

Use and Awareness of N-List Resources among Students of SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Chitradurga, Karnataka: A Study

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Abstract: *This study examines the Use and Awareness of N-List resources by the Students in SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce Chitradurga. A survey method was adopted for this study and a well-structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the students of SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce. The survey revealed that 97% of respondents have an awareness of N-List e-resources. More than 75% of respondents got awareness about N-List through a user education program conducted by the library. 77% of respondents use N-List resources daily. 'Annual reviews', 'Cambridge University Press' and 'Royal Society of Chemistry' are the most popular e-journals used by the respondents through N-List consortia. Moreover, the E-resources accessed through the N-list program satisfy the majority of respondents. This study recommends that library staff need to conduct periodic orientation and user education programs to create more awareness among library users about E-resources available through N-List Consortia.*

Keywords: Access to E-Resources, Libraries, N-List, Consortia, INFLIBNET, Digital resources

1. Introduction

Academic libraries are considered as an important and prestigious part of any academic institution. Academic libraries provide access to information to support teaching, learning, and research activities. College library plays an important role in providing overall library and information services to the users. However, the rapid growth of information, (both in print and digital) development of scholarly publishing, and the growing cost of resources posed many challenges for libraries to purchase every type of resource in the library. (Kaur, G.2018). In the present electronic era, e-resources have played an important role in education. Academic libraries often prefer e-resources to substitute print resources for maximum use. Especially e-journals and e-books have become widely popular among library users. Many efforts have been made in the past few years to overcome the financial crunch by resource sharing through consortia. (Solanki, M. R.2016). N-LIST resources are considered a vital part of college libraries. E-Resources are very expensive and individual college libraries can't subscribe to all e-resources. Thus, the N-list consortium provides e-resources to college libraries at a very low cost. (Kumar, P. R. S., et al 2018) The majority of colleges in India are subscribing to N-List e-resources. In this context, an attempt has been made to examine the use and awareness of N-list resources among the SJM College of Arts Science & Commerce, Chitradurga

2. About the Institution:

Sri Jagadguru Murugarajendra College of Arts Science & Commerce, Chitradurga was popularly known as SJM College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Chitradurga. It was established on 1st June 1969 by S. J. M. Vidyapeetha (R.)

which was established in 1966. It is one of the premier institution established to impart & provide higher education for deserving candidates. The college is at present affiliated with Davangere University, earlier affiliated with Kuvempu University, Shivamogga and it is recognized by the UGC under section 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act.1956. It is re-accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with "A" Grade on 28th, March 2017.

3. About N-List Consortia

National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content popularly known as N-LIST executed by the INFLIBNET Centre Gandhinagar provides for subscription to e-resources such as e-books and e-journals. 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. It gives access to more than 2 lakh e-books and more than 6300 e-journal titles. The authorized users from colleges can 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. More than 5100 colleges in the country have registered with the N-LIST Programme, which includes more than 3900 Government/Government aided colleges covered under section 12B/2F of the UGC Act and Non-Aided colleges. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible to these 3900+ colleges through the N-LIST website <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>.

Volume 12 Issue 9, September 2023

www.ijsr.net

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4. Literature Review

A study conducted by **Thanuskodi and Ravi (2011)** that revealed awareness should be created about electronic information resources to obtain current information. Users also felt that certain programs need to be conducted by the university administration to train its library staff on ICT with particular reference to the use of electronic information resources. **Sohil (2011)** opined that electronic information resources bring out new challenges before the library professionals. The study has mentioned that conducting proper orientation training programs about the UGC Info-net consortium can improve the usage of available resources. The infrastructure facility should be developed to meet the user's requirements in maximum ways. **Newmon and Sengar (2016)** discussed the knowledge of digital libraries and e-resources among users. They opined that electronic information resources play an important role in libraries and they are mostly tuned for the promotion of academic excellence and research. **Saikia, A. (2017)** conducted a study the study suggested that students need to be trained in using advanced search options available in the search menu of N-LIST resources to get relevant information. The Library and Information Centre should organize seminars, workshops and orientation programmes for students for accessing N-LIST e-resources at regular intervals. **Mamatha, S. N. (2022)** Observed in her study that the majority of respondents accessed e-resources once in week. A large number of respondents prefer e-journals and e-books than other e-resources. An average number of respondents have knowledge of ICT. More numbers of respondents are accessing e-resources for their seminar/assignment and project work purposes. A major portion of respondents expressed that lack of knowledge about e-resources and accessing skills, limited accessibilities, too much information and limited power supply are the major problems faced by the users.

5. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To know the use and awareness of N-LIST among students of SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Chitradurga.
- 2) To find out the frequency of use of N-LIST e-resources
- 3) To identify the purpose of using N-LIST resources
- 4) To collect the opinions about benefits of e – resources of N-LIST Consortia
- 5) To know the satisfaction level of users towards N-LIST resources.

6. Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope and limitation of the study are confined to knowing the use and awareness of N-List e-resources among the students of SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Chitradurga. The respondents of the study are limited to only students belonging to of Arts, Science and Commerce, departments.

7. Methodology

The purpose of this study is to analyse the use and access of N-List e-resources among the students of students of SJM College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Chitradurga. For this purpose, a survey method was adopted and a well – structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed among the students of Arts, Science and Commerce faculty. A simple random sampling technique was used to collect the data from the respondents. A total of 659 questionnaires were distributed 610 received back then the response rate was 92.56%. The collected data has been organized and represented in the form of tables. Analysis and interpretation were done based on tabulated data.

8. Data Analysis and Interpretation

8.1. Distribution of sample

Table 1: Faculty-wise distribution of Sample

Sl. No	Faculty	Questionnaire Issued	Questionnaire Received	Percentage %
1	Arts,	218	200	91.74%
2	Science	188	170	90.42%
2	Commerce	252	240	95.23%
	Total	659	610	92.56%

Table-1 shows the faculty-wise distribution of the Sample. A total of 659 questionnaires were distributed to Arts, Science and Commerce students and 610 were received and the response rate is 92.56%. As far as faculty-wise response is concerned, 95.23% of commerce students 91.74% of arts students and 90.42% of science students participated in the survey.

8.2. Awareness of N-LIST among the respondents

Table 2: Awareness of N-LIST among the respondents

Sl. No	Awareness of N-LIST	Responses	Percentage %
1	Yes	590	96.72%
2	No	20	3.28%
	Total	610	100%

Table-2 shows the awareness of N-LIST among the respondents. Out of 610 students 590 (96.72) students are familiar with N-LIST e-resources and only 20 (3.28%) students are not aware of N-LIST e-resources. It shows that the majority of students have awareness about N-List e-resources.

8.3. Sources of Information about N-LIST

Table 3: Sources of Information about N-LIST

Sl. No	Sources	Responses	Percentage
1	User Education Programme	460	75.40
2	Library Professionals	26	4.26
3	Faculty Members	18	2.95
4	Library Web site	56	9.18
5	Friends	40	6.55
6	Others	10	1.63
	Total	610	100

Table-3-depicts the sources of Information about N-LIST resources. It is evident from the above table, that 75.40 % of graduate students responded that the User education program is the main source to get information about N-LIST e-resources. Whereas 9.18% of students get information about N-List through the library website, the rest of the students got information from Library staff, faculty members and friends.

8.4. Frequency of Use of N-List Resources

Table 4: Frequency of Use of N-List Resources

Sl. No	Frequency	Responses	Percentage
1	Daily	468	76.72
2	Alternative Days	68	11.14
3	Weekly	56	9.18
4	When need arises	18	2.95
	Total	610	100

Table-4 indicates the frequency of use of N-List resources. Among 610 students, 468 (76.72%) of student use N-List daily, whereas 68 (11.14%) students use it once on alternative days 56 (9.18%) students use it weekly and only 18 (2.95) students use N-List resources whenever the need arises. It is clear from the above table that the majority of respondents use N-List on a daily basis.

8.5. Use of E-Journals

Table 5: Use of E-Journals

S. No.	E-Journals	Responses	Percentage
1	American Institute of Physics (18 titles)	88	14.42
2	American Physical Society (10 titles)	90	14.75
3	Annual Reviews (33 titles)	142	23.27
4	Cambridge University Press (224 titles)	132	21.63
5	Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) (1 title)	78	12.78
6	Indian Journals (150 titles)	98	16.06
7	Institute of Physics (46 titles)	65	10.65
8	JSTOR (2000 titles)	84	13.77
9	Oxford University Press (206 titles)	95	15.57
10	Royal Society of Chemistry (29 titles)	120	19.67
11	H. W. Wilson (1420 titles)	84	13.77

Table-5 indicates the use of e-journals of N-List Consortia by the respondents.11 aggregators provide the accessibility of e-journals through the N-List among them, the majority of students used 'annual reviews' and Cambridge University Press' e-journals followed by 'Royal Society of chemistry' and 'American physical society'.

