

A Study of Knimbus-Enabled Remote Access to Licensed E-Resources at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology

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Abstract: *To meet the growing demand for flexible research environments, the Central Library of Sathyabama institute of science and technology has implemented the Knimbus remote access platform, bridging the gap between physical library resources and off-campus users. This sophisticated software acts as a centralized gateway, allowing students and faculty to bypass geographical limitations and engage with the university's full suite of licensed e-resources from any location. By integrating a secure authentication system, Knimbus ensures that authorized users can access premium journals, databases, and digital archives simply by using their institutional credentials. This transition not only modernizes the library's service delivery but also provides a structured framework for beginners to navigate the digital landscape. Consequently, this study details the specific technical implementation of the software while offering a practical roadmap for users to effectively leverage the institution's electronic subscriptions outside the campus network.*

Keywords: Remote access-Knimbus-off campus access e-resources

1. Introduction

Libraries and information centers are currently undergoing a major shift as electronic resources become widely available and widely used. These digital materials have moved to the forefront of institutional research and development. In many cases, resources like web databases, OPACs, and networked information sources are now competing with—and sometimes replacing—traditional print media as the primary tools for storing and sharing information. Remote access enables users to connect to a computer or network from any location. Through a remote access server—composed of specialized hardware and software—libraries can securely share their digital infrastructure. By leveraging technologies like LANs, WANs, or VPNs, these systems allow patrons to work offsite while maintaining full access to the office network. Ultimately, this technology plays a vital role in modern information delivery, ensuring that e-books, e-journals, and other digital resources are available to users at their convenience.

While libraries typically restrict e-resource access to campus IP ranges, providing remote access has become a top priority. This transition is a modern best practice that ensures subscribed materials are used to their full potential, regardless of a user's location. By offering a single, unified interface for off-campus use, libraries simplify the research process and significantly improve the user experience.

SIST Library

As a creative and innovative partner in the institute's research and scholarship, the Central Library serves as a world-class resource hub across two floors and 1,50,156 square feet of serene, well-lit learning space. The library houses a vast collection of 313,760 books and 53,013 titles spanning diverse disciplines—from Engineering and Law to Dental and Basic Sciences—complemented by 3,179 multimedia items and 234 print periodicals. Users enjoy seamless access to major e-resources like IEEE, Science Direct, and Web of

Science, further enhanced by 24/7 service via the Knimbus Remote Access and mLibrary mobile apps.

E-Resources Subscribed

The subscribed e-resources cover a comprehensive range of academic disciplines, featuring premier engineering and technology databases like IEEE Xplore, ASME, ASCE, and the ACM Digital Library, alongside major multidisciplinary publishers such as Elsevier ScienceDirect and ProQuest Central. Research and analytical capabilities are supported through the Web of Science citation index, SciVal for performance benchmarking, and Derwent Innovation for global patent tracking. For legal studies, the collection includes essential Indian platforms like Manupatra, SCC Online, and Live Law, while general resource sharing and extensive e-book access are provided through DELNET and ProQuest Academic Complete.

Remote Access To E-Resources Using Knimbus

Knimbus is a cloud-based e-library platform that serves as a centralized gateway for remote users, utilizing Single Sign-On (SSO) to provide secure, 24/7 access to licensed digital content. By acting as an intelligent middleware proxy, it sits between the user's browser and the resource server, authenticating credentials against local systems to ensure only authorized patrons reach proprietary databases.

To enhance user experience and expand the library's reach, the technology integrates several critical features into a seamless system. It includes integrated link resolvers that enable users to move directly from a citation to the full-text article without restarting searches across different platforms. Off-campus mobility removes geographical limitations, allowing patrons to access journals, e-books, and databases from any location as though they were connected to the local network. Additionally, it offers a unified discovery interface, often providing a "one-search" experience that aggregates results from multiple subscriptions into a single results page. The system also delivers usage analytics, giving librarians

valuable insights into resource popularity and user behavior, which supports more informed decisions in collection development and budget allocation. Furthermore, security and compliance are ensured through IP authentication and encrypted sessions, protecting the library's licensing agreements from unauthorized external access.

Why Knimbus Required

Knimbus is a comprehensive, cloud-based digital library platform designed to unify an institution's resources—including subscriptions, eBooks, journals, and open-access content—into a single, accessible portal. It is designed to boost user engagement with resources, facilitate remote learning, and streamline library administration.

