

2019

# AWARENESS AND USAGE OF E- RESOURCES OF N-LIST CONSORTIUM: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO ACADEMIC COLLEGES OF MUMBAI

Veeresh B. Hanchinal Dr.

*Tata Institute of Social Sciences, vreshb@yahoo.co.in*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

Hanchinal, Veeresh B. Dr., "AWARENESS AND USAGE OF E-RESOURCES OF N-LIST CONSORTIUM: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO ACADEMIC COLLEGES OF MUMBAI" (2019). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 2340.  
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/2340>

# **AWARENESS AND USAGE OF E-RESOURCES OF N-LIST CONSORTIUM: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO ACADEMIC COLLEGES OF MUMBAI**

Veeresh B. Hanchinal, Ph.D.  
Deputy Librarian  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
Tuljapur Off Campus, Tuljapur, India.

## **ABSTRACT**

The higher educational institutions in India are awarded ratings and rankings by the national agencies like NAAC and NIRF. In this competitive environment the higher educational institutions need to keep pace with the developments that are taking place all over the world and prepare students to compete with their counter parts with greater skills and knowledge. Here comes the role of the library and it is the responsibility of the institutes to acquire e-resources and strengthen the library collection. An attempt has been made in this paper to assess the use of electronic resources particularly N-LIST programme by the college students of Mumbai Suburban area. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 300 respondents, 200 duly filled in questionnaires were received and the data is analyzed. The major findings of the study revealed that 50% of respondents are using e-resources of N –LIST Programme and 50% of them are not using, e-books are the most used e-resources of N-LIST as much as 88 respondents have accessed these resources for their study. Further the study revealed that the majority of the respondents said their main purpose of using e-resources through N-LIST is to prepare ‘Class Notes’ (92) & ‘Assignments’ (88). However, the situation is still alarming in colleges as many as 89 respondents said they do not know about e-resources of N-LIST consortium. Based on the findings it is suggested that regular training programmes should be conducted by the college libraries to create awareness and optimum utilization of e-resources particularly of N-LIST consortium.

**Keywords:** Consortia, N-LIST, INFLIBNET, E-resources, Academic Colleges, Mumbai, India.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The higher educational institutions in India are awarded ratings and rankings by the national agencies like NAAC and NIRF based on the academic performance and research & development activities undertaken by the institutes. In this competitive environment the higher educational

institutions need to keep pace with the developments that are taking place all over the world and prepare students to compete with their counter parts with greater skills and knowledge.

The information explosion due to introduction of electronic media has led to growing needs of users demands. Due to escalation in subscription costs of scholarly journals and reduction in grants, it has become difficult for the educational institutes to cater to the needs of their stake holders. Indian higher education system is one of the largest systems in the world. There are 892 Universities and 42338 Colleges in India. To cater to the demands of these higher education institutes the Government of India is making all possible efforts to enhance the quality of education by providing required resources.

To meet the needs of less privileged academic fraternity in terms of budget, in the year 1991 University Grants Commission, New Delhi initiated a major programme - INFLIBNET. It became an independent Inter university centre (IUC) in the year 1996 since then it is involved in modernizing libraries and information centres in India and connecting them through a nationwide high speed data network. Consortia are basically evolving form of cooperation among the libraries which come together to share resources. In December 2015 e-Shodh Sindhu was formed by merging three consortia; UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium and National Library & Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) . It continues to provide 15000 plus core and peer reviewed journals, bibliographic, citation & factual databases to centrally funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under UGC Act 12 (B) & 2 (f). The present study is carried out to assess the usage of e-resources through N-LIST programme by the college students.

## **2 N-LIST: Background**

The e-ShodhSindhu Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and INDEST-AICTE Consortium, New Delhi have jointly executed the project “N-LIST” to provide for;

- i) Cross-Subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two consortia i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and e-ShodhSindhu resources for technical institutions; and
- ii) Access to selected e-resources to colleges.

The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through servers installed at the INFLIBNET Centre (Inflibnet, n.d). The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles/ebooks required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are authenticated as authorized users by INFLIBNET centre.

