AWARENESS AND USE OF NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CONSORTIUM OF NISCAIR: A CASE STUDY

Sakshi

Research Scholar,
Department of Library and Information Science,
KU, Kurukshetra.
sakshiarora_13@yahoo.co.in

Neeraj Uppal

Inventory Manager,
Woolworths Ltd.,
Melbourne, Australia.
get2uppal@hotmail.co.uk

Dr. Joginder Singh

Assistant Professor,
Department of Library and Information Science,
KU, Kurukshetra.
Joginder_burman@yahoo.co.in

ABSTRACT

The present paper explains about National Knowledge Resource Consortium and examined awareness and use of the consortium by the users of NISCAIR. 70 questionnaires were distributed to the users and 63 questionnaires were received back for analysis the data. The results of the survey reveal that majority of the respondents were aware of the consortium whereas only 4.76% were not aware of the consortium. 52.38% respondents were moderately satisfied with the consortium and 23.80% were using for writing research articles. Some problems were highlighted while accessing the consortium. Providing training to its users will make maximum use of the consortium and reduce the problems faced by the users.

Keywords: National Knowledge Resource Consortium, E- journals Consortium, E-Resources

INTRODUCTION

Co-operation, Inter library Loan and Resources Sharing among libraries play significant role in providing effective services by reducing costs. All types of libraries are not capable of acquiring every publication and providing it to the users on demand. Recent developments in ICT have led to change in way of library cooperation. Now it is called library consortium. A lot of efforts have been taken in past few years to overcome the financial problems through consortia." Library consortium is a group of two or more libraries which have agreed to co-operate with one another in order to fulfill certain similar needs, usually resource sharing. It usually, refers to co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration between, and amongst, libraries for the purpose of sharing information" (Bajpai, et.al, 2009). Some of library consortia set up in India are: UGC- INFONET, INDEST, Inter University

Canters, FORSA, HELINET, CSIR e- journal consortium. A consortium is helpful in getting co-operation from various libraries in acquiring electronic databases and communication of information. Now-a-days, many of the special and university libraries formed a group for getting online journals

NISCAIR

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) came into existence   on 30 September 2002 with the merger of National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC). Both NISCOM and INSDOC, the two premier institutes of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), were devoted to dissemination and documentation of S&T information. Now, with the formation of NISCAIR, all the multi-faceted activities have been amalgamated, making NISCAIR, an institute capable of serving the society using modern IT infrastructure in a more effective manner and taking up new ventures in the field of science communication, dissemination and S&T information management systems and services (www.niscair.res.in)

National knowledge Resource Consortium

The National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC) was established in year 2009. It is a network of libraries and information centres of 40 CSIR and 26 DST institutes. NKRC's origin goes back to the year 2001, when the CSIR set up the Electronic Journals Consortium to provide access to 1200 odd journals of Elsevier Science to all its users. Over a period of time, the Consortium not only grew in terms of the number of resources but also in terms of the number of users as more like-minded institutes evinced interest to join the Consortium.

In present time, NKRC facilitates access to 5,000+ e-journals of all major publishers, patents, standards, citation and bibliographic databases. NKRC provides open access resources also to its users. Resources subscribed include publishers like M/s Blackwell, M/s Springer, M/s AIP, M/s ASCE & others, Journals/Conference Proceedings, Patents, Standards, and Databases like Web of Science, JCCC, & SCI-Finder and many more e-reosurces. (www.niscair.res.in)

Need of the study

There are many studies conducted to find out the use and awareness of consortium by the users. But the present work is conducted to explore the awareness of National Knowledge Resource Consortium among users of NISCAIR.

Review of Literature

Bhatt (2010) studied that UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium is the most important consortium providing access to a large array of e-resources to all academic universities and colleges in India. It facilitates efficient and effective usage of e-resources for teaching and research activities.

Madhusudan (2008) conducted a study on use of UGC- Infonet e- journals in university of Delhi. The study shows that majority of respondents use UGC Infonet e-journals and there is an increasing demand for subscription of more e- journal titles in LIS.

There appears to be some need for academics to be provided with training in using e-journals.

Murthy (2008) conducted a study regarding usage of UGC-Infonet resources and found that the trend of high use of e-resources by the Indian scholars helped in reducing information gaps between rural and urban, privileged and less privileged, reachable and unreachable frontiers within the Country. This has revolutionized the Indian university campuses with a digital culture.

Patil and Parameshwar (2007) revealed in their study that UGC Infonet Consortium is much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. It was concluded that there is need to train the faculty members and research scholars in using the UGC-Infonet Journals. More number of journals should be included in the consortium.

Vishala and Bhandi (2007) UGC-Infonet project aims to create awareness to the library and information professionals, research scholars, and faculty and post graduate students of library and information science regarding the availability of the scholarly journals in the field of library and information science

Walmiki, et.al (2010) surveyed that less than 40% of the faculty members of Karnataka state universities are aware of and use the UGC- Infonet online resources and more than 60% are not using the resources. It was suggested that there is an urgent need on the part of UGC to review the resources included in the consortium in order to fulfill the needs of the faculty members.