Institutions and researchers choose Knimbus for its ability to streamline and enhance access to digital library resources through a unified and efficient platform. It offers single sign-on functionality, acting as a central hub where users can seamlessly search across journals, databases, and eBooks using a simple, Google-like interface. The platform also ensures anywhere, anytime access through the mLibrary mobile app available on Android and iOS, making it especially valuable for remote learning and research. In terms of cost efficiency, Knimbus optimizes library budgets by consolidating multiple access solutions into one system while providing detailed analytics, such as SUSHI reports, to track usage and maximize return on investment. Additionally, institutions can customize the portal to reflect their branding, creating a personalized digital library experience. The platform is further enhanced by AI-powered features, including intelligent search, personalized recommendations, citation management, and offline reading capabilities. Moreover, Knimbus supports institutional compliance by offering tools that assist with reporting requirements for frameworks like NAAC, NBA, NIRF, and AICTE.

KNIMBUS

Remote access software enables users to control or view computers from different locations via the internet. Knimbus is a specialized middleware tool that manages remote access to a library's licensed electronic resources. Acting as an intermediary server, it sits between the user and the library's databases. When a user logs in, Knimbus connects to the database on their behalf, retrieves the requested content, and delivers it back to the user's screen. The software automatically detects the user's location to determine if they are accessing the network from on-campus or an off-campus remote site

Knimbus uses browser cookies to track your access rights after a successful login. While on campus, the system uses IP authentication to grant you immediate entry to library e-resources without a login. However, if you are off-campus, you must authenticate using your remote username and password and ensure your browser is properly configured to access the digital collection. Knimbus is a versatile e-Library platform accessible across web and mobile devices. By consolidating library subscriptions, open-access resources, and web content into a single interface, it simplifies the research process for users. The platform also includes a customized mobile app, allowing patrons to stay connected

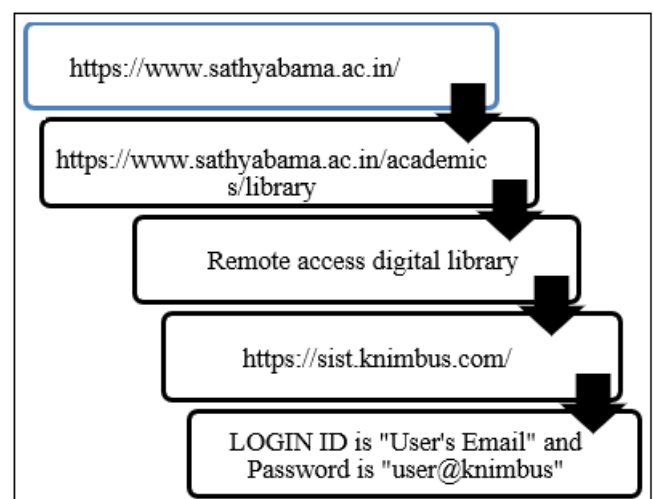
and access vital information on their smartphones from any location at any time

Implementation Of Knimbus

Knimbus has provided off-campus access to all students, research scholars, and staff. To access e-resources remotely, users must submit a requisition to the library. Once processed, an account is created, and login credentials are automatically sent to the user's registered email address. With the help of credentials user community can access all the subscribed e-resources.

Access E-Resources in Sist

To access e-resources using Knimbus, first visit the official website of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology at <https://www.sathyabama.ac.in/>. From the homepage, navigate to the Academics section and select Library, or directly open <https://www.sathyabama.ac.in/academics/library>. In the library page, locate the Remote Access / Digital Library option, which allows users to access online resources from anywhere. Click on the provided link to open the Knimbus portal at <https://sist.knimbus.com/>. Once the portal loads, log in using your credentials, where the Login ID is your email address and the password is "user@knimbus". After successful login, you can use the search bar to find various academic resources such as e-books, journals, research papers, and databases. By selecting the required resource, you can read online or download the full-text content, making it a convenient platform for academic and research purposes.



2. Conclusion

The Knimbus platform offers a unified remote access point for a library's subscribed digital content, ensuring maximum utility of licensed e-resources. By using institution-provided credentials, users can securely access these materials from any off-campus location. Additionally, the system generates detailed usage reports- tracking individual user activity and download history-making it a highly efficient and convenient tool for remote research.

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