Since 2014, N-LIST is subsumed as college component of e-shodhShindu, except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing colleges all other colleges in India are eligible to access 6094 e-journals and 3139309 e-books under N-LIST consortium. All eligible colleges are required to register themselves online by paying a nominal fee to reap its benefits.

### **2.1 Current Status**

As on 30 Jan 2019, more than 5 million users from 3161 Govt./Govt. aided colleges covered under section 12(B) & 2 (f) of UGC Act and Non-aided colleges are availing the facility of N-LIST programme.

## **3 REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Several studies have been undertaken across the globe to explore the consortia initiatives and information seeking behavior of users in this digital era. Bavakuty & Azeez (2006) have discussed about major consortia initiatives in India such as FORSA, CSIR consortium, INDEST, IIM consortium, UGC-INFONET Digital Library consortium etc. Fresnido & Yap (2014) reported that the concept of library consortium emerged in Philippines in 1970's and further they have highlighted the success as well as failures experiences by the libraries in joining different consortia. Bansode (2007) reported that due to lack of financial assistance and increasing cost of information resources libraries are not able to procure good number of resources. He suggests that library Consortia is the solution for this problem. This is further supported by Ratnakar, Prerna & Satyanarayan (2009) who state that library consortium is the only viable solution to overcome this problem. In a study Kaur (2013) emphasized the role of various Consortia's in meeting the diverse needs of the users. Arora & Trivedi (2010) highlighted major activities, operations & services of UGC-INFONET and described various methods adopted for promotion of e-resources among member universities.

In their study on usage of e-resources of various publishers under UGC-INFONET by the academic community of Manipur University (Joteen, Singh & Chandel, 2009), it is revealed that there is an increase in the usage of the e-resources among the academic community. In their study on usage of e-resources through UGC-INFONET by the University of Pune users (Londhe & Deshpande, 2013) observed that usage of e-resources among users is increasing. Rajeshwar Kumar (2013) opined that the N-LIST programme has successfully filled-in the serious gap among haves and have not's by providing access to e-resources to colleges. Singh (2015) described how 'N-LIST programme has impacted on the college users in Western Odisha'. It is further recorded that users preferred e-journals over print journals as it has enhanced their knowledge and contributed in the growth of career development.

In his study Arul Pragasam (2016) highlighted that the majority of users are aware of and use N-LIST and it has enabled faculty, researchers and students to excel in their academic endeavor. He further reports that users are satisfied with information available in NLIST consortium. Nayak (2017) observed that due to initiatives like e-ShodhSindhu consortia now it is possible for higher education institutions to get access to various electronic resources from wide range of disciplines.

#### **4 OBJECTIVES**

The main goal of the study is to verify the awareness and usage of e-resources of N-LIST programme by the college students. The specific objective of the study is;

1. To know the awareness about N-LIST resources among college students.
2. To understand the purpose of using N-LIST by the college students.
3. To examine the usefulness of N-LIST resources.
4. To identify the highly used e-resources among the different types e-resources of N-LIST.
5. To know any problems faced by the students while accessing e-resources of N-LIST.
6. To suggest ways and means to maximize the use of e-resources of N-LIST consortium.

## 5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is confined to the colleges of Arts, Commerce and Science of Mumbai Suburban area. There are many Consortiums in India but this study is mainly aimed at investigating the 'Use of e-resources of N-LIST programme by the college students'.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire method was used for the present study to collect the necessary primary data keeping in view the objectives of the study. A total 300 questionnaire were distributed randomly among the students of 20 selected colleges of Arts, Commerce & Science of Mumbai Suburb. Of the total 300 questionnaires 200 duly filled in questionnaire were received and found suitable for analysis and thus the response rate is 67%. The data collected is authenticated by observation and informal interview of the respondents. Then the collected data was analyzed using MS Excel spreadsheet and interpreted in the following paragraphs using tables, figures, graphs, charts etc.

## 7 ANALYSIS OF DATA

The collected data is analyzed and interpreted in the following paragraphs.

