Availability of library and information science electronic journals through UGC- INFONET project

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The University Grants Commission (UGC) has contributed substantially towards facilitating access to scholarly resources to research scholars and faculty members by introducing the UGC-INFONET Project. The project envisages bringing about a qualitative change in the academic infrastructure in Indian universities. The research and academic community in the universities can now have timely and easy access to journals and other electronic resources. The paper provides an insight in to the UGC-INFONET Project and aims to create awareness to the library and information professionals, research scholars, and faculty and post graduate students of library and information science regarding the availability of the scholarly journals in the field of library and information science.

Introduction

In the emerging information society, the availability and use of information contributes towards development of individuals and nations. Information is the most crucial resource for development and it has been aptly remarked that "the future of each nation as well as that of mankind is based on, now more than ever, on information or knowledge gained rather than any other material or resources. Information leads to knowledge and in turn to innovation and development"[1]. One needs advanced and scholarly literature to improve the quality of education and research work. With the advent of information technology, internet and rapid development of communication systems and digital technology, information is available in abundance on the World Wide Web.

Journals, that are one of the vital resources for the researchers are increasingly available in electronic form. Electronic journals enable timely and easy access to information in addition to several other benefits. Easy, direct and 24 hour access to a wide source of information from the desktops are some of the advantages identified by end-users[2].

The consortial approach to electronic journals access plays an important role in facilitating access to electronic journals through co-operative purchase options. Advantanges include minimizing acquisition cost of international scientific periodicals, consequently increasing user satisfaction[3]. Urbano et al pointed out that cooperation among members has proven to be fairly positive because they gained access to larger amount of information that they would otherwise have been unable to obtain through individual subscription[4]. With regard to consortium initiatives in India, Chakravarty and Singh concluded that the efforts of UGC-INFONET and INDEST consortium will strengthen higher education system in India[5].

Journals in LIS discipline

According to the 37th edition of Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, about 157,173 serials were published in the world during 1998, including 1,600 journals in the field of library and information science and computer applications[6]. These figures include 110 journals published from Asia. It is reported that Asian countries publish over 200 journals in the field of library and information science in English as well as in

Table 1- List of journals/databases subscribed

FULL TEXT DATABASES

American Chemical Society (31)
http://www.pubs.acs.org/

American Institute of Physics (18)
http://www.aip.org/

American Physical Society (10)
http://www.aps.org/

Annual Reviews (29)
http://arjournals.annualreviews.org

Cambridge University Press (189)
http://journals.cambridge.org/

Elsevier Science (34)
http://www.sciencedirect.com/

Emerald (28)
http://www.emeraldinsight.com

Encyclopedia Britannica
http://search.eb.com/

Institute of Physics (36)
http://www.iop.org/EJ

J-STOR (457)
http://www.jstor.org/

Nature (1)
http://www.nature.com/

Portland Press (4)
http://www.portlandpress.com/pp/
default.htm

Project Muse (293)
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals

Royal Society of Chemistry (23)
http://www.rsc.org/

Science Online (1)
http://www.scienceonline.org/

Springer & Kluwar Journals (1217)
http://www.springerlink.com/

Blackwell (515)
http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/

Taylor and Francis (1167)
http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk

PORTALS

Ingenta - Gateway Portal (5400)
http://www.ingenta.com/

J-Gate Gateway Portal (15000)
http://www.j-gate.informindia.co.in/

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

Chemical Abstracts Service (1 Database)
http://stnweb.cas.org/

Biological Abstracts (1 Database)
http://web5.silverplatter.com/webspirs/start.ws?customer=c180470

MathSciNet Database (1Database) http://web5.silverplatter.com/webspirs/
start.ws?customer=c180470

Royal Society of Chemistry (6 Databases)
http://www.rsc.org/
       (1) Laboratory Hazards Bulletin
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/lhbhome.htm
       (2) Methods in Organic Synthesis
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/moshome.htm
       (3) Natural Product Update
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/npuhome.htm
       (4) Chemical Hazards in Industry
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/chihome.htm
       (5) Analytical Abstracts
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/aahome.htm
       (6) Catalysts & Catalysed Reactions
       http://www.rsc.org/is/database/ccrpub.htm

Table 2 – No. of journals available under UGC-INFONET

Name of publisher	Total no. of e-journals available	No. of e-journals subscribed by UGC-INFONET	No. of library science e-Journals	No. of library science journals subscribed by UGC-INFONET
Emerald	160	28	34	28
Project Muse	300	293	06	06
Springer & Kluwer Journals	2530	1217	08	08
Taylor and Francis	1270	1167	13	13
Total	4236	2572	61	55

Table 3 - List of library and information science e-journals covered by UGC-INFONET

