

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) in Academic Libraries: A Case Study of Dr. Balkrishna Library, Rajaram College, Kolhapur

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Abstract: *The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative is a major programme introduced by the Government of India to improve access to scholarly journals and electronic research resources for higher education institutions. It aims to provide equitable access to internationally recognized academic publications through a centralized national subscription system. This study presents a case study of Dr. Balkrishna Library, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, to assess the implementation and utilization of ONOS. The research is based on institutional records, usage statistics, and observations of library services. The findings reveal that ONOS has significantly enhanced access to digital scholarly resources and strengthened research support for students and faculty members. The initiative has also encouraged greater use of electronic journals in teaching, learning, and research activities. However, challenges such as limited user awareness, varying digital literacy, and the need for continuous training affect its effective utilization. The study recommends regular awareness programmes, information literacy initiatives, and sustained library support to maximize the benefits of ONOS. Overall, the initiative has great potential to strengthen India's research ecosystem by promoting equitable access to quality scholarly information.*

Keywords: One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), Academic Libraries, Digital Libraries, Scholarly Communication, Electronic Resources, Research Support.

1. Introduction

Academic libraries are central to the teaching, learning, and research activities of higher education institutions. With the rapid expansion of digital information, libraries have shifted from traditional print collections to electronic resources such as online journals, e-books, and research databases. Access to these resources is essential for producing quality research and promoting academic excellence. Despite the increasing importance of digital scholarly resources, many colleges in India have faced financial challenges in subscribing to costly international journals. This has created disparities in access to quality research literature among institutions. To overcome this problem, the Government of India introduced the **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** initiative. The programme provides a unified national subscription to internationally recognize scholarly journals and databases, enabling eligible institutions to access high-quality research resources through a single platform.

Dr. Balkrishna Library of Rajaram College, Kolhapur, has adopted ONOS to strengthen its digital library services and support research activities. The library actively promotes the use of ONOS through orientation programmes, user guidance, and information literacy initiatives. The availability of nationally subscribed electronic resources has expanded research opportunities for students, teachers, and researchers while improving the overall quality of academic services. This paper examines the implementation of ONOS at Dr. Balkrishna Library and evaluates its impact on library services, resource utilization, and research support. It also identifies the challenges associated with effective implementation and suggests measures for improving awareness and utilization of digital resources.

2. Objectives of the Study

The study has the following objectives:

- 1) To examine the implementation of ONOS at Dr. Balkrishna Library, Rajaram College, Kolhapur.
- 2) To understand the significance of ONOS in strengthening academic library services.
- 3) To analyze the utilization of ONOS resources by students and faculty members.
- 4) To identify the challenges affecting the effective use of ONOS.
- 5) To suggest measures for improving awareness and utilization of digital scholarly resources.

3. Methodology

The study adopts a **case study research design** to examine the implementation of ONOS at Dr. Balkrishna Library. Secondary data were collected from institutional records, ONOS usage statistics, official documents, and library reports. Direct observation of library activities and digital services supplemented the documentary evidence. The collected information was analyzed using descriptive methods to understand user behavior, resource utilization, and the overall contribution of ONOS to academic activities.

Profile of Dr. Balkrishna Library:

Dr. Balkrishna Library, established in **1880** along with Rajaram College, is one of the oldest academic libraries in Maharashtra. It serves as the central knowledge resource centre of the institution by supporting teaching, learning, research, and extension activities. The library houses more than **1,07,953 books**, including over **15,500 rare books**, along with journals, newspapers, reference sources, manuscripts, dissertations, and digital resources. The library

is fully automated using the **SOUL 3.0 Integrated Library Management System** and provides OPAC, Mobile OPAC, Wi-Fi connectivity, electronic journals, e-books, institutional repositories, QR code services, CCTV surveillance, and remote access facilities. It also offers reference services, inter-library loan, reprography, internet access, research assistance, and competitive examination reading facilities. To promote effective utilization of its resources, the library regularly organizes orientation programmes, information literacy workshops, book exhibitions, and user education activities. The implementation of ONOS has further strengthened the library's digital infrastructure by providing seamless access to high-quality international scholarly journals and research databases, thereby enhancing research and academic excellence.

