

# Role of UGC- Info net Digital Library Consortium in India: An Overview

Shivcharan

M. Phil, Research Scholar, Department Library & information science, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana

---

**Abstracts:** The emergence of the World Wide Web (www) , as a new medium of information storage and delivery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This paper presents the comprehensive represented of various facet of UGC- INFONET digital library consortium. It also define all the crucial aspects of the UGC INFONET Digital Library Consortium have been included such a activities, services, origin, Governance, aims and objectives, Benefits , e-resources subscribed, membership etc. in systematic manner. This paper concludes that this consortium is essential for higher education in India and being proved as need to the library and information centers.

**Key Words:** INFLIBNET, UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, Library Consortium.

---

## Introduction

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is witnessing in information revolution. The information need of society is growing continuously at tremendous speed, hence the production of information. Only answer to manage this new information scenario is the resource sharing. The ever-growing information needs of the modern age can be satisfied by the resource sharing among the library and information centers. Cooperation amongst institution for sharing their library resources is being practiced for decades “traditionally, the primary purpose of establishing a library consortium is to share physical resources including books and periodicals amongst members. However, the mode of cooperation has gone under a transformation with infusion of new information technology form print based environment to digital environment. The emergence of internet, particular the World Wide Web (www) as a new media of information delivery triggered proliferation of web based full text online resources.”Consideration the emerging ever growing scholarly academic requirements of the Indian higher education, the University Grant Commission (UGC) has launched two ambitions and revolutionary programs for academic community in higher education institutes under its purview.

The first initiatives namely “**UGC-INFONET CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMME**” aim at networking university campuses with state of the art campus wide networks and internet bandwidth and the second initiative is known as “**UGC-INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM**” which provide access to selected core and peer review e-journals and databases in various disciplines. The Information and Library Network (INLIBNET) is the executing and monitoring body of the both programmes.

## LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

A Library Consortium is a group of libraries who partner to coordinate activities, share resources, and combine expertise. A Library is a network of Libraries/Information centers that agree for resource sharing in order to satisfy the information needs of users on the basis of Library Consortium. A Consortium is said to be “A co-operative arrangement among groups or institutions, or an association or society”. By (American Heritage Dictionary)

**Some of the significant Consortium Models:**

### International model Consortium

- Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL)
- The British Colombia Electronic Library Network (ELN)
- Washington Research Library Consortium
- Ohio link
- Texshare

- SUNY connect in USA
- CALIS in China
- CONEERT in Taiwan etc.

#### **National levels:**

- UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium
- Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Science and Technology Consortium (INDEST);
- Inter- University Centers (IUC-DAEF) Consortia Atomic Energy;
- Forum for Resources Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (e-FORSA);
- Council of Scientific Industrial Research Consortium (CSIR);
- Health Science Library and Information Network (HELINET);
- Consortium for E- Resources in Agriculture ( CeRA);

### **UGC-INFONET DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM**

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003 by Honorable Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India, soon after providing the Internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonet programme. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries which have been discontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "Serials Crisis". The term "serials crisis" refers to exponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals. The crisis is a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, increase in number of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries.

The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 7500+ core and peer-reviewed journals and 10 bibliographic databases from 26 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The programme has been implemented in phased manner. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to e-resources was provided to 50 universities who had Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet Connectivity programme of the UGC. In the second phase, 50 more universities were added to the programme in the year 2005. So far 209 Universities including 14 National Law schools and central universities that come under the purview of UGC have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers almost all subject disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical Sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc. The programme is wholly funded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre, Gandhinagar.

The benefit of subscription to e-resources would also be extended to the colleges, to begin with the College for Potential with Excellence (CPE) and autonomous colleges. The Consortium has also launched its "Associate Membership Programme" wherein private universities and other research organizations are welcomed to join the Consortium for selected e-resources. Presently total membership of this Consortium is 419 and thus in terms of users. This has become the largest Consortium in India.

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

The main objective of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full- text and bibliographic databases to academic institution at lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objective of the UGC- Infonet Digital Library Consortium are as follows:

- To provide access to a high quality and scholarly electronic resources to a large number of academic institutions including universities and colleges at substantially lower rates of subscription and at most favorable terms and conditions.
- To promote rapid and efficient access to scholarly content to the users and to create and promote use ICT in teaching and learning in universities in India.
- To extend the benefit of consortium to its associate members including private universities and colleges.
- To impart training to the users, librarians, research scholars and faculty members of the institution in use of electronic resources with an aim to optimize their usage.
- To promote use of e-resources with gradual decrease in print subscription.
- To promote interaction and inert- library co-operation among the participating universities.
- To evaluate the usage of the subscribed resources and to identify new resources that are required to be subscribed under the program me.