Sl. No.	Title of Journal	Publisher
1	Archival Science	Springer & Kluwer
2	Archives and Museum Informatics	Springer & Kluwer
3	Asian Libraries	Emerald
4	Aslib Proceedings: new information perspectives	Emerald
5	Book History	Project Muse
6	Campus-Wide Information Systems	Emerald
7	Collection Building	Emerald
8	Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery	Springer & Kluwer
9	Education, Communication & Information	Taylor and Francis
10	Electronic Resources Review	Emerald
11	e-Service Journal	Project Muse
12	Ethics and Education	Taylor and Francis
13	Index on Censorship	Taylor and Francis
14	Information, Communication & Society	Taylor and Francis
15	Information & Communications Technology Law	Taylor and Francis
16	Information Management & Computer Security	Emerald
17	Information Retrieval	Springer & Kluwer
18	Information Technology & People	Emerald
19	Interlending & Document Supply	Emerald
20	International Journal on Digital Libraries	Springer & Kluwer
21	International Journal on Document Analysis and Recognition	Springer & Kluwer
22	International Journal on Grey Literature	Emerald
23	Internet Research: Electronic Networking Applications and Policy	Emerald
24	Journal of Classification	Springer & Kluwer
25	Journal of Documentation	Emerald
26	Journal of Information Technology	Taylor and Francis
27	Journal of Scholarly Publishing	Project Muse
28	Journal of the Society of Archivists	Taylor and Francis
29	Knowledge and Information Systems	Springer & Kluwer
30	Librarian Career Development	Emerald
31	Libraries & Culture	Project Muse

32	Library Consortium Management: An International Journal	Emerald
33	Library Hi Tech	Emerald
34	Library Hi Tech News incorporating Online and CD Notes	Emerald
35	Library Management	Emerald
36	Library Review	Emerald
37	New Library World	Emerald
38	New Review of Academic Librarianship	Taylor and Francis
39	New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship	Taylor and Francis
40	New Review of Information and Library Research	Taylor and Francis
41	New Review of Information Behavior Research	Taylor and Francis
42	New Review of Libraries and Lifelong Learning	Taylor and Francis
43	Notes	Project Muse
44	OCLC Systems & Services	Emerald
45	Online Information Review	Emerald
46	Performance Measurement and Metrics	Emerald
47	portal: Libraries and the Academy	Project Muse
48	Program: electronic library & information systems	Emerald
49	Records Management Journal	Emerald
50	Reference Reviews incorporating ASLIB Book Guide	Emerald
51	Reference Services Review	Emerald
52	The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances	Emerald
53	The Electronic Library	Emerald
54	The Information Society	Taylor and Francis
55	VINE	Emerald

vernacular languages and India publishes 57 journals in the field of library and information science, a majority of them in English[7].

According to the Association Research Libraries Directory of Scholarly Electronic Journals and Academic Discussion Lists 2000, there were over 7,261 electronic journals. Of these titles, 64 are library and information science journals[8]. The number of electronic journals is increasing rapidly with more and more publishers bringing out the journals in e-form. The consortium access to e-journals facilitates wide access to e-journals.

For the first time in Indian higher education system, the UGC through UGC-INFONET project has facilitated access for scholarly full text journal to the departmental level libraries and to the doorsteps of the academicians. At present through UGC-INFONET, access is provided to 55 full text electronic journals in the area of library and information science.

UGC–INFONET

University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched the UGC-INFONET project joining hands with the Education and Research Network (ERNET) to implement the project. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is the coordinating and monitoring agency of the UGC-INFONET Project. The faculty members, research scholars and students of universities covered under UGC are primary beneficiaries; however, this scheme is planned to be extended to colleges also. UGC bears the entire expense for providing electronic journals access on behalf of participating universities. This project promotes the use of electronic databases and full text access to e-journals by the research and academic community in the country. The initiative provides archival access and also makes provision for mirror sites[9].

The list of journals covered by the project can be accessed on the INFLIBNET Centre's website http://www.inflibnet.ac.in. UGC-INFONET covers the journals from all the disciplines namely pure sciences and humanities including management and languages. Under this consortium, gateway portals provide access to more than 20,000 journals with contents and abstracts for major collections. Around 4,053 full text journals in various subjects can be accessed either by directly

visiting the publishers site or through gateways portals. The users do not require any login to access e-resources because access is made available for all the e-resources through IP (Internet- Protocol) addresses of the institutions[10].

The E-resources available under UGC-INFONET e-journals consortium is shown in Table 1. Access to full text journals in the field of library and information science field is provided by four major publishers. It can be seen from Table 2 that the UGC-INFONET is providing access to fifty five out of the sixty one library science journals available from the various publishers. Table 3 gives the list of 55 journals covered by UGC-INFONET.

Conclusion

The UGC-INFONET project has taken care of the interests of the library and information science researchers by facilitating access to prominent journals in the area. The consortium should aim at adding more journals and also include databases like *Library and Information Science Abstracts* for the benefit of LIS researchers. The e-subscription initiative of UGC-INFONET is expected to bring remarkable change in the academic environment.

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