

INFLIBNET and its use among Faculty Members and Research Scholars: A Study of Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut

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Abstract: *The present paper explains about INFLIBNET and its services also examined use of services among faculty members and research scholars in Ch. Charan Singh university, Meerut. Further, the data is collected through a questionnaire to study the information needs of the faculty members and researchers in university campus and use of UGC-Infonet Consortium, shodhganga, union database by the faculty members and research scholars in university campus. The paper revealed that UGC Infonet consortium is much helpful in fulfilling their information needs. There is need to train the faculty members and research scholars in using the INFLIBNET services. Also examines the satisfaction of users about INFLIBNET services.*

Keywords: E-resources, Digital resources, University of Jammu, UGC-infonet, Consortium.

Introduction

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) center is located at the Gujarat university campus, Ahmedabad. The services of the center are specifically towards modernization of academic libraries and information centers, to promote information transfer, learning and academic pursuits [1]. The center acts as a nodal agency for networking of libraries and information centers, in universities, institutions of higher learning and R and D institutions in India. The center was established in May 1996 and set out to be a major player for promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers across the country.

The center, on behalf of the UGC, has taken-up a number of initiatives for the benefit of the academic community. These initiatives include:

- UGC-Infonet connectivity programmer for networking of university campuses and internet connectivity.
- UGC-Infonet digital library consortium.
- Shodhganga: A reservoir of Indian electronic theses and dissertations.
- Open Journals Access System (OJAS).
- Access management technologies that would facilitate users to access e-resources irrespective of their physical location.

About Ch. Charan Singh university library

Ch. Charan Singh university (formerly Meerut university) library was established in 1968 to serve the academic community of the university in particular and this region of the state in general. The designing of the library building was planned in consultation with the renowned architect and library experts. Construction of the library was started in 1970 and it was formally declared open 11th January 1972. The shoebox type library building is designed on modular pattern. Its countless louvers, gentle ramps and full length glass panels on all sides add to its beauty [2]. It provides 2655.38 sq. meters of floor area spread over four floors. The library is now known as Raja Mahendra Pratap library. The library has a collection of around 150,000 books on its shelves, 30000 bound volumes of journals, 13000 theses, 2884 electronic theses. Library is subscribing to more than 300 print journals and more than 100 e-journals. It remains open from 8.00 AM to 12.00 PM [3].

The project of computerization of central library has been taken as the priority of the library. SOUL 2.0 Library software developed by UGC INFLIBNET has been installed for the automation of the library. 20 computers have been installed in the various sections of the library on LAN [4]. The data entry of the holdings of the library is in process. Entire collection of library is entered in software and bar code is provided to each document for circulation purpose. The library is now totally automated using bar code technology in its lending operations. An OPAC (On line public access catalogue) is provided for students queries. Master cards to the members of the library are issued. The online catalogue of the library is available on web (Figure 1) [5].



Figure-1: The online catalogue of the library

- Library is the member of UGC INFLIBNET e-journal consortia programmer and is providing more than 8000 full text e-journals.
- Library has also created a digital database of Ph.D. Theses submitted to this university.
- Library is subscribing back volumes of e-journals in the field of social sciences, besides more than 100 e-journals [6].
- Shodhganga provides digital theses of different university libraries, enabling the users to read full text theses submitted in different university libraries.

Objectives of the study

- To identify the information needs of the research scholars, faculty members and other users in Ch. Charan Singh university library.
- To know the knowledge about INFLIBNET and its services among the faculty

members, research scholars and other users.

- To know the knowledge about e-resources.
- To know the extent of the use of e-resources.
- To know about satisfaction of the information needs of the research scholars and Faculty members by e-resources under UGC-INFLIBNET programmer.
- To find out the problems in respect of UGC-Infonet consortium.
- To suggest the valuable suggestion to improvement of the library [7].

Materials and Methods

Questionnaire survey is the most popular method of collecting data today. The present survey is conducted through a questionnaire method and questionnaires were circulated among the faculty members and research scholars in different departments of Ch. Charan Singh university, Meerut. In addition, the information is collected through personal interaction with the faculty members and researchers. Of the total 100 questionnaires distributed among faculty, research scholars and other users [8]. 20 faculty members, 30 research scholars and 50 other users have provided their consent in the questionnaire. The collected data is analyzed, tabulated, interpreted and presented in form of report.

Data analysis and interpretation

INFLIBNET has its value, which no one can deny. INFLIBNET is essential for survival, progress and it is a basic need of life. User is the supreme in any information system. The benefits of information revolution are centered on the user and his convenience. The scholar has studied the information needs and use patterns of faculty members and research scholars of Chaudhary Chaaran Singh university, faculty members and research scholars perform one basic function teaching and they are expected to do research and publish results of research from time to time throughout their careers. We have used the questionnaire method to collect data and applied statistical application to test the hypothesis. The findings of the study are given in different tables and reports [9]. It was revealed that the users face difficulty in searching information through electronic sources. They need skills to use the available sources in the library.

Table 1 shows that 20% faculty members 30% research scholars 50% other users responded the 100 distributed questionnaires. Maximum response 50% received from other users and minimum response 20% from faculty members (Figure 2).

