# Status and Problems of N-List Consortia Subscription in Government First Grade Colleges of Hassan District, Karnataka: A Study.

**Nagesh R**
Librarian
Govt. First Grade College, Hirisave,
C.R.Patna Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka.
e-mail: rnageshh@yahoo.com

**Naveen C. L**
Librarian
Govt. First Grade College, Gandasi,
ArasikereTaluk, Hassan District, Karnataka
e-mail: naveendeluxeshetty@gmail.com

**Abstract -** *The transition of traditional library collections to digital or virtual collections presented the libraries with new opportunities. Today the internet has revolutionized the traditional library collection and accessing resources. Electronic resources have given the library a new dynamic role to play and serve the new information based society in better ways than hitherto. E- Resources are digital objects containing electronic representation of books, journals and other form of reading materials. E- Resources are enabling the creation of new innovative library services to its users. The paper focuses on the subscription status of N-List in Govt. First Grade Colleges and it also emphasizes the issues and problems of subscribing and accessing N-list in the libraries.*

**Keywords:** Electronic Resources; Electronic Consortia; N-list Consortia.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Electronic resources represent an increasingly important component of libraries. According to International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), electronic resources refer to those materials that require computer access, whether through a personal computer, mainframe, or handled mobile device. They either are accessed remotely via the Internet or locally. Some of the most frequently encountered type is e-journals, e-books, full text databases, index in abstracting databases, reference databases (biographies, dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, etc.), numeric and statistical databases, e-images, e-audio/visual resources.

In the present digital knowledge era, the easy and quick access to information, which is the vital resource for each and every citizen, is essential for the development of any nation. The concept of library cooperation, inter library loan and resource sharing among libraries have paved the way for initiatives of library consortia. The most important development that has taken place for academic libraries is the move from being self-sufficient organizations to becoming members of library consortia for collaborative survival.

## 2. N-LIST PROGRAMME:

The N-List entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)",is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resources Development, funded by the University Grants Commission. The main aim of this Programme is to subscribe and provide access to selected e-resources to Universities and colleges.

It is being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once colleges are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) in India are eligible to get access to the e-resources under the Programme. The N-List consortia has more than 6000+ e-journals and 97000+ e-books.

The main advantages of this programme are:
- Remote access to e-resources with User Id and password.
- Ambitious programme extending e-resources to colleges at affordable cost.
- Provides multiple accesses of 24 hours a day and 7 days week.
- With facility for advance online publication, research papers are available online two months ahead of the print version.

**Total number of registrations as on**23-05-2016:**5172**
- Number of 12b college registrations:**3543**
- Number of Non-aided college registrations:**1174**
- Number of 12b and non-aided college registrations:**3862**

**Annual Membership fee:**
- Colleges under 12B: **5,725=00**
- Non-12B colleges: **34,350=00**

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Some of the major objectives of the study are;
- To find out the status of N-List consortia in governmentfirst grade colleges.
- To find out the issues and problems in subscribing N-List consortia.
- To find out whether sufficient ICT tools are available in subscribing N-List consortia.
- To know about the financial sources for subscribing N-List
- To find out the publicity method being adopted by libraries to promote the usage of N-list consortia.
- To find out the recommended tool for N-list subscription.

## 4. METHODOLOGY:

A structured questionnaire was used as the tool for the survey and it was constructed based on the objectives of this study and carried out to assess the present status of N-List electronic resource in Government First Grade College (GFGC) libraries in Hassan district. The questionnaire has been developed by consulting a number of previous e-resources surveys. As there are 24GFG college libraries in Hassan, all are covered in the study instead of limiting to a sample. The questionnaires were sent to the Librarian through the mail and post. Some questionnaires filled through e-mail, phone contact and face to face interview methods. Out of 24 libraries, 20(83.33%) filled questionnaires received.

## 5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In 2011, "Status of college libraries in India in accessing N-LIST services: an observation" by Ravi B and Somasekhar Y L, they have compared the government colleges from different states and union territories and the registered colleges using NLIST services. Only a few colleges are registered for N-LIST services. Those not registered with N-LIST due to lack of funds cannot access the e-journals and e-books available with N-LIST. The authors suggest that the government and NAAC should make it mandatory for colleges to register with N-LIST and that INFLIBNET should provide the necessary awareness and orientation programmes.

In 2012, MangeshTalmale and Avinash Humilore in "SWOT analysis of N-LIST programme" have conducted strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis of N-LIST programme. SWOT analysis helps in evaluating the strengths to overcome weaknesses, using opportunities to overcome threats and take appropriate strategic actions. According to them, changes take place due to many factors such as technology, demographic features, economic factors, etc.

