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Research Article

USE OF UGC-INFONET CONSORTIUM IN SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY KOLHAPUR AND NORTH MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY JALGAON

D. B. Dalve (Patil)* and S. S. Rathode

S.B.E.S. College of Science, Aurangabad (MS) India & Sai College, Ranjani (MS) India

A R T I C L E   I N F O

A B S T R A C T

The paper highlightsuse and services of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium given by two university libraries in Maharashtra.Today a growing number of consortia around the world have signed license agreement and are operational, ranging from small to big, and regional to international level consortia. UGC-Infonet digital library consortium is a national level consortium.The print collection available in university libraries and user requirements suppliedwith an aim to identify and determine e-resources to be subscribed under the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium.Questionnaire is used as a technique to collect the primary related data from faculty members, research scholars and post graduate students.Maximum library users of both universities opined that UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium is 'Good'. Majority of university library users fulfill their needs 'partially' in both universities.It is important to know the fulfillment level of respondents by services of UGC-Infonet consortium.

INTRODUCTION

The goal through UGC-Infonet is to empower faculty, research students and post graduate students make the greatest use possible of an expanding access to information. An effort has been made here to study the usage from faculty members, research scholars and post graduate students and the data is analyzed in terms of cumulative usage. In e-journals consortium with the kind of rate, large numbers of institutions/organizations are interested to join as associate members on payment basis to get benefit of this endeavor[1]. Extension of this facility through INFLIBNET would be very useful for sharing knowledge and information for better utilization of state of the art technologies and infrastructure in these institutions and also the cost of these resources will bring down considerably[2].

For a successful consortium, evaluation is the most important assets so it is essential to continually receive feedback and rethink, redesign and improve the consortiums progress against its listed goals. These evaluations should measure progress against the consortiums goal for itself, for its individual program components and for each of its member's institute. The member of institute helps to improve the consortium for the usage statistic[4]. At considerable discounts library consortia have had some success in achieving the bulk

Corresponding author: **D. B. Dalve (Patil)**
S.B.E.S. College of Science, Aurangabad (MS) India & Sai College, Ranjani (MS) India

purchase of access to databases. It also allows institutions to exchange program ideas, best practices, and curricula and identify solutions to challenges that individual institution may be facing. It also facilities joint programming. For example, a group of institutions could pursue large funding that otherwise would not be available to individual centers. Consortia based subscription to electronic resources provides access to wider number of electronic titles at substantially lower cost[5].

Objectives of the present study

1) To provide a platform to discuss the important issues of the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium intwo universities.
2) To calculate the efficiency to access the information from UGC-Infonet digital library consortium.
3) To find out problems and try to suggest solutions for effective use of UGC-Infonet program.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive method is used for the present study. Questionnaire is used as a technique to collect the primary related data from faculty members, research scholars and post graduate students. The researcher used descriptive method for the present research paper. Here an attempt has been made to present a way of process to the study keeping in mind objectives of the study a framework of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium users has been designed.

Sample population

Approximately 145 questionnaires were circulated in each university. But responses are 141 users from Shivaji University Kolhapur and 87 users from North Maharashtra University Jalgaon.

Some Important Library consortia

In India the first limited purpose and successful consortia like model can be traced to Tata Institute of fundamental research (TIFR) in 2000. Most of the consortium are founded and supported by government agencies in India[6]. The N-LIST consortium provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges.INDEST-AICTE consortiumenrolls engineering and technological institutions as its members and subscribe to electronic resources for them at discounted rates of subscription and favorable terms and conditions[10]. It is the biggest consortium in terms of number of member institutions in Asia. The IIM library consortium is a collective activity of all six IIM libraries towards a common goal of sharing resources[11]. The MHRD has formed e-ShodhSindhuconsortium from merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-Infonet digital library consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE consortium. The e-ShodhSindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15000+ core and peer reviewed journals and number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases[12].

UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-Infonet digital library consortium is an ambitious program initiated by UGC to facilitate access to scholarly electronic journals and databases in view of limited resources subscribed by majority of universities. This project is our pride in the field of education and research which was formally launched the concluding day of UGC's golden jubilee celebrations by his Excellency the president of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at VigyanBhavan on 28 December 2003 by dedicating a bouquet of e-journals to the nation[7]. More than 4000 scholarly journals and databases from around 23 major publishers/venders made available to around 100 universities and other institutes and the remaining universities will be provided access in stages, from the users point of view, it is great bonanza for them is the absence of such access[3].

The access to electronic resources is internet protocol enabled for the member universities. As such a user does not need "Login ID and Password" to access resources available to his / her university, instead, the resources are accessible to them anywhere on their campus network. The print collection base available in university libraries and their requirements was surveyed with an aim to identify and determine e-resources to be subscribed under the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium[8]. All e-resources were evaluated for their qualitative and quantitative contents, coverage, their availability on different platforms and their comparative advantages / disadvantages and rates applicable for these resources to individual institutions as well as to other consortia[9].

Use of UGC-Infonet e-resources in Shivaji University Kolhapur

The Barr. B. Khardekar library, Shivaji University is one of the leading university libraries in Southern Maharashtra,

India. It caters to the academic needs of students, faculty and other user groups of university and visitors from other universities and institutes. The library has over 2.9 lakhs printed documents and it subscribes to over 283 national and international journals. Library is also a member of UGC Infonet digital library consortium of INFLIBNET, under which it has access to over 5000+ electronic journals and few electronic databases. It has established contacts with universities, national and international organizations libraries for inter-library loan arrangement. The university library was named after Late Barr. BalasahebKhardekar on 24 October, 1981. Barr.BalasahebKhardekar, who was a true sportsman, a notable democrat, the member of the Parliament, an eminent educationist, a lover of English Literature and a disciplinarian to the core.

The library aims to be a leading library in all the fields of universities academic and research areas such as Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, etc. It also aims to build a comprehensive collection of back volumes of journals in all this fields. The library apart from users from the university is open to other academic users of other universities and institutes for reference. Visitors are requested to bring an official letter from their Librarian/Head of the Department/Guide/Principal. Campus wide access to 8000+ free online full text foreign e-journals on various subjectsare made available from 23 well known leading international publishers and 11 databases**.** Library has access to 11 free as well as subscribed databases.

These can beaccessed on the library web page.There are innumerable numbers of internet resources available on the internet onvarious subjects. These resources could be websites, archives of working papers/ pre-prints/ journalarticles, e-prints, directories, etc. e-books-124, e-journals - 7212+ and foreign online journals 53 subscribed by the university library and all these links are available on the Library web-site portal. Library has received a membership from Global Development Network [GDNET] to receive Document Delivery Service [DDS] from ELDIS [Electronic Development Information Source] free of cost. ELDIS sends requested articles from selected journals over e-mail as a scanned image. The library provides newspaper clipping service from periodical section.The Library website provides information regarding library, collection, list ofcurrent and back volumes of journals, resources, e-resources, e-journals, etc. The website can be accessed at the following URL address. (http://www.unishivaji.ac.in/lib/index.htm) The work of retro-conversion of library activecollection was completed in LibSys integrated library software package in the year 2008. The bibliographic information about the collection is made available through library OPAC/ web OPAC system. In addition to this, automated acquisition module, technical processing module, circulation module and serials control module is initiated with the LibSys software. Library automation work management and back up management are administered through centrally controlled computer room. The university has signed MoUwith INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar for 'Shodh-Ganga ETD Portal'. It facilitates submission and hosting of Indian ETDs by submitting electronic version of Ph.D. dissertations, which is made available to entire scholarly community in open accessmode. Presently 183 theses from the University are made available on INFLIBNET Shodhganga ETD portal.The library provides

ILL service to readers to make available documents from other libraries.

Use of UGC-Infonet e-resources in North Maharashtra UniversityJalgaon

As a measure of decentralization and reorganization of the university education in the state of Maharashtra, this university has been established and incorporated by Government of Maharashtra state Act XXIX of 1989; with a view to meet the educational needs of students as well as teachers of the university. It was a felt need of this university to initiate Library and Information Services to support academic activities of university. For this purpose the central library was established during 1991-1992.

