

Status of College Libraries in India in Accessing N-LIST Service : an Observation

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Abstract

The N-LIST project from INFLIBNET was awarded best jury award by e-INDIA for digital learning. N-LIST is a service provided by INFLIBNET to the registered college libraries in accessing the electronic resources, which benefit the users from colleges. This paper makes an effort to highlight the colleges running under different state governments/UT's and compare with the registered colleges using N-LIST service and its resources.

Keywords

INFLIBNET, N-LIST, Electronic Resources

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Introduction

The Higher Education system in India is mainly responsible for producing well-informed citizens, competent to contribute to the growth of the national economy and social prosperity. Presently, India has 602 universities, including 275 state universities, 41 central universities, 129 deemed universities, 90 private universities, 66 autonomous institutes like IIM's, IIT's, NIT's, IISER's, etc¹. There are various colleges are affiliated to these universities, and some of them working independently with the respective state/central/UT governments. India's educational system is largely traditional and not geared to contemporary social needs, although the situation is improving – but at a low pace. The colleges mainly provide the undergraduate and post graduate education to the respective jurisdiction.

Colleges at a Glance

The following table-1 represents the state wise number of colleges in India on different streams²-

The table-1 shows that there are 25,938 colleges are listed under different states and union territories. Among them there are 14,321 colleges belonging to arts, fine arts, social work, science and commerce, 2894 colleges represents engineering/technology & architecture, the medical colleges are about 2074, Education and teacher training colleges are nearly 3357 and 3292 belonging to other type of colleges. All these colleges are having libraries to fulfill their academic requirement. College libraries are called as an academic libraries that are housed in a college which provide services to the college users particularly students and teachers belonging to them. The colleges are affiliated to the universities coming in their jurisdiction, which offer Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes. Due to the impact of ICT applications on the library and information science field, the libraries acquired electronic resources along with their traditional collections and also providing the IT based services to their users. To provide IT based services and acquire electronic resources, the college libraries should maintain sufficient infrastructure. The infrastructure may be developed either by college authorities or with the help of funding agencies and also with the help of government and non-government organizations. The INFLIBNET is one of the government organizations to help the university and college libraries to develop their ICT infrastructure and also provides access to the electronic resources to the university and college libraries.

Table-1**State-wise Number of Colleges in India (2009-2010)** source: indiastat.com

States/UTs	Arts, Fine Arts, Social Work, Science Commerce	Engineering/ Technology/ Architecture	Medical	Education/ Teacher Training	Others	Total Colleges
Andhra Pradesh	1970	698	415	615	775	4473
Arunachal Pradesh	17	3	1	1	1	23
Assam	337	9	7	40	153	546
Bihar	817	10	37	33	134	1031
Chhattisgarh	365	131	4s2	4	42	584
Goa	22	2	2	0	13	39
Gujarat	577	29	114	254	244	1218
Haryana	238	154	50	447	113	1002
Himachal Pradesh	377	14	23	82	86	582
Jammu and Kashmir	92	4	15	147	45	303
Jharkhand	110	4	12	9	26	161
Karnataka	369	174	423	0	13	979
Kerala	192	98	125	21	12	448
Madhya Pradesh	896	208	102	102	3	1311
Maharashtra	2074	312	141	471	448	3446
Manipur	59	3	1	5	5	73
Meghalaya	88	2	3	4	21	118
Mizoram	23	0	2	2	2	29
Nagaland	45	0	0	3	26	74
Orissa	634	82	69	14	75	874
Punjab	234	82	37	48	177	578
Rajasthan	1135	96	54	111	214	1610
Sikkim	5	2	3	2	6	18
Tamil Nadu	589	440	198	645	64	1936
Tripura	16	2	4	1	6	29
Uttar Pradesh	2361	212	104	128	299	3104
Uttarakhand	107	14	20	24	60	225
West Bengal	434	73	51	103	180	841
Andaman and Nicobar Ilands	2	0	1	1	1	5
Chandigarh	8	7	4	3	2	24
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	1	1	0	3
Daman and Diu	1	0	0	2	0	3
Delhi	89	15	8	2	41	155
Lakshadweep	2	0	0	1	0	3
Puducherry	35	14	5	31	5	90
India	14321	2894	2074	3357	3292	25938

INFLIBNET in Brief

INFLIBNET is a Inter University autonomous centre governed by UGC and is responsible for providing infrastructure for University and college libraries for sharing the information resources and services. It is mainly responsible for establishing the information and communication network among the university and college libraries for accessing the subscribed electronic resources and services. The major activities and services of INFLIBNET are providing network infrastructure which connects all the academic institutions, creating union bibliographic databases, providing document delivery services through JCCC@ UGC-Infonet, provide access to UGC-Infonet journals, developing software for academic community, conducting training programmes for improving the human resource development, and giving access to large number of e-resources like N-LIST to all the member libraries.

N-LIST in Brief

N-LIST (National Library and Information services Infrastructure for scholarly content), extends e-resource service to colleges in India. It is executed jointly by UGC-Infonet digital library consortium and INDEST-AICTE consortium. It provides access to all the member college libraries to support the teaching and research needs of the students, teachers, researchers, where the participating colleges can access full text electronic resources and can download required e-resources. There are about 2110 colleges, which includes 1934 Govt./Government-aided colleges have registered as members for accessing the N-LIST service through their respective user ID and password.

Colleges Covered for N-LIST Service

The colleges covered mainly under section 12B/2F of UGC act are allowed to access the N-LIST service. The non aided colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Nursing) can also access the electronic resources which are more than 3100 e-journals and 75,000 e-books. To avail this service, the colleges have to register online with the N-LIST website and all the registered colleges should pay an annual fee of Rs.5000/- for availing this service.

