

Model Project Report (M.L.I.Sc.,)

**USE OF UGC-INFONET E-JOURNALS CONSORTIUM  
BY DOCTORAL STUDENTS OF ALIGARH MUSLIM  
UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH**

**PROJECT REPORT**

Submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science, University  
of Delhi in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Paper No. XII:

Project Report

**2007- 2008**

Supervisor

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Submitted by

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2008

## DECLARATION

I here by declare that the Project report entitled “**Use of UGC-INFONET e-Journals Consortium by Doctoral Students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh**” is based on the original research work carried out by me for the award of Master of Library and Information Science of University of Delhi, Delhi.

Place: Delhi  
Date: -4-2008.

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Project Report entitled “**Use of UGC-INFONET e-Journals Consortium by Doctoral Students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh**” submitted by **Mr. Ashraf. K (M-2)** in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Paper -XII: Project Report of the **Master of Library and Information Science** examination of the **University of Delhi, Delhi**, is his own work carried out under my guidance and is worthy of examination.

Place: Delhi

Date: - 04 -2008.

(**Dr. M. MADHUSUDHAN**)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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I owe my deep sense of debt and gratitude to my respected supervisor **Dr.M.Madhusudhan** Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi for his meticulous and expert guidance, constructive criticism, patient hearing and benevolent behavior through out my ordeal of the present *research*. I shall remain grateful to him for his cordial and cooperative attitude, wise and knowledgeable counsel that acted as an impetus in the successful completion of my project work.

I would like to particularly thank the Head of the Department **Dr.R. K Bhatt**, for giving me guidance and inspiration during my study in the department. I never forget the kind help extended by the HOD. It is however, not possible for me to forget the kind of help provided by **Prof. (Mrs.) S. P. Singh, Dr. Shilandra Kumar, Dr. K.P Singh, Dr.(Mrs.) P. K. Walia and Mrs. Meera.**

I express my heartfelt thanks to doctoral students of AMU who made my project work success with their valuable suggestions.

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*Ashraf. K*

## PREFACE

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The project report entitled “**Use of UGC-INFONET E-Journals Consortium by Doctoral Students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh**” for the award of degree of Master in Library and Information Science, under the supervision of **Dr. M Madhusudhan**. The aim of the study is to find out the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals by the doctoral students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and make suggestion for improving the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals for research.

The present Project report contains 5 (five) chapters, as follows with brief description:

**Chapter 1: Introduction** discusses the background of the study, Statement of the problem under study, objectives, Scope, methodology used for the study, Designing questionnaire and Limitations of the present study.

**Chapter 2: Review of Literature** reviews the related literature on the basis of studies conducted in India as well as in abroad is organized on the basis of importance and relevance of the study.

