

## AWARENESS AND USAGE OF N-LIST BY MINORITY INSTITUTIONS GRADUATE STUDENTS IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT: A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

The Project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)", being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for i) cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGCINFONET resources for technical institutions; and ii) access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. This paper explained awareness and usage of N-LIST by minority institutions graduate students in Ramanathapuram district.

**Key words:** *N-LIST, E-Resource, Consortium, UGC-INFONET.*

### INTRODUCTION:

The information and communication technologies have made radical changes in the conventional system of information processing/dissemination and most of the universities with their multiple campuses are migrating e-resources by becoming the members of consortia. Consortia are distributing scholarly e-resources packaged by the publishers to their member institutions in huge quantities and the institutions are experiencing the heavy

downpour of scholarly resources than ever before. The usage metrics also have been revealing the facts and figures of the usage of databases though the usage pattern is varied for every database and also according to the titles bundled in them. Thus it is essential to examine the usage pattern of the databases in relation to the usefulness of the resources assessing their levels of usefulness.

### About N-LIST:

The N-LIST project has four distinct components, i.e. i) to subscribe and provide access to selected UGC-INFONET e-resources to technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs) and monitor its usage; ii) to subscribe and provide access to selected INDEST e-resources to selected universities and monitor its usage; iii) to subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to 6,000 Govt./ Govt.-aided colleges and monitor its usage; and iv) to act as a Monitoring Agency for colleges and evaluate, promote, impart training and

monitor all activities involved in the process of providing effective and efficient access to e-resources to colleges.

The INDEST and UGC-INFONET are jointly responsible for activity listed at i) and ii) above. The INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad is responsible for activities listed at iii) and iv) above. The INFLIBNET Centre is also responsible for developing and deploying appropriate software tools and techniques for authenticating authorized users.

NOTE: From Year 2014, N-LIST Programme is subsumed under UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium as college Component. The colleges (except

Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) in India are eligible to get access e-resources under N-LIST Programme

### Current status of N-LIST

As on Mar 31 2015, a total number of 4493 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 4083 Govt. / Govt.-aided colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F of UGC Act as well as Non-Aided colleges. Log-in ID and password for accessing e-resources

has been sent to the authorized users from these 4083 colleges. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible to these 4083 colleges through the N-LIST website.

### Review of Literature

**Namrata M Joshi (2014)** conducted a survey Awareness and Use of UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium-Resources in Universities of Gujarat State. He found that 57.20 percent of the users are aware and use the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium E- resources, whereas 31.16 percent are aware, but do not use and 11.62 percent are not at all aware of the availability of the consortium resources. The majority of non-users belong to social sciences and humanities and those who have not undergone any type formal computer training. Comparatively the users from science stream use the consortium resources more frequently than those belonging to social science and humanities. Lack of knowledge to use, slow internet bandwidth, lack of time to visit university library and cannot access this consortium on ID/Passwords are found to be the major problem faced. Providing training and giving access to ID/Password to its users will make maximum use of the consortium.

**Jayanti Chakravorty (2014)** examined about E-resources Consortia: An Urgent Need for College Libraries in Cachar

District. The study shows that, libraries of all the colleges established in the last three decades, precisely in between 1973 to 2014 suffer from inadequacy of library holdings, extreme budgetary crunch and non-availability of ICT tools. Count of such libraries is 10 out of 17, constituting 60% of college libraries in the District. It was noticed during our library visits that, these libraries have very poor infrastructure, many libraries do not have proper shelf arrangement or adequate Reading Room facility.

**Suseela (2014)** surveyed UGC Infonet digital library consortium resources: An analytical study of usage pattern in university of Hyderabad. The study stated that availability of electronic information resources in the form of full text collections/databases and usage is two different factors, however the credibility of the collection lies in their utility. The above findings indicate that 92% of usage of titles (e-resources) from the UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium databases wherein 9 databases were utilized 100% during 2010-2012. These observations are remarkable

and highlighting the efforts of the consortium, member institutions and also to the academic fraternity.

**Sharad Kumar, Anubhav Shah, Jyoti Shukla (2014)** examined Use of Ugc Infonet Digital Consortium by Users of Central University of Allahabad. The study shows that satisfaction level of users. 37.35% (133) user are very satisfied with E-resources available in UGC Infonet consortia. 28.93% (103) user are somewhat satisfied. 14.04% (50) user are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 17.97% (64) user are satisfied with e-resources available in UGC Infonet consortia. Also shows the purposes behind accessing the UGC-Infonet by the participants. On the basis of collecting surveyed data is observed that 49.71 % (177) user participants are accessing E-resources for teaching and research, 53.93 % (192) user used e-resources are education and study, 34.26% (122) updating knowledge, 1.96% (7) any other use.

