

Access of E-resources By The Users Of LNB Library With Special Reference to UGC-Infonet: An Evaluative Survey

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Abstract

This paper is based on the survey of the users of the Laksminath Bezbaroa (LNB) Library of the Dibrugarh University about the access of the e-resources available in the library. The different types of available in the e-resources under the UGC-INFONET in the Laksminath Bezbaroa (LNB) Library of the Dibrugarh University, the reasons behind the use of e-resources in the UGC-INFONET, the subjectwise use of the e-resources, and the problems in using the resources are discussed.

Keywords: E-resources, UGC-INFONET, LNB Library

1. Introduction

The rapid growths of information technology have generated the evolution of several terms such as paperless, electronic, gateway and global digital library. In modern time all the types of libraries-academic, public and special not limited services in providing only printed resources. They provide both printed, electronic and Internet resources for fulfilling the requirement of the user. In this information age there is so much of information being generated that we are confronted with information explosion, information pollution and exponential growth of information. Due to this information explosion or information pollution the people are confuse about the information need, information access and information sources.

In recent years Internet has emerged as the most important and powerful medium for storage and retrieval of information. In today's world information transfer through Internet plays a significant role in the utilization of its resources, thus understanding of their structure and formats is essential. There is a tremendous growth in the number and variety of information resources available on the Internet and it made a great impact on information. Over the past 10 years due to the buzz of open access and open access movement online information becomes an important source for scholarly literature and also more number of sources as well as the results of research is now being available on Internet. The present study is based on what are the major Internet resources and types of Internet resources available on the Internet.

2. Electronic Resources in Modern Library

The electronic resources are becoming more and more available in the libraries. The print media is now being digitized, which increases the availability of books and journals in the electronic format. The electronic books are helpful because of their portability and its feature of incorporating more

than one book in a single hand held device. The published material is also available on open access. This helps the poorer people also to get the information required free of cost. They need not worry for licensing and usage of the information.

The government is also undertaking various steps to introduce this facility in academic institutions for the benefit of research scholars. The university avails this facility and gain access to e-resources. UGC-INFONET is a programme that provides electronic access to scholarly literature in all areas of learning to the Universities in India. This programme is wholly funded by the UGC and administered and monitored by INFLIBNET. Universities which are always short of funds, are greatly benefited by this facility

3. Laksminath Bezbaroa (LNB) Library

In a university the library inevitably becomes an intellectual arena and a place for the cross fertilization of ideas .It serves as a place where the bounds of knowledge are being perpetually extended. Again, it acts as a meeting place of enquiring minestrone of the authors and the readers. The university library of DU was established in the year 1967. It is a four-storied building with an area of 33570 sq.ft, and named after Laksminath Bezbaroa, the Doyen of Modern Assamese Literature. The Library follows the Open Access System. It practices the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (DDC) and AACR-II cataloguing scheme. The circulation system has been fully computerized by using 'SOUL' software. The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is working since January 2003.

The Library provides access to E-Journals under Infonet-E-Journal consortium. The INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) sponsored project provides full-text access to scholarly Journals and archival access to back volumes. The facility started from January 1st, 2004 provides access to around 4700 E-Journals. In LNB library it provides several resources which can be accessed through Internet. The resources of LNB library are:

Table 1: Resources of LNB library.

SLNo	Resources of LNB library	Total No.
1	Book	164,677
2	Current journals	153
3	Back-volumes of journals	17200
4	CD's/DVD's	400
5	Databases	03
6	online journals	4700

The user of LNB library is mainly student of different streams including arts, science and commerce, research scholars and teacher member and institutional members. Some are outsiders. The total number of library user in LNB library is as follows

Table 2: The total number of library user

SI No	Category	No of User
1	Student	2288
2	Research Scholars	60
3	Teacher member	175
4	Institutional members	180
5	Others	150

4. Internet Resources in LNB library

With the explosive growth of web, today libraries in their old concepts are no more in existence in modern time libraries have to adopt new technologies and should provide web-enabled services. LNB library is also not beyond that. In LNB library it provides different types of resources, which can be accessed through Internet. There is a central Internet facility in Dibrugarh University. It is located in the LNB library. It is equipped with a dedicated 64kbps VSAT link. It has 10 terminals. Students can use this facility at a nominal charge. Besides several departments have separate Internet connectivity. The Internet resources provided by LNB library is mainly e-book, e-journal, e-database, e-news, Open access resources etc. The user of LNB library who is mainly student, research scholar, teacher member and other institutional member widely used its Internet resources which are subscribed by the library.

