AN INVESTIGATION OF USE OF UGC- INFONET JOURNALS BY THE RESEARCH SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS OF SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS IN MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY, MADURAI

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Abstract

This study evaluates the usage of UGC- Infonet journals by the research scholars and students of sociology and political science departments in Madurai Kamaraj University.It is found that 100% of the respondents are aware about the UGC INFONET journals, 40.84% of the respondents are aware the journals through library professionals. A majority of the respondents access the Infonet journals in the University Central Library, more than half of the respondents access the Infonet journals for their research work, 80.28% of the respondents need the orientation programme for effective use of Infonet journals and a majority of the respondents are satisfied with use of Infonet journals in the Department of Sociology and Political science in Madurai Kamaraj University.
Keywords: UGC- Infonet, digital library consortium, Web based services, Electronic Publications.

Introduction

INFONET Journals sources are one of the web based services. Web - based services is popularly used as the synonymous of World Wide Web or online. The Internet and WWW are important in the communication process. The web is a client or server system used to access all kinds of information to anyone on the net. The information can be in the form of regular text, picture, sound, etc. Although today's scholars learned their craft in the world of print publications, print Indexes, and card catalogues, most are taking full advantages of new information technologies that have emerged in course of their career . They are retrieving, reading, and writing electronic publications and sharing their research results via distributed networking information system. Sharing and exchange of electronic information is one of the very important activities of the modern Library. In the Electronic information age, a resource sharing is much easier. There is no need for a library to purchase all the journals published. A little investment in computerisation and cooperation for sharing and exchange, a participating library can fulfil majority of demands of its users. Use of Computer and communication technology plays a vital role in sharing and exchange of resources. One library can request for a document to another library. They can share documents or Information or bibliographical record. Sharing can take place in acquisition, technical processing of materials, Inter- library loan, etc. Online searching is helpful when

an in –depth search is required as in the case of researchers. A number of databases are available through these vendors on various topics. To access, the user should have the password of the vendor concerned. The searcher gets access to the database by using telecommunication network. Database can be created in – house , with the help of sources available in the library.

Review of Literature

Gupta and Rawtani conducted a study on Effectiveness of UGC-Infonet: A case study of Jaipur centre. It was suggested that a training programme should be conducted regularly to improve the usage of e-journal consortium.

Kumbar and Hadagali Gururaj dealt with the usage of UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium by the faculty members and research scholars of Karnatak University, Dharwad. UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium launched by UGC is one of the biggest and ambitious programmes in the history of higher education in India. The main objective of this programme is to facilitate the research and academic community of the country by providing them nascent, authentic and scholarly literature from all parts of the world with the help of state-of-the-art technology.

Walmiki and Ramakrishna Gowda conducted a study on "Awareness and use of UGC-Infonet digital library consortium by the faculty members of Karnataka state universities". A questionnaire based survey found that 39.79% of the faculty members are aware of and use the Infonet journals resources, whereas 35.99% are aware but do not use and 24.22% are not aware of the availability of the consortium's resources. Comparatively the Science faculty uses the consortium resources more frequently than those belonging to the Social sciences and Humanities. Lack of knowledge to use, insufficient internet node, slow bandwidth and lack of relevant sources are found to be the major problems faced.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the awareness about the UGC-INFONET journals by the research scholars and students of the Department of Sociology and Political science in Madurai Kamaraj University.
- To study the sources to aware about the UGC-INFONET journals.
- To study the frequency of accessing UGC-INFONET journals.
- To study the purpose of accessing UGC Infonet E-journals.
- Problems faced to use the UGC Infonet E-journals.
- To study the satisfaction level of students and research scholars.
- To suggest suitable recommendations to improve the usage of UGC- Infonet E-journals Satisfaction Level on using UGC Infonet journals

Methodology

The method of collected data is purely based on primary data, Using Questionnaire tool and survey method has been employed in the present study. A total number of 71 Questionnaires were randomly distributed to research scholars and students of Sociology and Political science departments of Madurai Kamaraj University and request them to fill up the Questionnaire.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by Gender- wise