Table 1: Academic status

S.No.	Category	Response	Percentage
1	Faculty member	20	20%
2	Research scholars	30	30%
3	Others	50	50%
Total		100	100%

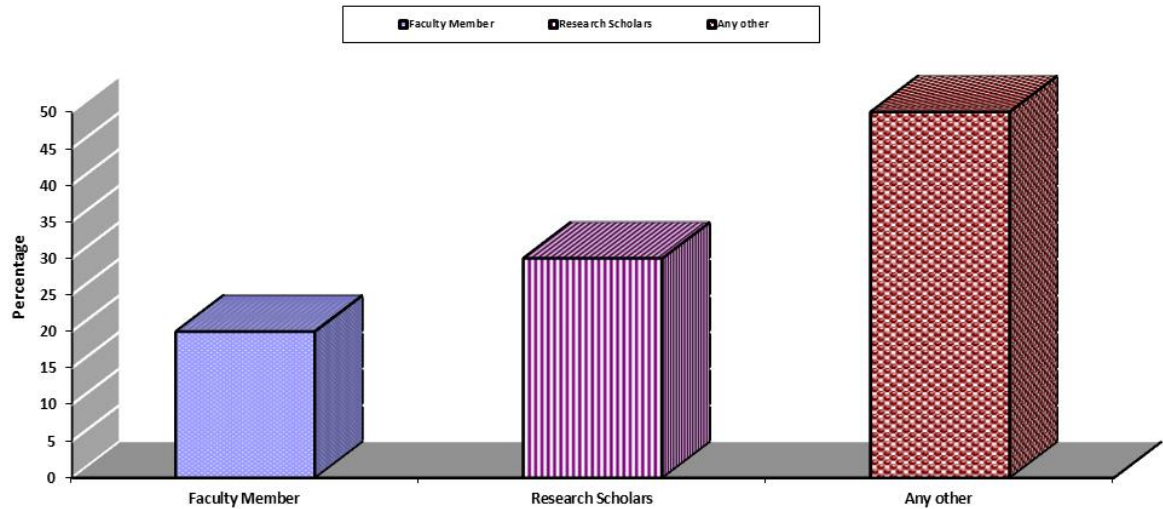


Figure-2: It shows that 20% faculty members 30% research scholars 50% other users responded the 100 distributed questionnaires

Table 2 shows the sex ratio 65% respondent belongs to male category whereas 35% belongs to female category (Figure 3).

Table 2: Sex ratio

S.No.	Category	Response	Percentage
1	Male	65	65%
2	Female	35	35%
Total		100	100%

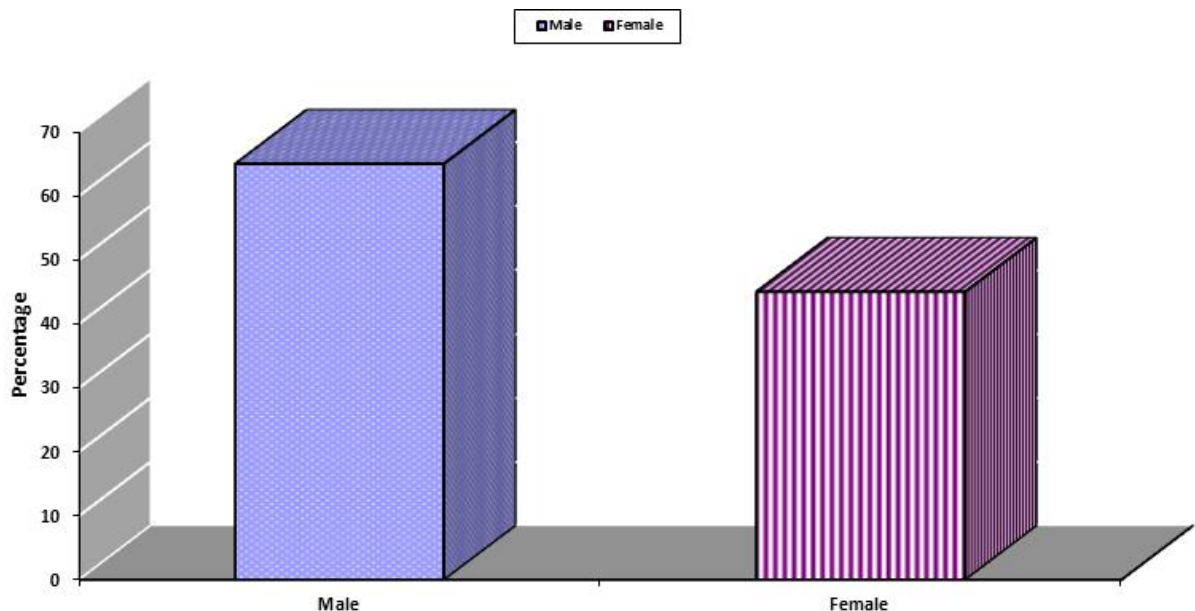


Figure-3: Sex ratio

Table 3 shows that out of 20 faculty members 5 (25%) use e-mail, 4 (20%) use academic websites, 5 (25%) use e-resources and 6 (30%) use online databases (Figure 3). Among research scholars maximum 30% prefer online databases and only 16% use academic websites. In the category of other users maximum 42% use e-mail service and only 14% access academic websites (Figure 4).