4.1 LNB & UGC Infonet

In 2002 Laksmi Nath Bezbaroa library of Dibrugarh University was started to subscribe UGC INFONET e-journal consortia for the requirement of user. Through UGC- INFONET Laksmi Nath Bezbaroa library subscribe 2832 e-journal published by 14 number of different publisher including Arts, Science and Commerce subject. But it is noticed that the subscription of Internet resource through UGC INFONET in Laksmi Nath Bezbaroa library mainly dependent upon sound financial position. So it is very much essential that the financial condition of the library should be satisfactory one.

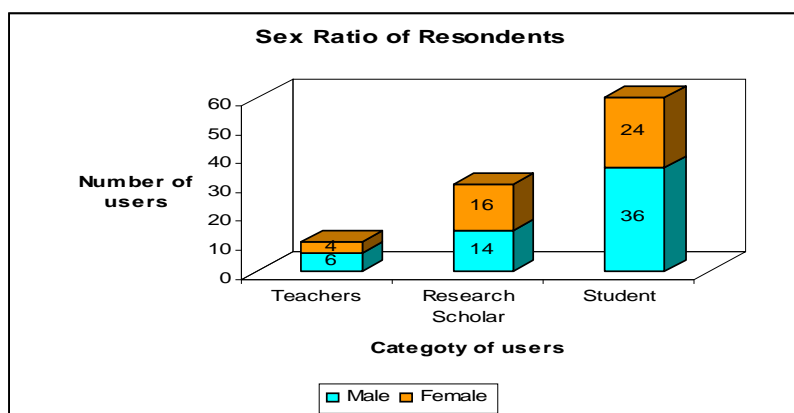
4.2 Sample Population

A total of 100 questionnaires were administered for survey in the library premises during the library peak hour. Nearly 60.00% of the total respondents are students of different stream, 30% are the Research scholar and the remaining 10% are teacher members.

Out of the 100 user surveyed male to female ratio is approximately 1. A detailed list of the users are given in the table below.

Table3: Sample population with different user groups and their sex ratio.

S.No	User type	Male	Female	Total (%)	Percentage (%)
1	Teacher	6	4	10	10%
2	Research Scholar (R/S)	14	16	30	30%
3	Student	36	24	60	60%
	Total	56	44	100	



4.3 Reasons for using Internet Resource

There are several reasons for using Internet resource. The reasons are mainly:

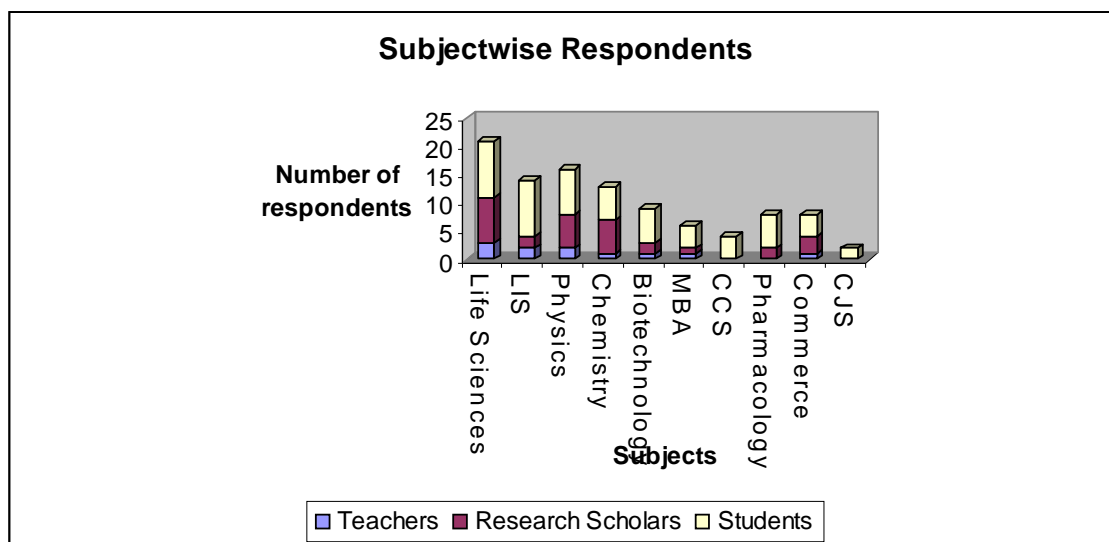
- (i) Internet resources can be accessed from different location.
- (ii) Internet resources are very easy to access.
- (iii) It can be accessed to full text from remote place.
- (iv) Internet resources are very much user friendly interface.
- (v) Through the Internet library can able to sharing their resources.
- (vi) User can easily enter other virtual library which is in different place
- (vii) It helps the library to meet the changing needs and expectations of user.