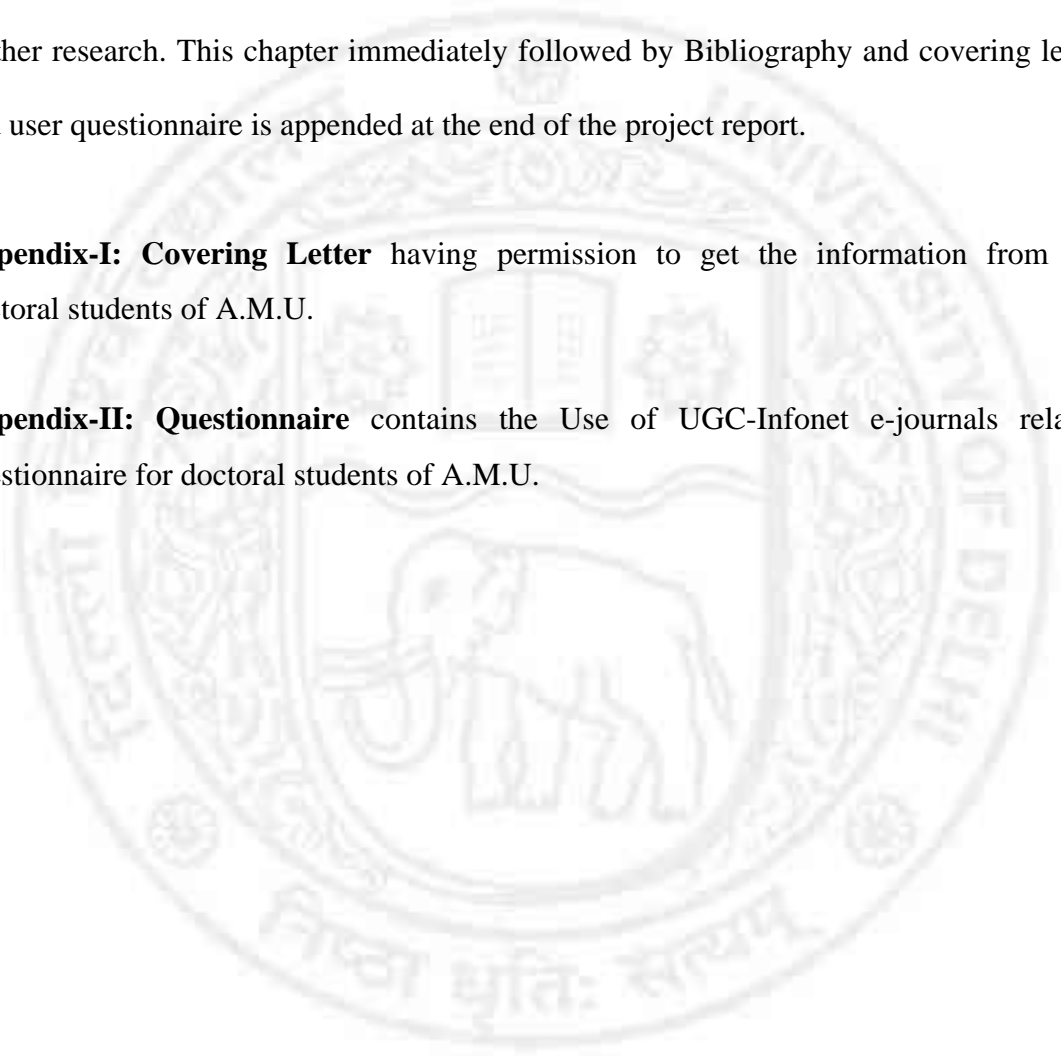
**Chapter 3: UGC-Inonet e-journals Consortium** explains library consortia in general and UGC-Infonet e-journals Consortium in particular.

**Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Interpretation** analyzes and interprets the data collected from the doctoral students through Questionnaire of A.M.U.

**Chapter 5: Conclusion** concludes the report with findings, and suggestions for the successful utilization UGC-INFONET e-journal Consortium and explore the scope for further research. This chapter immediately followed by Bibliography and covering letter and user questionnaire is appended at the end of the project report.

**Appendix-I: Covering Letter** having permission to get the information from the doctoral students of A.M.U.

**Appendix-II: Questionnaire** contains the Use of UGC-Infonet e-journals related questionnaire for doctoral students of A.M.U.



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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATION USED**

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<b>AICTE</b>	-	All India Council of Technical Education
<b>AMU</b>	-	Aligarh Muslim University
<b>ARI</b>	-	Association of Research Libraries
<b>CAUS</b>	-	China Academic Libraries Information System
<b>CBUC</b>	-	Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia
<b>CSIR</b>	-	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
<b>DALNET</b>	-	Detroit Area Library Network
<b>DRDO</b>	-	Defense Research and Development Organization
<b>e-journal</b>	-	Electronic Journal
<b>EIS</b>	-	Electronic Information Services
<b>ERD</b>	-	Electronic Resources Database
<b>ERNET</b>	-	Education Research network
<b>HTML</b>	-	HyperText Markup Language
<b>ICAR</b>	-	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
<b>ICOLC</b>	-	International Coalition of Library Consortia
<b>ICT</b>	-	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDAL</b>	-	The Illinois Digital Academic Library
<b>INDEST</b>	-	The Indian National Digital Library in Engineering and Science and Technology
<b>INFLIBNET</b>	-	Information and Library Network
<b>INFONET</b>	-	Information Network

# Chapter -1

## INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

The rapid growth of new technologies has changed the communication process between people and reduced the cost of communication process between people and reduced the cost of communication for individuals. Electronic information sources can be seen as the most recent development in information technology and it is one of the most powerful tools ever invented in human history. In modern era it has created the way the people communicate with each other and the information accessed. It has rapidly become the established medium of communication and connect people across the globe, removing geographical boundaries and simplifying access to information. The e-source of information is becoming more and more important for the academic community in accessing the information at the right time and in the right form. The use of resources in electronic environment become more pronounced when information becomes more readily available in electronic format. This would result in an increase use of CD ROM, Online Databases and internet. A substantial body of literature body of literature already exists on acceptable and use of electronic information sources in academia. (Kumar, 2008). With the application of Information Technology (IT), particularly the Internet, there has been a shift from traditional print journals to electronic journals (e-Journals). The journal editions available online are called e-journals. (Chandra and Mahesh, 2003).