Role of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS): The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative is an important reform introduced by the Government of India to improve access to scholarly information and strengthen the national research ecosystem. The programme provides centralized access to international journals and research databases through a single subscription model, enabling eligible higher education institutions to obtain quality scholarly resources regardless of their financial capacity. This initiative supports the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by promoting research, innovation, and academic excellence. The ONOS programme officially commenced on **1 January 2025** and is coordinated by the **Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre** under the University Grants Commission (UGC). Through national licensing agreements with leading international publishers, the initiative provides access to thousands of peer-reviewed journals covering science, technology, medicine, social sciences, humanities, and multidisciplinary subjects. By replacing fragmented subscription models with a unified national framework, ONOS has reduced inequalities in access to scholarly literature and created new opportunities for institutions located in rural and semi-urban areas.

At Dr. Balkrishna Library, ONOS has become an integral part of digital library services. Students, teachers, and

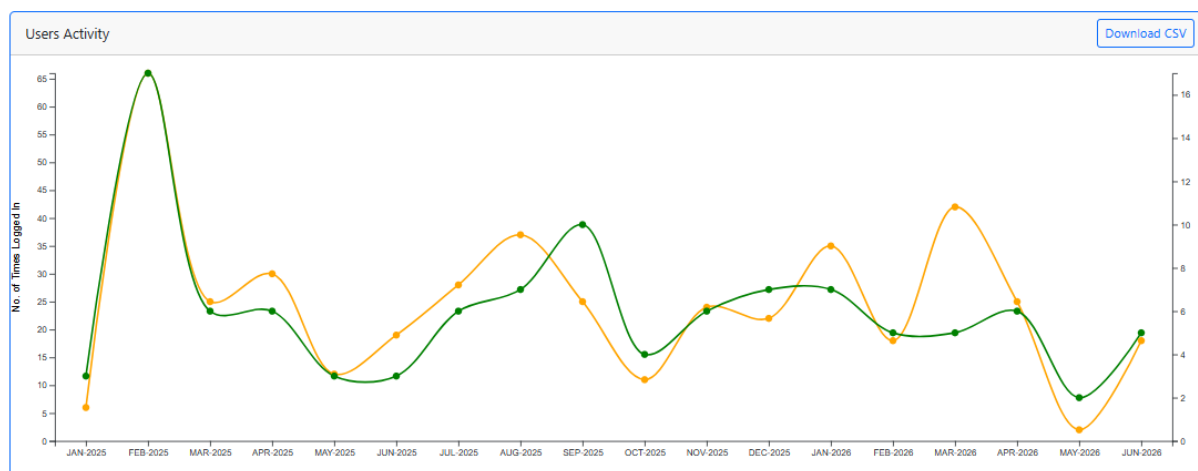
research scholars can access high-quality research publications from a single platform without the need for separate institutional subscriptions. The library organizes user orientation programmes, awareness campaigns, and practical demonstrations to familiarize users with the ONOS portal and its resources. Librarians provide guidance on literature searching, database selection, citation management, and retrieval of full-text articles, enabling users to make effective use of scholarly information. Consequently, ONOS has strengthened research support services, promoted interdisciplinary learning, and enhanced the quality of academic work undertaken at the institution.

Usage Analysis of ONOS: To understand the impact of ONOS, usage statistics of Dr. Balkrishna Library from **January 2025 to June 2026** were examined. The analysis included login records and daily page-view statistics available through the ONOS portal.

Number times logged In:

Table 1

Month-Year	Times Logged In	Unique Users
Jan-25	6	3
Feb-25	66	17
Mar-25	25	6
Apr-25	30	6
May-25	12	3
Jun-25	19	3
Jul-25	28	6
Aug-25	37	7
Sep-25	25	10
Oct-25	11	4
Nov-25	24	6
Dec-25	22	7
Jan-26	35	7
Feb-26	18	5
Mar-26	42	5
Apr-26	25	6
May-26	2	2
Jun-26	18	5



Graph 1

Number of times logged In (Source- <https://www.onos.gov.in/ums/usageStatistics>)