4.4 Department Wise Respondent

From the survey it was tried to figure out the respondents on the basis of the academic department from which they belong. It is found that a maximum share of 24% users from the Life science department, while library and information science users hold 2nd rank. However, Centre for Judiciary Studies and MBA hold the last position with 2 % share. The detailed list is produced below.

Table 4. Department wise variation of library users

S.No.	Departments	No. of Respondents			Total
		Teacher	Research Scholar	Students	
1	Life Sciences	3	8	10	21
2	LIS	2	2	10	14
3	Physics	2	6	8	16
4	Chemistry	1	6	6	13
5	Biotechnology	1	2	6	9
6	MBA	1	1	4	6
7	CCS	0	0	4	4
8	Pharmacology	0	2	6	8
9	Commerce	1	3	4	8
10	CJS	0	0	2	2
Total		10	30	60	100



4.5 Internet Resource Access

As Internet trend is growing very fast, there is so many venues are available to access Internet. In LNB library the major Internet users uses the resources from the main library (96%), at the same time the Internet resources are also accessed from the departmental library also. 80% users uses departmental library for these purpose.

Table 5: Internet surfing options among users.

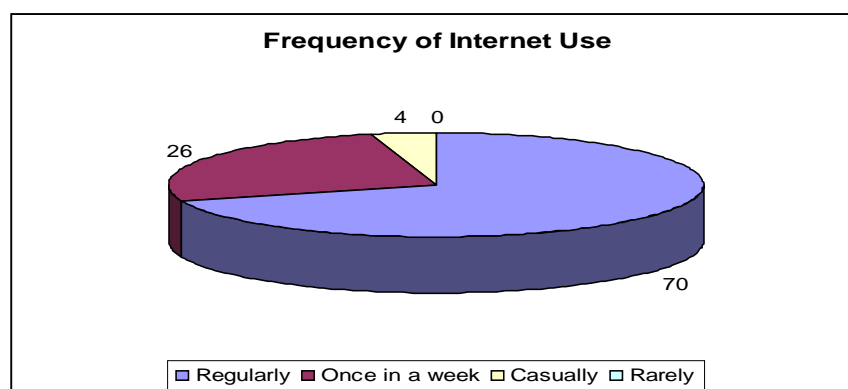
Sl no	Option	No of respondent			Total (%)
		Teacher	Research Scholar	Students	
1	In the library	6	18	38	62
2	In department	4	12	22	38
3	Hostel	-	-	-	
4	Others	-	-	-	

4.6 Surfing Frequency of Internet Resource in Library

The LNB library provides a wide arena of Internet resources for their users. However the surfing frequency varies among the users. In the survey I found 70% users surf Internet on regular basis, 26% uses once in a week and 2% users uses casually.

Table 6: Surfing frequency of Internet resource in library among users.

Sl no	Time spent	No of respondent	Percentage
1	Regularly	70	70
2	Once in a week	26	26
3	Casually	4	4
4	Rarely	-	-
Total		100	100

