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## Use of UGC –Infonet E-Journals Consortium by The Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Periyar University:A Study

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**P.Gomathi**

Guest Lecturer

Dept. of Library and Information Science

Periyar University, Salem-11

[gomathi148@gmail.com](mailto:gomathi148@gmail.com)

### Abstract

UGC-INFONET E-journal consortium is a memorable project in the history of academic community and users in India. All academic institutions, which come under the preview of UGC, are members of this consortium. It is the largest academic consortium in India monitored by INFLIBNET. It is subscribing e-resources of high quality collection of more than 4000 full text e-journals, Indexing and Abstracting databases for the benefits of millions of users in India, from 25 different publishers to the academic community, comprising of faculty, staff, researchers and students. This article deals with the usage of UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium by the faculty members and research scholars of Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu

### Keywords

UGC-INFONET, Consortium, E-Journals, Faculty members, Research scholars, Periyar University.

### Electronic access

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## Introduction

Libraries play a very important role in this fast changing e-environment of publishing. Presently E-journals have become the largest and fastest growing areas of the digital collections for most of our libraries. Their role includes identification of selection of information, its organization of management, storage retrieval and dissemination to right users at the right time at right place at right price and in right format.

### Objectives of the study:

1. To identify the gender wise distribution of the respondents.
2. To examine the Awareness about UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium.
3. To evaluate the opinion about the information content on Electronic journals.
4. To study the opinion about UGC-INFONET Consortium Programmes in the library.

### Methodology:

Faculty members and Research scholars were constitute target population for the study. The survey method has been employed and questionnaire tool was used to collect data. Questionnaire method is quite useful in soliciting information from the faculty members and research scholars of Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu. All the research scholars were approached in the department as well as in the library and requested them to fill up the questionnaires. A total of 150 questionnaires were administered to faculty members and research scholars. About 130 duly filled in questionnaires were received back.

### Scope of the study:

The scope of the study is limited to study the usage of UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium by faculty members and research scholars of five departments, viz, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Education.

### Analysis and Interpretation of data:

The data collected from the faculty members and research scholars is analyzed and presented in the form of tables and figures.

**Table 1** Gender wise distribution of the respondents

User category	Male	Female	Total
Faculty members	41 (80.39)	10 (19.60)	51 (100)
Research scholars	55 (69.62)	24 (30.37)	79 (100)
Total	96 (73.84)	34 (26.15)	130 (100)

(Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage)

Table-1 gives the category wise and sex wise break up of respondents. It is observed from Table -1 that of the total 130 respondents, 51(60.77%) are faculty members and 79(58.82%) research scholars. Of the total 51 faculty members surveyed 41(80.39%) are male and 10(19.60%) are female. Similarly, among research scholars 55(69.62%) are male and 24(30.37%) are female. It clearly indicates that the male respondents are dominating in both the category i.e. faculty and research scholars.

**Table:2** Awareness about UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium

User category	Yes	No	Total
Faculty members	42 (82.35)	09 (17.64)	51 (100)
Research scholars	60 (75.94)	19 (24.05)	79 (100)
Total	102 (78.46)	28 (21.52)	130 (100)

(Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage)

Table -2 explains about the user's awareness about UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium. It is observed from table that majority of the faculty members and research scholars are well aware of the consortium programmer. Majority 42(82.35%) faculty members and 60(75.94%) research scholars have indicated their awareness about the consortium. However, it is surprising to note that 9(17.64%) faculty members and 19(24.05%) research scholars are not aware of the consortium program me.