**Pramanathan & Baskaran (2014)** studied about E- resources of UGC- Infonet access by the research scholars of Bharathidasan University. Aim of the study is to bring that assess the use of electronic information resources among the research scholars at the Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. The study is based only on the research scholars of Arts, Science, Social Science, Management and Education faculties in Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli. The survey should be replicated on a larger sample for generalization for observing the electronic resources its utilization trends among the research scholars to obtain the relevant their research information.

**Bakkiaraj & Sathiyamurthy (2014)** A Study on Use of E-Resources and

UGC – INFONET Consortium by Faculties, Research Scholars and Post Graduate Students of Annamalai University, Tamilnadu. In order to improve the usage of e-resources, suggestions were obtained from the respondents. The highest 86.32 percent of the teaching staff, 88.84 percent of research scholars and 83.74 percent of students suggested that “Inform the users frequently of what is available” whereas the 83.52 percent of students and 80.00 percent of research scholars suggested to “provide workshops and classes” for effective use of e-resources for their study and research. It is found that majority of teaching staff, research scholars and students opinioned as number e-journals need through UGC – Infonet consortium. It is also found that majority of the respondents graded the UGC – Infonet consortium as ‘good’.

**Bal Ram & Bhaskar Karn (2014)** carried a Study of U.G.C. Infonet E-Resources Consortia in Universities of Eastern India. They found shows that the streams of respondents. Here 13% respondents are belongs to Social Science stream, 6% respondents are belongs are Humanities and 81% respondents belongs Science and Engineering streams, so it is clear that the number of respondents are much more than others streams respondents. Also found that the frequency of users to visit central library in a week. 14% users visits only once in a week, 16% users 2-3 times in a week, 11% users 4-5 times in a week 35% users daily visits and 24% users occasionally visit in central library for fulfillment their needs. It shows the awareness of users about Library & Information services. The blue line graph indicates the awareness about services and red line of graph indicates not aware about services.

## Background of the study

In Ramanathapuram district has three minority institutions (Arts and Science Colleges). That is Gousanal college of Arts and Science, Muthupettai. It is running a Christian mission. Other two is Muslim

intuitions. That is Thassim Beevi college of Arts and Science, Keelakarai and Dr.Zahir Hussain College of Arts and Science, Ilaiyankudi. These three colleges affiliated by Alagappa University.

## Objective of this study

1. To know the awareness of N-LIST among Ramanathapuram minority institutions arts and Science students.
2. To find the source from which students know the Information about N-LIST.
3. To find the frequency of Use of N-LIST.
4. To identify the purpose of using N-LIST.
5. To collect th opinions about e journal collection in N-LIST.
6. To analyze the search strategies while using N-LIST.

## Research Methodology

To examine the utilization of N-LIST by the minority institution student of Ramanathapuram district, a survey was conducted through questionnaire method. The questionnaire was prepared after careful review of literature. In Ramanathapuram districts has three minority colleges. The researcher distributed 70 questionnaires each college. Totally 210 questionnaire were

distributed. Simple random sampling technique was used for this study. The completed questionnaire was personally collected from respondents after one week. In total 179 (85%) questionnaire were received back as complete and relevant for analysis. Calculations have been made manually for analyzing the responses. The graphs have been prepared using MS- Excel.

## Data Analysis and Interpretation

The questionnaires prepared for the study were distributed to 210 both Arts and Science faculty students. . Table 1 shows that 105 questionnaire distributed to Arts, 81 received and response rate for the survey is

77%. 105 questionnaires distributed to Science students and 98 were received from them. The response rate is 93%. Over all respondents response is 85%.

**Faculty wise respondents**

Faculty	Questionnaire Issued	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
Arts	105	81	77.1
Science	105	98	93.3
Total	210	179	85.2

**Table 1- Faculty wise Respondents****Familiarity of N-LIST among the respondents**

Familiarity of N-LIST	Responses	Percentage
YES	166	92.7
No	13	7.3
Total	179	100

**Table 2: Familiarity of N-LIST among the respondents**

Table 2 shows that 166 Arts and Science students are familiar about N-LIST e resources and only 13 students are

unfamiliar with N-LIST e resources. The response rate is 92.7%.