S. No	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	49	69.01
2	Female	22	30.99
	Total	71	100

Source: Primary data

Table 1 shows that 49 respondents (69.01%) are male and 22 respondents (30.99%) are female. Hence majority of respondents belong to male category.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by department-wise

S. No	Department	Category of Respondents (%)			Total N
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	Sociology	15(21.13)	9(12.68)	12(16.90)	36
2	Political Science	11(15.49)	6(8.45)	18(25.35)	35
	Total	26	15	30	71

Source: Primary data

Table 2 indicates the distribution of respondents by department-wise. In this study, among the overall respondents,15(21.13%) of them belong to M.A(Sociology) followed by M.Phil (12.68%) and Ph.D(16.90%). It is inferred from the above table that 11(15.49%) respondents belong to M.A(Political Science) followed by M.Phil (8.45%%) and Ph.D(25.35%%).Hence one fifth of the respondents belong to M.A Sociology department.

Table 3: Awareness about UGC- Infonet E-journals

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents (%)			Total
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	Yes	26(36.62)	15(21.13)	30(42.25)	71
2	No	-	-	-	-
	Total	26	15	30	71(100%)

Source: Primary data

Table 3 indicates the awareness about UGC- Infonet e-journals consortium. It has been observed from this table all the respondents (100%) are aware about UGC- Infonet e-journals consortium.

Table 4: Sources to aware about UGC Infonet E-journals

S. No	Sources	No. of Respondents (%)			Total
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	(%)
1.	Library Professional	11(42.31)	7(46.67)	11(36.67)	29(40.85)
2.	Research Guide	5(19.23)	-	7(23.33)	12(16.90)
3.	Co- Research Scholar	6(23.08)	5(33.33)	2(6.67)	13(18.31)
4.	University Website	2(7.69)	-	1(3.33)	3(4.23)
5.	Advertisements	1(3.85)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	3(4.23)
6.	Web	1(3.85)	-	5(16.67)	6(8.45)
7.	Other Sources	-	2(13.33)	3(10)	5(7.04)
	Total	**26(100)**	**15(100)**	**30(100)**	**71 (100)**

 Source: Primary data

Table 4 explains that 29(40.84%) respondents are aware the UGC- Infonet journals through library professionals, 18.31% through co-research scholars, 16.90% through their research guides, 8.45% through websites, 4,23% both university websites and advertisements. Besides cited above, there are some other sources also (7.04%).

Table 5: Preferred location for accessing UGC- Infonet E-journals

S. No	Access Point	No. of Respondents (%)			Total
		M.A	M.Phil	PhD	(%)
1	Department computer lab	10(38.46)	8(53.33)	11(36.67)	29(40.85)
2	Central library	13(50)	5(33.33)	13(43.33)	31(43.66)
3	Hostel	2(7.69)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	4(5.63)
4	Other places of the campus	1(3.85)	1(6.67)	5(16.67)	7(9.86)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 5 describes the location for accessing UGC – Infonet E- journals. In this study, a majority of 43.66% of respondents access UGC – Infonet E- journals from the central library, followed by Department computer lab 40.85%, and 5.63% hostel . Besides cited above, there are some other places also (9.86%).

Table 6: Frequency of Accessing INFONET journals per hour per week

S. No	Hours	No. of Respondents (%)			Total (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	0-5hrs	13(50)	9(60)	16(53.33)	38(53.52)
2	6-10hrs	10(38.46)	6(40)	9(30)	25(35.21)
3	11-15hrs	3(11.54)	-	3(10)	6(8.45)
4	More than 15hrs	-	-	2(6.67)	2(2.82)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 6 represents the frequency of accessing INFONET journals per hour per week. In this study majority of the respondents (53.52%) spend their time 0-5 hours per week for accessing INFONET journals, followed by 35.21% of respondents are 6-10 hours, 8.45% are 11-15hours, and 2.82% of respondents access UGC-Infonet journals more than 15 hours.