- To bring qualitative change in teaching, learning and research with an aim to meet the ever growing challenge of globalization of higher education.
- To increase the research productivity of the institution both in terms of quality and quantity of publication.
- To provide access to a high- quality and scholarly electronic resources to a large number of academic institution including universities and colleges at substantially lower rates of subscription and at most favorable terms and condition.

### **Benefits of Library Consortium:**

The consortium-based subscription to e-resources is a viable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources across institution at lower rates of subscription major benefits of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium are as follows:

- The consortium acts as a single-window service for a large number of universities with their diverse research academic interest.
- The consortium, with its collective strength of participating institutions, attracts highly discounted rates of subscription with most favorable terms of agreement for a wider range of e- resources. Most of the publishers have responded positively to the call of consortium. The rates offered to the consortium are lower by 60% to 90% depending upon the category of institution.
- Users have immediate access to material previously not subscribed to, no incremental cost for accessing back file.
- It improves the existing library services and reduces the subscription cost.
- The research productivity of beneficiary institution is expected to improve with increase access to international databases and full text resources.
- The consortium is expected trigger remarkable increase in sharing in both print and electronic resources amongst participating library through J-GATE Custom Contents for Consortium (JCCC).
- The consortium has been opened-up for all other universities/ education institution through its “Association Membership Programme”. Private universities and other institution can join the consortium and get the benefit not only highly discounted rates of subscription but also the favorable terms and conditions.
- Member of the consortium have the benefits of cap on the annual increase in the rates of subscription. While the usual increase in price of e-resources vary from 15% to 20%, the consortium enjoys the cap on increase in price ranging from 5% to 8%.
- The Consortium is offered terms of agreement for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources, which would not have been possible for any single institutions.

### **Major Activities:**

Major activities of the consortium are as follows:

- I. To arrange subscription to electronic resources identified and negotiated by the members of its National Steering Committee;
- II. To measure usage of existing e-resources and its impact of research output in terms of number of research publications;
- III. To identify new resources relevant to the user community in universities;
- IV. Ensure access to subscribed electronic resources to member universities as per their subscription ;
- V. Organize training programmes for the member institution on use of electronic resources;
- VI. Interact with the official in UGC for continuation and promotion of the programme;
- VII. Interact with ERNET India for providing uninterrupted internet bandwidth in the member universities;
- VIII. Initiate additional activities complementary to the present activities of the consortium;
- IX. Encourage interactions amongst member libraries.

### **Governance**

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is being operated by the INFLIBNET Centre under the overall guidance of a National Steering Committee that guides and steers the activities of the Consortium. The National Steering Committee is responsible for operational aspects of the Consortium. The Committee decides on e-resources to be subscribed from various publishers and numbers and names of beneficiary universities.

## Electronic Resources:

The Consortium subscribe to electronic resources covering all major subject discipline being taught in universities. It provides current as well as archival access to more than 7200 plus core and peer reviewed journals and number of bibliographic database from publishers and aggregators in various disciplines. It includes wide variety of material;

### I. Full-text Electronic Resources:

Full- text electronic resources contain complete articles along with their bibliography details. The consortium subscribes to full-text e-resources from scholarly societies, universities presses, commercial publishers and aggregators including American chemical society, American Institute of Physics, Cell Press, Springer Link, Jstore, Project Muse, etc.

### II. Bibliography databases:

Bibliography databases contain references to articles published in journals. Most of bibliography databases contain abstracts of the articles along with links to their full-text.

### E-Resources@UGC- Infonet Digital Library Consortium

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium subscribes to the following resources for its member institutions. All electronic resources subscribed are available from the publisher's Web site. Following is the list of E-Resources with link to their brief introduction.