**Sources of Information about N-LIST**

Sources	Responses	Percentage
User Education Programs	96	53.6
Library professionals	31	17.3
Library Web site	7	3.9
Friends	14	7.8
Faculty	19	10.6
Others	12	6.7
Total	179	100

**Table -3- Sources of Information about N-LIST**

It is evident from the Table3, 53.6% graduate students responded that the User education program is the best source to get information about N-LIST- e resources. The 17.3%, 10.6%, 7.8%, 6.7% and 3.9% are using other sources by minority institutions Arts and Science students like through library

professionals, faculty, friends, other sources finally library website.

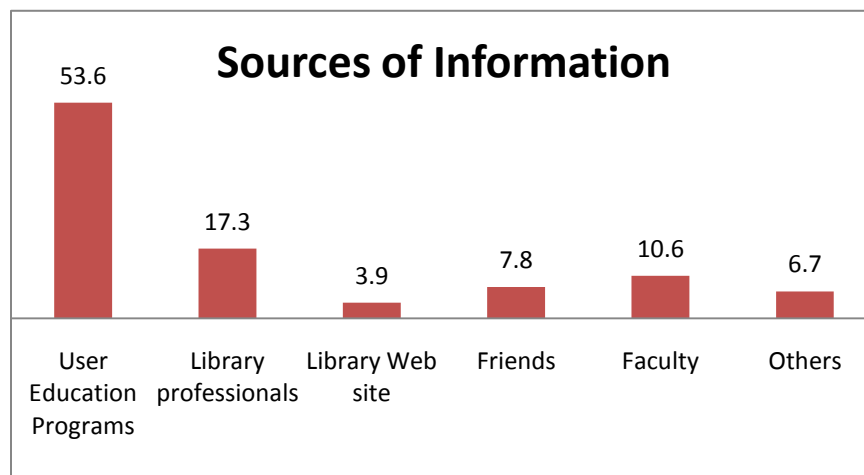


Figure 1- Sources of Information

### Frequency of Use

Frequency	Responses	Percentage
Daily	77	43.0
Once a week	52	29.1
Several times a week	24	13.4
A couple of time a month	16	8.9
Less often	10	5.6
Total	179	100

Table -4- Frequency of Use

Table 4 shows that the majority of respondents 43% (77) browse the N-LIST – e resources daily. The 29.1%, 13.4%, 8.9%, and 5.6% of respondents are using E

journals in N-LIST as once in a week, Several times a week, A couple of time a month, and less often respectively.

### Purpose of Using N-LIST

Purpose	Responses	Percentage
Keep up to date subject Knowledge	103	57.5
To take notes	77	43.0
To prepare and complete assignments	92	51.4
To research (Project Work)	64	35.7
To utilize the various databases	33	18.4
To class work	69	38.5
For Academic carrier development	62	34.6
Any other	24	13.4

Table -5- Purpose of using N-LIST

It is evident from the Table 5, the majority of respondents using the e resources for their keep up to date subject knowledge purpose. Followed by 51.5% to prepare and complete assignments, 43% of respondents to take

notes, 38.5% of respondents to class work, 35% of respondents for project work, 34% of respondents for academic carrier development and other 13% respectively.

