# Evaluating the Impact of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) on the Usage and Budget Allocation for Subscription-Based E-Journals in an Academic Library: A Questionnaire-based Survey of Finance Perspectives

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**Abstract:** *One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) is an initiative of the Indian Government. An initiative launched in January 2025 to make high-quality global research available to everyone in the academic community for free. This questionnaire- based survey was conducted to assess ONOS awareness among university students, their knowledge of the services offered by the library, the frequency of their visits to the library, their satisfaction with the library's collection, and their suggestions for improvement. It also measured the impact of ONOS usage and budget allocation for subscription-based e-journals.*

**Keywords:** Digital research, Directory of Open Access Journals, Web-based Online Public Access, consortia

## 1. Introduction

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) is a government initiative to provide all university students, teachers, and researchers (from government institutions) with a single, easy- to-use digital key to access thousands of top international research journals and articles, rather than each college purchasing separate, expensive subscriptions. For example, it's like getting one library card for the whole country's best digital research, saving money and boosting innovation for India's vision of becoming a developed nation. In this survey, all primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of information were searched. The study of survey on "Evaluating the Impact of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) on the Usage and Budget Allocation for Subscription-Based E-Journals in an Academic Library: A questionnaire-based survey of finance perspectives" in general, and in the field of library and information science particular revealed several efforts made by the scholars in different discipline like management, commerce, economic field. The purpose of the survey is to collect a lot of number of journal articles about a particular topic, such as I have collected thirty-six articles with abstracts. The main aim of this collection is to provide a guideline and brief information to researchers, user an dot her person who want information about this topic.

## 2. Objective

Main objectives are given below:
1) To evaluate the impact of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) on the usage and budget allocation for subscription- based e-journals in an academic library of a university.
2) Pooling of resources so that all students get access to a large number of publications through One Nation One Subscription.

**Hypothesis**
H0: The transition to a centralized national subscription model does not lead to significant cost savings compared to the previous fragmented institutional and consortia-based payment systems.
H1: By leveraging the collective bargaining power of the entire nation, the ONOS model significantly reduces total government expenditure on journal subscriptions by eliminating duplicate payments and securing lower national license rates.

**Abbreviations and Acronyms**
ABSEES - American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies
ACE - Academic Computing Environment
AgNIC - Agriculture Network Information Center
CD-ROM - Compact Disc Read Only Memory
DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals
DL - Digital Library
FAQ - Frequently Asked questions
ILL - Inter Library Loan
LBS - Liverpool Business School
LIS - Library and Information Science
ILL - Inter Library Loan
UAEU - United Arab Emirates University
USA - United States of America
USC - University of Southern California
Web OPAC - Web-based Online Public Access Catalogue

## 3. ONOS: Historical Development

One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS), an initiative pro-posed by the Government of India, aims to provide countrywide access to national and international scientific and academic content.
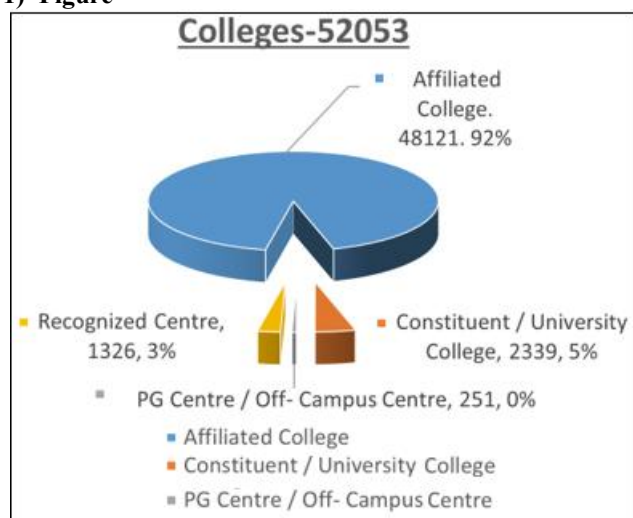
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1) **Figure**



