

AWARENESS AND USE OF INFLIBNET 'S N-LIST CONSORTIUM BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF SELECTED COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY

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The paper aims to identify the awareness and use of the N-LIST Consortium by the faculty members of selected colleges affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. A Structured Questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The analysis is based on the responses given by 150 faculty members. The result shows that the faculty members are aware of the N-LIST resources and are using mainly for updating their domain knowledge and for teaching purpose. Some faculties faced some barriers such as lack of knowledge in accessing the resources and slow internet speed. The study demands for organizing regular training programmes to the faculties so that they would be properly trained in accessing the N-LIST e-resources.

Keywords: Academic Library, Consortium, N-LIST, E-resources

INTRODUCTION

The statement made by Donald Urquhart (1981, p. 64) nearly four decades back i.e. “No Library is an island” is still relevant today, he rightly pointed out that, however big might be the library or the library budget, the library cannot be self-sufficient in terms of the scholarly information resources required to their users are concerned. It is a proven fact that the libraries are getting limited budget on one hand and on the other hand the prices of the scholarly resources are increasing every year, due to which libraries are not able to procure every required information resources. This has resulted in partially meeting the information demand or information needs of the users. To overcome this situation, many libraries have started with the resource sharing programmes and many have formed the consortia's so as to cater to the information needs of their users. In India many consortia have been established with an intention to serve the academic and research community with more information resources within less budget.

In order to serve the university and college users with more information resources within less budget, INFLIBNET has come out with

some consortia and has been on the lead to serve the academic community by forming various consortia. For university users, the INFLIBNET has come out with e-ShodSindhu i.e. consortium for higher education e-resources and N-LIST for the colleges in India. It was expected that the institutions subscribing to the consortium resources may literate their users with the resources and in turn the users may use it to the optimum to fulfill their academic requirements resulting in strengthening the teaching and research activities in the country.

NATIONAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SCHOLARLY CONTENT (N-LIST)

The Project entitled “National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)”, offers access to e-resources to the students, researchers and faculties from colleges and other recipient institutions through server(s) fixed at the INFLIBNET Centre. INFLIBNET launched N-LIST to facilitate access to e-resources to the students and faculty members in colleges. The consortium allows the academic libraries to access a large number of scholarly journals from reputed publishers. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publishers’ website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The Project N-LIST offers access to more than 6,000 + e-journals and 3125000 + e-books to students, researchers and faculties from colleges (covered under section 12B of UGC Act) and other

beneficiary institutions. Besides 12B/2F colleges, N-LIST Programme is now opened to Non -Aided Colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) (INFLIBNET, 2020).[u](#)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Several studies have been conducted in the world highlighting the importance of Library consortia. According to Atkinson (2019), “For academic libraries, effective collaboration is no longer an option but a necessity”. A consortium has evidenced their importance in building libraries more proficient and in promoting research (Nesta, 2019). The study conducted by Ayoub et al (2018) found that a library consortium is required and useful in catering the user’s information requirement of academic library.

Gautham and Sinha (2020) surveyed the teachers and research scholars of Banaras Hindu University to find out the use of electronic resources received under consortium from INFLIBNET and found that proper training to the users in the use of consortium resources can increase the awareness of the resources. Mansoureh et al. (2020) studied the impact of Library Consortia on the research productivity at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and observed that a majority of the journals subscribed under consortia in the form of packages are useless and not used and also not cited by the users. Arora and Trivedi (2011) while studying the National library and information services infrastructure pointed out that the N-LIST programme along with other consortia initiatives are successfully serving the information need of

the whole nation. Shinde (2013) carried out a study with an objective to explore the benefits of N-LIST and opined that N-LIST is a boon for the college libraries. Thirumagal and Bremala (2014) in their study on developing awareness on access of e-resources through N-LIST pointed that N-LIST is an important sources of information to the users. Kaushal and Chakravarty (2019) while exploring the usage of N-LIST e-resources in degree colleges affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh demanded to launch a proper marketing plan so as to promote the usage and awareness of N-LIST resources.

