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E-JOURNAL RESOURCES FOR COMMERCE & ECONOMICS AT 'INDIAN JOURNALS' OF N-LIST: AN OBSERVATION

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Abstract:

N-LIST program is designed specially for college libraries enabling them to access e-resources through INFLIBNET from Ahmedabad. With nominal membership charges thousands of e-resources are available to all without any restrictions on downloads or no of users. The list of resources includes resources from reputed national and international publishers. This paper is the outcome of search made by author for commerce and economics faculty to provide them with online journals from N-LIST. However in this paper only one site 'Indian journals' at http://www.indianjournals.com/ was studied in detail to stat overall observation about these e-journal resources.

Introduction :

About N-LIST: National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) program was formally launched on 4th May, 2010. This project is jointly executed by UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi. It provides for cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGC-INFONET resources for technical institutions; and 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 INFLIBNET Centre. It covers e-books, e-journals and databases. This program is specially meant for the colleges. Access is through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated by INFLIBNET. Lead is taken by INFLIBNET centre in respect of providing and maintaining infrastructure and technical set up essential for distribution of resources. At the initial stage membership was open only to the colleges coming under 12B and 2F section of the UGC 1956 Act. It is now covers Non -Aided Colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing).

Scope: This study is limited to availability of e-journals to the colleges in subjects of Business, Economics and Management through N-LIST program of INFLIBNET. Details such as number

of journals, frequency, type i.e. whether peer reviewed or indexed, current issue and back issues are studied to know the usefulness of the journals.

Methodology: INFLIBNET –NLIST website was visited several times to collect the data. Names of all journals under Indian journal site were checked to identify relevant subjects & titles. Out of 150 titles only 40 titles are available under commerce and economics subject. Simply noting the total number of journals and their titles did not serve the purpose. Journals are the recorder of latest developments in the respective field. In view of this there are other factors which are equally notable if access to journal is to be purposeful. For mapping the usefulness of any journal some questions requires to be answered like whether it is peer-reviewed? Whether it is indexed? When current issue is made available? Whether access to back issues is permitted? In this study these questions were studied along with some other relevant factors with regard to each journal title. To collect this data each journal title was checked, relevant information was retrieved from their respective websites. Back issues were also accessed to check availability to the extent of full text. Extracted data is presented in the form of table with all relevant details used for stating the observations.

OBJECTIVES:
1. To know about various e-resources of N-LIST
2. To know Indian journals available in Business, Economics and Management
3. To study the type of journals, their current issue and back issues in Business, Economics and Management

Components: N-LIST project has four distinct components. For economic, easy and need based supply resources educational institutions of higher education are categorized as technical institutions, universities and colleges. Various information resources are subscribed and they are clubbed under these three categories for distribution purpose. As the level and type of courses, degrees, research activities, grants etc. in short the entire set up of these institutions are different from each other, information needs are also different. Resources are grouped together as per the need of these institutions. For successful functioning and marketing of this program other factors like subscription, training promotion, monitoring and evaluation are very clearly mentioned which assures quality service. These components are

1) To subscribe and provide access to selected UGC-INFONET e-resources to technical institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs) and monitor its usage
2) To subscribe and provide access to selected INDEST e-resources to selected universities and monitor its usage
3) To subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to 6,000 Govt. / Govt.-aided colleges and monitor its usage
4) 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 providing and monitoring the access to e-resources for technical institutions and universities. The INFLIBNET Centre at

Ahmedabad is responsible for activities listed for colleges at three and four above. The INFLIBNET Centre is also responsible for developing and deploying appropriate software tools and techniques for authenticating authorized users.

Registration: The registration for this program is simple. Online form is available on the website. As of now, total numbers of registrations for the N-LIST program are more than 2300. This includes colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F of UGC 1965 Act, and non aided colleges. The membership fee is Rs. 5000/- p.a. only. At the time of registration the college is supposed to provide list of the users and their e-mail addresses. These members get individual password for accessing the resources. This program has large coverage as it does not have any limitations on the number of members selected by the college. Membership is also open to students. Important feature of this program is unlimited access to resources. There are no restrictions on the number of downloads etc. The authorized users from colleges can 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. For obtaining any other information, or query or help, contact numbers and e-mail as well as postal address is provided

N-LIST and the College Libraries: Main function of the College library is to support academic activities of the college, research of the faculty and cater to the various information needs of the teachers, students and staff. The research activities in the colleges are gaining momentum with the support of the UGC through faculty improvement programs, financial assistance for the research projects etc. Many colleges have entered into the publication of their research journals. This has increased the demand for journals and databases by college faculty for pursuing their research based activities. But at the same time prices of these resources are increasing every year beyond the reach of library budget. One or two journals are not sufficient for the library as topics and subject areas of the research are in multiple number. Another important fact is that college curriculum has undergone several changes which have focus on continuous evaluation of individual performance rather than exclusively on written exams. Hence projects, presentations, assignments and other similar activities have been introduced at the degree level. This new pattern has forced students to do additional reading and little research. Another fact is that many colleges run self financing programs of post graduate level where research is again given importance. Hence college libraries are trying to cope with these changes by acquiring print as well as online resources. But information explosion, rising prices and shrinking or stable budget does not allow library to procure or subscribe to all resources which are in demand. In this situation N-LIST program is a boon to colleges. Just with small portion of budget library is able to provide access to thousands of journals and books.