#### Full - Text E - Resources

<b>American Chemical Society</b>	<a href="http://pubs.acs.org/">http://pubs.acs.org/</a>
<b>American Institute of Physics</b>	<a href="http://journals.aip.org/">http://journals.aip.org/</a>
<b>American Institute of Physics Archive</b>	<a href="http://journals.aip.org/digital_archive.html">http://journals.aip.org/digital_archive.html</a>
<b>American Physical Society</b>	<a href="http://publish.aps.org/browse.html">http://publish.aps.org/browse.html</a>
<b>Annual Reviews</b>	<a href="http://arjournals.annualreviews.org">http://arjournals.annualreviews.org</a>
<b>Cambridge University Press</b>	<a href="http://journals.cambridge.org/">http://journals.cambridge.org/</a>
<b>Economic &amp; Political Weekly</b>	<a href="http://epw.in/">http://epw.in/</a>
<b>Emerald</b>	<a href="http://www.emeraldinsight.com/">http://www.emeraldinsight.com/</a>
<b>HeinOnline</b>	<a href="http://home.heinonline.org/">http://home.heinonline.org/</a>
<b>Institute of Physics</b>	<a href="http://iopscience.iop.org/journals">http://iopscience.iop.org/journals</a>
<b>JSTOR</b>	<a href="http://www.jstor.org/">http://www.jstor.org/</a>
<b>Manupatra</b>	<a href="http://www.manupatra.com/">http://www.manupatra.com/</a>
<b>Nature</b>	<a href="http://www.nature.com/">http://www.nature.com/</a>
<b>Nature Archive (1987-1996)</b>	<a href="http://www.nature.com/">http://www.nature.com/</a>
<b>OUP Archive</b>	<a href="http://www.oxfordjournals.org">http://www.oxfordjournals.org</a>

<b>Oxford University Press</b>	<a href="http://www.oxfordjournals.org">http://www.oxfordjournals.org</a>
<b>Portland Press</b>	<a href="http://www.portlandpress.com/pp/default.htm">http://www.portlandpress.com/pp/default.htm</a>
<b>Project Euclid</b>	<a href="http://projecteuclid.org">http://projecteuclid.org</a>
<b>Project Muse</b>	<a href="http://muse.jhu.edu/">http://muse.jhu.edu/</a>
<b>Royal Society of Chemistry</b>	<a href="http://www.rsc.org/">http://www.rsc.org/</a>
<b>RSC Archive</b>	<a href="http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals?key=title&amp;value">http://pubs.rsc.org/en/journals?key=title&amp;value</a>
<b>Science Direct (10 Subject Collection)</b>	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/">http://www.sciencedirect.com/</a>
<b>Science Direct Archive (Basic Sc Collection)</b>	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/">http://www.sciencedirect.com/</a>
<b>SIAM</b>	<a href="http://epubs.siam.org/">http://epubs.siam.org/</a>
<b>SIAM Locus (Archive)</b>	<a href="http://locus.siam.org/">http://locus.siam.org/</a>
<b>Springer Link</b>	<a href="http://link.springer.com/">http://link.springer.com/</a>
<b>Westlaw India</b>	<a href="http://www.westlawindia.com">http://www.westlawindia.com</a>
<b>Wiley Blackwell publishing</b>	<a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/</a>



### **Bibliographic Databases**

<b>ISID</b>	<a href="http://isid.org.in/">http://isid.org.in/</a>
<b>JCCC</b>	<a href="http://jgateplus.com/search">http://jgateplus.com/search</a>
<b>MathSciNet</b>	<a href="http://www.ams.org/mathscinet">http://www.ams.org/mathscinet</a>
<b>Royal Society of Chemistry (6 Databases)</b>	<a href="http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/CurrentAwareness/">http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/CurrentAwareness/</a>
<b>SciFinder Scholar</b>	<a href="http://www.cas.org/products/scifinder">http://www.cas.org/products/scifinder</a>
<b>Web of Science</b>	<a href="http://apps.isiknowledge.com/">http://apps.isiknowledge.com/</a>

### **Open Access Resources**

<b>About Open Access</b>	<a href="http://oaresources.php">oaresources.php</a>
<b>Open Access E-Journals</b>	<a href="http://oaresources.php#ejournals">oaresources.php#ejournals</a>
<b>Open Access Directories</b>	<a href="http://oaresources.php#directories">oaresources.php#directories</a>
<b>IRs@member Institutions</b>	<a href="http://oaresources.php#IRs">oaresources.php#IRs</a>

Source (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/econ/eresource.php>)

### **Membership**

The member of Consortium, as on now, is restricted to universities that are covered under 12B of the UGC Act (currently 419). These universities are considered as core members. All expenses on subscription to e-resources for these universities are born by the UGC. As per the diversity of resources needed and ICT infrastructure available in these universities.

