Use of E- resources available from DELNET, New Delhi: A Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to assess and evaluate the use of e-resources available through DELNET, New Delhi, with a view to examine the exposure of engineering colleges & universities library members to e-resources. Academic libraries in India are facing a lot of problems due to static budget and exponential price hike of library collection materials. The library environment is currently undergoing a rapid and dynamic revolution leading to new generation of libraries with the go green on e-resources. A lot of efforts have been taken in past few years to overcome this problem of financial crunch by resource sharing through DELNET for university & Engineering college libraries. DELNET are two major initiatives for university library and Engineering college's library users. These revolutionary steps are providing scholarly resources including peer reviewed journals links, databases, abstracts proceedings and ILL Services etc. These efforts must be a boon to university library users which will definitely boost the level of higher education system in our country.

Keywords: E-resources, Inter Library Loan (ILL), Engineering College, University libraries and E- journals

INTRODUCTION

The internet has become inevitable media to deliver or access the wide variety of information for users. All types of resources are made available on internet for subscription and sharing of e-resources. This new way to consolidate global resources amongst the libraries for maximization of their limited financial resources was thought by Indian government. The main methods of resource sharing are:

1. ILL Services
2. Article Delivery Services
3. Institutional Membership
4. Consortia of E-Journals Package

DELNET are becoming the main gateways for resource sharing. These are formed at the local, regional and international levels and may be grouped around subject or function. These are now being overheard everywhere because of electronic or digital form of information. DELNET is the first operational library network in India. Sponsored by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, it was started as a project of the India International Centre in 1988 and later officially registered as a society in June 1992.

In this diverse and changing situation DELNET has been able to establish itself as an effective, operational resource sharing library network in India. The network whose journey started as a city based library network in 1988 has emerged as a major operational library network, not only in India but also South Asia, connecting more than 4999 libraries in 32 States and Union Territories (UT) in India and seven other countries. The network is going

from strength to strength, with rapidly growing union catalogues, wider coverage of libraries from varied disciplines, growing numbers of users and horizontal and vertical expansion in its services to members.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kaul, Sangeeta (2009), conducted a study of DELNET libraries for assessing the usage of DELNET services. The study results show that there were total 90% respondents indicating the dedicated internet facility in their libraries and in 97% organizations, faculty have direct access to the internet from their own desk. Awareness of DELNET services was indicated by 92% of member libraries. Photocopying of journal articles and supply is the most popular service of DELNET. The study has found that 86% member libraries are benefited from the union catalogue and above 90% libraries are satisfied about the ILL/DD service of the DELNET.

Mishra, Sanjay (2001), conducted a survey of local library networks in India for studying the factors affecting local library networks. A survey of participating libraries of four local networks (ADINET, CALIBNET, DELNET and PUNENET) in 58 India was conducted using a survey method. The study revealed that organizational factors such as planning, governance, funding, communication and administration are related to each other. The study surveyed 131 libraries. The questionnaire included items related to computerization and networking, organizational factors and general data. The study considered six organizational factors as planning, governance; funding, communication administration and success and they were measured using a linker 5 point scale. The response for these factors indicating moderate level. Researchers indicated that raising the levels of these factors will assist in developing local area networks. The researcher concluded that the local area networks in India are in elementary stage, further he added only DELNET is functioning in true sense as a network.

ABOUT DELNET

DELNET – Developing Library Network is a major operational resource sharing library network in India connecting more than 4500 libraries in 32 States and UTs in India and seven other countries. DELNET was conceived as a city based library network in Delhi in 1988 and was known as Delhi Library Network, networking the libraries of the Delhi region and was registered as a society in 1992. With the availability of DELNET services on the World Wide Web, its accessibility was soon transformed from the local dial up connectivity for the Delhi region institutions to global access through the web. This gave a great boost to DELNET and it soon crossed geographical boundaries within the country and also became accessible internationally. In 2000 the name of DELNET was changed to DELNET – Developing Library Network. The main objectives of DELNET are to promote resource sharing among the member libraries by collecting, storing and disseminating information and provide networked services to researchers and scholars to supplement their research activity.

