EXPLORING AWARENESS AND UTILIZATION OF INFLIBNET ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES AMONG LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENTS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS OF KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY

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A r t i c l e   i n f o

A b s t r a c t

The present study aims to investigate the awareness and use of INFLIBNET activities and services among BLIS, MLIS Students, and Research Scholars of the Department of Library and Information Science, Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra. A well-structured questionnaire was designed to collect the primary data. A total of 50 questionnaires were distributed among the Library and Information Science Students and Research Scholars of the core disciplines, out of which 43 filled questionnaires were returned back. The result of the study shows that all the respondents know about INFLIBNET activities and services while 29 (67.44%) respondents use INFLIBNET for class assignments, research work, and competitive examinations.
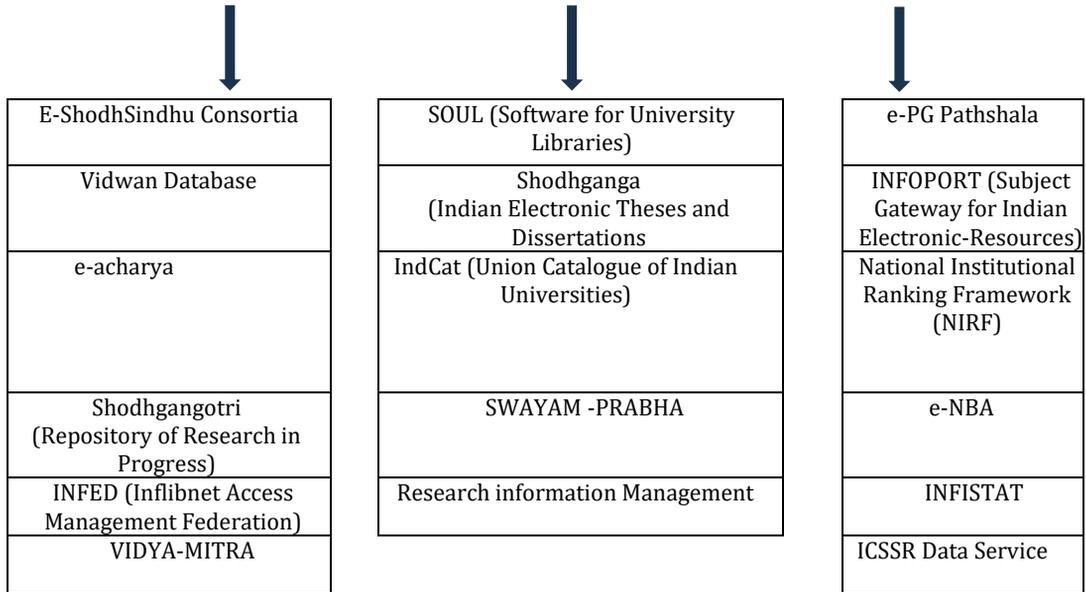
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1. INTRODUCTION

In the present time, many web tools are available to provide the authentic and latest information to end users for conducting qualitative research activities. Among all web tools, Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is one of the wonderful platforms which was developed under the aegis of the University Grants Commission in 1996. It is an autonomous independent Inter-University Centre. INFLIBNET offers state-of-the-art services which are required to scholars for completing their research. This is in the public domain and therefore accessible to all. It offers the following services:

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES OF INFLIBNET NETWORK

E-ShodhSindhu Consortia	SOUL (Software for University Libraries)	e-PG Pathshala
Vidwan Database	Shodhganga (Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations	INFOPORT (Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources)
e-acharya	IndCat (Union Catalogue of Indian Universities)	National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)
Shodhgangotri (Repository of Research in Progress)	SWAYAM -PRABHA	e-NBA
INFED (Inflibnet Access Management Federation)	Research information Management	INFISTAT
VIDYA-MITRA		ICSSR Data Service