Central Library Features

- Participation in UGC-Infonet program. Under this program more than 4000 e-journals are accessed.
- Establishment of Internet Center for students of the university.
- Archival section is established to preserve historical documents in the form of Manuscripts, Reports, etc.
- Inter Library Loan System facility to affiliated colleges and recognized institutions.
- Orientation Course regarding use of library for new enrolled students of departments of the university.
- Guidance in respect of technical and organizational matters relating to libraries is extended, when asked for.
- Lists of prominent books added to the library are circulated to concerned departments of the university.

Digital Knowledge Center

The Digital Knowledge Center has been established under the UGC XIIth Plan period. The center was inaugurated by the auspicious hands of Honorable Chancellor, Shri. K. Sankarnarayanan on 7th August 2014. The objective of the Digital Knowledge Center is to provide easy access to current and relevant online resources all at one place and to enable users to search, browse and download required data instantly. The Digital Knowledge Center services are available to all library members including students, research scholars, faculty members, etc.

Following e-resource services is provided through the Digital Knowledge Center

- UGC Infonet and paid e-resources
- Open access e-resources
- Institutional Repository and Digital Information
- User orientation and information literacy programme
- Organized training programme on ICT, e-learning and capacity building for small group of academician, Senior Management Executives
- Dissemination of E-information pertaining Khandesh region
- ICT and indispensable tools for learning and research.

Library provides following services

- Access to online journals under UGC-Infonet program
- Home Lending Services
- Reprography
- Readingroom facilities availability

- Internet Searching
- Reference Services
- Inter Library Loan Services
- Current Awareness Services
- Online Public Access Catalogue

Information sources used by both library users

A question was asked to know sources of information mostly used by respondents. The options were given as per available list of services given by UGC-Infonet digital library consortium. The responses were analyzed and presented in table no.01

Table no. 01 Sources of information used by respondents (SU- Shivaji University Kolhapur) (NMU- North Maharashtra University Jalgaon)

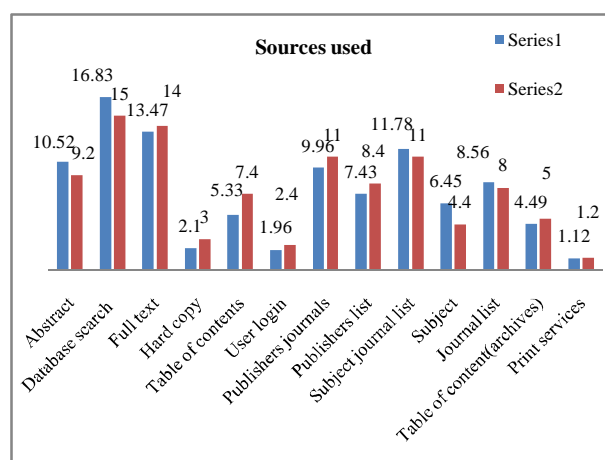| Sr. No.	Sources	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per.%	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per.%
1)	Abstract	75	10.52	46	9.20
2)	Database search	120	16.83	75	15.00
3)	Full text	96	13.47	70	14.00
4)	Hard copy	15	2.10	15	3.00
5)	Table of contents	38	5.33	37	7.40
6)	User login	14	1.96	12	2.40
7)	Publishers journals	71	9.96	55	11.00
8)	Publishers list	53	7.43	42	8.40
9)	Subject journal list	84	11.78	55	11.00
10)	Subject	46	6.45	22	4.40
11)	Journal list	61	8.56	40	8.00
12)	Table of content(archives)	32	4.49	25	5.00
13)	Print services	08	1.12	06	1.20
	Total	**713**	**100.00**	**500**	**100.00**

Figure no. 01 Sources of information used by respondents
Majority of users used as a source to 'database search' and then used 'full text' from above options.