**Table:3** Opinion about the information content on Electronic journals

Opinion about the information content	Faculty members	Research scholars	Total
Better than Print version	25 (49.01)	42 (53.16)	67 (51.53)
Same as that of print version	12 (23.52)	25 (31.64)	37 (28.46)

Not better than print version	10 (19.60)	08 (10.12)	18 (13.84)
Not sure	04 (07.84)	04 (5.06)	08 (6.15)
Total	51 (100)	79 (100)	130 (100)

(Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage)

Table-3 Respondents were asked their preferences about the information content on e-journals/database. The responses of users are presented in Table-3. Majority of the faculty 25(49.01%) and research scholars 42(53.16%) indicates that the information content on e-journals /database is better than print version. About 12(23.52%) faculty and 25(31.64%) faculty and research scholars indicated that it is same as that of print version. About 10(19.60%) faculty and 8(10.12%) research scholars felt it is not better than print versions. About 04(07.84%) faculty and 04(05.06%) research scholars were not sure about the content on e-journals/databases. It clearly indicates that respondents have accepted electronic version over print.

**Table:4** Opinion about UGC-I N F O N E T Consortium Programmes in the library

Opinion	Faculty members	Research scholars	Total
Excellent	10 (19.60)	25 (31.64)	35 (26.92)
Good	20 (39.21)	24 (30.37)	44 (33.84)
Average	08 (15.68)	10 (12.65)	18 (13.84)
Satisfactory	09 (17.64)	14 (17.72)	23 (17.69)
Unsatisfactory	04 (7.84)	06 (7.59)	10 (7.69)
Total	51 (100)	79 (100)	130 (100)

(Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage)

Users were asked to get their opinion about the UGC-Infonet Consortium program me. Of the total 130 respondents 20(39.21%) faculty and 24(30.37%) research scholars opines that it is good. 9(17.64%) faculty and 14(17.72%) research scholars felt it as satisfactory by 10(19.60%) faculty and 25(31.64%) research scholars opines as excellent. 8(15.68%) faculty and 10(12.65%) research scholars says as average and 4(7.84%) faculty and 6(7.59%) research scholars felt the service unsatisfactory.

### **Findings of the study:**

Systematic efforts in data collection and scientific analysis lead to identify the following findings.

1. Of the total 130 respondents 51(60.77%) are faculty members and 79(39.23%) are research scholars.
2. It is observed that a majority 42(82.35%) faculty members and 60(75.94%) research scholars are well aware of the UGC-Infonet consortium programme.
3. 25(49.01%) faculty members and 42(53.16%) research scholars indicate that the content is better than in print version.
4. 20(39.21%) faculty members and 24(30.37%) research scholars have opinion that the UGC-Infonet consortium programme is good.

### **SUGGESTIONS:**

On the basis of analysis of the data and the opinion given by the respondents, some of the important suggestions have been made, which will help the effective use of the UGC Infonet consortium.

1. UGC-Infonet consortium should make arrangements for supplying CDs on all archival access electronic journals;
2. Authorities of the university should take keen interest in providing better infrastructure facilities for the improvement of internet speed, so that users can access/browse e-journals speedily at their desktops;
3. Majority of the respondents have suggested that UGC-Infonet should provide PDF files of most of the important journal publishers;
4. University library should conduct orientation/training programmes regularly in order to increase the usage of consortium programme;
5. Users are not satisfied with the number of electronic journals included in the present consortium programme. Therefore, it is suggested that more number of journals from Science Direct and Wiley-Inter Science should be included in the consortium programme and
6. Data revealed that faculty members and research scholars are least motivated with the expert assistance given by the library staff. Keeping in view the above fact, it is suggested

that library staff has to play a vital role in facilitating access to these electronic information resources.

### **CONCLUSION:**

UGC-Infonet E-Journals consortium launched by UGC is one of the biggest and ambitious programs in the history of highest education in India. The ultimate goal of this programme is to work on the virtual philosophy of libraries, i.e. right information to the right user at the right time with the help of the state-of-art technology. The present survey clearly indicates that electronics sources of information are highly useful for the research, teaching and learning processes. In order to make it successful and best use of the consortium, authorities of the university library should conduct regular user education /awareness programmes to maximize the use of electronic sources of information more effectively and efficiently.

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