

E-ShodhSindhu Consortia: A Boon to User of Indian Academic Libraries

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Abstract - E-ShodhSindhu Consortium is an innovative project conceived and launched by MHRD Government of India and executed by INFLIBNET Centre to provide access to full text resources and database to the research and academic community in India. One of the objectives, inter alia, is to create awareness among the research scholars regarding the aims, membership databases, E-resources of Shodhsindhu consortia. E-ShodhSindhu is the best way of a common infrastructure and it has become very important. The budget problem is solved as the e-resources are accessed at lower subscription rates with easy terms of subscription under the single window.

Keywords: E-ShodhSindhu, Digital Library Consortia, E-resources, INFLIBNET

I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries play a pivotal role in higher education system. Academic libraries are beset with the problems of static budgetary allocation and exponential price hike of library collections. A rapid and dynamic revolution is underway with regard to the Library environment, and we are witnessing a new generation of libraries with the emphasis on E-resources.

The nagging problem of financial crunch is being attended to by the resources sharing through the consortia of University libraries. The resources are pooled and shared by them over the last few years. UGC-INFONET and INDEST-AICTE consortium and N-List are three major initiatives for library users. These revolutionary steps are providing scholarly resources, including peer reviewed journals, databases, abstracts proceeding etc. It will be a boon to the university Library users, and consequently, the level of higher education will get a boost. Library Consortium is a group of two or more libraries, committed to common co-operation with a view to sharing resources and to meet common needs. It refers to the co-operation, coordination and collaboration between them. The overriding concern of the Consortia is to co-operate with the libraries to share resources electronically. They have gained momentum in the developing countries such as India. Some of such consortia set up in India are as follows:

1. UGC-INFONET E-journal consortium.
2. Indian National Digital library in Engineering, Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium.
3. Inter University Centres (IUC-DAEF Consortia)

4. Health Sciences Library and Information Network (HELINET)
5. Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics (FORSA)
6. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR e-journals consortium)

Acting on the recommendation of an Expert Committee, the MHRD has formed e-Shodhsindhu merging three consortia initiatives, namely UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, N-LIST and INDEST-AICTE Consortium. The e-ShodhSindhu will continue to provide current as well as archival access to more than 15,000 core and peer-reviewed journals. In addition to a number of bibliographic, citation and factual databases in different disciplines from a large number of publishers and aggregators to its member institutions including centrally-funded technical institutions, universities and colleges that are covered under 12(B) and 2(f) sections of the UGC Act.

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the e-ShodhSindhu consortium is to provide access to qualitative electronic resources including full-text, bibliographic and factual databases to academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The major aims and objectives of the e-ShodhSindhu are as follows:

1. Setting-up e-ShodhSindhu: Consortia for Higher Education E-Resources by augmenting and strengthening activities and services offered by three MHRD-funded Consortia.
2. Develop a rich collection of e-journals, e-journal archives and e-books on perpetual access basis.
3. Monitor and promote usage of e-resources in member universities, colleges and technical institutions in India through awareness and training programmes.
4. Provide access to subscription-based scholarly information (e-books and e-journals) to all educational institutions.
5. Provide access to scholarly content available in open access through subject portals and subject gateways.
6. Bridge digital divide and move towards an information-rich society.
7. Provide access to selected e-resources to additional institutions including open universities and MHRD-

- funded institutions that are not covered under existing consortia
8. Take-up additional activities and services that require collaborative platform and are not being performed by existing Consortia and
 9. Moving towards developing a National Electronic Library with electronic journals and electronic books as its major building blocks.

III. BENEFITS

There is no gainsaying the fact that consortia based subscription is a viable solution for increasing the access to electronic resources for a large number of institutions because the rates of subscription are low. Major benefits of consortia are listed follows:

- a. Reduction in the cost of E-resources
- b. The Consortium provided better licences terms for preservation, archival access and use of subscribed e-

resources which is impossible for single institution in reality.

