

# A Study on Developing Awareness on Access of E-resources through N-LIST among the Researchers of Arts Colleges Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tamil Nadu

A. Thirumagal<sup>1</sup> and P. Bremala<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Librarian & Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli - 627 012, Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil - 629 002, Tamil Nadu, India

E-mail: athirumagala@yahoo.com, p.bremala@gmail.com

(Received on 12 December 2013 and accepted on 10 February 2014)

**Abstract** – This paper aims to describe creating awareness through conducting programmes to access E-resources through N-LIST programme among researchers. Present study is confined only to researchers of Arts Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. Awareness training Programme was conducted only on N-LIST. This will be investigated further with a wider source, which will develop access of E-resources. The results suggest that researchers can get knowledge about access of E-resources and it will be easy to do their research. More computers should be provided in the library. Awareness programme was conducted in a regular basis to develop access of E-resources among the researchers.

**Keywords:** Awareness, E-resources, Researchers, Consortia, N-LIST

## I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries have a long history, starting with the closed-access libraries of earlier times to the present day hybrid, digital and virtual libraries that use the latest technology for provision of information through wide variety of services. An information literate person is the entire time ready for learning, because he/she can find needed information for their work or disseminating and problem solving. It is important in research area is more significant since the researchers are both producer and consumer of the information. Researchers need constant updating of latest information in their respective field of interest. In order to make research effective, the researchers need right information sources that are available in libraries. In order

to satisfy varied use of researchers, libraries are being forced to go under e-subscription. Due to financial stringencies, increased demand of users and the like, Consortia based access of e-resources has been provided by the Indian libraries for higher education and research institutes. The dependency of the scholar in the academic centres on the e-resources has increased to a large extent and they should have convenient to make use of e-resources for their research work. Unfortunately most of the libraries still not benefited of e-resources. Thus the investigator decided to conduct “A Study on developing awareness for the access of E-resources through N-LIST among Researchers of Arts Colleges, Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tamil Nadu”. The results of the study may be very much useful for the reorganization of the activities of the library to satisfy researchers’ needs through accessing e-resources under N-LIST project.

## A. E-Resources

An electronic resource is defined as a resource which requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data, be it text referring to fulltext bases, electronic journals, image collections, other multimedia products that has been published with an aim to cultivate access e-resources among the users. These resources may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and so on. The e-resources are basically divided into two major types. 1. Online e-resources, which may include, e-journals (Full text and bibliography) e-books, online data bases and websites. 2. Other electronic resources may include CD ROM and Diskettes and other portable computer databases.

### ***B. Indian Library Consortia Scenario For E-Resources***

During the last decade, many consortiums have been emerged for providing access of e-resources to the users in Indian libraries. Consortia are basically, evolving a form of co-operation among the libraries which come together to share resources through electronic system and networks. It has gained momentum in developing countries like India. Presently most of the Indian libraries are covered in different consortium to provide the access of e-resources to their users. INDEST-AICTE and UGC-INFONET Digital library consortiums are two large consortium covering most of the universities and technical education institutes.

INDEST-AICTE Consortium provides access to full text e-journals from publishers and bibliographic data bases to leading scientific and technical institutions in India. The rates offered to the consortium are lower by 50 % to 98 % depending upon the category of institution.

UGC-INFONET Digital library consortium launched in the year 2004 by UGC through INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) for providing access of e-resources to the Universities in different phases.

The Consortium subscribed full text publishing e-resources and bibliographic databases. The national steering committee of consortium allocates e-resources to the Universities on the basis of various criteria like number of post graduate and doctoral programme, number of departments, subject area, research output, type of university etc.

### ***C. N-LIST***

Looking to the success of library e-resources consortiums in India, the new project entitled “National Library and information services infrastructure for scholarly content (N-LIST)” has been jointly executed by the two consortiums i.e, UGC-INFONET Digital library consortium and the INDEST-AICTE consortium for cross subscription of e-resources.

