CHAPTER 7

Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

Introduction:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has emerged as an essential element in today’s knowledge world. Many nations of world are now considering ICT as one basic skill amongst other core subjects. Though there have been many new technologies being introduced over the years, Information Technology has far reaching an impact on education and other sphere of life. Now a days, people require emphasizing technical knowhow for their success in every stage of their endeavour. Similarly, Information Technology is full of answers for many questions and tackles numerous inquiry, analysis and structure of new information. The process of learning can become significantly richer as users gain access to new information through consortia. Network can increase learner motivation as it links connectivity with nascent information

The open ended vistas of knowledge accessed through journals and books available in electronic form have made the user gain importance in competencies;

Communication,
Critical aptitude,
Competency in all spheres,
Co-ordination and
Co operation

It has been observed in the study that since India is a land facing many problems like ever growing population, poverty etc, it is obvious that paucity of funds and lack of space come out as outstanding features in every field. The library is not an exception. In order to meet the challenges there has been an attempt by the government to establish a project called consortia which is nothing but a modified name for cooperation in the resource sharing.
As discussed in the study it has been found that the problems in hoarding and retrieval of print sources of information could be meted out by the novel technique recognized as e-journals. In a normal situation before the knowledge that comes out in the form of book, it is published as an article or a paper. Hence the information is made available to public through e-resource. Due to constraints posed by print source the said information is brought to public domain in e form. It has been found that UGC has undertaken a step to reduce the cost of accessing such information available in the e medium and the universities can by becoming member of the consortia access such information. The universities are striving hard to make it known to the users about the e information and thus are contributing in the success of this task of great veteran namely UGC. Since many universities are going to be brought under the administration of UGC the users of all such universities if access the said form of information shall contribute in achieving more cost effectiveness.

The study has revealed some strange facts about the implementation of online information and the constraints in the use of e-resources of information.

It is observed from the study that in the consortia based information retrieval system in all the three universities for the selected years, the downloads of JSTOR were more and hence it was beneficial for the sponsor institution which in turn could be used by the users of the selected universities of Karnataka.

**Findings of the study:**

The Major findings of the study are given as under

The universities selected were only three and it was restricted to five years i.e., from 2004-2009. The main idea for the study as revealed earlier that the benefit which is notional to each of the university by arranging the accession of information through consortia. Accordingly the following aspects were brought to my notice;
• Willingness to share experiences
• Readiness of a country to start a consortium
• Need for a common vision and interests
• Need to accept derivation
• Access to a common library system
• Joint purchasing of electronic resources
• Extensive networking with other libraries
• Support from other libraries
• Training opportunities
• Financial gain
• Joint development opportunities

The aspects which were noticed at the time of study, have a greater impact on the downloads of e-journal from UGC Infonet consortium has a direct bearing on the findings which is reflected in the following points.

1. In the year 2007 and 2009 Bangalore University users download more number of articles from American Chemical Society and it is because of their interest in getting the information related in the subject for further research.

2. Bangalore University Library utilized UGC INFONET e-journals more than Karnatak University Library and Gulbarga University Library. It is possible only when the libraries are having more computers with Internet Connectivity.

3. In the year 2008 highest usage is from JCCC and it is again the Bangalore University and in Karnatak University Library it is Springer. From this the inference is drawn that the users in this year are different and their needs and interest in the subject also differ.

4. The usage is done maximum from ACS, JCCC, Springer, JSTOR, Emerald and rest of the publisher’s usage is very less in these three University Libraries of Karnataka State.
5. Though there are less the down loads from the journals like, PORT, RSC, Emerald, the rate of downloads is at the hopeful situation over the years.
6. However the social science journals have less influence on the minds of the users which is subject to many reasons that go beyond the ambit of librarian.
7. The library phenomenon like providing the computer, supplying the required apparatus etc can be managed by the libraries and university management. Whereas the people who are senior library personnel are less interested in adopting and adapting to the changing scenario and they do not support the technical knowhow of consortium.
8. The lack of local information which is more pertinent in social science and humanities is another problem with the success of consortia idea.
9. The students are less aware of foreign sources of information. Sometimes their language comprehension also hinders the user to download information available in English language.
10. The knowledge of computer is yet another problem with the implementation of consortia based information retrieval system in libraries.
11. As it has been reiterated many a times the lack of e energy that supports the computer slacks in the use of computer and information accessed from that source
12. The UGC INFONET e-journals consortium has an added advantage to the universities in a way it is going to reduce the burden and financial management which the libraries and host institution used to bear for providing library service by purchasing books and journals.
13. National Knowledge Network is a revolutionary measure in creating a knowledge society seamless. It provides unprecedented benefits to the knowledge community and mankind at large. It is a boon to activities of UGC-INFONET e-journals consortium.