Chakraborty and Dangi (2013) carried out a study to find out the purpose behind using N-LIST resources and the barriers faced while accessing the resources and opined that, the students and faculties are using the N-LIST e-resources mainly for seminar presentation. Hanchinal (2019) surveyed students from 20 Arts, Commerce and Science colleges located in Mumbai and came to the conclusion that the students are mostly using the N-LIST e-resources for class notes and Assignments. Dhule (2019) in his case study of Government Law College pointed that, the students are not satisfied with the resources included in N-LIST Consortia. Nayak and Adithya Kumari (2014) surveyed faculty and students of Constitute First Grade Colleges affiliated to Tumkur University and found that, the teaching community of the college are more reliant on the electronic resources and are under the impression that the resources provided under N-LIST are satisfactory for all the current disciplines. Khan and Tripathi (2015)

attempted a survey of users of Chandidas Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal with an objective to highlight the problems faced by the users in accessing N-LIST resources and found that poor infrastructure, Internet related issues are the main problems faced by the users. While the study carried out by Chakraborty and Dangi (2013) on e-resources for college libraries in India opined that lack of awareness along with poor infrastructure and electricity problems are the main barriers in accessing N-LIST resources. They recommended for organizing more rigorous training programs for the users. Another study conducted by Solanki (2017) on the same problem revealed that institutes does not have proper infrastructure due to which the resources were not properly utilized.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To check the awareness of N-LIST Consortium among the faculty members of the colleges of Pune City;
2. To know the purpose of using N-LIST consortium by the faculty members of the colleges in Pune city;
3. To check the frequency of using N-LIST Consortium by the faculty members of the colleges;
4. To check how often the faculty members find the required information from the N-LIST Consortium;
5. To check the benefits of N-LIST Consortium; and
6. To find the difficulties faced by the faculty members while accessing the N-LIST Consortium.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Scope of the study was restricted to the colleges having subscription for N-LIST, located in Pune city and affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University. Permanent Faculty members from senior colleges were considered for the study, because the content provided under N-LIST is more suitable and usable to them. The temporary faculty members, faculty on CHB and students were excluded from the study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Total 30 colleges were found having access to N-LIST and affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University and located in Pune City. A total of 246 faculty members were found to be serving in these colleges. The table for sample size determination given by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) suggested 148 sample size for 240 population and 152 samples for 250 Population. 150 samples were finalized since the total population was 246. A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect the data from the faculty members of the colleges. By applying simple random sampling method the sample was selected and accordingly the questionnaire was distributed and administered to all 150 samples. Total 150 duly filled in questionnaires were received back making the response rate 100%. The data received through questionnaire has been analyzed and presented in tabular form using MS-Excel.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Gender and designation of user distribution

The status (designation) and gender of the respondents is taken as one of the aspect for studying the use of N-LIST e-resources in the academic colleges affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University. The designation wise breakup of responses is shown in Table 1. Majority of the respondents i.e. 115 (76.66%) were Assistant Professors. Out of these 115 Assistant professors, 68 (45.33%) were male Assistant Professors and 47 (31.33%) were female Assistant Professors. 32 (21.33%) respondents were Associate Professors of which 21 (14%) respondents were male and 11 (7.3%) were Female, while only 3 (2%) respondents were professors of which 2 (1.3%) were male Professors and 1 (0.7%) female Professor. As far as the respondents were concerned more number of male was found as compared to female and Assistant Professor was the major category when comes to the designation.

Awareness of N-LIST Consortium

To boost the maximum use of the N-LIST E-resources, awareness of N-LIST E-resources among the faculty members of academic colleges is necessary. So the faculty members were asked about their awareness of N-LIST E-resources. The responses received from the students and faculties

Table 1: Gender and designation of user distribution

Users	Male	Percentage (%)	Female	Percentage (%)
Assistant Professor	68	45.33%	47	31.33%
Associate Professor	21	14%	11	7.3%
Professor	2	1.3%	1	0.7%

Table 2: Awareness of N-LIST Consortium

Category of users	Yes	Percentage (%)	No	Percentage (%)
Assistant Professor	107	71.3%	8	5.3%
Associate Professor	29	19.3%	3	2%
Professor	3	2%	0	0%

have been presented in Table 2. In case of Faculty Members majority of the Assistant Professors i.e. 107 (71.3%) are aware about N-LIST E-resources available in the library while 8 (5.3%) do not know about it, followed by 29 (19.3%) Associate Professors found to be aware about the N-LIST Consortium and 3 (2%) are not aware about N-LIST, and 3 (2%) Professors are aware about N-LIST E-resources. Out of 150 faculty members, only 11 (7.33%) faculties are not aware of N-LIST E-resources received, whereas, 139 (92.67%) faculties are aware about the N-LIST E-resources. As 139 faculty members are aware of the N-LIST and its resources, hence for further analysis the responses received from these 139 respondents are taken into consideration.