In 2013, Dr Chikkamanju, MallinathKumbar and G Kiran Kumar in their paper " Use of N-LIST services by the faculty and students of University of Mysore: a comparative study" presented in the National Seminar on emerging trends in ERMS in college libraries , September 27 & 28, 2013 studied the factors affecting the optimum utilization of N-LIST services, place of access, purpose of use, types of services, level of satisfaction, problems faced while accessing, training/orientation programmes and preferred external medium of storage for storing the data downloaded via NLIST services. The questionnaire and interview method was used for the study. It was found that students and faculty mostly access N-LIST services for seminar presentations. They faced the problem of retrieval of irrelevant information. Majority of those included in the study were moderately satisfied with the information retrieved through N-LIST services.

In 2014, "Impact of ICT on library users for accessing e-resources available under N-List programme", Sunil D Punwatkar and Sandip S Salunke, studied the impact of ICT on library users with special reference to UGCINFLIBNET. INFLIBNET helps in resource sharing through its various modules including N-LIST. These provide peer reviewed journals, abstracts, etc.

In 2013, Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha,Sucheta Bhattacharya and Sudip Bhattacharya in "ICT and Internet literacy skills for accessing to e-resources available under N-LIST programme: a case

study of college library users of Barak Valley, South Assam, tries to gain knowledge about the N-LIST programme implementation and the status of ICT and Internet literacy skills among the college library users from selected colleges.

## 6. EVALUATION OF STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF N-LIST CONSORTIA SUBSCRIPTION:

### Table 1: Basic details of Govt.First Grade Colleges in Hassan District, Karnataka.

| Establishment | | 2f | 2f & 12b | NAAC | Permanent librarian | Collection of Books | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| before 2007 | after 2007 | | | | | 1 to 10000 | 10000 to 20000 | above 20000 |
| 11 55% | 09 45% | 12 60% | 08 40% | 08 40% | 18 90% | 08 40% | 06 30% | 06 30% |

**Frequency N=20**

**Table 1** depicts out of 20colleges, 11 (55%) colleges are established before 2007 and remaining 09 (45%) colleges are established after 2007. 10 (50%) colleges got 2f, 08 (40%) colleges got both 2f & 12b and 02 (10%) colleges did not get even 2f. 08 (40%) colleges were accredited with NAAC grade. 18 (90%) colleges have permanent librarians and 02 (10%) colleges do not have permanent librarians. 8 (40%) libraries have bellow 10000 books, 06 (30%) libraries have between 10000 to 20000 books and 06 (30%) colleges have above 20000 books.

### Table 2: Status of N-List consortia subscription

| N-List subscription Status | Frequency N=20 | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| No. of colleges are subscribing N-List | 08 | 40% |
| No. of colleges are not subscribing N-List | 12 | 60% |
| **Total** | **20** | **100%** |

**Table 2 shows** out of 20 colleges only 08 (40%) college libraries are subscribing N-List consortia and 12 (60%) college libraries are not subscribing N-List.

### Table 3: Financial sources for N-List consortia subscription

| Financial sources | Frequency N=08 | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Reading Room Fund | 07 | 87.50% |
| College Development Fund (CDF) | 0 | 0% |
| College Development Committee Fund (CDC) | 01 | 12.50% |
| Library Development Fund | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| **Total** | **08** | **100%** |

**Table 3 shows** out of 08 colleges, 07 college libraries (87.50%) are subscribing N-List consortia from Reading Room Fund. Reading Room Fund will be collected from the students during the

admission for the subscription of Journals/Magazines and Newspapers. 01 college library (12.50%) is subscribing N-List from CDC fund. This CDC fund will also be collected from the students for the college development during the admission.

**Table 4: Recommended of N-List Consortia Subscription**

| Recommended by | Frequency N=08 | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Faculties | 02 | 25.0% |
| Students | 01 | 12.5% |
| For NAAC Accreditation | 03 | 37.5% |
| For Library Convictions | 02 | 25.0% |
| **Total** | **08** | **100%** |

**Table 4 shows** out of 08 colleges, 03 college libraries (37.5%) are subscribing N-List consortia recommended for the purpose of NAAC Accreditation. 02 colleges (25.0%) are subscribing N-List recommended by Faculties. 02 colleges (25.0%) are subscribing N-List recommended for the purpose of Library Convictions and only 1 college is subscribing N-List recommended by the Students.

