

# Use of E-Resources in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium: A Study of North Bengal University Library Users

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## Abstract

The e-ShodhSindhu is the Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources merging three consortia, i.e. UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium and N-LIST. The e-ShodhSindhu is intended to provide current and archival access to E-Resources i.e. e-books, e-journals, e-journal archives, online databases to its member institutions at a negotiated rate of subscription. This paper studies the use of e-resources in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium by the North Bengal University Library users. 150 questionnaires were distributed among the faculty members and research scholars. Out of which, 110 filled-in questionnaires were returned. The study reveals that most of the respondents are satisfied with e-resources available in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium.

**Keywords:** E-Journals, E-Resources, e-ShodhSindhu, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium

## 1. Introduction

Academic libraries provide basic support in accessing resources for teaching, learning, research and advanced studies to students, faculty members and research scholars. They procure both print and electronic resources to provide easy access for their users; but no library is able to fully meet user's needs. The gaps in the collection could be filled to a certain extent by sharing resources through library networks and/or participating in library consortia. Some consortia are UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium, N-LIST, CSIR e-journal consortium, etc.

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium was initiated in December 2003 with financial assistance from the UGC and implemented by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Ahmedabad. The consortium has now been merged with e-ShodhSindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. About e-ShodhSindhu (eSS)

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) initiated e-ShodhSindhu (eSS) Consortium by merging

UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, NLIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The INFLIBNET Centre, as a nodal agency for eSS and UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium deals with e-resources, payments process, usage analysis, etc. The consortium is intended to provide current and archival access to more than 15,000 core peer-reviewed journals and online databases in different subjects from a large number of publishers to its member institutions that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) Sections of the UGC Act<sup>1</sup>.

The major objective is to provide access to electronic resources i.e. e-books, e-journals, e-journal archives, online databases to its member institutions at negotiated rates of subscription. The objectives of the eSS consortium are as follows:

- To develop collection of e-journals, e-journal archives and e-books on perpetual access basis,
- To promote usage of e-resources in its member universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes,
- To provide access to subscription based scholarly information like- e-books and e-journals to all educational institutions,

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- To provide access to scholarly contents available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways,
- To bridge digital divide and move towards an information-rich society,
- To initiate additional activities and services that require collaborative platform and are not being performed by existing consortia, and
- To move towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks.

### 3. About North Bengal University Library

The University of North Bengal campus is situated in the district of Darjeeling with another campus in the district of Jalpaiguri. University of North Bengal started digitization of Ph.D. theses under Shodhganga project<sup>2</sup>.

### 4. E-Resources Subscribed by University of North Bengal

The following E-Resources are subscribed by University of North Bengal in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium.

1. American Chemical Society (Full-text Journal)
2. American Institute of Physics (Full-text Journal)
3. American Physical Society (Full-text Journal)
4. Annual Reviews (Full-text Journal)
5. Economic and Political Weekly (Full-text Journal)
6. Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) (Database)
7. JGate Plus (JCCC) (Database)
8. JSTOR (Database)
9. MathSciNet (Database)
10. Oxford University Press eSS Collection-262 (Full-text Journal)
11. Project Muse (Database)
12. Springer Link 1700 Collection and Nature Journal (Full-text Journal)
13. Taylor and Francis (Full-text Journal)
14. Web of Science (Database)
15. Elsevier ScienceDirect – eSS 10 Subject Collection (Full-text Journal)
16. Institute of Physics eSS Collection (Full-text Journal)
17. Royal Society of Chemistry eSS Collection (Full-text Journal)
18. SciFinder Scholar (Database)
19. SIAM – eSS Collection (Full-text Journal)
20. Wiley Blackwell Publishing eSS 908 Collection (Full-text Journal)

### 5. Literature Review

Anil Kumar and Pulla Reddy (2016) studied the use of e-journals by research scholars in Sri Venkateswara University, Andhra University and University of Hyderabad using a questionnaire.

Baladhandayutham (2016) reported a study on the awareness and utilization of electronic journals by the faculty members and research scholars of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai.

Boakye (2017) studied the use of e-journals, level of awareness and accessibility by the faculty members of Garden City University College (GCUC) and Christian Service University College (CSUC) in Kumasi, Ghana.

Karkun and Mallinath Kumbar (2015) explored the use of e-journals and databases by research scholars of universities in Karnataka. The study focused on some factors like; purpose, benefits, experience of use of e-journals and databases, source of awareness, availability of electronic journals and databases, search techniques, satisfaction levels and problems faced during accessing e-journals and databases by the research scholars.

### 6. Objectives of the Study

- To examine the use and awareness of E-Resources by the faculty members and research scholars,
- To study the frequency of use of E-Resources by the faculty members and research scholars,
- To identify problems in online accessing of E-Resources by the faculty members and research scholars,
- To assess the satisfaction levels of faculty members and research scholars about using E-Resources in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium, and
- To find out the users' preferences for using E-Resources vis-à-vis printed resources.