User's opinions of both universities about UGC-Infonet program

User's opinions are the most important things in the research to fulfill the objectives. The four options were given i.e. excellent, good, satisfactory and non-satisfactory. The responses were given by users analyzed and presented in table no.02

Table no. 02 Users opinions of both universities

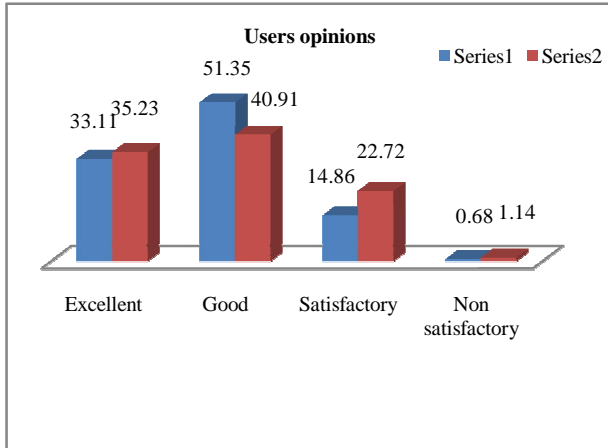| Opinion	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. %
Excellent	49	33.11	31	35.23
Good	76	51.35	36	40.91
Satisfactory	22	14.86	20	22.72
Non satisfactory	1	0.68	01	1.14
Total	148	100.00	88	100.00

Figure no. 02 Users opinions of both universities

Maximum library users ofShivaji University Kolhapur opined that UGC Infonet e-journal consortium is 'Good' and in North Maharashtra University Jalgaon library users of UGC Infonet e-journal consortium is also opined 'good'.

Fulfillment level of users' needs

It is important to know the fulfillment level of respondents by services of UGC-Infonet consortium. The four options were given as, fully, partially, up to some extent, very low extent. The data provided by respondents analyzed and presented in table no. 03

Table no. 03 Level of fulfillment of users' needs

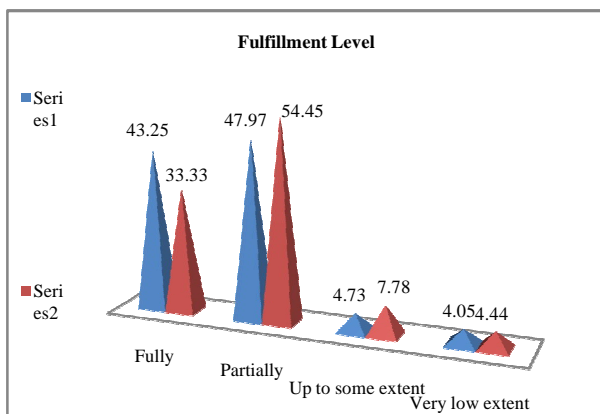| Fulfillment level	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. Per. %
Fully	64	43.25	30	33.33
Partially	71	47.97	49	54.45
Up to some extent	07	4.73	07	7.78
Very low extent	06	4.05	04	4.44
Total	148	100.00	90	100.00

Figure no. 03 Level of fulfillment of users' needs

Majority of university library users fulfill their needs 'partially' in Shivaji University Kolhapur and also 'partially' in North Maharashtra University Jalgaon.

Purpose of using the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium

A question was posed among the respondents to know the purpose of using the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium. The six options were given in this question. The data collected from the respondents are analyzed and presented in table no. 04

Table no. 04 purpose of using the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium

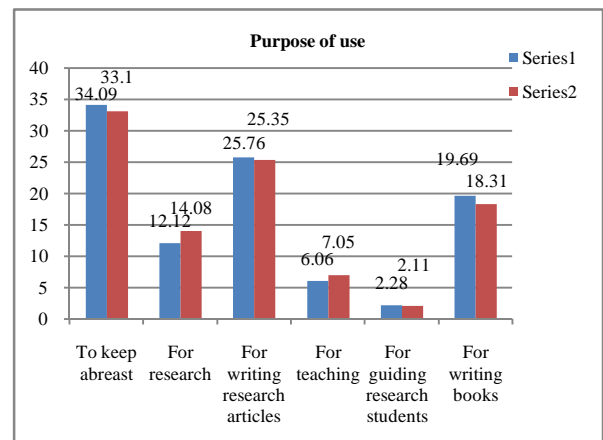| Sr. No.	Purpose of using the UGC-Infonet consortium	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. Per. %
1	To keep abreast with latest developments	45	34.09	47	33.10
2	For research	16	12.12	20	14.08
3	For writing research articles	37	25.76	36	25.35
4	For teaching	8	06.06	10	7.05
5	For guiding research students	3	02.28	3	2.11
6	For writing books	26	19.69	26	18.31
	Total	132	100.00	142	100.00

Figure no. 04 purpose of using the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium

The maximum user's purpose of using the UGC-Infonet digital library consortium is to keep abreast with the latest developments of related subject knowledge.