Table 3: Purpose of using internet in the library

Purpose	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	Percentage	Any other	Percentage
E-mail	5	25	8	27	21	42
Academic website	4	20	5	16	7	14
E-Resources	5	25	9	30	14	28
Online data base	6	30	8	27	8	16
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

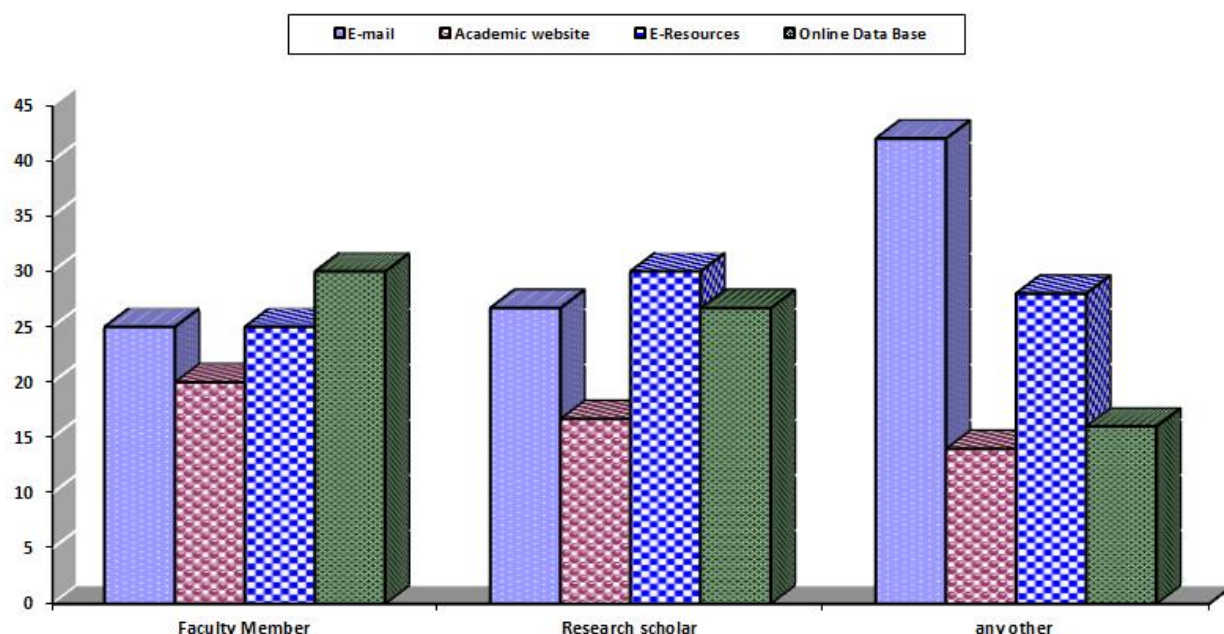


Figure-4: Shows that out of 20 faculty members 5 (25%) use e-mail, 4 (20%) use academic websites, 5 (25%) use e-resources and 6 (30%) use online databases

Table 4 shows that 13 (65%) faculty members are satisfied with the internet speed and none of the faculty member said, that the speed is very poor. Similarly 57% research scholars and 68% other users feel that the internet speed is sufficient for downloading the e-resources. 30% faculty members 37% research scholars and 20% other user's feel that the present speed is insufficient to meet out the actual requirement of speed and therefore, it needs to be improved (Figure 5).

Table 4: Speed of internet for downloading

Present	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	Percentage	Any other	Percentage
Sufficient	13	65	17	57	34	68
Insufficient	6	30	11	37	10	20
Poor	1	5	2	6	4	8
Very poor	0	0	0	0	2	4
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