- c. Sharing of staff skills and expertise to strengthen library leadership.
- d. Increased effectiveness of advocacy for policy change
- e. Searching of data is easy for the scholars from a single interface
- f. Promote cost effective, customer driven services.
- g. It is useful for resolving complicated problems; hence it is an added benefit for participating libraries.

IV. ACCESSING OF E-RESOURCES

The accessible full text resources include journals, conference proceedings, technical magazines, newsletter, guide to computing literature, peer reviewed publication from 1929 to present. The following full text journals are accessible in Shodhsindhu consortia.

TABLE 1 E - RESOURCES

S.No.	E-Resources	URL	No. of Journals
Full-text Resources			
1	American Chemical Society	http://www.pubs.acs.org/	49
2	ACM Digital Library	http://dl.acm.org/	140
3	American Institute of Physics	(http://journals.aip.org/)	17
4	American Physical Society	http://publish.aps.org/	13
5	Annual Reviews	http://arjournals.annualreviews.org	43
6	ASCE Journals Online	http://ascelibrary.org	36
7	ASME Journals Online	http://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org	29
8	ASTM Standards + Digital library	www.astm.org/Digital_Library	0
9	Cambridge University Press	http://journals.cambridge.org	224
10	Economic & Political Weekly	http://epw.in	1
11	Elsevier Science Direct	http://sciencedirect.com	1036
12	Emerald Publishing	http://emeraldinsight.com	133
13	IEEE/IET Electronic Library Online	http://ieeexplore.ieee.org	479
14	Institute of Physics	http://iopscience.iop.org	46
15	JSTOR	http://jstor.org	3071
16	Nature	http://nature.com	1
17	Optical Society of America	http://opticsinfobase.org	18
18	Oxford University Press	http://oxfordjournals.org	262
19	Portland Press	http://portlandpresspublishing.com	8
20	Project Euclid	http://projecteuclid.org	39
20	Project Muse	http://muse.jhu.edu	648
22	Proquest ABI/Inform complete	http://search.proquest.com	0
23	Royal Society of Chemistry	http://rsc.org	29
24	SIAM Journals	http://epubs.siam.org	16
25	Springer Link	http://link.springer.com	1438
26	Taylor & Francis	http://tandfonline.com	1079

27	Wiley Blackwell Publishing	http://olabout.wiley.com	908
Total			9763
Database			
28	Capitaline	http://capitaline.com	
29	CRIS INFAC Industrial Information	http://crisil.com	
30	Euromonitor	http://go.euromonitor.com	
31	INSIGHT	http://insight.dionglobal.in	
32	ISID	http://isid.org.in	
33	JGate Plus	http://hgateplus.com	
34	Manupatra	http://manupatra.com	
35	MathSciNet	http://www.ams.org/mathscinet	
37	SciFinder Scholar	http://www.cas.org/Scifinder	
38	Web of Science	http://webofknowledge.com	
39	Westlaw India	http://westlawindia.com	

V. MEMBERSHIP

The member of the consortium, as on now restricted to universities that are covered under 12B /2 (f) of UGC Act.

TABLE 2 MEMBERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

S.No.	Institutions	Total	
1	State Universities	139	
	Central Universities	40	
	Deemed Universities(UGC Funded)	22	
	National Law School/Universities	15	
	IUCs of UGC	6	
2	NITs, SLIET & NERIST	22	
	IITs & IISc	17	
	IIITs, IEST, NITIE, NIFT and NITRR	9	
	IISERs	5	
3	Technical Colleges	AICTE Funded Colleges	72
Total		347	

VI. CONCLUSION

The e-ShodhSindhu consortia is to provide access to qualitative e-resources including full-text and databases to the member academic institutions at a lower rates of subscription. The consortia head quarter is assigned to function as a resource center with an aim to catering to the needs of its members for resources accessible to them in electronic format. E-ShodhSindhu is the best way of a common infrastructure and it has become very important. The budget problem is solved as the e-resources are accessed at lower subscription rates with easy terms of subscription under the single window.

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