCES USAGE SUBSCRIBED UNDER UGC –INFONET:

Various training programmes were conducted in the universities to make user aware about this initiative of UGC. Library professionals and network officers of each member university were given specialized training to manage use of these resources at their universities. An extensive use of e-resources was observed by all universities. In the year 2005, usage of e-resources gone up by 180.31 per cent over the usage of 2004 and a subsequent increase were observed during every passing year. Table 1 shows the usage of UGC-Info net Digital Library Consortium by member universities. In the year 2004 member universities were downloaded 625684 articles which were reached to 14287356 by the year 2012.

S.No	PUBLISHERS	TOTAL NO OF ARTICLES DOWNLOADED								
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	ACS	259198	422816	478140	560506	594960	1031237	1196487	1398741	1563717
2	AIP/APS	105606	243856	292884	302270	336234	419658	377910	392744	426325
3	AR	33471	56504	76492	81533	62528	76731	76731	63115	80127
4	BLACKWELL	NA	116473	174081	278690	121077	178869	526986	1048171	1330343
5	CUP	8090	21321	23388	49304	66745	72972	58165	84932	92629
6	ELSEVIER (CELL PRESS)	44535	89585	72964	95770	155931	165029	181162	4121314	4965569
7	EMERALD	502	18106	38995	48776	43480	69363	74499	79449	96351
8	IOP	62543	81071	124949	134241	168213	232573	249259	246445	245966
9	JSTOR	NS	53924	121745	616560	1382961	1566952	21406	2252342	2479154
10	NATURE	NA	48499	42839	42894	47996	79456	107648	121936	117517
11	OUP	NA	158096	205226	171952	198760	208692	304269	375761	373248
12	PROJECT MUSE	28194	51709	46699	46140	89975	89175	86094	96260	94458
13	PORTLAND	NS	13301	12792	13706	13617	22294		20268	25979
14	RSC	NA	41786	88174	134121	178676	185985	220134	364576	554594
15	SPRINGER LINK	83545	190831	273319	443024	977395	1397193	1501513	1868341	1349891
16	T & F	NA	145958	201478	134141	247849	293286	378814	223041	491488
17	PROJECT EUCLID	NA	NA	NA	429	551	2124	2151	2919	6284

E-RESOURCES: METHODOLOGY:

Methodology adopted for selection of existing e-resource is described above. Member universities may send their suggestions for adding new resources to the Director, INFLIBNET Centre or to the Chairman, National Steering Committee. Proposals for new resources are discussed in the meetings of the National Steering Committee of the Consortium. If resource proposed for subscription qualifies the criteria of selection mentioned above, the resource is selected for further processing. Trial access for the resource is arranged from the publisher and its usage during the trial period is assessed. On successful completion of trial, negotiations are carried out with their publishers for providing differential access to selected e-resource. The subscription prices negotiated by the Negotiation Committee are placed before the National Steering Committee in their meetings for approval. Once the rates of subscription are approved, by the National Steering Committee, additional allocation is sought from the UGC. New resources are added once additional allocation is received from the UGC.

ELIGIBILITY:

All universities covered under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 are eligible to get access to e-resources through the Consortium. Initially, 50 universities with potential for excellence in research were covered under the scheme. Subsequently, the service was extended to 50 additional universities.

LICENSE AGREEMENTS:

All electronic resources available through the 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 Consortium on behalf of its member universities. The licenses for electronic resources impose two types of restrictions 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 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. Some of them are as follows

- *Systematic or programmatic downloading, retention, and printing are prohibited. For example, a user cannot download entire issue of a journal or print out several copies of the same article.*
- *Electronic distribution of content is also restricted although the specific restrictions vary from publisher to publisher. It may be permissible to forward an article to another colleague in the same institution by e-mail; however, transmitting an article to someone outside of the institution, or to a large group of recipients, a mailing list, or an electronic bulletin board, is not allowed.*
- *Subscribed e-resource should be used for educational and research purposes and not for commercial purposes.*
- *Providing electronic links to the licensed resources on the course web pages is Permitted but it is not permissible to post a PDF of an article on a website. However, a researcher can post a pre-print of an article written by him.*



- *As with any kind of scholarly communication, a researcher can use phrases or quotes from other articles and cite the source of information. However, a researcher is prohibited from using large chunk of information.*
Violation of License Agreements:

Publishers track the use of their electronic resources in terms of number of downloads made by subscribing institution. Misuse, if any, is notified to the subscribing institution with details of kinds of violations and institution is expected to take action. The publisher also suspends the access to e-resource pending suitable action by subscribing institution. The access is stopped not only for journals where license agreement was violated but for all journals by the same publisher. Moreover, the access is suspended not only for the individual violator but for the entire institution..

INFLIBNET ROLE :

The INFLIBNET Centre acts as a nodal agency for implementation, monitoring and execution of the entire programme through the committees mentioned above. It coordinates all activities concerned with negotiation, renewal of subscription of e-resources and subsequent trouble shooting on behalf of the Consortium. The Centre also promotes cooperation amongst member universities and facilitates better terms of references for use and preservation of subscribed electronic resources.

- *Coordinating meetings of its Committees.*
- *Constitution of Negotiation Committee through its Governing Board.*
- *Negotiating rates of subscription and its terms and conditions.*

ENSURES IP-BASED ACCESS OF SUBSCRIBED E-RESOURCES TO BENEFICIARY UNIVERSITIES.

- *Attend to the problems faced by universities and liaise with publishers to resolve such Problems.*
- *Develop tutorials and promotion materials, impart training and technical support to member universities.*
- *Propagate the Consortium amongst other institutions so as to extend its benefits to other institutions by enrolling Associate Members.*
- *Evaluate subscribed e-resources and monitor its usage regularly.*
- *Signs license agreement for access to various electronic resources on behalf of Members.*
- *Maintain and update website of the Consortium.*

UGC ROLE :

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is fully funded by the University Grants Commission. The UGC is responsible for constituting the National Steering Committee of the Consortium. The UGC is also responsible for making policies, monitoring the progress, coordinating with other Consortium in the country and to ensure gradual decrease in subscription of print resources in the beneficiary institutions. The UGC also monitors usage of e-resources and its impact on research output in beneficiary universities.

CONCLUSION:

The UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text and bibliographic databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The consortium headquarter is assigned to function as a resource center with an aim to cater to the needs of its members for resources accessible to them in electronic media or are available in print media. With subscribed resources accessible online in electronic format, the member libraries would have less pressure on space requirement for storing and managing print based Library resources. Library Consortium is the best way of a common infrastructure and it has become very important in the last two decades with the emergence of e-publishing. Libraries have realized or have to realize that working together can accomplish far more than they can do individually. The age of library consortia is at the doorsteps to prove cooperation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

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