Difficulties in using UGC-Infonet consortium

A question was also asked to know the users difficulties. The twelve options were given to the respondents. The responses were analyzed and presented in table no. 05

Table no. 05 Difficulties in using UGC-Infonet consortium

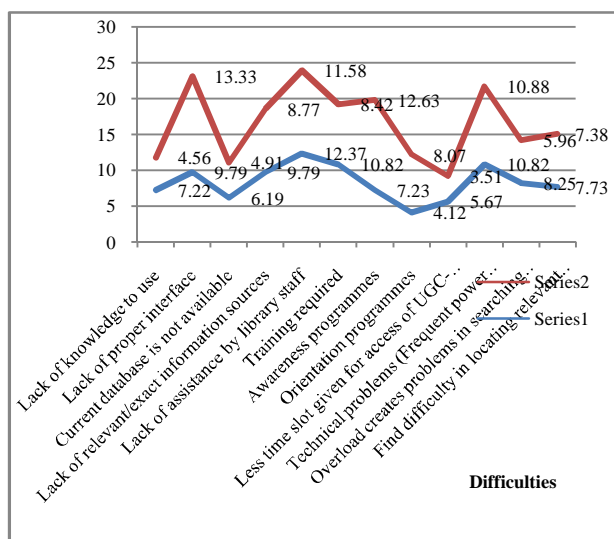| Sr. No.	Difficulties	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. Per. %
1	Lack of knowledge to use	14	7.22	13	4.56
2	Lack of proper interface	19	9.79	38	13.33
3	Current database is not available	12	6.19	14	4.91
4	Lack of relevant sources	19	9.79	25	8.77
5	Lack of assistance by librarystaff	24	12.37	33	11.58
6	Training required	21	10.82	24	8.42
7	Awareness programmes	14	7.23	36	12.63
8	Orientation programmes	8	4.12	23	8.07
9	Less time slot given for access of UGC-Infonet consortium.	11	5.67	10	3.51
10	Technical problems (Frequent power cut, server down etc.)	21	10.82	31	10.88
11	Overload creates problems in searching relevant information	16	8.25	17	5.96
12	Find difficulty in location	15	7.73	21	7.38
	Total	194	100.00	285	100.00

Figure no. 05 Difficulties in using UGC-Infonet consortium

Major library users of Shivaji University Kolhapur expressed their difficulty that is lack of assistance by library staff. Maximum library users of North Maharashtra University Jalgaon expressed their difficulty that is Lack of proper interface.

Solutions of problems about using UGC-Infonet consortium

The searching of solution by users is important to solve the problems of users for improve services of UGC-Infonet consortium. The question was asked to the respondents about solutions of the problems and difficulties. The responses were analyzed and presented in table no. 06

Table no. 06 Solution of problems about using UGC-Infonet consortium

Sr. No.	Solutions of problems	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. Per. %
1	To spread awareness about use of e-resources.	34	9.88	36	8.74
2	Need to give user education to all users in accessing e-journals	29	8.43	44	10.68
3	Arrange orientation course/internet training to user	22	6.4	25	6.07
4	Provide internet connectivity to all the department/centre/offices	18	5.23	27	6.55
5	Give circulation tips on the access to e-journals as guidelines	28	8.14	30	7.28
6	Provision of separate hall for teachers/researchers/ students	22	6.4	26	6.31
7	Encourage teachers/researchers/PG students to internet access	20	5.81	34	8.25
8	Require extended hours for internet facility	23	6.69	18	4.37
9	Printing facility should be made available to users	29	8.43	21	5.1
10	Need of dedicated power supply	15	4.36	20	4.85
11	Need of installing high capacity server/voltage stabilizer	17	4.94	21	5.1
12	Need of more journals of social sci., humanities & languages	6	1.75	4	0.98
13	Installation of more computer terminals	19	5.52	30	7.28
14	Need for morning time slot for research scholars	13	3.78	15	3.64
15	Provide separate terminals for teachers/researchers/ students	16	4.65	23	5.58
16	Increase in number of internet access points/terminals	18	5.23	23	5.58
17	Need to give proper interface to full text e-journals,	15	4.36	15	3.64
	Total	344	100.00	412	100.00

The majority of Shivaji University Kolhapur library users suggested that to spread awareness about use of e-resources and North Maharashtra University Jalgaon library users suggested need to give user education to all users in accessing e-journals.