From the initial stage of formation, various initiatives taken at INFLIBNET for distribution of information resources were well known to educational institutions. But there was no special facility available solely for colleges. NLIST program came as a special information package for colleges. Letters were sent to all colleges with all details for making awareness drive. Demos and lectures were arranged at several places like sessions at refresher courses for librarians, seminars etc. Even question regarding the subscription of INFLIBNET services was included in self study report of NAAC.

BENEFITS:

- N-LIST resources have improved the image of college libraries.
- The subscription amount is affordable to all colleges.
- Procedure for membership is online and simple.
- No special infrastructure or software is required by the college to access the resources.
- Access to e-resources which includes books, journals and databases (Indian and Foreign publications)
- New resources shall be added from time to time
- Full text and back volumes of the journals has become reality
- Feedback system is very effective
- No limit on number of members and number of downloads
- Statistics of usage is available
- Each member has his own log in and password
- Training is available from the INFLIBNET centre

About resources: All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are made accessible to member colleges through the N-LIST website (http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in). All electronic resources subscribed under N-LIST are available from the publisher's Web site. The Consortium subscribes to the following resources for the colleges.

e- Journals (Full text) :

1. American Institute of Physics (18 titles): http://journals.aip.org/
2. American Physical Society (10 titles): http://publish.aps.org/browse.html
3. Annual Reviews (33 titles): http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
4. Cambridge University Press (224 titles): http://journals.cambridge.org/
5. Economic and Political Weekly (EPW): (1 titles) http://www.epw.in/
6. Indian Journals (150 titles): http://www.indianjournals.com/
7. Institute of Physics (46 titles): http://www.iop.org/EJ/
8. Oxford University Press (206 titles): http://www.oxfordjournals.org
9. Royal Society of Chemistry (29 titles): http://www.rsc.org/Publishing/Journals/
10. H. W. Wilson (1420 titles): http://vnweb.hwwilsonweb.com/hww/jumpstart.jhtml

E-Books :

1. Cambridge Books Online (1000+ titles) : http://ebooks.cambridge.org
2. E-brary (70000+ titles): http://site.ebrary.com/lib/inflibnet
3. EBSCoHost - Net Library (936 titles): http://www.netlibrary.com/
4. Hindustan Book Agency (65+ titles): http://hindustan.igpublish.com
5. Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) Books (382+ titles): http://iseas.igpublish.com
6. Oxford Scholarship (902 titles): http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/
7. Springer eBooks (1500+ titles) : http://www.springerlink.com.
8. Taylor Francis eBooks (1000+ titles): http://inflibnet.etailer.dpsl.net.
9. Myilibrary-McGraw Hill (1124 titles): http://lib.myilibrary.com/

Bibliographic Database

- MathSciNet: http://www.ams.org/mathscinet/
  E-Resources for Universities
- Web of Science: http://isisknowledge.com
  E-Resources for Technical Institutions (IITs, IISc, IISERs and NITs)

1. Annual Reviews: http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/
2. Project Muse: http://muse.jhu.edu/
3. Nature: http://www.nature.com/

In journal section e-journals from nine reputed publishers (Indian as well as foreign) are available. Besides this, Indian journals from various publishers are included under single site as Indian Journals (150 titles): http://www.indianjournals.com/. For books nine websites are included. In fact in college library it is very difficult to subscribe to foreign publication. Hence the users will be delighted to see these titles on the system. This has increased the use, and multiple accesses are possible. The vast e-world mainly of books and journals are available online for twenty four hours every day.

After going through these resources it has been observed that most of the sites are from science area. American Institute of Physics, Royal Society of Chemistry and American Physical Society etc. are few examples to quote. Hardly any resources are included for business, management or economics. For this study all sites of e-journals were visited to search for journal titles in these subjects. But it was very difficult to find journals dedicated exclusively to commerce or economics area. Off course detailed study of each site in this context would have been very vast topic for writing an article. Therefore only one site i.e. 'Indian Journals' at 'http://www.indianjournals.com/' is studied in detail to find out journals for commerce and economics.

This single site provides access to 150 journal titles of interdisciplinary Indian Journals and Research Publications published in India. For all journals full text is available and for some back issues is available. It offers a fast and user friendly search engine, Text accessibility in XML and PDF formats, digital archives, sample issues and online trial access facilities. This feature is appreciated because access is possible easily without asking for any technical help from others.