Source: https://inflibnet.ac.in.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhowmick (2023) concluded that 76.25% of respondents provided feedback, of which 93.4% were aware. Among those who were aware, only 88.6% had developed a habit of using, although the remaining 11.4% stopped using even after becoming aware. E-journals, e-databases, and plagiarism-checking services were favoured by the majority of professors and research scholars. Preparing study materials, processing articles, making references and citations, and conducting research were the beneficiaries' main objectives. The results of testing a number of hypotheses showed that although most users were happy with INFLIBNET activities, they frequently ran into issues with access restrictions to subscription-based services, a lack of search expertise, a lack of pertinent information sources, and a lack of support staff. The results showed that in order to increase awareness of and ultimately make use of the INFLIBNET activities, INFLIBNET and Institutions needed to take the initiative to set up reliable infrastructures and more seminars, workshops, and training sessions for students, faculty members, and library staff. Singh, Garg and Sharma (2021) the study found that 53.62% of respondents, a sizable majority, are aware of e-PG Pathshala. The survey found that teachers are responsible for instructing pupils on how to use e-PG Pathshala. Additionally, it is found that e-PG Pathshala contributes to the objective of classroom learning. The study's conclusions suggest that in order for postgraduate students to make efficient use of e-PG Pathshala, the UGC and universities should set up a required training program on its use and knowledge. Singh, Goel, Garg and Sharma (2021) analyzed the majority of faculty members and research scholars at both universities are familiar with the questionnaires were distributed randomly among Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Master of Library and Information Science, and Research Scholars out of which 43 filled-out questionnaires were received back. Collected data is evaluated and presented in tabular form. Singh, Garg and Sharma (2020) Concluded that more than 55% Research Scholars including both the universities are aware about E-ShodhSindhu consortium and they use it mainly for research work.

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to Library and Information Science Students and Research Scholars of the Department of Library and Information Science from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To know about the awareness of INFLIBNET services;
- To know about the frequency of using INFLIBNET services;
- To know about the purpose of using INFLIBNET services;
- To know about satisfaction regarding INFLIBNET services;
- To know about the problems faced by the respondents while using INFLIBNET services.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study has been framed on the basis of a survey conducted to collect the responses regarding awareness and utilization of INFLIBNET Activities and Services among Library and Information Science Students and Research Scholars of Kurukshetra University For this, a well-structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed among the Students and Research Scholars of the Department of Library and Information Science Kurukshetra University. A total of 50 questionnaires were personally distributed out of which 43 questionnaires were received back from the respondents. Data collected through questionnaires has been analysed and presented in tabular form for further interpretations.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1:

CLASS-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Sr. No.	Class	N (%age)
1	B. Lib.	12 (27.90)
2	M. Lib.	13(30.23)
3	Ph.D.	18 (41.86)
Total		43(100)

Table 1 shows the class-wise distribution, the data shows that 12(27.90%) respondents are from B.lib. and 13(30.23%) from M.lib. while 18(41.87%) of respondents are from Ph.D.

TABLE 2:

AWARENESS OF THE INFLIBNET (LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORKS) SERVICES

Sr. No.	Awareness	Frequency N (%)
1	Yes	43
2	No	00

Table 2 depicts the awareness of information and library networks among the respondents. The data shows that all 43(100%) respondents are aware of library networks. This response shows the popularity of INFLIBNET among the students/scholars of the Department of Library and Information Science, Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra.

TABLE 3:

SOURCE OF AWARENESS REGARDING INFLIBNET SERVICES

Sr. No.	Source of Awareness	Frequency N (%)
1	Central Library	33(76.74%)
2	Institute Website	27(62.79%)
3	LIS Professionals	35(81.39%)
4	Departmental Library	3(6.97%)
5	Friends	23(53.48%)

Table 3 presents that the maximum number of respondents i.e. 35(81.39%) are aware of INFLIBNET open access services through LIS professionals followed by 33(76.74%) through Central Library. Further, 27(62.79%) and 23(53.48%) respondents are aware of INFLIBNET open access service

through the Institute Website and Friends respectively. Only the least number of respondents i.e., 3(6.97%) through the Departmental Library.