Table-2

The table-2 shows that state wise list of colleges registered for N-LIST service:

Sr. No	State	Registered	Access Enabled
01	Andaman and Nicobar islands	2	1
02	Andhra Pradesh	89	74
03	Arunachal Pradesh	4	2
04	Assam	70	66
05	Bihar	18	17
06	Chandigarh	11	9
07	Chattisgarh	44	25
08	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	0
09	Daman and Diu	1	0
10	Delhi	32	30
11	Goa	19	15
12	Gujarat	256	122
13	Haryana	17	11
14	Himachal Pradesh	67	34
15	Jammu and Kashmir	36	27
16	Jharkhand	4	4
17	Karnataka	285	201
18	Kerala	177	119
19	Madhya Pradesh	44	34
20	Maharashtra	413	355
21	Manipur	33	33
22	Meghalaya	18	13
23	Mizoram	8	8
24	Nagaland	5	4
25	Orissa	44	39
26	Pondicherry	37	10
27	Punjab	63	49
28	Rajasthan	28	14
29	Sikkim	1	1
30	Tamil Nadu	145	125
31	Tripura	1	0
32	Uttar Pradesh	36	29
33	Uttarakhand	5	4
34	West Bengal	95	89

The following figures shows all the colleges coming under different states/UT's for accessing N-LIST service

Total number of colleges registered	2110
Number of 12B/2F colleges	1564
Number of Non-aided colleges	370
Total Number of 12B/2F and Non-aided colleges	1934

E-Resources Available under N-LIST Service for Colleges

The following full text electronic resources are available from the respective publisher's website under the N-LIST service to the colleges.

E-Journals

American Institute of Physics (18 titles)	http://journals.aip.org/
American Physical Society (10 titles)	http://publish.aps.aor/browse.html
Annual Review (33 titles)	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
Cambridge University Press (224 titles)	http://journals.cambridge.org/
Economic and Political weekly (EPW) (1titles)	http://www.epw.in/
Indian Journals (150 titles)	http://www.indianjournals.com
Institute of Physics (46 titles)	http://www.iop.org/EJ/
Oxford University press (206 titles)	http://www.oxfordjournals.org/
Royal society of Chemistry (29 titles) journals/	http://www.rsc.org/publishing/journals/
H.W.Wilson (1420 titles) hww/jumpstart.jhtml	http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/

E-Books

Cambridge Books Online (1000+titles)	http://ebooks.cambridge.com
E-brary (7000+ titles)	http://site.ebrary.com/lib/inflibnet
EBSCOHost-Net Library (936 titles)	http://www.netlibrary.com/
Hindustan Book Agency (65+titles)	http://hindustan.iqpublish.com
Institute of South Asian studies (ISEAS) Books (382+titles)	http://iseas.iqpublish.com
Oxford scholarship (902 titles)	http://www.oxfordscholarship.com
Springer eBooks (1500+titles)	http://www.springerlink.com

Observation

The author observed the following points while comparing Table-1 and Table-2.

- ♦ As per table-1, there are 25938 colleges in India represents all the disciplines. Out of which 14321 belong to Arts, Fine Arts, Social Work, Science and Commerce. Hence the author would like to compare only these 14321 colleges with the N-LIST registered colleges.
- ♦ Out of 14321 colleges, in table-1 when compared with table-2 only 2110 colleges are registered for N-LIST service, and among them 1934 colleges are given access to N-LIST resources by INFLIBNET and remaining colleges will be given access shortly.
- ♦ The e-journals and e-books available with N-LIST cannot be subscribed by the individual college libraries due to funds crunch. Hence all the college libraries are advised to register with the N-LIST website for accessing them.
- ♦ The INFLIBNET making all efforts to make this service available to all the college libraries in India and the concerned colleges should take necessary steps to develop the required infrastructure in accessing it.
- ♦ The UGC and INFLIBNET may coordinate with the state/central/UT governments, for getting access to N-LIST service for their respective colleges.
- ♦ The government should make it mandatory for the colleges to register with N-LIST service for availing the financial assistance from them.
- ♦ NAAC may also make it mandatory for the colleges to take membership of N-LIST for their accreditation.
- ♦ INFLIBNET may conduct user awareness programme on state wise/region wise/university wise, etc. on a regular basis.
- ♦ The member libraries of N-LIST should popularize the service to neighboring libraries.
- ♦ The resources available under N-LIST may be reviewed regularly as per the requirement of the college library users.
- ♦ As the colleges impart text book oriented education, the N-LIST can be integrated with e- textbooks.

Conclusion

The college education system is text book oriented and also is one of the main reasons for most of the college libraries for not registering with the N-LIST service. The library and information professionals must take responsibility to popularize electronic resources and importance of the N-LIST service. The researchers also should take up the study in understanding the reasons of college libraries for not registering with the N-LIST service. Today's users are mostly flexible and adaptable. Students are highly responsive to recommendations of specific resources by their teachers, friends, or a librarian. Educating both high school and college students in the best resources and search strategies is important. Convenience remains the single most important factor for information use—all types of users prefer electronic journals only if they make their work easier and give them the information they need. The college libraries in India need to educate their users in accessing the electronic resources provided by N-LIST. In India as majority of the college libraries are facing financial crunch, they can register with N-LIST service for accessing quality electronic resources to get over the resource hunger and financial crunch. This N-LIST helps the students and faculty in acquiring e-resources to get the desired and relevant information. Since most of the students and faculty acquired the skills necessary to exploit the electronic resources via trial and error or through guidance from others, raising the question of the effectiveness of these skills is more needed through the service like N-LIST will help in improve their academics and research capabilities.

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