Mode of Learning in handling N-LIST Consortium

N-LIST e-resources have become an important part in the library's collection. It is thus necessary to know the mode of learning to use of N-LIST e-resources by the faculty members of colleges. The faculty members were asked to specify their mode of learning of N-LIST e-resources. The responses received from the users have been presented in Table 3. Library staff plays a key role in successfully promoting library services and resources available in academic libraries. The table 3 indicates that majority 81 (58.3%) of Faculty Members are aware of N-LIST e-resources through the guidance from the

Library Staff. One can find the impact of friends among the faculty members of the college, almost 23 (16.5%) faculty members learned the N-LIST from friends, whereas, 19 (13.7%) learned to use it through the formal training arranged by the college and N-LIST Consortium Team and 16 (11.5%) learned to use N-LIST E-resources through personal efforts. No doubt that the library staff are organizing in-house training, orientation and other means so that the users of the library will get acquainted with the resources of N-LIST and its utility.

Table 3: Mode of Learning in handling N-LIST Consortium

Mode of Learning in handling N-LIST Consortium	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Guidance from Library Staff	81	58.3%
Learnt from Friends	23	16.5%
Formal Training	19	13.7%
Personal Efforts	16	11.5%

Time spent on N-LIST E-resources

Time spent on access to N-LIST e-resources help to know the extent of use of it and its importance to the users. This is the most important and basic feature related to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the N-LIST E-resources. In relation to this, a question was asked to know the frequency of accessing N-LIST e-resources by the faculty members in academic colleges. The responses received from the users

have been presented in Table 4. Majority of them, i.e. 56 (40.3%) spend 5-6 hours a week for searching information on N-LIST consortium while 39 (28.1%) faculty members spend 2-3 hrs. per week; followed by 24 (17.3%) faculty members spend 7-9 hrs a week for searching information on N-LIST, 16 (11.5%) spend less than one hour a week while 4 (2.8%) faculty members spend 10-20 hrs a week on N-LIST E-resources. Time is significant factor in the use of the N-LIST E-resources and the present study tries to find out how much time is spent on the use of N-LIST E-resources by the Faculty members. It indicates that the frequency of using N-LIST e-resources by the faculties is comparatively good for retrieving required information for their academic purposes. But still there is a need to encourage the faculty members for more use of N-LIST e-resources through user orientation/ education programmes and teaching the advanced search skills to the faculty members of academic college.

Table 4: Time spent on N-LIST resources

Time spent	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Less than one hr. a week	16	11.5%
2-3 hrs a week	39	28.1%
5-6 hrs a week	56	40.3%
7-9hrs a week	24	17.3%
10-20 hrs a week	4	2.8%

Purpose of using N-LIST Consortium

An attempt was made here to check out the purpose of using N-LIST E-resources by the faculty members of academic colleges. The responses received have been presented in Table 5. Faculty members of the academic colleges under study access N-LIST for different purposes such as research, writing articles for journals or

for seminars and conferences, teaching, etc. The table 5 reveals that 76 (54.7%) faculty members are using the N-LIST e-resources to update their knowledge, followed by 33 (23.7%) use it for teaching, 19 (13.7%) for writing an article and 11 (7.9%) are using it for research work. It is obvious that the faulty members are using the N-LIST resources to update their knowledge, because teaching the same subject years together, helps in mastery over the subjects and the contents in a subject, only the faculty has to update their existing knowledge with the new one which is available in the journals and e-books under N-LIST.

Table 5: Purpose of using N-LIST Consortium

Purpose	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
To update Knowledge	76	54.7%
Writing an article	11	7.9%
For Research Work	19	13.7%
For Teaching	33	23.7%

Features used while Searching N-LIST Consortium

Various features are available with the users in order to search required information from various databases made available under N-LIST. Users use different features for searching information from the databases. To check the main feature used to search N-LIST e-resources by the faculties of academic colleges a question was asked to give the main feature used to search N-LIST E-resources. The responses received from the users have been presented in Table 6. Data indicated that 86 (61.9%) of the respondents use keyword as the main feature to search the N-LIST E-resources, while 23 (16.5%) uses title as main feature for searching the information, 18 (12.9%)

use Journal name and 12 (8.6%) use author as a search term to search N-LIST E-resources. It is clear that the main feature used by the faculty members for searching N-LIST e-resources is the keyword followed by the 'title'. Keyword is commonly used search term because keywords represent the main concepts of the research topic and are the words used in everyday life to describe the topic. As a result majority faculty members use the Keyword as the main feature to search N-LIST E-resources.