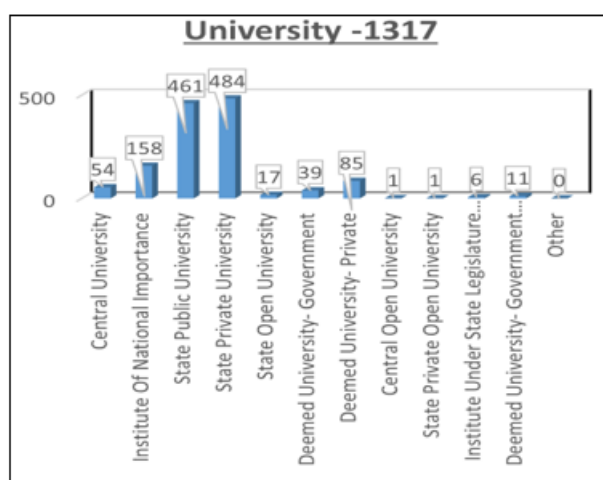**Figure 1:** Colleges 52053



**Figure 2:** University 1317



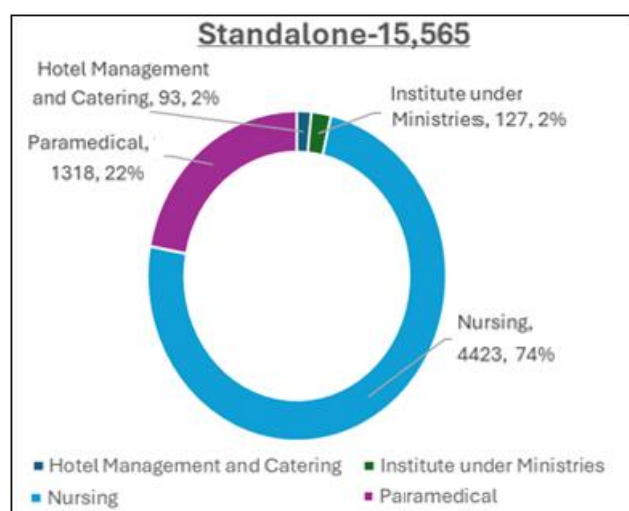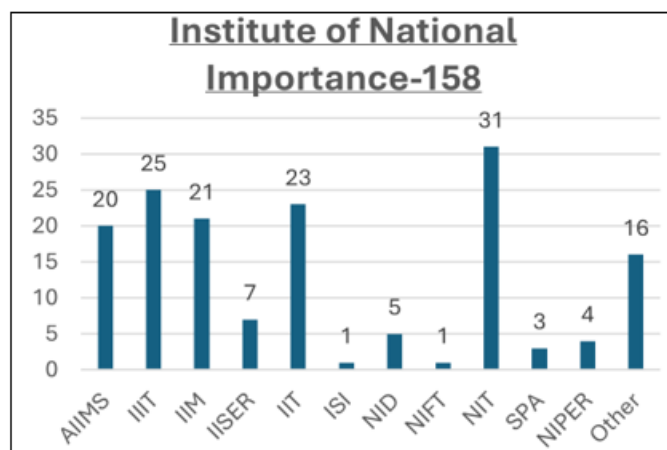**Figure 3:** Standalone 15565



**Figure 4:** Institute of National Importance-158

**Table 1**

| Category | (Pre-PM-ONOS) | (Post-PM-ONOS) | Growth |
|---|---|---|---|
| Academic | 56.7 Lakh Users | 177.82 Lakhs Users | ↑121.12 Lakhs |
| Instt. Reach | 2,360 Institutions | 6,316 Institutions | ↑3952 |
| Research Re | 8,079 Journals | 12,957 Journals | ↑4,878 |

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**Survey of Delhi University Library-FMS**

1) Budget: Heads of departments have been instructed to transfer budget allocations previously earmarked for these e- journals to the central One Nation One Subscription fund to support national-level bargaining. The previous year's budget of FMS is 15 Lakhs and the current year budget has increased by 20 percent, so the current year budget is 18 lakhs.

2) Institutional Savings: Under the ONOS mandate, government institutions like FMS Delhi University have been directed to stop independent subscriptions for resources covered by Phase I of the scheme. This allows the FMS library to redirect its previous subscription budget toward infrastructure development or specialized niche resources not covered by One Nation One Subscription.

3) Cost Avoidance: By negotiating at a national level, the government aims to reduce the overall national expenditure on journal subscriptions, which previously stood at roughly 1,500 crore annually across fragmented consortia.