Objectives

1. To know the awareness about National Knowledge Resource Consortium among users of NISCAIR.
2. To find out who introduced them to the access of National Knowledge Resource Consortium.
3. To study the purpose of using National Knowledge Resource Consortium E- journals
4. To find out problems faced by the users while accessing National knowledge Resource Consortium.
5. To ascertain whether training programme is necessary to educate the users.
6. To identify satisfaction with of National Knowledge Resource Consortium.

Scope

The scope of the study is confined to the users who frequently visit to NISCAIR to fulfill their information needs.

Methodology

In order to accomplish objectives, a survey was conducted through a questionnaire. The Questionnaires were distributed personally to the users and got them on the spot. Total of 70 questionnaires were distributed and 63 were received back.

Data Analysis

Table 1.Gender wise distribution of Respondents

Gender	No. of Response	Percentage
Male	40	63.49%
Female	23	36.50%

Table 1 shows that out of 70 respondents 40 (63.49%) were male and 23 (36.50%) were female.

Table 2. Awareness about Consortium

Particulars	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	60	95.23%
No	3	4.76%

It is evident from table 2 that majority of respondents 60 (95.23%) are aware about consortium whereas only 3(4.76%) respondents are not aware of this consortium.

Table 3.Sources through which consortium is known

Sources	No. of Response	Percentage
Library Professionals	35	55.6%
Teachers	15	23.80%
Colleagues	7	11.11%
Web	6	9.52%

A question was asked to know, through which sources users came to know about National Knowledge Resource Consortium. It is interesting to note that 35 (55.6%) responded that they came to know about consortium through library professionals followed by 15 (23.80%) of the respondents know the same by their teachers, 7 (11.11%) know the consortium by their colleagues and 6 (9.52%) know the consortium through the web searching.

Table 4. Purpose of using consortium

Purpose	No. of Response	Percentage
Research Needs	12	19.04%
Education	13	20.63%
Professional Achievement	12	19.04%
Writing Research Articles	15	23.80%
Current Information	11	17.46%

Data presented in table 4 revealed that 15 (23.80%) respondents use the National Knowledge Resource Consortium for the purpose of writing research articles followed by 13 (20.63%) for education, and 12 (19.04%) to carry out research and Professional achievement, 11 (17.46%) for current information in their field of specialization.

Table 5. Problems faced while accessing consortium

Problems	No. of Response	Percentage
Time Consuming	29	46.03%
Limited Access to Terminals	12	19.04%
Slow Speed	17	26.98%
Lack of Trained Staff	5	7.93%

Table 5 shows the problems faced by the respondents while accessing National Knowledge Resource Consortium. The most common problem faced by the respondents is that of time consuming (46.03%). 17 (26.98%) are of opinion that internet has slow speed, 12 (19.04%) state limited access to terminals and only 5 (7.93%) consider that there is lack of trained staff to assist them in searching relevant information

Table 6. Satisfaction level

Satisfaction	No. of Response	Percentage
Very Satisfied	21	33.33%
Moderately Satisfied	33	52.38%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	09	14.28%
Not Satisfied	-	-

The results from table 6 reveal that majority of the respondents 33(52.38%) are moderately satisfied with the consortium, 21 (33.33%) respondents are very satisfied with the same consortium and only 9 (14.23%) are somewhat dissatisfied.

Table 7. Evaluation of Consortium

Grade	No. of Response	Percentage
Excellent	16	25.39%
Good	32	50.79%
Moderately Good	15	23.80%
Poor	-	-

There is need to evaluate National Knowledge Resource Consortium. The table 7 reveal that, 32 (50.79%) respondents stated that the consortium is good, followed by 16 (25.39%) rated the same as excellent and 15 (23.80%) expressed it moderately good. It is good to know that no respondent rated it poor.

Table 8. Need of Training

Need	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	40	63.49%
No	23	36.50%

Table 8 reveals that 40 (63.49%) respondents want training in using the consortium. However, 23 (36.50%) respondents stated that the training programme is not required.

Findings

The significant findings of the study are given below:

- Majority of the respondents were well aware of the National Knowledge Resource Consortium
- 35 (55.6%) respondents came to know about the consortium through library professionals.
- 15 (23.80%) of the respondents used the consortium for writing research articles followed by 13 (20.63%) for education.
- 12 (19.04%) respondents stated that they were accessing the consortium for research needs and professional achievement and 11 (17.46%) for current information.
- The most common problem faced by the respondents was time consuming while accessing e- resources.
- 33 (52.38%) respondents expressed satisfaction with the consortium.
- 40 (63.49%) respondents attest to the fact that they needed training programme for searching the consortium.
- 32 (50.79%) rated the consortium as good.

Suggestions and Conclusion

The emerging technologies have dynamically changed the way information is gathered, organized, accessed, stored and consumed. E-resources are the need of the hour for research and academic activities and help in faster access and retrieval of information in various disciplines. National Knowledge Resource consortium is much helpful in fulfilling information needs. As can be inferred from the study that majority of the respondents are aware of the consortium and use e- resources for the purpose of writing research articles and research needs. Training programme should be organized for better usage of the consortium. To provide more computer systems with high speed connectivity in computer laboratories will help in better accessing and downloading of e-resources as per users' choice

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