Preface

Gone are the days when libraries were treated as the store house of books. We are living in the information age where the traditional concept of accessing information using printed books is gradually replaced by accessing information on-line. Over the last 25 years, the use of electronic resources has revolutionized the entire process. As users’ needs grew, types of resources changed. The use of e-resources has become the life line of any library. With the growing popularity of e-resources, academic libraries have now-a-days started shifting from print format to electronic format, and the use of e-resources is increasing day-by-day as compared to print documents. The demand for e-resources to the academic and research community has increased over the years. Academic libraries in India are at present facing problems such as increasing demands and high expectations from users, budget cuts, and high costs of library materials especially e-resources. It is, therefore, nearly impossible for a single library to provide access to e-resources to meet their users’ needs.

In order to overcome these problems, library consortia have been initiated in India but initiatives to form library consortia are still in their infancy. In this connection, the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST-AICTE) Consortium, which is a milestone in the history of higher education in India, was set up in 2003 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The consortium enables the engineering libraries to access to e-resources from reputed publishers, aggregators at much lower rates of subscription. The number of member colleges in the consortium has increased to 1259 as on 31st March 2011. To meet users’ needs, the libraries are at present paying a huge amount of money as subscription to e-resources.

Therefore, it has become very important to assess the services provided through INDEST-AICTE Consortium and evaluate how libraries and their users are being benefited from it. The study focuses on the use of e-resources by the faculty
members of engineering colleges of the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

The study aims to highlight the problems and constraints faced by the users with some constructive suggestions and recommendations for effective and efficient use of e-resources.

The study undertaken by the researcher is an attempt to evaluate the impact of access to e-resources through the INDEST-AICTE Consortium in terms of usage of e-resources (in terms of number of downloads), Cost Avoidance, Average Cost Per Download, Cost Recovery, Cost Savings, and Research output in terms of the number of publications.

The present study is divided into the following chapters.

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

It provides introductory information about the topic. It includes a brief introduction, definition, need and type of consortium. It briefly discusses INDEST-AICTE Consortium and its role in India.

**Chapter 2: Research Methodology**

It highlights the statement of the problem and the major objectives of the present study, hypotheses and methodology adopted for the present work. This chapter describes the steps used for the collection of the relevant data and its originality and significance of the present work as well.

**Chapter 3: Review of Related Literature**

This chapter is an attempt to provide an overview of various aspects and issues of this study through a review of literature. It describes related literature on the topic from national and international journals, books, online database and concerned website etc. All the collected literature has been segregated in two parts. The first part reveals the studies related to INDEST-AICTE Consortium whereas the second part depicts the literature related to studies of Use, Impact, and Usage and Cost-benefit analysis of e-resources.
Chapter 4: INDEST-AICTE Consortium: An overview

It provides an overview of INDEST-AICTE Consortium. In addition to that it discusses the genesis of INDEST-AICTE Consortium, objectives, major activities, role, membership, and services of INDEST-AICTE Consortium etc.

Chapter 5: Brief Profile of Surveyed Libraries of Engineering Colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

It focuses on the status of engineering education and its history in India. It depicts the growth of engineering colleges from 2006 to 2013 in India, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It provides brief profile of selected libraries of engineering colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Further, it has given brief description of library manpower, ICT infrastructure, resources available in these libraries and courses that are offered.

Chapter 6: Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter is divided into four parts. It presents quantitative and qualitative data collected. It is the core component of the whole thesis which reflects the mirror image of the various facets of the study undertaken. The collected data has been analyzed with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) IBM Statistics version 20 and Microsoft Excel 2007. Some of the statistical tools which have been used for further data analysis include Chi-square Test ($\chi^2$), Descriptive Statistics, and Mann-Whitney U Test.

Chapter 7: Findings, Conclusions and Suggestions

It presents the key findings of the study undertaken. It tests the hypothesis intended. Finally, it puts forward some constructive suggestions and recommendations. If implemented, they can go a long way in the process of effective utilization of the use of e-resources and remarkable outcomes. The chapter is ended with a note on possible areas for further research.

The study also captures librarians’ opinions towards the formation of the consortium for engineering colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
This study would be an asset to engineering colleges’ librarians and can play a significant role in assisting the librarians of the seventeen selected libraries of engineering colleges of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to better understand the perception and experience of users in using electronic resources, leading to more effective and efficient use of electronic resources. This study will also help them to justify the value for money invested on subscription.