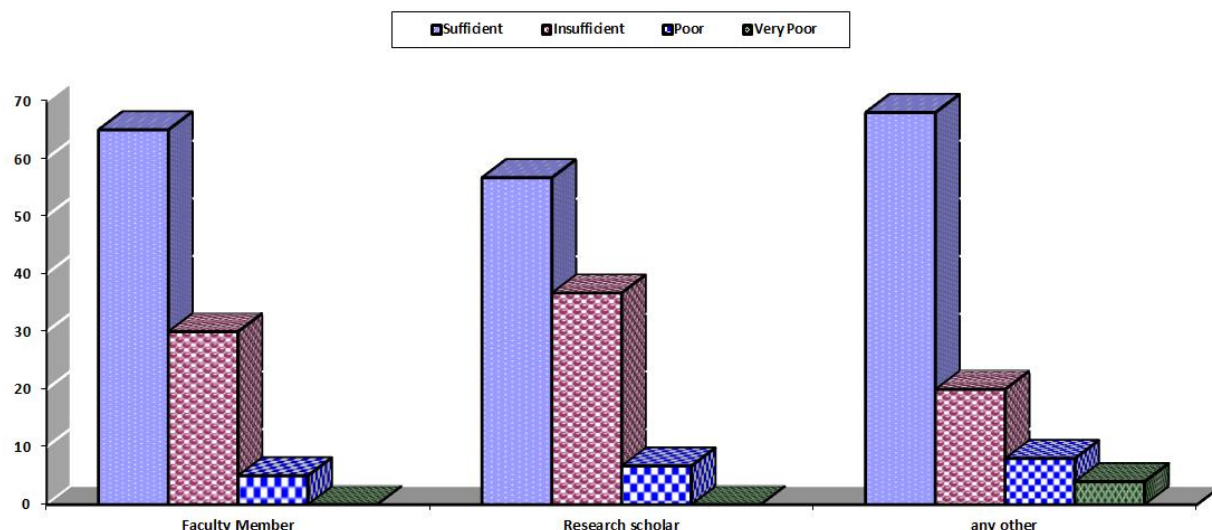


Figure-5: It shows that 13 (65%) faculty members are satisfied with the internet speed and none of the faculty member said, that the speed is very poor

Table 5 shows that maximum 35% faculty members are using e-resources since last one year, 30% are using for last two years and 10% faculty members are aware about e-resources and using them since last three or more years. Among research scholars maximum 36% have just started using e-resources and 27% equally using for last two and three years. Other users are not much aware about e-resources and they have just started using e-resources only a month back. However 12% other users are using for more than three years (Figure 6).

Table 5: Time of using the E-resources

Using the E-resources	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	Percentage	Any other	Percentage
Since last months	5	25	11	36	22	44
Since last 1 year	7	35	8	27	14	28
Since last 2 years	6	30	8	27	8	16
More than 3 years	2	10	3	10	6	12
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

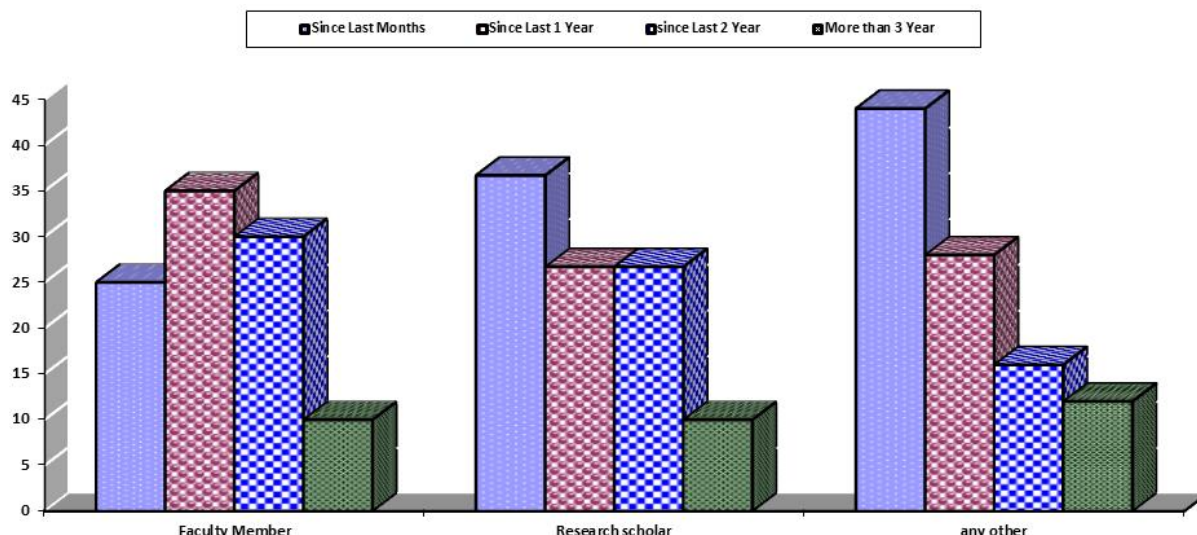


Figure-6: Shows that maximum 35% faculty members are using e-resources since last one year, 30% are using for last two years and 10% faculty members are aware about e-resources and using them since last three or more years

Table 6 shows that 10 (50%) faculty members use e-resources for less than 2 hours in a day 40% avail this facility for 2 to 3 hours a day and only 10% use e-resources as and when required. 50% research scholars use for less than 2 hours per day and 27% for 2 to 3 hours per day and only 10% consult as and when required. Other users are also using e-resources 42% for less than 2 hours, 30% for 2 to 3 hours and 22% use whenever they require (Figure 7).