### 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Doctoral students and researchers have realized the advantage of the e-journals and seem to have accepted as the primary medium of research ideas and results. At

present the university libraries in India, are actively engaged incorporating electronic information resources and services to provide much needed primary research information. The Aligarh Muslim University has now expanded its library services by accessing UGC-Infonet e-journals to meet the academic community's expectations. It is very relevant and essential to know how far the doctoral students are making use of UGC-Infonet e-journals. Hence the need is felt to know in detail to study the use, find problem related with retrieval of UGC-Infonet e-journals and make suggestion for effective and efficient use of it.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY**

The main objective of the present study is to find out the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals by the doctoral students. The other objectives are as follows:

- (i) to know the awareness about UGC-Infonet e-journals Consortium by doctoral students;
- (ii) to know the place where the doctoral students accessing UGC-Infonet e-journals;
- (iii) to know the purpose of using the UGC-Infonet e-journals;
- (iv) to seek the need orientation /training programme to search UGC-Infonet e-journals;
- (v) to asses /evaluate the degree of utilization of UGC-Infonet by the doctoral students;
- (vi) to asses what extend doctoral students were satisfied with the UGC-Infonet e-journals;
- (vii) to seek the need of other services in UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium;
- (viii) to know the satisfaction level with the existing internet facility;

- (ix) to know the influence UGC-Infonet e-journals on research efficiency;
- (x) to find the factors that promoted or hindered in the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals among the doctoral students; and
- (xi) to suggest measures for improvement of the use of the UGC-Infonet e-journals.

#### **1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the present study is restricted to the doctoral students of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and use of the UGC-Infonet e-journals for their research work only.

#### **1.5 METHODOLOGY**

Method followed for this study is **Questionnaire Method** for collection of data. The questionnaire was designed keeping in view of the stated objectives and structured questionnaire was consisting of open-ended and closed-questions. The design procedure is explained in the following sections:

##### **1.5.1 Designing Questionnaire**

Questionnaire are without any doubt the single most popular data collection tools in any research involving human subjects. It is a tool to collect data from the diverse large and widely scattered groups. A questionnaire consists of number of questions printed in a definite order.

The questionnaire was designed using open ended and close-ended questions and appended at Appendix-II. The close ended questions having multiple options. Total

## Chapter- 2

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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A search has been conducted with combination of various key terms such as “UGC-Infonet”, “e-journals”, “e-journals consortia” in Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Emerald database, Ebsco database, Science Direct and other databases, to complete review of literature for the proposed study, including search on the e-journals websites. In addition to above searches, bibliographies, journal article are also reviewed for more sources, as well as website of UGC-Infonet e-journal Consortium and consulted eminent experts in the field of e-journals. The review of related literature is presented in the preceding section on different aspects:

#### **2.1 ELECTRONIC JOURNALS**

The emergence of the Internet, particularly the World Wide Web, as a new medium of information storage and delivery represents a revolution which will have a lasting impact on the publishing and information delivery system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An increasing number of publishers are using the Internet as a global way to offer their publications to the international community of scientists and technologies.

Some of the articles, which dealt with use of e-journals, e-journals consortia are: ‘Using journal use study feedback to improve accessibility’ by A.N. Zainab, A.R. Huzaimah and T.F. Ang (2007), available online at <<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/101108/02640470710829541>>, examine the user preferences and use of electronic journals in general, especially those published in a hosting system. The findings of the study are: respondents prefer keywords (28.9 per cent) and title (24.3 per cent)

identify and balance the facts that would make e-journals a success or failure in their libraries.