## 7. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is restricted to the users of E-Resources in the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium of North Bengal University Library, Darjeeling.

## 8. Methodology

This study is based on the data collected from the faculty members and research scholars. A questionnaire was prepared and randomly distributed among faculty members and research scholars. 150 questionnaires were distributed of which 110 filled in questionnaires were received.

## 9. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The collected data have been analyzed and presented in the following paragraphs.

Table 1 depicts that total 150 questionnaires were distributed among 50 faculty members and 100 research scholars. Out of 150 questionnaires, 110 (73.33%) filled up questionnaires were received from 40 (33.36%) faculty members and 70 (63.64%) research scholars respectively. The remaining 40 questionnaires are not returned by the faculty members 10 (20%) and research scholars 30 (30%) respectively.

Surprisingly while most of the faculty members are aware of e-resources, a significant proportion of research scholars do not seem to be aware of e-resources (Table 2).

Table 3 indicates that 60 (54.55%) respondents use e-resources for their research /project work. Responses to another query indicated that nearly 60% of the respondents use e-resources at least once a week.

50% of the respondents indicated that slow Internet speed is a factor affecting use of e-resources. A small number also felt that lack of training and restricted access to resources is issues (Table 4). However, only a very few indicated lack of resources as an issue, even though most members of faculty and research scholars suggested that some additional resources could be added to what is available on e-ShodhSindhu (Table 5).

Less than a third of all respondents appear to be fully satisfied with the available service (Table 6).

**Table 1.** Distribution of questionnaires

Respondents	No. of Questionnaires Distributed (%)	No. of Filled Questionnaires Received (%)
Faculty Members	50	40 (80%)
Research Scholars	100	70 (70%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>150 (100%)</b>	<b>110 (73.33%)</b>

**Table 2.** Awareness about e-Resources

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty Members	39 (97.5%)	1 (2.50%)	40
Research Scholars	55 (78.57%)	15 (21.43%)	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>94 (85.45%)</b>	<b>16 (14.55%)</b>	<b>110 (100%)</b>

**Table 3.** Purpose of using e-Resources in the e-ShodhSindhu consortium

Respondents	Teaching	Research/ Project Work	Publishing Articles/ Books	Update Subject Knowledge	Others	Total
Faculty Members	8	8 (20%)	10 (25%)	12 (30%)	2 (0.5%)	40
Research Scholars	-	52 (74.29%)	12 (17.14%)	6 (8.5%)	-	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 (7.27%)</b>	<b>60 (54.55%)</b>	<b>22 (20%)</b>	<b>18 (16.36%)</b>	<b>2 (1.82%)</b>	<b>110 (100%)</b>

**Table 4.** Problems in accessing e-ShodhSindhu e-Resources

Respondents	Restricted Access	Lack of Training	Slow Internet Speed	Full-text Accessing Problems	Lack of Sufficient Resources	Others	Total
Faculty Members	10 (25%)	5 (12.50%)	15 (37.50%)	5 (12.50%)	4 (10%)	1 (2.50%)	40
Research Scholars	10 (14.29%)	10 (14.29%)	40 (57.14%)	6 (8.57%)	2 (2.86%)	2 (2.85%)	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b> <b>(18.18%)</b>	<b>15</b> <b>(13.64%)</b>	<b>55</b> <b>(50%)</b>	<b>11</b> <b>(10%)</b>	<b>6</b> <b>(5.45%)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>(2.73%)</b>	<b>110</b> <b>(100%)</b>

**Table 5.** Requirement of more e-Resources in the e-ShodhSindhu consortium

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Faculty Members	25 (62.50%)	15 (37.50%)	40
Research Scholars	52 (74.29%)	18 (25.71%)	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b> <b>(70%)</b>	<b>33</b> <b>(30%)</b>	<b>110</b> <b>(100%)</b>

**Table 6.** User's satisfaction level in using e-Resources of the e-ShodhSindhu consortium

Respondents	Fully Satisfied	Partially Satisfied	Dis-Satisfied	No Comments	Total
Faculty Members	15 (37.50%)	21 (52.50%)	4 (10%)	-	40
Research Scholars	16 (22.86%)	40 (57.14%)	14 (20%)	-	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b> <b>(28.18%)</b>	<b>61</b> <b>(55.46%)</b>	<b>18</b> <b>(16.36%)</b>	-	<b>110</b> <b>(100%)</b>

## 10. Conclusions and Suggestions

The most important conclusion that could be drawn from the present study is that a sizeable proportion of research scholars are still unaware of the availability of e-resources. This calls for designing and implementing effective user education and training programmes. User awareness programmes, training programmes, workshops, etc. need to be organized for recent updates about eShodhSindhu e-resources. The slow Internet speed is another factor that needs to be attended to by the library / university authorities. There is also a need to identify the factors contributing to the low level of satisfaction with the existing services.

## 11. References

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