Table 6: Time spend in a day to use E-resources

Week to use E-resources	Faculty member	Percentage	Research scholar	%age	Any other	Percentage
Less than 2 hours in a day	10	50	15	50	21	42
2-3 hours in a day	8	40	8	27	15	30
More than 3 hours in a day	0	0	4	13	3	6
As per requirement	2	10	3	10	11	22
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

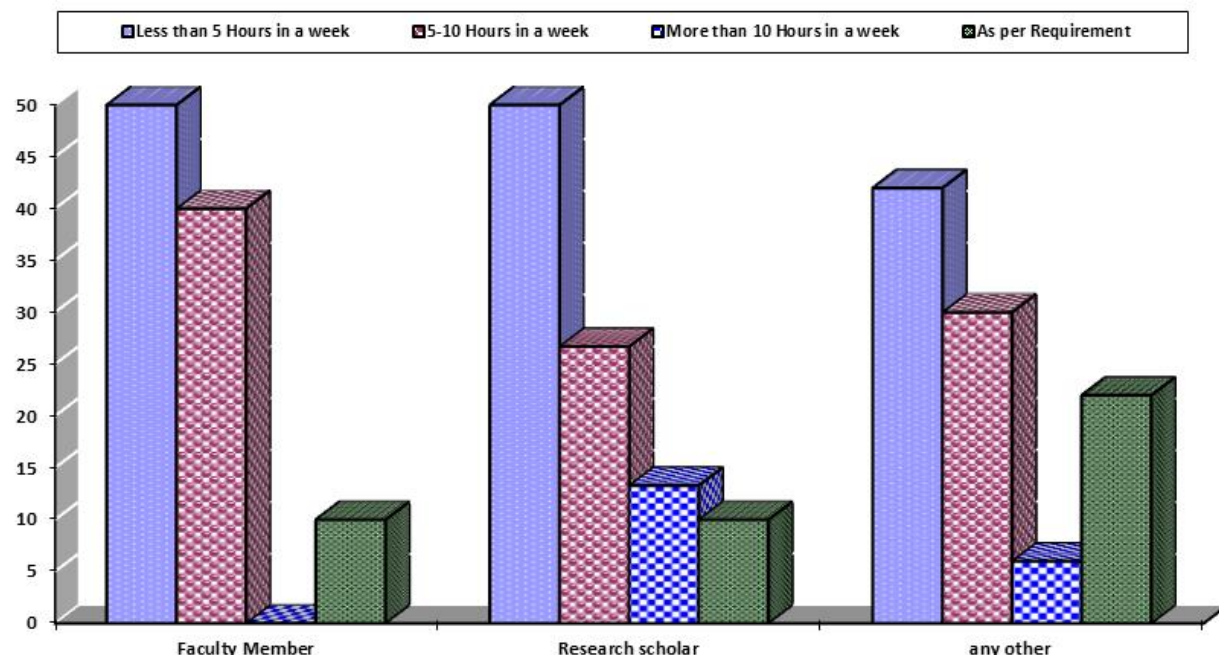


Figure-7: Shows that 10 (50%) faculty members use e-resources for less than 2 hours in a day 40% avail this facility for 2 to 3 hours a day and only 10% use e-resources as and when required

Table 7 shows that 35% faculty members, 33% research scholars and 40% other users took the training from library staff to use e-resources. 45% faculty members, 45% research scholars and 30% other users using e-resources by self-instruction. 15% faculty members 6% research scholars and 18% other users are using e-resources with the help provided by seniors. Least number of users in all categories is taking help from external sources to use e-resources (Figure 8).

Table 7: How did you learn to access the E-resources

Learn to handle the E-resources	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	Percentage	Any other	Percentage
Training from library staff	7	35	10	33	20	40
Self-instruction	9	45	14	45	15	30
External sources	1	5	5	16	6	12
From seniors	3	15	2	6	9	18
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

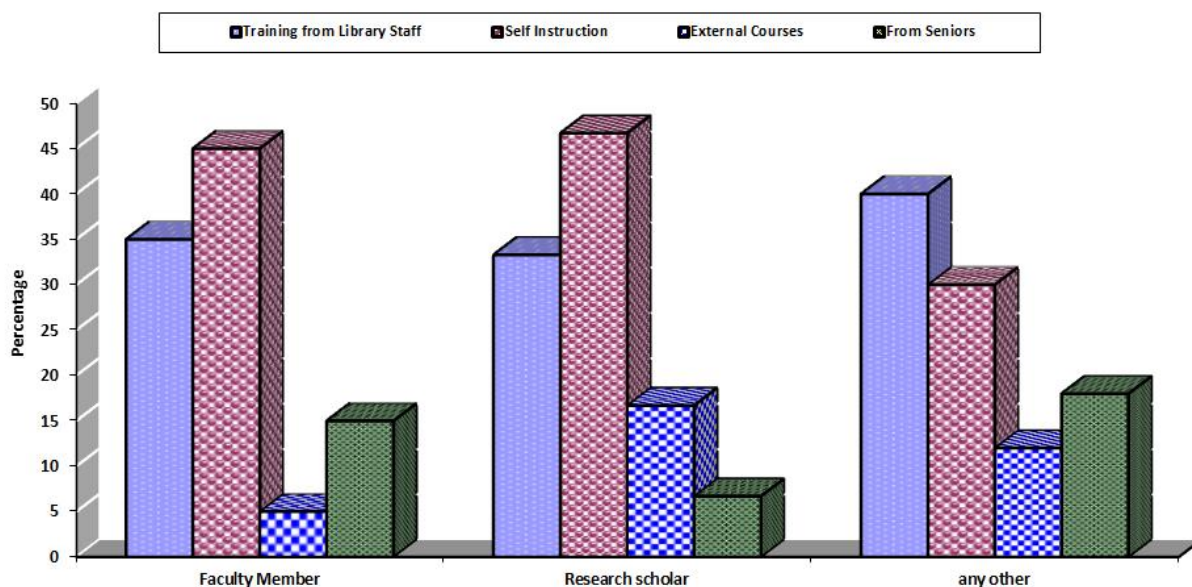


Figure-8: Shows that 35% faculty members, 33% research scholars and 40% other users took the training from library staff to use e-resources. 45% faculty members, 45% research scholars and 30% other users using E-resources by self-instruction