A conference paper entitled 'Electronic journals: Guidelines for licensing agreements and access monitoring' Murlidhar M and et al. (2004), published by SIS, emphasize the importance of e-journals and the need for licensing agreements. This paper addresses the core issue of the changing status and the role played by the learned periodicals and their authors. The producers of e-journals are requiring "licenses" to content in order to protect profiles by restricting unauthorized access. It indicates the role of publisher, aggregators and subscription agents in publishing of e-journals. It is widely expected that a great deal of scholarly communication will move to an electronic format.

'E-journals: a challenge for university's library situated in remote area' by Y.K. Singh, R.V. Vajpai and Ruypesh Kumar (2003), published in SIS, examines the modern impact of the Internet on the whole world. The educational system has also changed, not just in India, but all over the world. Now we are looking to change media for faster development and focused more on libraries situated in remote areas should be provided special funds to upgrade resources, e.g., Internet facilities, computers, etc. Staff should be trained to manage e-journals and to help the readers and regular users.

All the above forgoing articles and studies indicate that a considerable work has been carried out on the e-journal use, library consortium ,UGC-Infonet, but no article was come up with use of UGC-Infonet e-journal among the Doctoral students. The



literature review so far presented shows that there is substantial literature on e-journal, library consortium, and UGC-Infonet e-journals in particular. This literature will be pertinent for carrying out a study on use of UGC-Infonet e-journal among the Doctoral students. In other words, this literature can be applied for studying the *use of UGC-Infonet e-journal consortium by the Doctoral students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.*



**UGC-INFONET ELECTRONIC JOURNALS CONSORTIUM**

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**3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The advance in digital technologies and the recent proliferation e-publishing across the world have brought in a revolution in journal publication, subscription, and access and delivery mechanism. Presently e-journals have becoming the largest and fastest growing areas of digital collections for most of our libraries.

**3.2 NEED FOR E-JORNALS CONSORTIA**

The consortium is needed for libraries because of :

- (i) libraries and information centers are finding it hard to maintain the subscription for core journals due to ever increasing cost of the journals subscription and also shrinking budget;
- (ii) improving the quality standard of the research in universities and research institutions in India and bringing it to a level of global recognition by improving the access –base of literature to them;
- (iii) whole world is moving towards electronic publishing and the cost of the electronic publishing is much cheaper than that of the print version; and
- (iv) researchers can now access to learned journals in electronic form.

During last couple of decades the formation of library consortia has shown steady growth mainly due to the developments in electronic communications. Consortia are no more restricted to the developed countries. “Some of the leading consortia of the world are Ohio-Link (a consortium of 84 Ohio Universities, Colleges, Community Colleges and State Library of Ohio); TexShare (a consortium of 700 Texas academic,

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

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This chapter deals with analysis and interpretation of data, which have been collected through questionnaire. The collected data are organized and tabulated by using simple statistical methods.

A total number of 110 questionnaires were distributed among the doctoral students of Aligarh Muslim University, out of which 98 questionnaire were received back to the investigator, because of incomplete response from three respondents, only 95 questionnaires were selected for the analysis and interpretation of data.

**4.1 KNOWLEDGE ABOUT UGC-INFONET E-JOURNALS CONSORTIUM**

A question was asked to the Doctoral students about whether they know about UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium. Table - 4.1 shows the response of the Doctoral students.

**Table-4.1 Knowledge about UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Know about UGC Infonet e-journals Consortium	82	86.32
Do not know about UGC Infonet e-journals Consortium	13	13.68

(N=95)

The above table indicates that 86.31% (82) of respondents are aware of UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium and 13.68% (13) of respondents are not aware of UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium.

## **Chapter - 5**

### **CONCLUSION**

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The present study sought to examine the use of UGC-Infonet e-journals by the doctoral students of A.M.U., Aligarh. The survey reveals that most of the doctoral students are aware of the UGC- Infonet e-journals consortium. From the survey the investigator has been able to find out that maximum numbers of doctoral students are consulting the e-journals from the university library and computer center not only for research purpose but also for keeping update with subject information. Most of the researchers consult e-journals daily. They consult almost all major publishers e-journal. They are not fond of search techniques which are used in the database. Most of the doctoral students use printed journals as well as e-journals. Most of the doctoral students read the e-journals from the computer screen itself. Most of the doctoral students are not satisfied with the internet facility and journal available in their field. They are in need for full text articles and training to make the search effectively and efficiently.