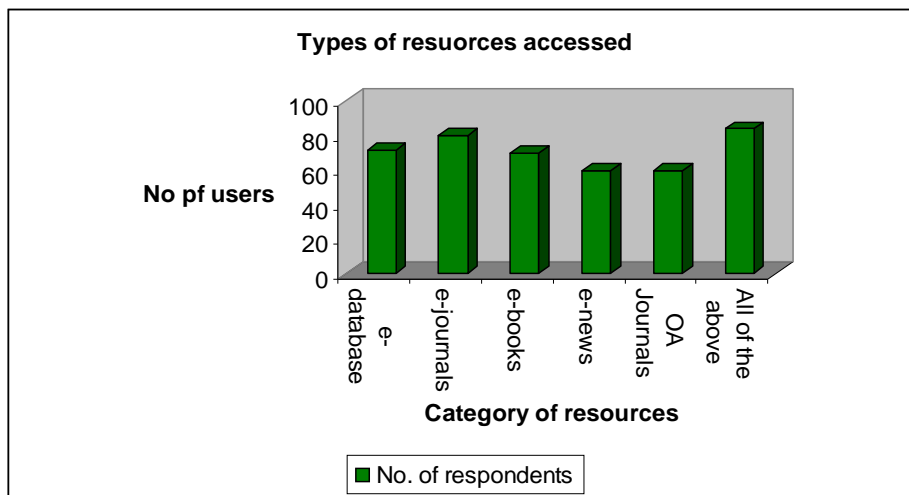


4.7 Types of Internet Resources used by the Respondents

Although the library provides a lot of Internet resources like e-books, e-journals, e-databases etc to the readers, however, its uses varied among the users. Although almost all the resources are accessed by the users, the retrieval of all Internet resources mentioned in the questionnaire is more common i.e., 84%. e-books and e-journals are accessed by as much as 70% and 80% users. (Table 4.9).

Table 7: Types of Internet Resources used by the respondents.

S.No.	Internet Resources	No. of respondents	%age of Respondents
1	e-databases	72	72%
2	e-journals	80	80%
3	e-books	70	70%
4	e-news	60	60%
5	Open access resources	60	60%
6	All of the above	84	84%



5. UGC-INFONET

Research and academic community are dealing with information. They always seek quick, authentic and latest information to pursue their studies and research works. UGC INFONET e-journal consortia are determinant to provide scholarly and latest information.

With the advent of information the users of the library can access e-journal through UGC INFONET e-journal consortia. In LNB library it subscribes UGC INFONET in the year 2002. For spreading the awareness among the user it takes different stapes. In LNB library there is one Internet centre through which user can use the resources subscribed through UGC- INFONET. In the year 2005 there are almost 40-45, in 2006 70-85 and in the year 2007 100-125 daily user who used Internet resources as well as UGC INFOET e-journal consortia in the library. The operating system used by LNB library is mainly LINUX. LNB library of DU

5.1 Extent of using UGC–INFONET

As far as the extent of using of UGC-INFONET is concerned, majority of the respondents are of the view that they are 'somewhat aware' of UGC- INFONET, scoring 60% (30/50), among which all teacher members and some of Research Scholars (12/15) are aware of and using UGC- INFONET.

Table8: User awareness about UGC-INFONET

Category	Yes	Nb
Student	36	24
Research Scholar	24	6
Teachers	10	0

5.2 Subject Wise Arrangement

The LNB library of Dibrugarh university provides journals from 14 different publishers across the globe to its users. The library has 2832 numbers of journals in 33 different subjects of Science, Arts, Commerce and Education subjects and research journals published in India and abroad. It provides current as well as archival open access to 550 core and peer-reviewed national and international journals in different disciplines. It covers almost all areas of learning like Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical and Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Computer Sciences, Medical, Mathematics and Agricultural science etc., and other subject areas are to be added in the near future. The subject wise arrangement of e-journals and the list of publishers are given in table 4.11 and table 4.12 respectively.

Table 4.10: subject wise arrangement of E- Journals provided by LNB library of DU

S. No.	Name of subject	No. of Journals
1	Astronomy and Astrophysics	16
2	Anthropology	9
3	Area studies	58
4	Biological Sciences	304
5	Business and management studies	64
6	Chemistry	177

7	Computer Science	141
8	Culture	10
9	Demography and population studies	6
10	Economics	143
11	Education	66
12	Engineering and Technology	137
13	Environmental Science	56
14	Geography	8
15	General and multidisciplinary	68
16	Geology	97
17	History and Archeology	51
18	Language and Literature	97
19	Humanities	33
20	Law	41
21	Library and Information Science	31
22	Linguistics	22
23	Meteorology	48
24	Mathematics	10
25	Medicine	362
26	Operations Research management	30
27	Philosophy and Religious Study	91
28	Physics	177
29	Political Science	234
30	Psychology and Psychotherapy	12
31	Science General	13
32	Social Sciences	9
33	Theatre and Fine Arts	11
Total		2832

Table 4.10: Publisher of the Journals provided by the Library.