Results and Discussion

Table 8 shows that maximum user in all categories knew about INFLIBNET during their PG course. 13 (65%) faculty members, 18 (60%) research scholars and 37 (74%) other users are aware about INFLIBNET and its services when they were in PG course. 4 (20%) faculty members, 6 (20%) research scholars and 8 (16%) other users knew this service during their M.Phil course. Only few users in all categories either knew during Ph.D but there are few users 10% faculty members, 6.7% research scholars and 10% other users are still not aware about INFLIBNET and its services (Figure 9).

Table 8: When you know about INFLIBNET

Know INFLIBNET	Faculty member	Percentage	Research scholar	Percentage	Any other	Percentage
During PG	13	65	18	60	37	74
During M.Phil	4	20	6	20	8	16
During Ph.D	1	5	4	13.3	0	0
Not yet	2	10	2	6.7	5	10
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

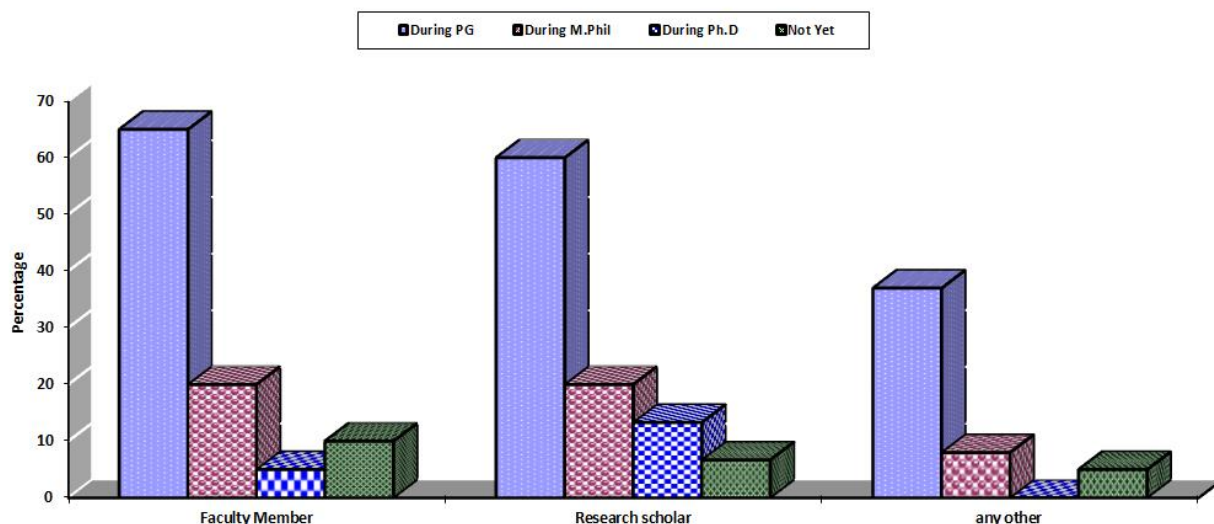


Figure-9: It shows that maximum user in all categories knew about INFLIBNET during their PG course. 13 (65%) faculty members, 18 (60%) research scholars and 37 (74%) other users are aware about INFLIBNET and its services when they were in PG course

Table 9 shows that 10 (50%) faculty members, 15 (50%) research scholars and 18 (36%) other users are using union database (OPAC) to search books. 4 (20%) faculty members, 6 (20%) research scholars and 12 (24%) other users are availing the facility of shodhganga to pursue their research work. 4 (20%) faculty members, 5 (16.7%) research scholars, and 12 (24%) other users are accessing e-journal consortia to read research articles (Figure 10).

Table 9: IBFLIBNET services received

Service received by you	Faculty member	Percentage	Research scholar	%age	Any other	Percentage
Union data base (OPAC)	10	50	15	50	18	36
Shodhganga	4	20	6	20	12	24
UGC programmes	2	10	4	13.3	8	16
E-Journal consortia	4	20	5	16.7	12	24
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