Table 7: Purpose of accessing UGC Infonet E-journals

S. No	Purposes	No. of Respondents (%)			Total (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	For research work	15(57.69)	4(26.67)	18(60)	37(52.11)
2	For publishing articles/ books	1(3.85)	4(26.67)	4(13.33)	9(12.68)
3	For keeping up to date information	5(19.23)	3(20)	2(6.67)	10(14.08)
4	For finding relevant information in the area of specialization	2(7.69)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	4(5.63)
5	For UGC NET/SET	1(3.85)	3(20)	1(3.33)	5(7.04)
6	For semester Examination	2(7.69)	0	4(13.33)	6(8.45)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 7 shows the purpose of accessing UGC- Infonet journals. A majority of respondents (52.11%) access the Infonet journals for their research work, followed by 14.08% keeping current information, 12.68% publishing articles/books, 8.45% semester examination, 7.04% UGC NET/SET and 5.63% finding relevant information in the area of specialization respectively. It is inferred from the above study majority of the respondents use the Infonet Journals for their Academic purpose.

Table 8: Problems faced to use the UGC Infonet E-journals

S. No	Problems	No. of Respondents (%)			Total (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	Lack of knowledge to use	9(34.62)	9(60)	7(23.33)	25(35.21)
2	Lack of sufficient nodes in university	-	-	5(16.67)	5(7.04)
3	Content searching is difficult as compared to search engine	3(11.54)	2(13.33)	5(16.67)	10(14.08)
4	Slow internet Bandwidth	4(15.38)	2(13.33)	5(16.67)	11(15.49)
5	Technical problems(server down)	4(15.38)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	6(8.45)
6	Frequent power cut	1(3.85)	-	2(6.67)	3(4.23)
7	Lack of assistance by library staff	5(19.23)	1(6.67)	3(10)	9(12.68)
8	Restricted access	-	-	2(6.67)	2(2.82)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100%)

Source: Primary data

Table 8 shows the problems faced to use the UGC Infonet E-journals. A majority of respondents (35.21%) report that they face lack of knowledge to use. It is followed by, 15.49% are faced by slow internet bandwidth, 14.08% are faced by difficult content searching, 12.68% lack of assistance by library staff, 8.45% for technical problems(server down), 4.23% for frequent power cut and 2.82% for restricted access respecters.

Table 9: Need Orientation and Training programme for INFONET Journals

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents (%)			Total (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	PhD	
1	Yes	25(96.15)	11(73.33)	21(70)	57(80.28)
2	No	1(3.85)	4(26.67)	9(30)	14(19.72)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 9 reveals the need for orientation and training programme for Infonet journals. The most of the respondents (80.28%) need orientation and training programme for use the UGC- Infonet E-journals whereas 19.72% do not need.

Table 10: Expectation for more number of E-journals included in UGC Infonet Consortium

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents (%)			Total (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	Yes	20(76.92)	9(60)	16(53.33)	45(63.38)
2	No	6(23.08)	6(40)	14(46.67)	26(36.62)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 10 indicates the expectation for including more number of E-journals in UGC-Infonet consortium. Among the overall 71 respondents, a majority of 45 (63.38%) of them wish to be included in the more number of e-journals, whereas 26 (36.62%) do not wish to be included in the UGC-INFONET consortium.

Table 11: Need printed journals in addition to E- journals

S. No	Options	No. of Respondents (%)			Total
		M.A	M.Phil	Phd	
1	Yes	13(50)	10(66.67)	21(70)	44(61.97)
2	No	13(50)	5(33.33)	9(30)	27(38.03)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 11 shows need print journals in addition to E- journals. A majority of 44 (61.97%) of them need print journals in addition to E-journals and 38.03% of respondents do not need print journals.