TABLE 4:

FREQUENCY OF USING INFLIBNET SERVICES

Sr. No	Frequency of using INFLIBNET	Frequency N (%)
1	Daily	01(2.32%)
2	2-3 times in a week	19(44.19%)
3	2-3 times in a month	18(41.86%)
4	Once in a month	00
5	Occasionally/ when you needed	05(11.63%)

Table 4 reveals that the largest number of 19(44.19%) respondents used 'INFLIBNET open access services 2-3 times in a week followed by 18(41.86%) respondents used 2-3 times in a month. 5(11.63%) respondents are using these services occasionally when they need 'INFLIBNET open access services. Only 01(02.32%) respondents found that they used the open access services daily basis.

TABLE 5:

PURPOSE OF USING INFLIBNET SERVICES

Sr. No	Purpose of using INFLIBNET Services	Frequency N (%)
1	For research work	29(67.44%)
2	To prepare specific subject notes	29(67.44%)
3	To prepare for competitive exams	29(67.44%)
4	To get the subject update	23(53.48%)

Table 5 depicts that 29(67.44%) respondents are using INFLIBNET open-access services for preparing the class assignments, subject notes, and competitive examinations respectively. Furthermore, 23(53.48%) respondents are using these services for subject updation.

TABLE 6:

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION REGARDING INFLIBNET SERVICES

Sr. No	Satisfaction Level regarding INFLIBNET Services	Frequency N (%)
1	Very much satisfied	21(48.83%)
2	Somewhat satisfied	19(44.18%)
3	Not satisfied	3(6.97%)

Table 6 presents that the maximum number of respondents i.e. 21(48.83%) are very much satisfied followed by 19(44.18%) somewhat satisfied and only 3(6.97%) respondents are not satisfied with INFLIBNET open access services.

TABLE 7:

PROBLEMS FACED IN ACCESSING INFLIBNET SERVICES

Sr. No	Problems	Frequency N (%)
1	Network problem	16(37.20%)
2	Slow access speed Privacy problem	31(72.09%)
3	Overload of information on the internet	21(48.83%)
4	Not enough computer systems in the department	----
5	Privacy Problems	1(2.32%)
6	Difficulty in finding relevant information	7(16.27%)
7	Much time is taken to view/ download pages	7(16.27%)

| 8 | Difficulty in formulating search queries | 4(9.30%) |
| 9 | Lack of cooperation from Library staff and N-List Administrator | 1(2.32%) |

Table 7 shows that the maximum number of i.e.31 (72.09%) respondents are facing problems related to the Slow access speed Privacy problem followed by 21(48.83%) considering it overloaded with information on the internet, 16(37.20%) due to network problem, 7(16.27%) due to difficulties in finding relevant information and Much time taken to view/ download pages and 4(9.30%) respondents are facing difficulty in formulating search query issues during INFLIBNET open access services. Only 01(2.32%) of respondents are facing Privacy Problems and a Lack of cooperation from Library staff and N-list administrator's problems.

7. CONCLUSION

In the present time, technology is so sharpened day by day even penetrating the system and changing the orientation of the civic societies in general and academic and research societies in particular. A plethora of information is available on the web which is available for all but to get the relevant information is a challenging task and leads to underprivileged research and academic work. Therefore, apex regulatory bodies like the University Grants Commission, All India Council of Technical Education, Council of Agricultural Research, and others have taken the initiative and developed platforms like INFLIBNET, e-PG Pathshala, SWAYAM-PRABHA, National Digital Library of India, and many more. These platforms are very helpful to get relevant information and give opportunities to those institutions which are having financial constraints to give their contribution in the rapidly changing world. The present study is very relevant because such kind of study helps regulatory bodies to upgrade the system as per the demand of end users. The present time requires more updates daily because it is the time of AI and ChatGPT. The INFLIBNET team must conduct the orientation programs from time to time so that end users may use them in a better and more effective way.

8. REFERENCES

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