Under N-LIST project, the authorized users from eligible colleges can access e-resources ie. e-journals and e-books directly from the publishers website, once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. All colleges covered under section 12B/2F of UGC Act and Non aided colleges can access electronic resources subscribed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium as well as few selected

e-resources that were found most appropriate for colleges including e-journals and e-books. These resources include more than 6000 e-journals and 97000 e-books. More than 2500 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme.

### ***D. Major Roles of INFLIBNET in N-LIST***

1. Access e-resources directly from publishers web site.
2. Provide full-text access of electronic resources.
3. Generate altering services from subscribed e-resources deploying technological tools for content delivery such as RSS feed, Atoms, Blogs etc.
4. Impart awareness and training programme for colleges and other institutions.

## **II. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY**

Researchers are one of the potential users of information. It is very important to analyse the usage of e-resource by the researchers and services offered by the consortia. Despite the fact that Arts Colleges of Manonmaniam Sundarnar University has the number of researchers and they carryout successful access of e-resources is very essential. Researchers couldn't exploit the benefits of modern technology of access e-resources. Hence this study is more relevant to identify the researcher's needs and extent the use of e-resources access through N-LIST among researchers in Arts Colleges of Manonmaiam Sundaranar University.

## **III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Conducting awareness training programmes to access E-resources through N-LIST would develop positive attitudes among the researchers. Hence, the problem of the study is entitled as “A Study on developing awareness for the access of E-resources through N-LIST among Researchers of Arts Colleges Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tamil Nadu”.

## **IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The following are the main objectives of the study.

1. To analyze the awareness of the Researchers towards e-resources under N-LIST.
2. To know the purpose of using N-LIST by the Research scholars in Arts Colleges.
3. To find out the most frequently used type of e-resources by the researchers.

4. To identify the problems faced by the researchers while accessing e-resources through N-LIST.
5. To find out the satisfaction on access E-resources under N-LIST.

#### V. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. The present study is confined only to the researcher of Arts Colleges.
2. The study is limited to analyze only N-LIST source.
3. Awareness of the Researchers toward e-resources and services are analyzed with respect to only selected variable.

#### VI. METHODOLOGY

##### *A. Population of the Study*

As users of information, Researchers have to develop positive attitude towards access e-resources through N-LIST. Hence, the population of the present study is selected Arts College Researchers who are doing M.Phil/Ph.D of both part time and full time of Manonmaniam Sundarnar University.

##### *B. Samples for the Study*

Sample for the study consist of 160 researchers of different discipline in selected Arts Colleges under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

##### *C. Tool Used for the Study*

Tool used for the study is a well-structured questionnaire prepared by the investigator. Questionnaire were formulated to elicit the details about the usage of e-resources through N-LIST and its purpose, problems and satisfaction to rate them.

##### *D. Awareness programme on N-LIST*

In addition to that an awareness programme was conducted in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for collecting primary data about the N-LIST resources and services. Percentage method was used for analyzing the data.

#### VII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The collected data have been analyzed, interpreted and presented in the form of tables. The questionnaire was distributed to research scholars currently pursuing M.Phil or Ph.D programme in all fields under both full-time and part-time of selected Arts Colleges which have N-LIST.

TABLE I DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Sl.No.	Variable	Category	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	9	5.63
		Female	151	94.37
2	Research Programme	M.Phil	144	90.00
		Ph.D	16	10.00

Table I shows that 5.63% of the respondents were male and 94.37% were female. In research programme, 144 respondents (90%) were M.Phil scholars and 16 (10%) were Ph.D scholars.

Awareness on E-resources access under N-LIST programme is studied and the details are provided in Table II.

TABLE II AWARENESS ON E-RESOURCES UNDER N-LIST FROM THE RESEARCHERS

S.No.	Awareness Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Aware	69	43.13
2	Unaware	-	-
3	Utilized	91	56.87
	Total	160	100

It is vivid from table II that majority of the respondents 91(56.87%) are utilizing N-List followed by 69 (43.13%) are aware of N-LIST.