14. National Knowledge Network facilitates Internet, Intranet, e-Mail, Messaging Gateways, Caching Gateways, Domain Name System, Web Hosting, Voice over IP, Multipoint Control Unit Services, Video Portals, SMS Gateway, Co-Location Services, Video Streaming etc.

15. Common library systems ensured easy communication, document delivery, and inter-library loans.

16. Variety of users have varied interests and the journals have restricted information and hence it becomes difficult to satisfy every user to access information.

17. The frequency use of e-resources by users depends on the nature of library’s e-collections, organization, maintenance and services. It is also revealed at the time of the study that the availability of scholarly e-journals (intranet only) are free, which gives them the latest up-to-date literature of their relevant field is the main reason for daily use of e-resources by research scholars. It seems that being in the library environment influences research scholars’ awareness of the resources available to them.

18. Users looked for the speedy way that would lead to satisfactory results when doing research, going for e-resources first, because the lure of e-journals was strong, though, and their successful adoption was user-driven.

19. It is clear from the analysis that success rate in finding the required information through e-resources has proved to be a great asset to many of the users. In this way, library’s e-journal
consortia are assisting with the changing nature of scholarship and are allowing researchers to find materials they would not have otherwise found.

20. The absence of universities’ initiative in the purchase of e-journals through consortium has an indirect impact on the less usage of some of the journal as enumerated above

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are put forward to improve the use of UGC-INFONET e-journals among users and students:

1. There is clear direction from this study that the Gulbarga University Library should increase the number of e-journals subscriptions
2. The area where the greatest need for training is required may be provided by the University Libraries at regular intervals in the departments as well as in the central library.
3. This study indicates that print journals are still significant. Therefore, the University Libraries should continue to monitor its collections with regard to print/ electronic media balance and not ignore its paper copy provision.
4. Bandwidths should be sought so as to provide faster access that will save much of the users ’ time and be a source of motivation to use the e-journals of the consortium.
5. The University Libraries website should facilitate the content pages of LIS e-journals. This will help the users to find the desired content and will also maximize the use of e-journals of UGC-INFONET Consortium.
6. Library may provide Article Alert Service and Proactive email based content pages of select journals by the members and same may be made available in website for future reference.
There are always challenges but these can be overcome through determination and belief in the consortia benefits. There is always need for human tactics when working with people.

7. There is a need to organise orientation classes and training programmes in accessing, searching and downloading of e-resources effectively at regular intervals and awareness among the users should be created to use e-resources to obtain current information.

8. Library may provide Article Alert Service and Proactive e-mail based content pages of select e-journals for the users and the same may be made available in the library web site for future reference.

9. Library should conduct users’ survey to know the usage of e-resources and the future needs of the users from time to time and include more and more number of online resources in various disciplines.

10. A separate e-resources floor provision may be made in the upcoming Library building for users for effective use of e-resources.

11. The library web page should provide an online guide to e-resources and various search-options to e-resources. This will help the users to find and get the desired content and will also maximize the use of e-resources and satisfaction level of users.

12. Library should introduce feedback system (both online and offline) for observing the proper use of e-resources.

13. The member universities should be encouraged to participate in the consortium programme like selection of publishers for subscription etc.
Further Research

Most obviously, this research needs to be pursued in other Universities to understand whether the results can be generalized for effective usage purpose. It is vital to use a different methodological approach to examine the barriers encountered when using UGC-Infonet e-journals. Further research is needed to investigate how the faculty members actually interact with information, what specific electronic sources they visit more than others, what search strategies they use, as well as the extent to which their information needs are satisfied. In the study it was noticed that the journals pertaining to science subject were downloaded to the maximum extent. There is no study in relation to different faculties like use of consortium sources by Social Science faculty, Humanities and the possible interdisciplinary research.