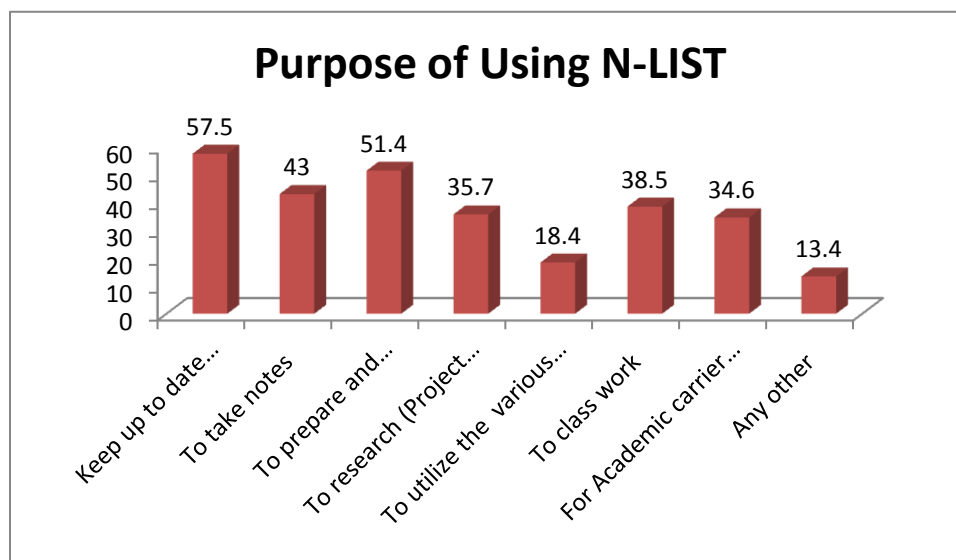


Figure 2- Sources of Information

#### Place of access N-LIST consortium

Place	Responses	Percentage
College library	122	68.2
Department	43	24.0
College computer Centre	14	7.8
Other place (If any..)	0	0

Table -6- Place of Access N-LIST Consortium

Table 6 shows that majority of the responses 68.2% are using the college library for browsing N-LIST. The department college computer Centre and other location are

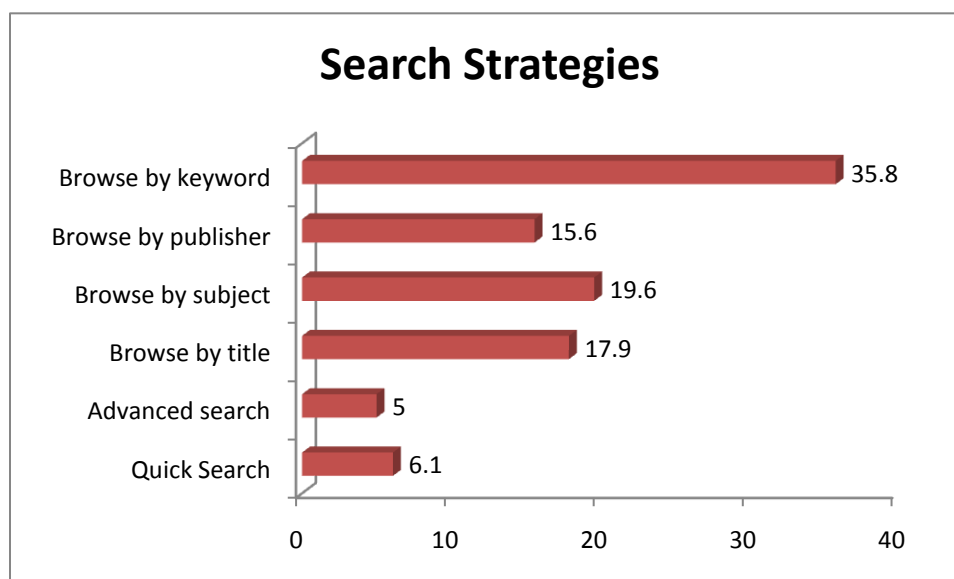
using by the respondents as 24%, 7.8% and 0 respectively. The N-LIST is not able to access at other location because N-LIST is configured with Institution IP only.

#### Most used search strategies to access N-LIST

Search Strategies	Responses	Percentage
Quick Search	11	6.1
Advanced search	9	5.0
Browse by title	32	17.9
Browse by subject	35	19.6
Browse by publisher	28	15.6



Browse by keyword	64	35.8
Total	179	100

**Table -6- Place of Access N-LIST Consortium****Figure 3- Searching Strategies.**

It is evident from the Figure 3, 35.8% of respondents using the Key word search to access the E –resources in N-LIST. The 19.6% respondents browsing by subject, 17.9% of respondents browsing by title,

15.6% of the respondents browse by publisher, 6.1% of respondents using quick search and 5% is using advanced search respectively.

#### **Need for hands on training**

Hands on Training	Responses	Percentage
Yes	173	96.6
No	06	3.4
Total	179	100

**Table -7- Need for hands on Training**

Table 7 shows that 96% respondents of student's needs hands on training for to access e - resources N-LIST effectively. The

3.4% of respondents does not require training to access the e - resources.

#### **Opinion about E-Journal collection in N-LIST**



Opinion	Responses	Percentage
Excellent	112	62.6
Good	45	25.1
Moderate	20	11.2
Poor	2	1.1
Total	179	100

**Table-8- Opinion about E-Journal collection In N-LIST**

It is evident that the majority of the Arts and Science Students in minority institutions expressed their opinion about N-LIST e

journal collection is excellent. The 25.1%, 11.1% and 1.1% of responses of students are good, moderate and poor respectively.