Users interest in e-journal services

The question was asked about the user's interest in e-journal services of UGC Infonet digital library consortium. Seven options have given to mark their choices. The data collected from the respondents have been analyzed and presented in table no.07
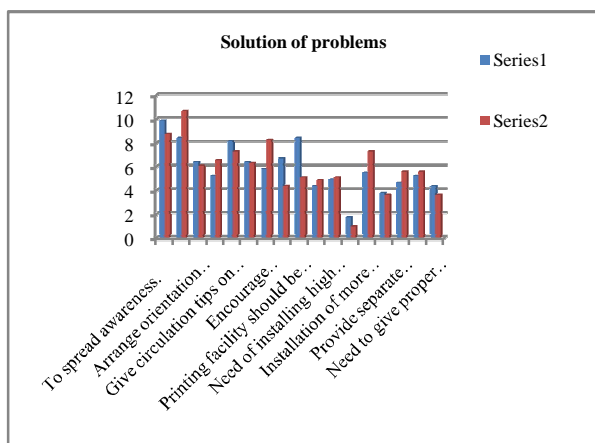
Figure no. 06 Solution of problems about using UGC-Infonet consortium

Table no. 07 User's interest in e-journal services

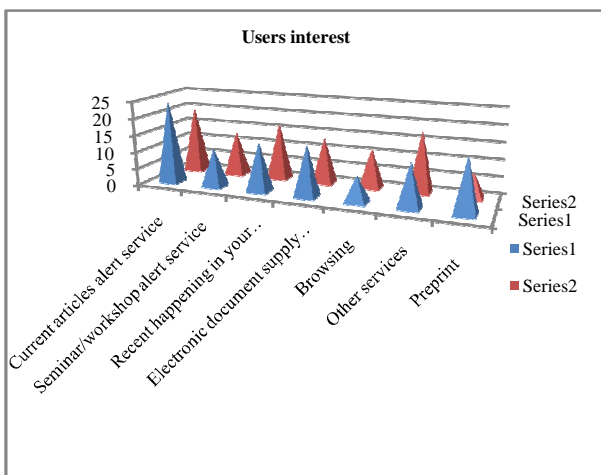| Sr. No.	Users interest in e-journal services	Users in SU Kolhapur	Per. Per. %	Users in NMU Jalgaon	Per. Per. %
1	Current articles alert service	48	24.24	48	19.67
2	Seminar/workshop alert service	22	11.11	32	13.11
3	Recent happening in your area of research	28	14.14	41	16.80
4	Electronic document supply through mail	29	14.65	33	13.52
5	Browsing	15	7.58	28	11.48
6	Other services	25	12.62	44	18.03
7	Preprint	31	15.66	18	7.39
	Total	198	100.00	244	100.00

Figure no. 07 User's interest in e-journal services

The maximum users of both libraries show interest in current articles alert service.

CONCLUSION

Evaluation is the most important assets for a successful consortium so it is essential to continually receive feedback and rethink, redesign and improve the consortiums progress against its listed goals. These evaluations should measure progress against the consortiums goal for itself, for its individual program components and for each of its member's institute.

The access to electronic resources is internet protocol enabled for the member universities. As such a user does not need "Login ID and Password" to access resources available to his / her university, instead, the resources are accessible to them anywhere on their campus network. It is evaluated that UGC Infonet digital library consortium avails thirteen different options to use e-resources; maximum users use database search and then full text rather than other sources. Majority of both universities library users opined that UGC Infonet e-journal consortium is 'Good' and fulfill their needs 'partially' in both universities. Major library users of Shivaji University Kolhapur expressed their difficulty that is lack of assistance by library staff and users of North Maharashtra University Jalgaon expressed their difficulty that is Lack of proper interface. The maximum users of both libraries show interest in current articles alert service.

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