Conclusion

UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium has not only greatly reduced the costs of carrying out various library operations, but have also improved training and support. The reduction of costs is vital, especially for the libraries in Karnataka, which are under serious budgetary constraints. UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium encourages networking and collaboration among members as they offer a single platform through which members can collaborate. Resource sharing, which is the main reason for forming consortia, can run more effectively through shared catalogues, shared databases, collective purchasing and interlibrary lending. UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium has a direct benefit for end users of member libraries as it enables equal access to resources. The commonality of the system implies that end users need not learn how to use different systems every time they visit a different library.
The good performance of the UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium in selected University libraries of Karnataka, means that it will also be generally suitable for all over the state. The study shows that the UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium is considered to be a cutting edge technology that has met most library needs by providing regular upgrades and enhancements and being responsive to library developments. Not only has it performed well in the consortia examined, but it has a good reputation in other parts of the nation. The study shows that UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium is centrally managed as it is thought to be more cost effective, both in terms of staff requirements and maintenance. It is also viewed as a potential platform for planned consortium resource sharing activities.

As set out previously during the course of study it came to assess the importance of e–journals in the further promotion of the education and research. It was even attempted to know the operating mechanism of UGC – Infonet consortia with the analysis of data available for cost effectiveness. The usage pattern of e–journals made available in the selected universities was also examined which brought to notice the maximum usage of science journals and slack in the use of social science and other areas of information. So far as cost effectiveness of investment on e–journals is concerned only half of the journals accessed were being beneficially utilized on the other hand there is yet a task remains for popularization of some of the journals accessed through consortia. During the course of the study it was brought to light that there has been a growing trend in the universities in exploitation of e–resources for education and research. There is paucity in understanding the cost effectiveness considering the subscription investment is prevailing visibly in the Infonet consortia environment. It is learnt from the study that UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium more beneficial for all the university libraries for benefits relate to increased access to members’ A key benefit of UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium is that it is be centrally managed. The long-term benefits will be greater resource acquisition to be shared with many libraries at

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a reduced cost. Managing the server centrally will also improve the quality of records and encourage standardization, which will contribute to better service provision. A centrally managed UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium is therefore seen as a vehicle for driving these co-operative programmes. The main function of the proposed UGC-Infonet e-journals’ Consortium will be to improve co-operation among members and to provide an efficient, cost-effective library service to all members universities. The system should contain all the following basic modules required by member libraries: Additional journals could be purchased as and when the need arises. However, the journals that are necessary for resource sharing procedures like inter-library loan and electronic resources management would be included from the outset. Effective operation and production of data of the highest quality, the system’s adherence to international standards and accommodate programmes that enhance the consortium services from time to time. The system will allow optimal utilization of networked resources by allowing users to connect with other sources and to use data from other databases; it can be nurtured by supporting a local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN). Infrastructure will be needed to support communication among computers in one location and libraries that are far apart; it is viable to be implemented if the Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) network protocol and the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) electronic mail protocol for optimal use of the internet and electronic communication; enabling accession by users from remote workstations. This is necessary because of the central location of the system and which should facilitate accessibility of all member libraries and their end-users who are geographically separated; and accommodating access to a CD-ROM server from all workstations, as there might be a need to assemble selected databases in a central server where they can be accessed by all members.

The system needs to be evaluated regularly to ensure that it meets expectations. Other features can be added according to the needs of member
universities. The UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium provided by INFLIBNET in the mainstream of the learning has been a boon to users for accessing information resources than ever before. Obviously, users normally desire the content to be made available within the ambit of their skills and technological capabilities so that it is possible use the required information content to resolve the felt gap in knowledge. Perhaps, the influence of e-resources on research does not depend on technology, but on users’ choice. The present study also perpetuates availability of sufficient computer systems and pace of internet may enhance the use of e-resources more effectively and efficiently. Library authorities should encourage the users about tremendous impact of e-resources and their importance for the need of research work to create a solid ground for a digital learning environment and fulfill the main goal of the Library to derive required information needs of users and serve the clientele with right information, in right manner within the specified time framework.