4) Centralized Funding: The Government of India has allocated 6,000 crore for the 2025–2027 cycle as a Central Sector Scheme.

5) Official Access Portal: Access resources through the ONOS official website.

## 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Questionnaire-based responses received are basic methodology of data analysis, I have received 59 responses through Google Form Questionnaire. Questions are given below:

1) Were you already acquainted with ONOS before today?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat

2) Where were you aware about ONOS [Prod- uct/Service/Event]?
☐ Professional associations (ILA, IASLIC, etc.) ☐ Conferences/Seminars ☐ Government announcements
☐ News Media ☐ Social Media Colleagues/Peers Others

3) What are the objectives of ONOS are you aware? Very well
☐ Moderately ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all

4) ONOS will help reduce subscription costs for institutions. Strongly Agree
☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

5) ONOS will provide equitable access to scholarly re- sources across institutions in India.
☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

6) Do you think ONOS could reduce institutional autonomy to choose subject-specific resources?
☐ Yes, significantly ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all ☐ Not sure

7) ONOS will strengthen India's negotiating power with publishers.
☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

8) How important are the following e-resources for your institution?
☐ E-journals ☐ E-books ☐ Research Databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science) ☐ Multimedia/Streaming resources
☐ Open Access resources

9) How does your institution currently access e-resources?
☐ Direct subscriptions with publishers ☐ Consortia (e.g., e-Shodh Sindhu, INFLIBNET) ☐ Open access only ☐ Other

10) Do you think ONOS will complement or replace existing consortia models?
☐ Complement Replace ☐ Not sure

11) How do you expect ONOS to impact faculty and researchers' access in your institution?
☐ Significant improvement ☐ Some improvement ☐ No change ☐ Negative impact ☐ Other

12) How do you except ONOS to impact students' access to resources?
☐ Significant improvement ☐ Some improvement ☐ No change ☐ Negative impact ☐ Other

13) Do you think ONOS will help bridge the gap between elite institutions (IITs/IISc) and smaller colleges/ universities?
☐ Yes, significantly ☐ To some extent ☐ No

14) What challenges do you fore see in implementing ONOS? (Select all that apply).
☐ Coverage of essential resources ☐ Licensing and usage restrictions ☐ Differential subject needs of institutions
☐ Technical infrastructure readiness ☐ Financial sustainability of the program ☐ Policy clarity ☐ Other

15) Is your institution adequately equipped (bandwidth, authentication systems, digital library platforms) to integrate ONOS resources?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ May be

16) How confident are you that ONOS can be sustained financially by the Government in the long run?
☐ Very confident ☐ Somewhat confident ☐ Not confident ☐ Not sure

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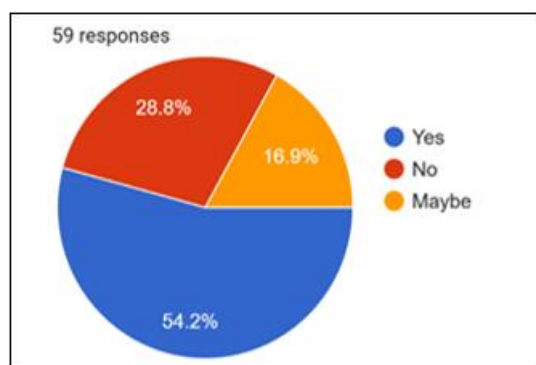
## 5. Data Analysis



**Figure 5**

**Interpretation**

| Response Category | Count (Raw) | % | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 32 | 54.20% | Majority Opinion: Over half of the respondents gave a definitive positive answer. |
| No | 17 | 28.80% | Significant Minority: Roughly 3 out of every 10 respondents expressed a clear negative view. |
| Maybe | 10 | 16.90% | Uncertainty/Neutrality: A small segment is undecided or requires more information. |
| Total | 59 | 100% | Sample Size: 59 responses provide a baseline for "directional" trends. |

## 6. Finding, Conclusion and Suggestion

### 6.1 Finding

"Yes" (Majority) 32 respondents (54.2 percent) gave a definitive positive answer

### 6.2 Conclusion

There is a baseline majority support for the subject matter, exceeding the 50 percent threshold.

### 6.3 Suggestion

Capitalize on Momentum: Proceed with the primary plan or feature, as more than half of the audience is already in favor.

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