8.6. Use of E-Books

Table 6: Use of E-Books

Sl. No.	E-Journals	Responses	Percentage
1	Cambridge Books Online (1800 titles)	140	22.95
2	E-library (83000+ titles)	142	23.27
3	EBSCOHost-Net Library (936 titles)	130	21.31
4	Hindustan Book Agency (65+ titles)	99	16.22

5	Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books (382+ titles)	140	22.95
6	Oxford Scholarship (1402+ titles)	120	19.67
7	Springer eBooks (2300 titles)	100	16.39
8	Sage Publication eBooks (1000 titles)	110	18.03
9	Taylor Francis eBooks (1800 titles)	135	22.13
10	My library-McGraw Hill (1124 titles)	125	20.49

Table-6 shows the use of e-books under the N-List program.10 aggregators provide e-book accessibility under the N-List program. The respondents of the study are more or less equally using e-books of all aggregators. 'Cambridge books online', 'e-brary', 'EBSCO Host-Net', 'Taylor and Francis e-books', and 'My library-McGraw Hill' are popular.

8.7. Purpose of Using N-LIST

Table 7: Purpose of Using N-LIST

S. No	Purpose	Students	Percentage
1	For assignment	60	9.83
2	Reading/writing research papers	50	8.20
3	Preparing /accessing teaching resources	52	8.52
4	Prepare Project/Dissertation/Theses	198	32.45
5	Preparation for Seminar, conference and workshop	45	7.37
6	For collecting general information	55	9.01
7	To read journal articles pertaining to their subjects	150	24.59
	Total	610	100

Table-7 clearly depicts the purpose of using N-List e-resources by the respondents. The above table clearly shows that 198 (32.45%) of students use N-List resources 'to prepare project/ Dissertation/thesis' followed by 150 (24.59%) of students using N-list for 'reading journal articles pertaining to their subjects'. An average 8% to 10% of students use N-List resources for assignments, reading/writing research papers, preparing for teaching and preparation for seminars, conferences and workshops.

8.8. Benefits of N-LIST E-Resources

Table 8: Benefits of N-LIST E-Resources

S. No	Benefits	Students	Percentage
1	Time-saving	58	09.50
2	A better source of information	65	10.65
3	Access to up-to-date information	45	07.37
4	Improvement in the professional work	52	08.52
5	Information available in various formats as per the need	50	08.19
6	Easy to download from anywhere	120	19.67
7	Easy backup availability	140	22.95
8	Portability of e-resources	30	04.91
9	24/7 access to electronic resources	50	08.19
	Total	610	100

Table-8 clearly shows the benefits of N-List e-resources to the respondents. From the above table, it is clear that 140 (22.95%) students opined that 'easy backup availability' followed by 120 (19.67%) students who opined that 'easy to download from anywhere' whereas 65 (10.65%) students felt that 'time-saving' and 'better source of information' 52

(8.52%) students responded that 'improvement in the professional work'.

8.9. Level of satisfaction with N-LIST

Table 9: Level of Satisfaction with N-LIST Resources

Sl. No	Satisfaction level	Student	Percentage
1	Extremely satisfied	125	20.49
2	Satisfied	100	16.39
3	Moderately satisfied	140	22.95
4	Slightly satisfied	120	19.67
5	Not at all satisfied	125	20.49
	Total	610	100

Table-9 clearly shows the satisfaction level of respondents with N-List e-resources. Of a total of 610 students, 140 (22.95%) students were 'moderately satisfied' followed by 125 (20.49%) students 'extremely satisfied' and 120 (19.67%) students were slightly satisfied at the same time 125 (20.49%) of students not at all satisfied by the N-List resources.

9. Findings, Discussion and Conclusion

Based on the above analysis of data, the study revealed that nearly 97% of respondents have awareness of N-List e-resources because more than 75% of respondents got awareness about N-List through user education programs conducted by the library. In addition, 77% of respondents use N-List resources daily. 'Annual reviews, 'Cambridge University Press' and 'Royal Society of Chemistry' are the most popular e-journals used by the respondents through N-List consortia. The e-books accessed through 'Cambridge Book Online', 'e-brary', 'EBSCO Host-net library', 'Taylor and Francis' and 'My library McGraw Hills' are the most popular e-books used by the respondents. At the same time majority of respondents used N-List resources for 'preparation of their project/dissertation', to 'read journal articles pertaining to their subjects', 'easy backup available', 'easy to download', 'time-saving', 'up-to-date information' are the major benefits of N-List resources. Moreover, the E-resources accessed through the N-list program satisfy the majority of respondents. Based on the above finding this study recommends that library staff need to conduct periodic orientation and user education programs to create more awareness among library users about E-resources available through N-List consortia. Moreover, Library professionals need to undergo training and workshops about use of online resources.

It can be concluded that e-resources accessed through N-List consortia are enormous and very useful to the academic community.

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