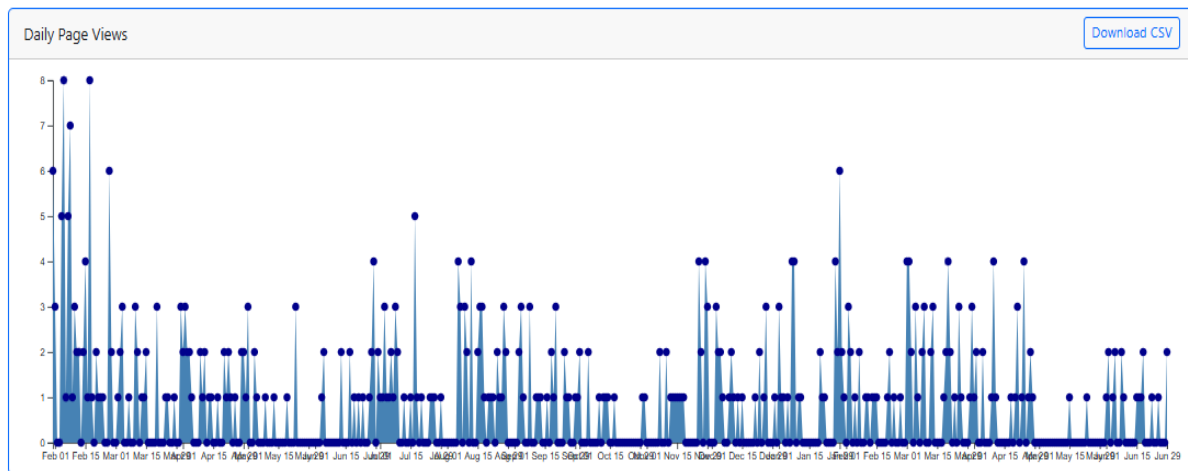
The login data indicate that user participation increased significantly immediately after the implementation of the

programme. The highest number of logins and unique users was recorded in **February 2025**, reflecting the positive

response generated through orientation programmes and awareness activities conducted by the library. Although login activity declined slightly during subsequent months, regular use of the platform continued throughout the study period. Increased usage was also observed during August–

September 2025 and March 2026, corresponding with periods of active academic and research work.

Daily Pages Views:



Graph 2

Source - <https://www.onos.gov.in/ums/usageStatistics>

Daily page-view statistics reveal similar trends. The highest level of page views occurred during February 2025, while moderate but consistent usage was observed throughout the remaining months. Temporary declines coincided with semester breaks, vacations, and examination periods. Overall, the usage statistics demonstrate that ONOS has become an important source of scholarly information for the academic community and that continuous promotional efforts contribute to sustained user engagement.

Challenges: Despite its significant benefits, several challenges affect the effective utilization of ONOS. Many newly admitted students remain unaware of the availability and scope of electronic resources offered through the platform. Differences in digital literacy also influence the ability of users to search, retrieve, and evaluate scholarly information effectively. Reliable internet connectivity and adequate digital infrastructure are essential for uninterrupted access to online resources. Furthermore, rapid developments in digital publishing require libraries to organize regular training programmes so that users remain familiar with advanced search techniques and new database features.

4. Findings and Suggestions

The study confirms that ONOS has considerably strengthened digital library services at Dr. Balkrishna Library by expanding access to internationally recognized scholarly literature. Improved availability of electronic journals has supported teaching, learning, research, and scholarly publication. Usage statistics demonstrate positive user engagement, although fluctuations indicate the need for continuous awareness programmes.

To maximize the benefits of ONOS, the library should conduct regular orientation sessions for students, faculty members, and research scholars. Practical workshops on database searching, literature review techniques, reference management tools, and research ethics should be organized

periodically. User manuals, online tutorials, and direct access links through the library website can further improve accessibility. Continuous monitoring of usage statistics and user feedback will help identify areas requiring improvement and enable the library to develop more effective user support services.

5. Conclusion

The One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative has emerged as a transformative programme for strengthening higher education and research in India. By providing equitable access to internationally recognized scholarly journals and electronic databases, the initiative has reduced disparities in information access and enhanced research opportunities for higher education institutions.

The experience of Dr. Balkrishna Library, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, demonstrates that ONOS has significantly improved digital library services and expanded access to quality research literature. The initiative has supported teaching, learning, and research while enhancing the role of librarians as facilitators of digital scholarship. Although challenges related to awareness, digital literacy, and continuous training remain, these can be addressed through systematic user education and institutional support.

Overall, ONOS represents an important milestone in India's efforts to build a knowledge-driven society. Continued investment in digital infrastructure, user education, and collaborative research support will ensure that the programme contributes effectively to academic excellence, innovation, and national development.

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