**Table 5: Promotional tools of N-List consortia usage**

| Promotional Tools | Frequency N=08 | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| N-list Orientation | 07 | 87.5% |
| N-list Workshop | 02 | 25% |
| Assistance from library staff | 02 | 25% |
| Developed N-list Tutorial | 0 | 0% |
| N-list training | 02 | 25% |
| Other promotional tools | 01 | 12.5% |

**Table 5** depicts the various promotional tools for N-List consortia usage. Majority colleges are using multiple promotional tools for promoting usage of N-List consortia in the college. 07 colleges (87.5%) are conducting N-List Orientation program to users to promote the use of N-List consortia.02 colleges (25%) are conducting N-List Workshop program to users to promote the use of N-List consortia. 02 colleges (25%) are having Assistance from library staff to promote the use of N-List consortia. 02 colleges (25%) are conducting N-List Training programto users to promote the use of N-List consortia. Only 01 college (12.5%) is using other promotional tool (college website) to promote the use of N-List consortia. Overall in this table clearly shows that majority college libraries are conducting N-List Orientation program to users to promote the use of N-List consortia.

**Table 6: Barriers of N-List Consortia Subscription**

| Barriers | Frequency N=12 | Percentage % |
|---|---|---|
| Inadequate computers | 08 | **66.67%** |
| No internet facility | 02 | **16.67%** |
| Insufficient Funds (Finance) | 12 | **100.0%** |
| Lack of training | 03 | **25.0%** |
| Inadequate electricity | 06 | **50.0%** |
| Lack of ICT knowledge | 06 | **50.0%** |
| Any Other | 0 | **0** |

**Table 6**depicts that there are various barriers for not subscribing N-List consortia. 12 colleges (100%) are not subscribing N-List due to insufficient fund. All 12 colleges are not comes under 2f and 12b. Annual N-List subscription fee is 5700=00 only for 2f and 12b colleges but non-2f and 12b colleges need to pay 35000=00. 08 colleges(66.67%) are not subscribing due to inadequate computers. 06 colleges (50%) are not subscribing due to inadequate electricity. 06 colleges (50%) are not subscribing due to lack of ICT knowledge. 03 colleges (25%) are not subscribing due to lack of training. 02 colleges (16.67%) are not subscribing due to no internet facility. Overall in this table clearly shows that majority college libraries are not subscribing N-list consortia due to insufficient funds.

## 7. FINDINGS:

The following findings have been identified during the study.

1. It was seen that only 40% (08) college libraries are subscribing N-List consortia whereas 60 % (12) collegelibraries are not subscribing N-List.
2. It is found that out of 8 colleges, 07 (87.5%) college libraries are subscribing N-List consortia with the financial source of Reading Room Fund (RR Fund). This fund is collected from the students during their admission for the purpose of journals/magazines and newspaper subscription.
3. Most of the college libraries were not getting any fundfrom the department for the purpose of N-List subscription.
4. Out of 08 colleges, 03 college libraries (37.5%) were subscribing N-List consortia recommended for the purpose of NAAC Accreditation.
5. Majority colleges were using multiple promotional tools for promoting usage of N-List consortia in the college. Out of 08 colleges, 07 colleges (87.5%) were conducting N-List Orientation program to users to promote the use of N-List consortia.
6. There were various barriers for not subscribing N-List consortia. Some colleges are facing multiple barriers for not subscribing. Out of 12 colleges which were not subscribing N-List, all colleges (100%) were due to insufficient fund. Remaining barriers were inadequate computers (66.67%), inadequate electricity (50%), lack of ICT knowledge (50%), lack of training (25%) and no internet facility (16.67%).

## 8. SUGGESTIONS:

This study would like to give following suggestions for subscribing N-List consortia in all government first grade college libraries.

1. Parent body of government first grade colleges need to be provided basic ICT infrastructure like desktops with good configuration and high speed internet connection.
2. Parent body of government first grade colleges need to be provided 24 hours electricity supply along with the power backup facility (UPS).
3. Required financial fund need to be provided to subscribe N-List consortia.
4. Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), the parent body of N-List consortia should give concession for non 2f and 12b colleges also, as like 2f and 12b colleges.
5. All library and information science professionals need to get the information and communication technology (ICT) training.

## 9. CONCLUSION:

The N-LIST Programme has gained fame within a short span of time and colleges are being enriched with the e-resources available through the Programme. It is hoped that the N-LIST Programme will widen its scope and coverage of journals and books to all subjects and the number of e-resources available currently through this Programme will be enhanced. All college libraries need to focus more on e-resources. The users should become familiar with latest information resources and to make optimum utilization of electronic information resource (N-LIST) available in the institution. The government of India is spending large amount on the e-resources which are made available via consortia.

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