Table 6: Features used while searching N-LIST Consortium

Feature	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Author	12	8.6%
Keyword	86	61.9%
Journal name	23	16.5%
Title	18	12.9%

Finding Information from N-LIST E-resources

The introduction of N-LIST consortium in the Academic colleges has brought the ocean of information to the doorstep of the students and faculty members, but the question arises that whether the faculty members can find the required information from this ocean of information, hence question was asked to the users to indicate how often they find the required information from N-LIST E-resources. The responses received from the users have been represented in Table 7. 72 (51.8%) respondents sometimes find the required information from N-LIST e-resources, followed by 32 (23%) who rarely find the information, 29 (20.9%) faculty members says that they always find the required information

from N-LIST e-resources and 6 (4.3%) faculty members never find the information from N-LIST consortium. It is clear that only 20.9 % faculty members always finds the required information, whereas, 79.1% faculty members did not always able to find the required information. This indicates that the faculty members lack the skills of performing proper search or using proper terminology. These demands for in depth training sessions and user orientation programme for the faculty members.

Table 7: Finding information from N-LIST E-resources

Finding the Required Information from N-LIST	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Always	29	20.9%
Sometimes	72	51.8%
Rarely	32	23%
Never	6	4.3%

Benefits of N-LIST Consortium

INLFIBNET has provided N-LIST to the users of academic colleges so that they can overcome the issue of no-availability of information. To check these benefits of N-LIST E-resources the faculty members of academic colleges were indicated to specify the benefits of N-LIST E-resources. The responses received from the users have been presented in Table 8. Data indicate that in case of Faculty Members, 63 (45.3%) of the respondents got faster access to the required information through N-LIST E-resources, while 40 (28.8%) acquired easier access to the information, 22 (15.8%) admitted that they got speed in research process, while 14 (10.1%) Faculty Members cleared that they get access to current up to date information through

N-LIST E-resources. The N-LIST e-resources are performing increasingly important role in education and research of the academic colleges. The faculty members also show the positive impact of N-LIST E-resources. About 50% of the respondents admitted that they got easier and faster access to the required information. N-LIST E-resources provide many chances to today's users. The study finds that N-LIST E-resources have become the essential source of required information at the academic colleges. The study also reveals that increased availability of computer systems and bandwidth may enhance the use of N-LIST E-resources.

Table 8: Benefits of N-LIST Consortium

Benefits	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Faster access to information	63	45.3%
Speed in Research Process	22	15.8%
Easier access to Information	40	28.8%
Open access to current up to date information	14	10.1%

Problems faced while accessing N-LIST Consortium

A question was asked to the faculty members to list the problems faced while accessing the N-LIST E-resources. The data collected have been categorized and presented in Table 9. It is evident that majority of them, i.e. 47 (33.8%) respondents facing the problem of slow speed of internet, while lack of knowledge is cleared by 30 (21.6%) faculty members while accessing N-LIST E-resources. 25 (18%) faculty members are facing the problem of language, and 16 (11.5%) declared the problem of difficulty in finding relevant information, 9 (6.5%) having the problem of

limited number of computers, 7 (5%) indicating the problem of lack of assistance by library staff and 5 (3.6%). It indicates that slow speed of internet is the major problem faced by the faculty members while accessing N-LIST e-resources at their college campus followed by lack of knowledge of handling the N-LIST E-resources, language, difficulty in finding relevant information, limited number of computers, frequent power cuts are the problem faced by most of the faculty members. The problem of slow speed of Internet and frequent power cuts should be overlooked by the college authority by providing good internet connection and strong power back up. Few faculty members are facing the problem of difficulty in finding relevant information which indicates to improve the searching skills of the faculty members by the library staff. It also specifies the necessity of frequent user education or in- house training by the library staff and the improvement in ICT infrastructural facilities are somewhat helpful to overcome the problems faced by the faculty members

Table 9: Problems faced while accessing N-List Consortium

Problems	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Lack of Knowledge	30	21.6%
Limited Number of Computers	9	6.5%
Slow speed of Internet	47	33.8
Frequent Power Cut	5	3.6%
Language	25	18%
Lack of Assistance by Library Staff	7	5%
Difficulty in finding relevant information	16	11.5%