#### **5.1 MAJOR FINDINGS**

This research examined the use of UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium by the doctoral students of Aligarh Muslim University. This study also explored the problem that they encounter when using e-journals for their research work.

The major findings of the study are summarized below:

- (i) A majority of the doctoral students (86.31%) is aware of the UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium (Table 1).

- (xiii) 56.84% of the doctoral students are not satisfied with the internet facility available in the university (Table-13).
- (xiv) The UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium influenced much to 52.63% of doctoral students by way of facilitating access to current-up-to date information (Table-14).
- (xv) A substantial number (48.42%) of doctoral students faced problems of slow internet connectivity (Table-15).
- (xvi) 48.42% of doctoral students were satisfactory in the service provided by UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium (Table-16).

## **5.2 SUGGESTIONS**

- (i) User awareness programme should be held timely to utilize fully the UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium by the doctoral students in A.M.U..
- (ii) To provide the e-journals facility efficiently effectively number of latest configuration terminals and printers must be increased in the university library, computer center, and departmental labs of the university.
- (iii) To reduce the slow downloading problem while accessing e-journals, the university should acquire high-speed bandwidth exclusively for UGC-Infonet e-journals.
- (iv) User training should be provided for doctoral students of the university with particular reference to UGC- Infonet e-journals at regular intervals.
- (v) The university library professionals should organize regular workshops with the cooperation of INFLIBNET and A.M.U, authorities.

- (vi) Number of journals provided through the UGC- Infonet e-journals consortium should be increased in respective research fields. To make available more full text article in the emerging field of research.
- (vii) University library should develop a website having proper link to the concerned sites rather than keeping printed document of publishers.
- (viii) Introduce proper feedback system to know about proper use of UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium and work on effective use of the same.
- (ix) User studies to be conducted to know about the needs of doctoral students as well as problems they are facing while searching the e-journals through UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium.

### **5.3 ISSUES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

When the investigator took the problem to know how far the doctoral students are making use of UGC- Infonet e-journal consortium and problem related with retrieval of UGC-Infonet e-journals certain issues for further research came to the notice:

- (i) The survey can also be extended to different universities of the country.
- (ii) A survey can be conducted about the feasibility of setting up a training section in the university library especially for training the doctoral students to cope them up with the literature search in the changed environment.

The study has shown that e-journals perform an increasingly important role in research at A.M.U., Aligarh. Not only required to current e-journals, but doctoral students need to be able to use significant electronic back runs as well. There is an ever increasing demand for subscriptions to more e-journal titles in journals

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**Appendix-I**  
**Covering Letter**

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**Dear**

**Sir/Madam,**

I am glad to state that E-Journals Consortium is the one amongst the foremost programmes launched by University Grants Commission (UGC), India for the free flow of scholarly information between the Indian universities. It is a new phase for the higher educational system of the country in which peer-reviewed literature from all across the world is being given to the academic and research community. E-journal collections have also provided a way for research scholars to locate more articles, which they are reading and citing in their work. In this way library e-journal collections are assisting with the changing nature of scholarship and are allowing researchers to find materials they would not have otherwise found.

I strongly believe that the usage of UGC-Infonet e-journals by Doctoral students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. However, there are several problems, including retrieval problems and problems related to paucity of funds for core E- journals. We want to explore the problems and prospects of the UGC-INFONET E-Journals in rendering better research articles. **Mr. Ashraf K** is working on his M.L.I.Sc. Project work entitled: **“Use of UGC-INFONET E-Journals Consortium by Doctoral Students of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh”** in the department under my supervision

I request you to provide him the necessary data by responding to the questions contained in the enclosed questionnaire. Your responses and cooperation will go a long way in the successful completion of his research work.

With Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

**(Dr. M.MADHUSUDHAN)**  
**Lecturer**



**Appendix-II**  
**Questionnaire for Users**

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**Note:** Please tick mark the relevant. The information supplied by you will be kept confidential.

---

**Personal Details:**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Department : \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Do you know UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium?**  Yes  No

**2. Through which source (s) do you know UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium?**

*(Multiple answers were permitted)*

a) Library Professionals

b) Teachers/Research Supervisors

c) Co-Research Scholar

d) University Website

e) University Library

f) Advertisements

g) Web

h) Any other source (Pl. specify): \_\_\_\_\_