Table 12: Satisfaction Level on using UGC Infonet journals

S. No	Satisfaction	No. of Respondents (%)			Percentage (%)
		M.A	M.Phil	Ph.D	
1	Excellent	8(30.77)	3(20)	6(20)	17(23.94)
2	Good	9(34.61)	10(66.66)	16(53.33)	35(49.30)
3	Satisfactory	8(30.77)	1(6.67)	7(23.33)	16(22.53)
4	Poor	1(3.85)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	3(4.23)
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 12 represents the satisfaction level on the UGC- Infonet E-journal. In this study, a majority of 35 (49.30%) of them report that it is good, 23.94% it is excellent, 22.53% it is satisfactory and only 4.23% of respondents report that it is poor. Hence a majority of respondents are satisfied with the UGC- Infonet Journals.

Table 13: Suggestions to improve the usage of UGC- Infonet E- journals

S. No	Suggestions	No. of Respondents (%)			Percentage (%)
		M.A	**M.Phil**	**Ph.D**	
1	Regular conduct of orientation/ training programme for the UGC consortium	14(53.85)	8(53.33)	15(50)	37(52.11)
2	Installation of more computers terminals and increasing network accessibility	2(7.69)	4(26.67)	8(26.67)	14(19.72)
3	Regular power supply	5(19.23)	1(6.67)	1(3.33)	7(9.86)
4	Introduce written instruction for subject specific resources	5(19.23)	2(13.33)	6(20)	13(18.31)
5	Others	-	-	-	-
	Total	26(100)	15(100)	30(100)	71(100)

Source: Primary data

Table 13 explains the suggestion to improve the UGC- Infonet E-Journals. A majority of 37(52.11%) of them suggest to conduct a regular orientation programme, 19.72% install more computer terminals and increasing the network accessibility, and also noted that 18.31% of respondents need written instructions for subject-specific wise resources and 9.86% regular power supply.

Findings of the Study

The following are the major findings of the study:

- 69.01% of the respondents belong to male category who use the Infonet journals.
- 42.25 % of the respondents are the Ph.D scholars.
- It is found that all the respondents are aware about UGC- Infonet E-journals.
- Two fifth of the respondents are aware the UGC- Infonet consortium through library professionals.
- 43.66% of respondents access the UGC – Infonet E- journals from University Central Library (Dr. T.P.M. Library).
- 53.52% of the respondents spend their time 0-5 hours per week for accessing INFONET journals.
- More than half of respondents access the Infonet journals for their research work.

- More than one third of respondents report that they face lack of knowledge to use the Infonet journals.
- The most of the respondents (80.28%) need orientation and training programme for use the UGC- Infonet E-journals.
- 63.38% of them wish to be included in more number of e-journals is UGC-INFONET Consortium.
- 61.97% of them need print journals in addition to E-journals
- 49.30% of them report that the satisfaction level on the UGC- Infonet E-journals are good.
- 52.11% of them suggest to conduct a regular orientation programme to improve the usage of UGC- INFONET Journals.

Suggestions

On the basis of data analysis some of the important suggestions are given below, which will help the effective use of the UGC- Infonet Journals.

- Majority of the respondents accessing UGC- Infonet consortium from Central Library, so that install the more computer terminals in Central library of MKU.
- A Major problems encountered by respondents in order to access UGC- Infonet Journals is lack of knowledge to use. Hence the authorities should conduct the regular orientation programme for effective use of Infonet journals.

Conclusion

Library services refer to facilities which are provided by a library for the use of documents and dissemination of information to satisfy the information needs of the users. The services which are provided by libraries are circulation, reservation, renewal, current contents, current awareness service, document delivery service, inter-library loan service, CD- ROM databases, access to online databases, bibliographic services, etc. All these services have changed their mode to an extent with the web environment. Now a days, with the advent of computer, scanner and telecommunication technologies made it possible to store and locate documents in electronic form and transfer the same electronically to long distance via telecommunication network almost instantly. Communication technology is used in communicating and disseminating of information from the generator to the user through communication channels. From the finds of the present study the majority of the respondents are satisfied with UGC- Infonet consortium, it is concluded that the UGC- Infonet consortium plays a vital role in higher education and research particularly in University education.

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