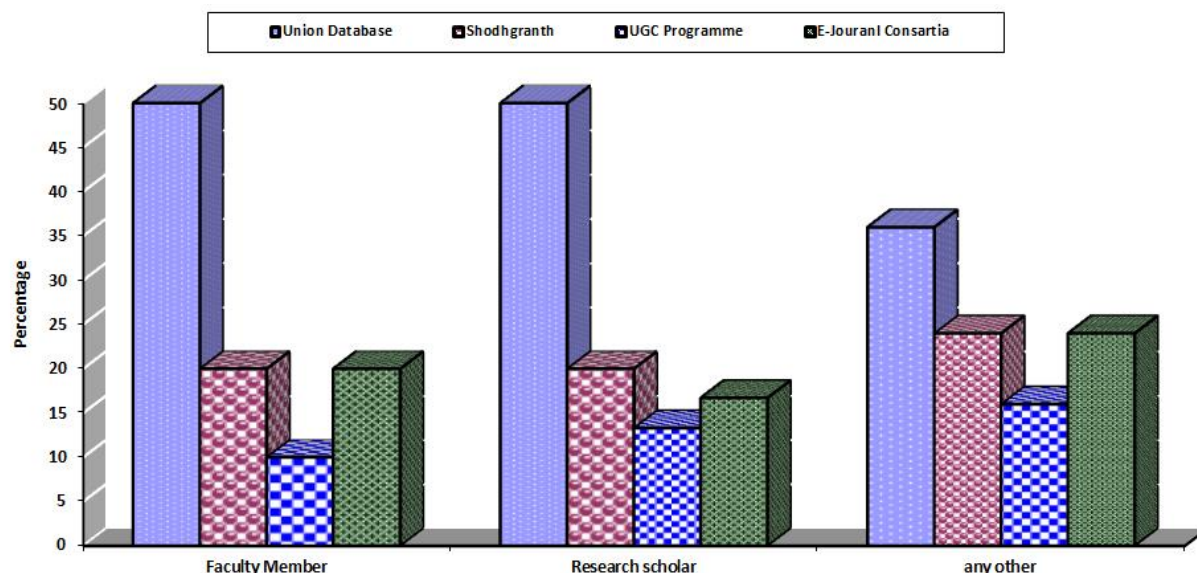


Figure-10: Figure 10 show that 10 (50%) faculty members, 15 (50%) research scholars and 18 (36%) other users are using union database (OPAC) to search books. 4 (20%) faculty members, 6 (20%) research scholars and 12 (24%) other users are availing the facility of shodhganga to pursue their research work

Table 10 shows that faculty members, research scholars and other user is using almost all services provided by INFLIBNET. 40% faculty members and research scholars like OPAC, as it provides the location of the document at national level. It not only saves the time but also the physical burden. 30% faculty members, 26% research scholars and 18% other users like shodhganga as it help the users in research work. 30% faculty members, 33% research scholars and 24% other users like to read e-journals through e-journal consortia (Figure 11).

Table 10: Which INFLIBNET services do you like?

Learn to handle the E-resources	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	%age	Any other	%age
OPAC	8	40	12	40	29	58
Shodhganga	6	30	8	26.7	9	18
E-journal	6	30	10	33.3	12	24
Any other please specify	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

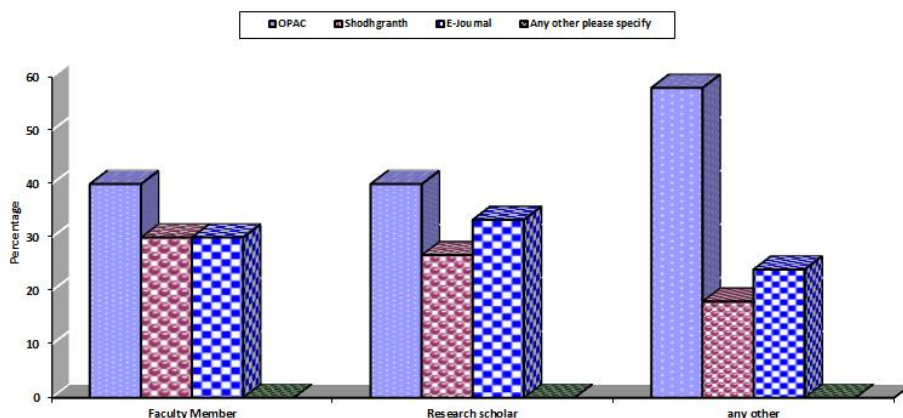


Figure-11: It shows that faculty members, research scholars and other user are using almost all services provided by INFLIBNET. 40% faculty members and research scholars like OPAC, as it provides the location of the document at national level

Table 11 shows that 7 (35%) faculty members, 13 (43.3%) research scholars and 25 (50%) other users feel that INFLIBNET services improve efficiency, whereas 6 (30%) faculty members, 5 (16%) research scholars and 12 (24%) other users feel that these type of services reduces professional work load. 3 (15%) faculty members, 5 (16%) research scholars and 8 (16%) other users use INFLIBNET services for current awareness (Figure 12).