The purpose of accessing N-LIST by the respondents are vary and it is based on their research requirements are presented in table III.

TABLE III PURPOSE OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES UNDER N-LIST

S.No.	Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	For teaching	15	9.38
2	For writing research reports	86	53.75
3	For writing journal articles	41	25.62
4	To keep abreast in the field	18	11.25
	Total	160	100

It is clear from table III that the purpose of using E-resources through N-LIST by the respondents are for writing research reports (53.75%), followed by writing journal articles (25.62 %). The other purpose of using N-LIST e-resources are to keep abreast in the field (11.25%) and for teaching (9.38%). Majority of the respond are using N-LIST for writing research reports.

TABLE IV TYPE OF E-RESOURCES MOST FREQUENTLY USED THROUGH N-LIST BY THE RESEARCHERS

S.No.	E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	E-Journals	112	70.00
2	E-Books	25	15.63
3	Bibliographic database	23	14.37
	Total	160	100

Table IV shows that majority of the respondents (70%) are most frequently used e-journals followed by e-books (15.63%) and Bibliographic database (14.37%).

TABLE V PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RESEARCHERS WHILE ACCESSING N-LIST

S.No.	Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Slow access speed	34	21.25
2	Insufficient nodes	66	41.25
3	Difficulty in finding relevant information	28	17.50
4	Lack of ICT qualified staff	32	20.00
	Total	160	100

Table V reveals that most of the users are facing problems while accessing e-resources under N-LIST are due to insufficient nodes (41.25%), followed by slow access speed (21.25%), Lack of ICT qualified staff (20%) and difficulty in finding relevant information (17.5%). To overcome the barriers, more computers should be kept in the library. Proper motivation and awareness training programme should be given to the researchers to avoid the problems while accessing N-LIST.

TABLE VI LEVEL OF SATISFACTION REGARDING N-LIST FROM THE RESEARCHERS

S.No.	Satisfaction level	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Very Satisfied	81	50.62
2	Satisfied	66	41.25
3	Not Satisfied	13	8.13
	Total	160	100

It is clear from the table VI, 50.62% of respondents have very satisfied with the N-LIST programme and 41.25 % were satisfied and 8.13% of respondents were not satisfied with the N-LIST programme.

### VIII. SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are made to encourage the access of N-LIST.

1. Besides journals other e-resources like e-books and e-data bases should be acquired by the researchers.
2. To provide more computers in the library, adequate fund should be allotted.
3. More number of terminals should be provided in the library.
4. More computer with latest specifications and should be installed so that users can use the available e-resources in the library.
5. Awareness Programme/workshop should be conducted in a regular basis for effective utilization of the N-LIST among the researchers.

### IX. CONCLUSION

Library is the only public agency designed to collect, maintain and disseminate right information to the right user at the right time. Access E-resources through N-LIST is an important source of information especially for the research community since they are highly potential users. They couldn't exploit all the services provided by INFLIBNET to access E-resources through N-LIST. The study is intended to elicit the usage of N-LIST after conducting an awareness programme to the researchers. It shows that there is an increasing trend in the use of N-LIST among the researchers.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Sunil Gorla, "Role of Consortia for effective use of e-resources in Higher education. A practical approach in Indian Libraries", *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp.201-206, Sep. 2012.
- [2] B.K. Vishala and M.K. Bhandi, "Availability of Library and Information Science electronic journals through UGC-INFONET project", *Annals of Library and Information studies*, Vol.53, pp.65-69, June 2006.
- [3] M. Mandhirasalam and S.Srinivasa Ragavan, "N-LIST: An E-Learning Library Consortium for Colleges and Universities to Access E-resources", *Proceedings of the National conference on Networking Libraries, Resources, Technologies and users in the knowledge society – SALIS*, pp. 426-431, Oct. 2011.
- [4] N-LIST Website : <http://www.nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>.last accessed on 11th Dec. 2013.
- [5] N-LIST Brochure 2011. Published by INFLIB NET Centre, Ahmedabad.