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis and discussion the following suggestions have been made to improve the access and usage of the e-resources under N-LIST consortium:

1. Colleges should focus on strengthening the infrastructure so that the faculties can have access to the N-LIST resources. Increasing the numbers of computers with internet connectivity in the library can be helpful in promoting the use of N-LIST e-resources.
2. Colleges should increase the existing Internet bandwidth which could be helpful in solving the issue of slow connectivity to the resources.
3. Library should organize regular orientation / training programs for faculty members to increase the awareness and better use of N-LIST E-resources. For that they can arrange seminars, classroom session, personal assistant etc. Library needs to come out with some marketing plans to make them aware of the resources.
4. Proper training in searching the information on the N-LIST can be helpful in making the faculty members more independent in searching the pin-pointed information from the N-LIST resources.
5. Library can develop various searching modules which can be uploaded on the website so that it can be helpful to the faculty members and other users of the library in upgrading their searching skills.

CONCLUSION

N-LIST is achieving reputation and more colleges are taking membership of this programme day by day. N-LIST e-resources are performing gradually significant role in education and research of the academic colleges. The library authorities should conduct awareness and orientation programmes about N-LIST E-resources for the Faculties and through this the librarian should teach the advanced search skills to the faculty members which will make their searching easier in N-LIST E-resources. It is also revealed that slow speed of internet, lack of knowledge of handling the N-LIST E-resources, language, trouble in finding appropriate information, limited number of computers, frequent power cuts are the major challenges threatening the use of N-LIST e-resources of the Library. The difficulties faced by the faculties while using the N-LIST Consortium should be considered and overcome by the N-LIST authorities, college authorities and the librarians. As a result, N-LIST consortia will be successfully travel towards connecting the digital divide and helps the faculty members of the academic colleges to move towards information rich society. The availability of scholarly information in N-LIST consortia to the faculty members of the colleges would guide to growth in research output in terms of research papers.

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APPENDIX - I

Sl. No.	Name of the College	Address
1	Arvind B. Telang Sr. College of Arts, Science., & Commerce	Nigdi- Pradhikaran, Pune
2	ATSS'S CBSCA	C-2-MIDC Cinchwad Station, Pune
3	Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce	845, Shivajinagar, Pune
4	D.Y. Patil ACS College	S.T. Nagar, Pimpri, Pune
5	DES Shri Navalmal Firodia Law College	Gate no.3,FC Campus,FC Road, Pune
6	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College	25, Shinde Sarkar Wada, Aundh, Pune
7	Fergusson College	Shivajinagar Pune
8	H.G.M. Azam College of Education	Azam Campus, Camp, Pune
9	Haribhai.V. Desai Arts, Com. & sci. College	596, Budhwar Peth, Pune
10	ILS Law College	Chiplunkar Road, Pune
11	Indira College of Comm. & Science	85/5A, Tathawade Pune
12	Karve Institute of Social Service	18, Hillside, Karvenagar, Pune
13	M. C. E. Society's Abeda Inamdar Sr. College	2390, K. B. Hidayatullah Road Pune
14	M. U. College of Commerce	Pimpri, Pune
15	MACS College	124, Paud Road, Pune
16	MITSOM College	Paud Road, Kothrud Pune
17	Modern College of Arts, Science & Comm.	Ganeshkhind, Pune
18	Modern Education Society's Ness Wadia College of Commerce	Late Prin. V.K. Joag path, Pune
19	New Law Academy (A.K.K. New Law Academy)	Azam Campus, Pune
20	Nowrosjee Wadia College	19, Late V.K. Jog Path, Band garden Road Pune
21	P.E.S. Modern College Pharmacy	Sec. 21, Yamunanagar, Nigdi, Pune
22	PDEA's Baburaoji Gholap College	New Sangvi, Pune
23	PE Society's Modern College of Arts, Science & Commerce	Shivjinagar, Pune
24	PES Modern Law College	Ganeshkhind, University Circle, Pune
25	Poona College of Arts Commerce and Science	Camp Pune
26	Pratibha College of Commerce & Computer Studies	Kalbhoar Nagar Chinchwad-Pune
27	Ramkrishna More College	Sector No. 22, Ganganagar, Akurdi, Pune
28	Shri Shahu Mandir Mahavidyalaya	Parvati, Pune
29	Shri Siddhivinayak Mahila Mahavidyalay	Karve Nagar Pune
30	Sinhgad College of Science	Ambegaon bk. Pune