List of journals available in Business, Economics and Management

No	Name of the Journal	Frequency	Peer-reviewed	Subscription	Current issue	Archives
1.	Al-Barkaat Journal of Finance & Management	H-Y		Yes	2011, no2	2009-
2.	Asia Pacific Journal of Research in Business Management	Monthly	indexed	Yes	2011, no12	2010-
3.	Asian Journal of Research in Banking and Finance	Monthly	Yes	Yes	2012, no3	2011-
4.	Asian Journal of Research in Business Economics and Management	Monthly		Yes	2012, no3	2011-
5.	Delhi Business Review	H-Y		Yes	2011, no 1	-
6.	Dynamics of Public Administration	H-y		Yes	2011, no1	1996-
7.	Economic Affairs	Quarterly		Yes	2011, no2	2009-
8.	Educational Quest- An International Journal of Education and Applied Social Sciences**	Thrice a year		Yes	2010, no1	-
9.	Global Journal of Business Excellence	H-Y		open	2008, no1	
10.	Global Journal of e-Business and Knowledge Management	Annual		open	2009, no1	2007-08
11.	Global Journal of Flexible Systems Management	Q		Yes	2011, no1&2	2001-
12.	GYANODAYA - The Journal of Progressive Education **	H-Y		Yes	2011, no1	2008-
13.	IIMS Journal of Management Science	H-Y	Peer-reviewed	Yes	2011, no2	2010-
14.	International Journal of Business Economics and Management Research	Monthly	indexed	Yes	2012, no3	2011-
15.	International Journal of Global Business and Competitiveness	annual		open	2010	2008-
16.	International Journal of Marketing and Management Research	Monthly	indexed	Yes	2011, no3	-
17.	International Journal of Regulation and Governance			Yes	2011, no2	2001 -
18.	JIMS8M: The Journal of Indian Management & Strategy	Q	referred	Yes	2011, no4	2006,
19.	Journal of Commerce and Management Thought	Q		Yes	2012, no1	2010-
20.	Journal of Global Communication**	H-Y	referred	Yes	2011, no2	2008
21.	Journal of Income & Wealth	H-Y	referred	Yes	2010, no2	2003-

22.	Journal of Research**	Annual	Peer-reviewed	Yes	2010, no1	-
23.	Journal of Management Research Studies	Thrice	Referred	Yes	2011, no3	2001-
24.	Journal on Banking Financial Services and Insurance Research	Monthly		Yes	2011 Dec no9	
25.	LBS Journal of Management & Research	H-Y		Yes	2010, no2	2004-
26.	Learning Community-An International Journal of Educational and Social Development**	Thrice		Yes	2011, no1	2010-
27.	Mangalmay Journal of Management & Technology	H-Y	referred	Yes	2010, no2	2006-
28.	Mass Communicator: International Journal of Communication Studies**	Q	referred	Yes	2011, no4	2007-
29.	Media Watch **	H-Y		Yes	2010, no2	-
30.	Money and Finance(ICRA bulletin)	Q		open	2009, no1	2004
31.	Osmania Journal of International Business Studies	H-Y		Yes	2009, no2	
32.	Pranjana:The Journal of Management Awareness	H-Y	research	Yes	2011, no1	2006-
33.	Sandharv in Hindi **			Yes		
34.	Siddhant- A Journal of Decision Making	Q	referred	Yes	2011 ,no3	2007-
35.	TechnoLearn: An International Journal of Educational Technology**	H-Y		Yes	2011, no1	
36.	The Clarion- International Multidisciplinary Journal	H-Y		Yes	Not available	
37.	Training & Development Journal	H-y		Yes	2011, no.1	
38.	Values- Based Management	H-Y	-	yes	2011, no.1,	
39.	VIDHIGYA: The Journal of Legal Awareness**	H-y		Yes	2009	2006-09
40.	World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues	Q			Autumn no.3	2006-

Source: Designed by the author

OBSERVATIONS :
Subject coverage: From total 150 titles 40 titles are grouped under Business, Economics and Management. But after reading these titles it is clear that there are 10 titles marked with ** in the table pertains to subjects like media, education, communication and law. One title among them is in Hindi language It has been observed that there are hardly any articles relevant for commerce or business or economics.

Type of journals: From forty titles only fourteen titles are either peer reviewed or they are indexed. Other titles do not give provide any answer to this question. Hence they are considered as not peer reviewed and or not indexed.

Current issue: The most important point is the availability of the current issue. In case of online journals latest issue is made available before it is published in the print format. But from the above chart it is noticed that in majority cases latest issue is not made available immediately. In some cases it is two issues behind the scheduled publication. Only nine journals have their latest issue available in current issue search option.

Back issues: It is seen that twelve titles does not provide for any archival issues. Seven journals has archives of two years, two journals has access to archives of three years. For fifteen journals archives of more than five years are available. The access to archives is valuable for carrying out research.

SUGGESTIONS:
1. At least five- six core journals should be included.
2. Latest issue should be made available immediately for all the titles.
3. Number of journals in this category should be increased.
4. Peer reviewed titles should be added to its existing list
5. Quantity of back volumes should be increased

CONCLUSION:
N-LIST program is at its experimental stage that has given place of importance to college libraries. It will definitely progress with new ideas and resources to improve their services. It has made an ambitious beginning of giving access to e-resources to the colleges. Users from the colleges should make use of these resources. At the same time they should give feedback and suggest titles of their use. It will be a resourceful consortium for higher education in India.

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3. http://www.inflibnet.ac.in
4. http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in