### 7.1 Sex-wise Distribution of Student Respondents.

**Table 1. Sex-wise Distribution of Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	90	45%
Female	110	55%
Total	200	100%

It is clear from the Table 1 that 45% male and 55% female respondents have participated in the survey.

### 7.2 Course-wise Distribution of Students Respondents.

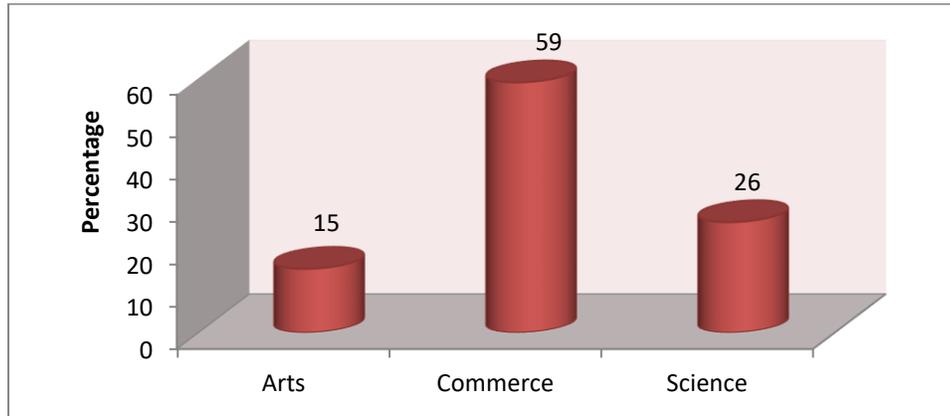
**Table 2. Class -wise Distribution of Students Respondents**

<b>Courses</b>	<b>No.of Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Undergraduate	178	89%
Postgraduate	22	11%
Total	200	100%

Table 2 indicates that 89% student's respondents are from Undergraduate courses. And 11% total students respondents are from Postgraduate courses.

### 7.3 Faculty –wise Distribution of Students Respondents.

The results of the study from figure 1 indicate that majority of the respondents i.e. 59% were from Commerce Faculty, whereas 26% of respondents were from Science Faculty and only 15% were from Arts Faculty.



**Figure 1. Faculty –wise Distribution of Respondents**

### 7.4 Knowledge of Internet Use

Table 3 reveals that, 99% of respondents have Knowledge of Internet use for their study. Whereas negligible i.e. 1% of respondents said they have no Knowledge of Internet.

**Table 3. Knowledge of Internet Use**

Particulars	No. of Respondents	%
Yes	198	99
No	02	01
Total	200	100

### 7.5 Use of E –Resources

**Table 4. Use of E –Resources**

Particulars	No. of Respondents	%
Yes	100	50%
No	100	50%
Total	200	100%

Table 4 reveals that 50% of respondents said they use E –Resources for their study. And 50% of respondents said they do not use E-Resources. It indicates that there is a need to create awareness among the students about availability of e-resources and how to use them particularly N-LIST programme.

## 7.6 Use of e-resources through N –LIST Programme

**Table 5. Use of N –LIST Programme**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	100	50%
No	100	50%
Total	200	100%

Table 5 shows that, 50% of respondents said they use N-List database for their study. And 50% of respondents said they do not use it. It reveals that there is a need to create awareness among the students about N-List database and how to use it.

## 7.7 Use of various Types of e-resources of N –LIST Programme

**Table 6. Use of various types of e-resources of N –LIST**

<b>E-resources of N-List Programme</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
E –Journals	45
E –Books	88
E –Databases	35

It is found from the results of the Table 6 that, 45 respondents said they have accessed E-journals. Whereas, majority of the respondents i.e. 88 said they have accessed E-Books. And 35 said they accessed E –Databases. The results of the study indicates that E-books are widely popular among college students.