S.No	E-Resources	User/journals
1	American Chemical Society(1876)	Multiple
2	American Institute of Physics	Multiple
3	American Physical Society	Multiple
4	Annual Reviews	Multiple

5	Blackwell	Multiple
6	Cambridge University Press	Multiple
8	Institute of Physics	Multiple
9	Oxford University Press	Multiple
10	Portland Press	Multiple
11	Project Muse	Multiple
12	Royal Society of Chemistry	Multiple
13	Springer & Kluwer	Multiple
14	Taylor & Francis	Multiple

5.3 Problems Faced in Downloading Internet Resources

The user faced several problem when they are downloading the Internet resources as well as UGC INFONET resources. The major problem faced by users is:

Table 4.11: Problem faced to access the Internet resources.

SI no	Problem faced by user	No	Percentage
1	Slow BandWith	50	50%
2	Virus attack	20	20%
3	Changing link	10	10%
4	All of above	20	20%

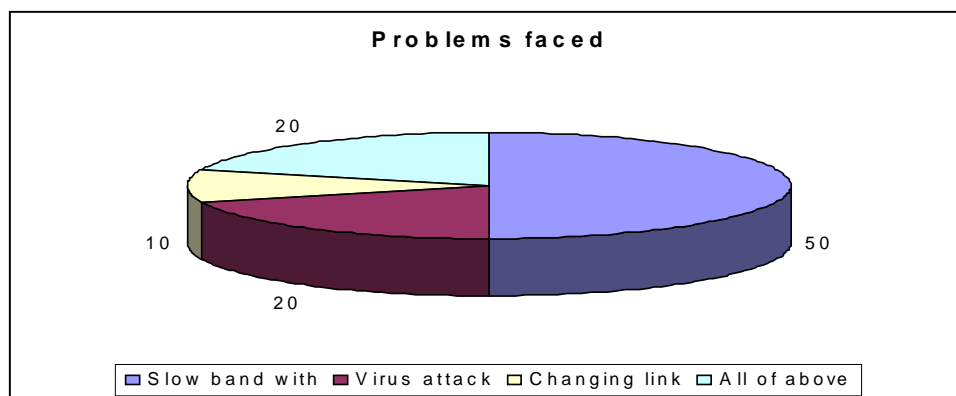


Table 4.11 reveals that almost 50% user face slow band with problem. 20% face virus attack and remaining 10% and 20% of the respondent's face changing link and other problem in they are used Internet resources and UGC INFONET e-journal consortia.

Beside these there is also other problem, which is faced by the user. These problems are mainly:

- ◆ Illiteracy of ICT and its Knowledge
- ◆ Frequent power failure disturbs them.
- ◆ The number of computer available is not sufficient to serve the users.
- ◆ Problem in the selection of desired title of journals.

6. Overall Findings

1. 70.00%of the respondents have got awareness about the UGC –INFONET programme.
2. Majority of the respondents (86.67%) felt that they are in need of regular training programme to make effective use of UGC-INFONET programme.
3. All the respondents (100%) who are aware of UGC-INFONET expect more number of e-journals to be included in the UGC-INFONET Consortium.
4. Most of users (84.44%) access UGC-INFONET consortia through e-databases whereas the 71percentage of users accessing through search engines in LNB library.

7. Conclusion

From the above discussion it is very clear that the use of Internet resources expected to increase in future. The students and teacher who participated in this survey are aware of Internet resources and majority of them used these resources in support of their study and teaching and they are adept at using these sources. Even though majority of academic community use Internet resources still most of the students, research scholars, and teacher prefer print journal as well as electronic journal. This shows that the traditional resources will continue to be necessary components of the academic community. Many of the students, research scholar and teacher learnt about the Internet resources either by trial and error methods or by the advice of friends as well as the library professionals. So it is necessary that the academic library professionals should be proactive in working with academic community to develop training program aimed at enabling them to use Internet resources and E-journal of UGC INFONET more effectively.

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