

IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF N-LIST IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN MAHARASHTRA

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Abstract:-

Providing access to scholarly journals is a challenge for the library and information centers today. To meet the problem of serial crisis as a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, proliferation in number of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries, the concept of library consortium has been emerged. Library consortium ensures online access to large number of journals at a limited cost. In this paper the concept of library consortium and various initiatives in Maharashtra are discussed in brief. The paper discusses broadly about N-List Consortium, various resources available under N-List, the copyright and fair use issue related to the resources. The paper aims to make awareness among the libraries specially the college libraries of Maharashtra towards N-List to enhance the quality of library services.

Introduction:-

N-LIST stands for "National Library and Information services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content". The programme is funded by the MHRD to extend access to selected e-resources to colleges covered under section 2F/12B of UGC Act as well as Non-aided colleges.

N-LIST programme offers the best possible discounted prices negotiated between N-LIST and Publishers. It will enable access to scholarly information in e-format at highly discounted rate. It will facilitate desk top access to high-quality e-resources to your students and researchers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Is there any limits to the number of users who can access subscribed resources simultaneously?

INFLIBNET Centre is delivering scholarly content and contributing to National Mission on Education through ICT through its N-LIST project that is unique in more ways than one, IT Provides access to more than 2100 journals (with backfills for more than 10 years) and 51000 e-books to 804 colleges covered under N-LIST project. More than 135000 faculty members and students in 1380 colleges have been given user ID and Password to access rich e-resources. It is a subject-specific information gateway to the knowledge resource that is available in open access bridging digital divide and moving towards information society.

The publishers have not put any restriction on the no. of simultaneous users. However, all access is enabled through servers set up at INFLIBNET. There may be hours when too many users would be trying to access e-resources simultaneously which might cost congestion in the network traffic and delays in access. However, the INFLIBNET would scale up its infrastructure to meet such eventualities.

About NLIST :-

The project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)", being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICITE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for i) cross-subscription to e-

resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-ACITE resources for universities and UGCINFONET 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 server(S) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

N-LIST: Four Components:-

The project has four distinct components, i.e. i) to subscribe and provide access to selected UGC-INFONET e-resources to technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs) and monitor its usage; ii) to subscribe and provide access to selected INDEST e-resources to selected universities and monitor its usage; iii) to subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to 6,000 Govt./ Govt.-aided colleges and monitor its usage; and iv) to act as a Monitoring Agency for colleges and evaluate, promote, impart training and monitor all activities involved in the process of providing effective and efficient access to e-resources to colleges.

The INDEST and UGC-INFONET are jointly responsible for activity listed at i) and ii) above. The INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmadabad is responsible for activities listed at iii) and iv) above. The INFLIBNET Centre is also responsible for developing and deploying appropriate software tools and techniques for authenticating authorized users.

Current Status:-

As on June 25/01/2019, a total number of 3154 Colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 161 Non.-aided colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F resources has been sent to the authorized users from these 2993 Colleges. Member of Science Colleges 1944. All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST project are now accessible to these 3154 Colleges through the N-LIST.

Benefitting the N-LIST Project:-

- 1) Universities: Universities covered under Phase I of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium can now access Web of Science.
- 2) Technical Institutions: IITs, IISc, IISERs and selected e-resources namely Annual Reviews, Project Muse and Nature.
- 3) Colleges: 6,000 govt / govt-aided colleges covered under 12B act of the UGC can now access selected electronic resources including electronic journals, electronic books and bibliographic databases. These resources include more than 2100 e-journals and 51,000 e-books.
- 4) Colleges not covered under the 12B act of the UGC, can benefit from the N-LIST Programme by joining the programme as its associate. These colleges will be required to pay a fixed amount towards subscription to e-resources and annual subscription. Beneficiary colleges registered for the N-LIST programme, can access more than 2100 electronic journals, 51,000 electronic books and a bibliographic database called MathSciNet containing more than two million reviews of research articles in mathematics. Details of e-resources accessible through the INFLIBNET.

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Programme :-

The information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Programme was started by the university Grants Commission (UGC) in April 1991. It is a Cooperative venture for pooling, Sharing and Optimization of Library resources in the country. It aims to provide a channel to the academicians and researchers for exchange of information from sources within the country & abroad. It is a major programme towards modernization of Libraries and information services in the country, using computer and communication technologies. INFLIBNET will include participates from colleges, universities, R&D

institutes of higher learning, information centers, institutes of national importance and
resources centre (DRCs). All the disciplines such as Science, Technology, Medicine,
culture fine arts, Humanities, Social Sciences etc. will be covered under this programme.

Conclusion:-

N-LIST is an initiative for college Libraries which provide access to a number of e-resources at
nominal subscription amount. The College Librarians must be aware of this initiative and should
become a member of N-LIST

Suggestions:-

It is suggested INFLIBNET should conduct more and more training and awareness programme
throughout the country. UGC provide special schemes for infrastructure development in college for
maintaining N-LIST

References:-

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