## 7.8 Reasons for not using N –LIST Consortium

**Table 7. Reasons for not using N –LIST Consortium**

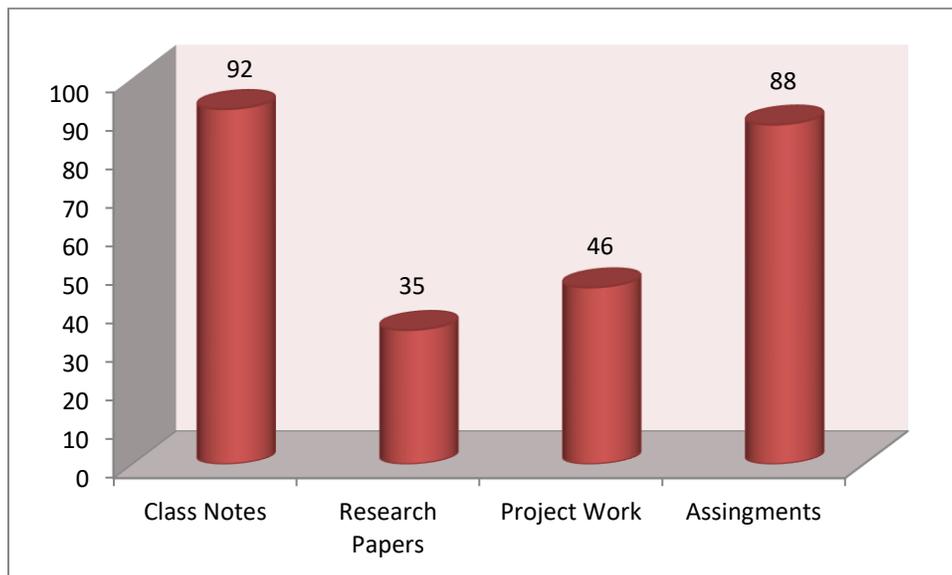
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
----------------	---------------------------

Don't know about N-LIST	89
Print Resources are sufficient	35
N –LIST Database is not available in library	10

Table 7 show that, 89 respondents said they ‘Don’t know about N –LIST’, whereas, 35 of them said ‘Print Resources are sufficient’ for their study. And a negligible number of i.e.10 respondents have not at all used N –LIST programme because “N-LIST is not available in Library’.

### 7.9 Purposes of Using N –LIST

Figure 2 reveals the usage of N –LIST for various purposes such as writing Research papers, Preparing Class Notes, Writing Project works, Writing Assignments.



**Figure 2. Purpose of Use of N-List**

It is clear from the above figure that the majority of respondents i.e.92 use it mainly for the purpose of “Preparing Class Notes”, whereas 46 respondents said they use N-List for “Writing Project work”, and 88 respondents said they use for “Writing Assignments” and considerable number of them i.e.35 use N-LIST for their ‘Research papers’. It is evident from the above results of the study that majority of respondents use N –LIST for the purpose of preparing class notes.

### 7.10 Problems faced by the users while searching e-resources through N –LIST

The following table reveals the number of problems faced by the respondents while searching e-resources through N-LIST programme.

**Table 8. Problems in Accessing N –LIST**

<b>Problems</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>
It is too complex to use	36
Difficult to search the required information	45
Slow Internet Speed	75
Lack of proper infrastructure	69

Table 8 shows that, 36 respondents said ‘It is too complex to use’, 45 of them ‘Difficult to search the required information’, whereas, majority i.e.75 of them said they face the problem of ‘Slow Internet speed’ while accessing N –LIST e–resources. And 69 respondents said ‘Lack of proper Infrastructure’ as another major problem they face while accessing N –LIST e-resources. Thus it is clear from the above data that the major problem faced by the students respondents was the slow Internet speed.

### **7.11 Usefulness of N –LIST Programme for Academic Achievement**

**Table 9. Usefulness of N –LIST Programme**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	90	45%
No	-	-
Can’t Say	110	55%
Total	200	100%

Table 9 show that, 45% respondents said it is useful whereas the majority of the respondents i.e. 55% said they can’t say whether it is useful or not for their Academic Achievements. This indicates that the college libraries need to conduct training programme and explain about the types of resources it contain and how to use them.

## **8 Major Findings of the Study**

Based on the results of the analysis of the data following some of the major findings are presented.