Table 11: How do you feel about the INFLIBNET services

INFLIBNET services	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	%age	Any other	%age
Improves efficiency	7	35	13	43.3	25	50
Reduces professional work loads	6	30	5	16.7	12	24
Enable to have greater access to information resources	4	20	7	23.3	5	10
For current awareness	3	15	5	16.7	8	16
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

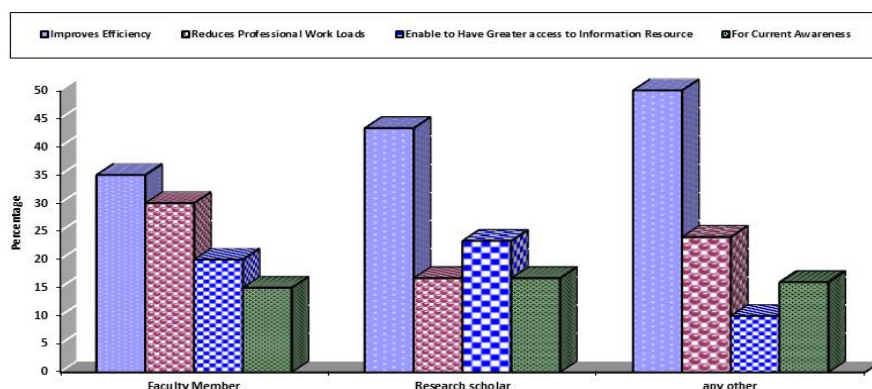


Figure-12: It shows those 7 (35%) faculty members, 13 (43.3%) research scholars and 25 (50%) other users feel that INFLIBNET services improve efficiency, whereas 6 (30%) faculty members, 5 (16%) research scholars and 12 (24%) other users feel that these type of services reduces professional work load.

Table 12 shows that majority of the users irrespective of category are unable to access e-resources due to limited number of terminals provided for the purpose. They include 80% faculty members, 53% research scholars and 58% other users. 2 (10%) faculty members, 5 (16%) research scholars and 7 (14%) other users are not using e-resources because they do not understand the procedure. 5% faculty members, 1% research scholars and 12% other users are not even aware about the service (Figure 13).

Table 12: Problem in the use of the service

Problem in the use of the service	Faculty member	%age	Research scholar	%age	Any other	%age
Limited No. of computers	16	80	16	53	29	58
Do not understand the process	2	10	5	16	7	14
Not aware of the service available	1	5	3	1	6	12
Needs guidance from experts	1	5	6	2	8	16
Total	20	100	30	100	50	100

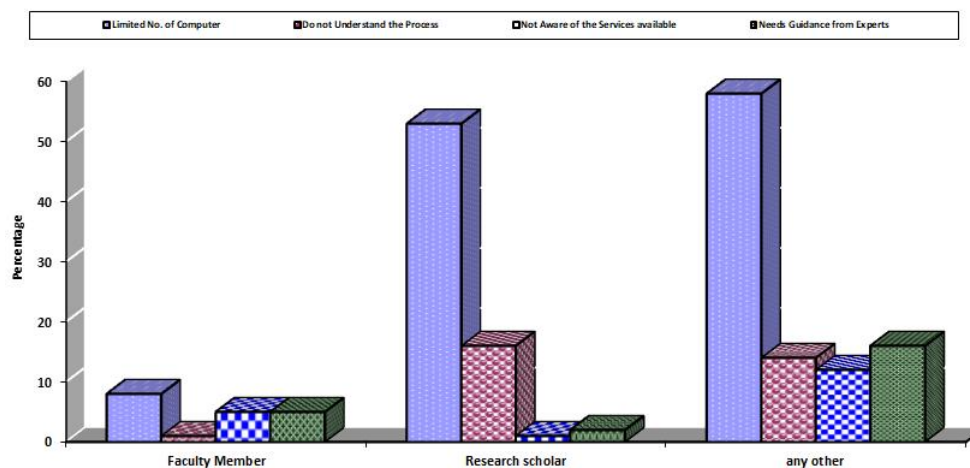


Figure-13: It shows that majority of the users irrespective of category are unable to access e-resources due to limited number of terminals provided for the purpose

Suggestion

Maximum effort should be made to move to online electronic delivery. Scanner facilities should be provided which will help to increase satisfaction level as well as speed of the service.

Most users want electronic document supply direct to their desktop. This will be quicker, cheaper and will avoid the problem of print copies being left in the library.

More terminals should be provided in university for maximum utilisation of INFLIBNET resources.

Training programmers should be organised by the library to train the users about the procedure of accessing e-resources.

User awareness programme should also be organised so that the services may be brought to the notice of those who are not aware.

Internet speed should also be improved so that more access is possible.

Conclusion

A number of benefits are being offered to member libraries of the particular networks. First, one gets access to a very large volume of literature without increase in the library budget because of the sharing of resources among the members. Secondly, the library budget can now be diverted to acquire the most important (even if expensive) information required by an institution, the other peripheral information being available on the network. Nevertheless, the growth of these

networks is slow. It is taking a long time to create and provide bibliographic databases of recognisable size, without the databases neither could networks be made effective to achieve the goals nor could resource sharing be effective.

Finally it appears that prospects are quite favorable for development of networks for better information services and resource sharing in India. In this direction lot of work has to be done. Some of the problems faced by other developing countries are common to India too, including financial constraints, inadequate communication, non-availability of equipment, less awareness of the value of information, reluctance to development and non-coordination of various kind of activities, resource building, resource sharing and exchange of information and ideas, non-standardization operational procedure, lack of dedication, motivation and knowledge on the part of available manpower.

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