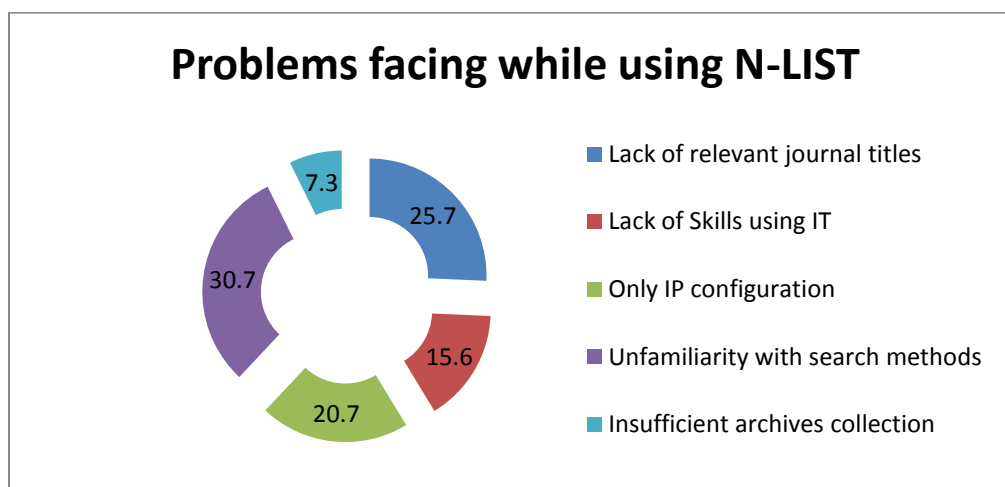
#### Problems faced while using N-LIST

Problems	Responses	Percentage
Lack of relevant journal titles	46	25.7
Lack of Skills using IT	28	15.6
Only IP configuration	37	20.7
Unfamiliarity with search methods	55	30.7
Insufficient archives collection	13	7.3
Total	179	100

**Table-9- Problems faced while using N-LIST**

Table 9 shows that 30.7% respondents faced unfamiliarity with search methods problem. Followed by 25% of lack of relevant journal titles, 20% of IP

configuration, 15.6% of lack of using IT skills and 7.3% of respondents' insufficient archives collection.



### Findings of the study

1. This study found that 166 Arts and Science students are familiar about N-LIST e resources and only 13 students are unfamiliar with N-LIST e resources. The response rate is 92.7%.
2. 53.6% graduate students responded that the User education program is the best source to get information about N-LIST- e resources. The 17.3%, 10.6%, 7.8%, 6.7% and 3.9% are using other sources by minority institutions Arts and Science students like through library professionals, faculty, friends, other sources finally library website.
3. 57% of the majority of respondents using the e resources for their keep up to date subject knowledge purpose. Followed by 51.5% to prepare and complete assignments, 43% of respondents to take notes, 38.5% of respondents to class work, 35% of respondents for project work, 34% of respondents for academic carrier development and other 13% respectively.
4. 35.8% of respondents using the Key word search to access the E –resources in N-LIST. The 19.6% respondents browsing by subject, 17.9% of respondents browsing by title, 15.6% of the respondents browse by publisher, 6.1% of respondents using quick search and 5% is using advanced search respectively.
5. 30.7% respondents faced unfamiliarity with search methods problem. Followed by 25% of lack of relevant journal titles, 20% of IP configuration, 15.6% of lack of using IT skills and 7.3% of respondents insufficient archives collection.

### Conclusion

The study has conducted N-LIST to assess the availability of resources, user awareness, and available infrastructure in Ramanathapuram districts minority institutions. The government spends a big amount to make sure availability of electronic resources in Arts and Science college libraries. The study has shown the importance of electronic resources in development of education and quality of research. The users reply well and found that users aware about electronic resources as well as N-LIST consortia, they need more availability of electronic resources in libraries. One thing notable here user's

compatibility with print resources is better than electronic resources. To enhance the use of consortia more user's awareness program organized and up gradation of existing library services for maximum use of electronic resources is necessary. One more things about the users are more and more aware about library services but so many problems faced for avail the services. So that we can say the users is partially satisfied with N-LIST consortia and wants more and more advancement in the context of facilities, infrastructures and availability of electronic resources.

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