Executive Summary

Technology and the society have a symbiotic and interdependent relationship. Though the technology by itself could work as a panacea to create the ever-elusive digital bridge, its perpetrators are not immune to that ancient human trait. Amidst the ongoing tug of war for the control and the freedom of Internet, it is worth reminding that information control is inherently linked with vesting of, and wrestling for power. Amidst the information era and changing revolutionary set up of transportation and communication, the world has been shrunked in to as a global village. Further the information of various corners of the world made accessible to people of locality has globalized the information mode. Therefore the dynamism exercised in literature and information gets transferred to people of another corner within a fraction of time. Library, the store house of knowledge too has extended its entity to go beyond the walls and arrange for acquisition and retrieval of information through the modern Information Communication Technologies.

The emergence of the internet, particularly the World Wide Web, as a new medium of information storage and delivery in the 21st century. In the knowledge society, the most challenging tasks for the information professionals and information centers all over the world is to supervise the huge information that are being produced and developed in the world. It is impossible for a single library to monitor all the explosion of knowledge fields and accumulate for the users. To cope up with this situation, the phenomenon of consortia has become very important in the last few years. Initially the term used for resource sharing activities was library cooperation. Though cooperation theoretically could embrace almost all library activities, practically it was confined to inter-library loan of library resources. With the advent of ICT and its application in library activities, new opportunities opened up for greater cooperation among libraries.
In the present study library consortia development processes were examined in the contemporary combining historical perspective, dynamic developmental approach, and social structure stressing the issues of permeable boundaries in library consortia and the manifestation of inter-organization relationships. Whereas the technology and network that assist the mechanism with an organized set up. India’s effort to cope up with new forms of communication is recognized with UGC INFONET e - journals consortium.

UGC INFONET e - journals consortium is made available to the university libraries in India whereby the students, teachers and researchers can access information by downloading the information. INFLIBNET makes available current as well as archival access to core and peer-reviewed journals and bibliographic databases from publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The programme has been implemented in phased manner. At present many universities, have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers almost all subjects 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 Centre, Ahmedabad.

The study was designed to investigate the cost effectiveness of the accession of information by the universities as per the cost benefit ratio, the data available for study of three universities namely Karnatak University, Dharwad., Bangalore University, and Gulbarga University were examined and the set objectives of knowing the minute things like significance of e-journals for promotion of education and research, the growing trend in the use of e-resource, the modus operandi of UGC - INFONET library consortium, the usage pattern of e-journals, and to know the cost effectiveness of the downloads of each of publishers was testified to arrive at a befitting conclusion that there is a growing trend in the Universities to exploit the e-resources for education and research. The study revealed that there is a paucity of
understanding the cost effectiveness considering subscription investment in the INFONET e-journals consortia environment. It is insisted in the study that there should serious investigations from time to analyse the usage data and correlate it to the investment in subscription by applying the methods of cost benefit studies.

With an increase in research outcomes of education are crucial to understand things around, Information and Communication Technologies can now be used to enhance education. INFONET e-journals consortia offer a well-timed opportunity to discuss, explore, evaluate and understand developments in the critical way.