### **Core Members:**

The University Grant Commission (UGC) provides funds through INFLIBNET required for providing differential access to various electronic resources subscribed by the consortium for selected member institution. The members of core groups of institution are as follows:

- Universities covered under phase I - (50)
- Universities covered under phase II - (50)
- Universities covered under phase III - (93)
- Associate members (204)
- IUCs and other Institution (06)
- National law school and universities (14)

### **College model of the Consortium:**

There is also a proposal to extend services of this Consortium to Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE) as well as to autonomous colleges having adequate ICT infrastructure. Besides, the INFLIBNET center is also actively working closely with MHRD to extend the services of the Consortium to all its affiliated colleges under the National Mission on Education through ICT. The proposal named "National Library and Information Infrastructure for Scholarly Content" (N-LIST) is being evolved in collaboration with the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi.

### **Role of INFLIBNET:**

The INFLIBNET Center acts as a nodal agency for implementation, monitoring and execution of the entire programme through the committees mentioned above. It coordinates all activities concerned with negotiation, renewal of subscription of e-resources and subsequent trouble shooting on behalf of the zsConsortium. The Center also promotes cooperation amongst member universities and facilitates better terms of references for use and preservation of subscribe resources. In brief INFLIBNET is responsible for:

- Coordinating meetings of its Committees;
- Constitution of Negotiation Committee through its Governing Board;
- Negotiating rates of subscription and its terms and conditions;
- Ensures IP-based access of subscribed e-resources to beneficiary universities;

- Attend to the problem faced by universities and liaise with publishers to resolve such problems;
- Develop tutorial and promotion material, impart training technical support to member universities;
- Evaluate subscribe e-resources and monitor its usage regularly;
- Maintain and update web site of the Consortium;
- Organize awareness programme to promote e-resources;
- Improve cooperation and communication amongst member universities;
- Measure impact of access to e-resources on research output in beneficiary universities;
- Present periodic report to the UGC on extent of usage of e-resources, economics of the consortium and its impact on research output;

### **Creating Awareness**

Creating awareness about access to e-resources among participate members is very necessary in order to make the maximum benefits of the Consortium. The INFLIBNET Center organizes “One- Day User Awareness Programme” and “Two-Days User Awareness Programme” at participating Universities or Institutions. Till now more than 75+ have been organized.

### **Future Endeavors**

Depending upon the actual demand from the user’s community, the Consortium purposes to add more resources including electronic books, full-text and bibliography databases, datasets and reference books. The Consortium plan to strength en plan and expend its “associate membership programme” which would encourage private universities and other institution to join the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and subscribed to e-resources of their choice on payment basis. A proposal for college model of the Consortium is already under consideration by the MHRD under the National Mission on Education through ICT.

### **Conclusion**

UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium is one of the largest consortiums in the world which is providing access to numerous e-resources for academic and research community facilitating the scholarly communication India. Thus it is being proved as a boon to the library and information centers and higher education in India in modern age.

### **References**

- [1]. Arora, J., & trivedi, K. (2010). UGC- INFONET Digital Library Consortium: Present services and Future Endeavours. DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, 30(2), 15-25.
- [2]. Bhatt, R. (2010). Use of UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium resources by research scholars and faculty members of the University of Delhi in History and Political Science: A study. Library Management, 31(4/5), 319-343.
- [3]. Chauhan, S. K., & Mahajan, P. (2013). Library consortia in India with special reference to UGC-Infonet digital library consortium. The International Information & Library Review, 45(3-4), 127-138.
- [4]. Guidelines for UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. (n.d.). UGC. Retrieved February 14, 2014, from <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/xiplanpdf/ugcinfonetdigitallibconrtim240409.pdf>.
- [5]. Litterer, J. A. (1966). Conflict in Organization: A Re-Examination.. Academy of Management Journal, 9(3), 178-186.
- [6]. Madhusudhan, M. (2008). Use of UGC-Infonet e-journals by research scholars and students of the University of Delhi, Delhi A study. Library Hi Tech, 26(3), 369-386.
- [7]. Moghaddam, G. G., & Talawar, V. (2009). Library consortia in developing countries: an overview. Program: Electronic Library and Information Systems, 43(1), 94-104.