OBJECTIVES OF DELNET

- Promote sharing of resources among the libraries by developing a network of libraries, by collecting, storing and disseminating information and by offering computerized services to the members
- Undertake scientific research in the area of Information Science and Technology, create new systems in the field, apply the results of research and publish them;

- To offer technical guidance to the member-libraries on collecting, storing, sharing and disseminating information;
- To coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible;
- To establish /facilitate the establishment of referral and /or research centers, and maintain a central online union catalogue of books, serials and non-book materials of all the participating libraries;
- To facilitate and promote delivery of documents manually or mechanically;
- To develop specialized bibliographic database of books, serials and non-book materials;
- To develop databases of projects, specialists and institutions;
- To possess and maintain electronic and mechanical equipment for speedy communication of information and delivery of electronic mail;
- To coordinate with other regional, national and international networks and libraries for exchange of information and documents;

E- RESOURCES

E-Resource is an electronic information resource that we can share on the web or in campus. This requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data full text bases, E- Journals, E- Books, image collections, other multimedia products which are numerical, graphical or time based and is commercially available titles that have been published with an aim of being marketed as an E- resource. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and many other ways. The E-resources may be E-journals, E-books, databases, websites, CD ROM and other portable computer databases. The main advantage of E-resources is the cost saving in printing and paper as well as data storage, maintenance and transmission. The e-resources on magnetic and optical media have a vast impact on the collections of university libraries. These are more useful due to inherent capabilities for manipulation and searching, providing information access is cheaper to acquiring information resources, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative. Types of E – resources is given below

- E-Journals
- E-Books
- Online Databases
- Websites
- CD-ROM
- Floppy disk
- Other portable computer databases

DELNET SERVICES

Developing Library Network having about 4999 libraries in network and provides Inter Library loan facility, Union catalogue of various resources of member libraries. Through these users can access about 35 lakes records of E-books, E-journals, Theses and Dissertations, E-text archives, researcher's information and many more.

Following are few more resources available through DELNET.

- Union Catalogue of Books
- EBooks
- E-Books: Read them online: 9079 free e-books in 660 categories

- Full Text Medical Books: 361 full text books
- Union List of Journal
- Union Catalogue of Journals with holdings
- DOAJ Directory of Open Access Journals
- Full Text Medical Journals
- Multimedia Databases/Union Lists of CD-Roms, Video Recordings, Sound Recordings
- Architecture e-Journals
- NACLIN Materials
- Education E-Journals
- Engineering and Technology E-Journals
- Law e-Journals
- Business and Management e-Journals
- Nursing e-Journals
- Pharmacy e-Journals
- Engineering and Technology TOC (Open Access)
- Learning Resources for LIS Professionals
- Global Full text Thesis and Dissertations
- 15 Selected Digital Libraries of World
- Workshop announcement

RESOURCE SHARING

DELNET's ILL and DDS Resource sharing services are one of the most popular services with member libraries. Requests for the supply of books on Interlibrary Loan or requests for journal articles are received by DELNET through various modes including DELNET Online System,e-mail, also through fax and at times through post. DELNET promotes electronic communication since it is faster and interactive and facilitates the process of quick and safe delivery of the ILL/DDS items. DELNET has an ILL tracking system for the date of dispatch, date of return, etc. The material is sent through insured courier services. It is worth mentioning that DELNET not only provides the ILL/DDS to its member libraries located in various parts of the country but is also engaged with international inter-lending. DELNET sends books on Interlibrary Loan to member institutions outside India such as Kathmandu, Nepal and Oman, Muscat. Also photocopies of journal articles are provided to member libraries in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, etc. DELNET is also working towards the implementation of ISO ILL protocols. The following number of collection accessible from DELNET

DELNET Database as on 31.12.2014	
Union Catalogue of Books	2,03,71,835
Union Catalogue of Periodicals	20,235
Union List of Current Periodicals	36,939
Articles Database	9,22,042
E-books Database	1,613
CD-ROM Database	22,234
Union list of Video Recordings	6,000
Union List of Sound Recording	1,025
Database of Theses and Dissertations	70,293
Total	**2,14,52,216**

CONCLUSION

In a developing country like India, libraries are facing challenges due to budget. Academic libraries have really understood that DELNET based subscriptions is cost effective and also avoids unnecessary expenses and second copy subscriptions. The effort of DELENT are appreciable and will surly strengthen higher education system in India free and or highly subsidized access to scholarly E- Resources will help educational institutions in fulfill their mission in to reality. In the long run DELNET approach will be much more popular in user community and that day is not so far behind when DELNET approach will expand the country's information base

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