- The data of the study revealed that of the total 200 respondents 110 are female and 90 are male.
- Majority of the respondents (i.e.178) are from Undergraduate courses. Since the focus of the study was on Colleges hence it has large number of respondents from undergraduate courses.
- The results of the survey indicated that 59% of the respondents are from commerce colleges
- It is significant to note that almost all respondents i.e.198 have the knowledge of Internet use
- It is found from the data that 50% of the respondents have not accessed e-resources of N-LIST programme.
- E-books are the highly used e-resources among different types of e-resources of N-LIST, as many as 88 respondents have accessed e-books for their study
- It's alarming to note that 89 respondents do not know about e-resources of N-LIST consortium
- The results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents said that the main purpose of using N-LIST is to prepare 'Class Notes' (92) & 'Assignments' (88)
- It is found from the study that 'Lack of Infrastructure' (69) and 'Low Internet speed' (75) are the major problems faced by the respondents
- Majority of the respondents (55%) said that they can't say how useful are e-resources of N-LIST programme

## **9 Conclusion**

The N –LIST resources are major information sources for College students at reasonable cost. The results of the survey revealed that 50% of respondents are using e-resources of N –LIST Programme and 50% of them are not using these resources. It is alarming to note that 89 respondents do not know about N-LIST. The college libraries must take initiatives to create awareness among the users about e-resources by organizing training programmes periodically. It is further suggested that the college management should provide proper infrastructure and high speed Internet connectivity in the library. Such initiatives will not only create awareness among

users about N-LIST resources but also enhances user's academic performance and knowledge in their respective field of study.

## References

- Arora, Jagdish & Trivedi, Kruti. (2010). UGC-INFONET digital library consortium: Present services and future endeavour's. *DESIDOC journal of Library and Information Technology*, Vol.30 No.(2), p.15-25.
- Arul, Pragasam. P. (2016). A study of awareness and use of INFLIBNET 's N-LIST consortium in colleges. *International Journal of Next Generation Library and Technologies*, Vol.2(2), p.1-10.
- Bansode, Sadanand. Y. (2007). Library consortia in India: Issues and prospectus. *TRIM*, Vol.3(2), p.138-152.
- Bavakutty, M. & Abdul Azeez, T.A. (2006). Library consortia in India: Initiatives and concerns. *SRELS journals of Information Management*, Vol.43(2), p.177-184.
- Fresnid, Ana Maria. Balenbin. & Yap, Joseph. Marmol. (2014). Academic library consortia in the Philippines: Hanging in the balance. *Library Management*, Vol. 35(1/2), p.15-36. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-04-2013-0028>
- Inflight Retrieved on 31.01.2019 from <http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/>
- Joteen Singh, R., Singh, K. A., & Chandel, A. S. (2009). UGC-INFONET usage in Manipur University: A statistical comparison of downloads from different publishers. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, Vol.29(6), p.13-20. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.29.6.274>
- Kaur, Har. (2013). Local, regional and global collaborative efforts amidst the global financial crisis: Consortia. *International Journals of Library and Information Science*, Vol.5(8), p.235-239.
- Londhe, N.L. & Deshpande, N. J. (2013). Usage study of UGC-INFONET e-resources at University of Pune. *DESIDOC journals of Library and Information Technology*, Vol.33(5). P.385-393.
- Nayak, Ashapura. Priyadarshini. (2017). Consortia model of accessing e-resources among higher education institutions in India. *Journal of Library & Information Science*, Vol.7 (3), p. 466-78.
- Rajeshwar Kumar, G. (2013). Awareness and use of electronic resources through N-List: A boon to academic libraries. *International Journal of Librarianship and Administration*, Vol.4 (01), p.17-25.
- Ratnakar, K.V., Prerna. & Satyanarayan. (2009). Consortia to promote access to medical Information: some experiences of the Indian Council of Medical Research. *DESIDOC journals of Library and Information Technology*, Vol.29(5), p.7-11.

- Singh, Karan. (2015). Usage of N-LIST resources in the college library. A case study of G.M. autonomous college and Sohela Degree College Odisha. *e-Library Science Research Journals*. Vol.III (III), p.128-132.