
USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE : A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Presents the study which was carried out at University of Mysore Constituent Colleges such as Maharaja's Arts College and Yuvraja's Science College, Mysore. Aims to examine the factors affecting the optimum utilization of N-List Services, place of access, purpose of use, types of services, level of satisfaction, problem faced while accessing, training/ orientation program and preferred external storage medium for storing information resources downloaded via N-List Services. For this purpose the researchers prepared a well structured questionnaire and interview schedule as a tool for data collection and same was analyzed and presented with useful percentage analysis and suitable table for presentation of data. Summarizes the results highlighting the major findings, suggestions and conclusion.

KEYWORDS: N-List Services, Academic Resources, Web Based Resources, Electronic Information Resources.

Introduction

N-List services are considered a vital part of academic college services in the 21st century. It has tremendously changed the way of seeking information towards electronic resources and services. It is today important to learn and know the use of N-List Services among the faculties and students. The study reveals that N-List Services are useful to academic users and elaborates on the problems faced while accessing and utilizing N-List Services. The study helps in planning, developing and extending the N-List Services to academic Colleges.

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

N-LIST stands for "National Library and Information services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content". The programme is funded by the MHRD to extend access to selected e-resources to colleges covered under Section 2F/12B of UGC Act. More than 6,000 colleges covered under Section 2F/12B of UGC Act. As on Jul 17 2013, a total number of 3375 colleges have registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 3072 Govt. / Govt.-aided colleges covered under the section 12 B/2F of UGC Act as well as Non-Aided colleges . All e-resources subscribed for colleges under the N-LIST Project are now accessible through the N-LIST website (<http://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in>).

Being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGC-INFONET resources for technical institutions; and access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through servers installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre.

The University of Mysore was established on 27th July, 1916 during the benevolent reign of the Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar (1884-1940). The Postgraduate Campuses of the University of Mysore are located in sprawling campuses in Mysore, Hassan, Mandya and Chamarajangara at Manasagangotri, Hemagangotri, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Post Graduate Centre, Satellite P.G Centre respectively. The University of Mysore, Mysore has two constituent degree colleges affiliated to it. Namely, Maharaja's Arts College and Yuvraja's Science College. The Maharaja's College, which was the nucleus of the University in the beginning, is a constituent college offering degree courses in Arts, Commerce and Business Management, Post graduate course like Criminology, Forensic Science, Geographical Information for Sustainable Development and few P.G. Diploma courses in Criminology, Correctional Administration. The Yuvaraja's College, Mysore is the only constituent science college of the University of Mysore. It offers undergraduate and few post graduate degree programs in the science discipline. There is a common library for both the colleges which is fully equipped with the latest technology to render effective library and information services to its users.

Objectives of the Study

The present study is an attempt to find out the accessibility of N-List services used by the faculty and students of the University of Mysore constituent degree colleges such as Maharaja's Arts College and Yuvraja's Science College.

The study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To find the frequency and place of access to N-List Services.
2. To understand the purpose for which they access N-List Services.
3. To know the different types of N-List Services.
4. To find out the problems faced by them while accessing the N-List Services.
5. To find out the level of satisfaction about the information resources retrieved through N-List Services.
6. To find out the preferred external storage medium for storing download information.

Methodology

The survey method was adopted, using questionnaire as a tool for data collection. A structured questionnaire was designed and distributed to the faculty and students of University of Mysore constituent degree colleges such as Maharaja's Arts College and Yuvraja's Science College. Out of 583 questionnaire distributed among faculty and students 496 (85.00%) filled in questionnaire was received back and they are using N-List Services. Out of 288 questionnaire distributed at Maharaja's Arts College, 241 (83.68%) were received back, followed by out of 295 questionnaire distributed at Yuvraja's Science College, 255 (86.44%) were received back. In addition to questionnaire method, interview schedule and observation method was also used to collect required information as a supplement to the questionnaire method to bring more clarity to the data which are essential and use for analysis and interpretation of data.

Data Analysis

The data collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and same are presented in the following tables.

Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

The demographic characteristics of the study population relating to designation and gender have been summarized in the Table 1. It depicts that out of 496 respondents, 79 (15.92%) are faculty members and 417 (84.09%) are students. The table also indicates that there are 38 (15.26%) of faculty and 203 (84.23%) of students from Maharaja's Arts College, followed by 41 (16.07%) of faculty and 214 (83.92%) of students from Yuvraja's Science College.

The gender-wise breakup of the faculty and students has been shown in second part of the Table 1. It is seen from the table that out of 496 faculty and students, 365 (73.58%) of faculty and students are male and 131 (26.41%) are female. It can be also seen from the table that 206 (85.47%) faculty and students in Maharaja's Arts College are male and 35 (14.52%) are female. In case of Yuvraja's Science College 159 (62.35%) are male and 96 (37.64%) are female.

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

Sample	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)		Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)		Total (N=496)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Faculty	38	15.76	41	16.07	79	15.92
Students	203	84.23	214	83.92	417	84.09
Gender						
Male	206	85.47	159	62.35	365	73.58
Female	35	14.52	96	37.64	131	26.41

Frequency of Use of N-List Services

The Frequency of access to N-List Services among the faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges are indicated in the Table 2.

Table 2: Frequency of Use of N-List Services

Frequency of Access	Maharaja 's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja 's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
Daily	18 (07.46%)	29 (11.37%)	47 (09.47%)
Weekly	61 (25.31%)	106 (41.56%)	167 (33.66%)
Fortnightly	54 (22.40%)	68 (26.26%)	122 (24.59%)
Occasionally	108 (44.81%)	52 (20.39%)	160 (32.25%)

The Table 2 depicts that 47 (09.47%) faculty and students access N-List services 'Daily', followed by 167 (33.66%) access 'Weekly', 122 (24.59%) access 'Fortnightly' and 160 (32.25%) access N-List services 'Occasionally'. The table also states that Majority of 108 (44.81%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College access to N-List services 'Occasionally' and 106 (41.56%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science College access to N-List Services 'Weekly'.

Place of Access to N-List Services

The place of access to N-List Services by the faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 3.

Table 3: Place of Access to N-List Services

Place of Access	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
Library and Information Centre	77 (31.95%)	82 (32.15%)	159 (32.05%)
Department	38 (15.76%)	41 (16.07%)	79 (15.92%)
College Computer Centre	126 (52.28%)	132 (51.76%)	258 (52.01%)

Note: Because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%.

The Table 3 shows that majority of 258 (52.01%) faculty and students access to N-List Services from the College Computer Centre, followed by 159 (32.05%) access from Library and Information Centre and 79 (15.92%) access N-List services from the departments. The table also depicts that 126 (52.28%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College and 132 (51.76%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science College are accessing N-List Services from the College Computer Centre.

Purpose of Access to N-List Services

The purpose of access to N-List Services by the faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 4.

Table 4: Purpose of Access to N-List Services

Purpose	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
For Assignment	84 (34.85%)	93 (36.47%)	177 (35.68%)
For seminar	77 (31.95%)	137 (53.72%)	214 (43.14%)
For Teaching	19 (07.88%)	27 (10.58%)	46 (09.27%)
For Research	26 (10.78%)	42 (16.47%)	68 (13.70%)
For Project / Practical	41 (17.01%)	157 (61.56%)	198 (39.91%)
For Writing Articles	33 (13.69%)	56 (21.96%)	89 (17.94%)

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Note: Because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%.

The Table 4 shows that 214 (43.14%) faculty and students access N-List services for the purpose of seminars, followed by 198 (39.91%) for project/practical, 177 (35.68%) for assignments, 89 (17.94%) for writing articles, 68 (13.70%) for research and 46 (09.27%) for the purpose of teaching. The table also indicates that 84 (34.85%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College use for the purpose of writing assignments and 157 (61.56%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science College use for the purpose of writing projects/practical.

Use of Various Types of N-List Services

The Use of various types of N-List Services by the faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 5.

Table 5: Use of Various Types of N-List Services

N-List Services	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
E-Journals			
American Institute of Physics	00 (00.00%)	62 (24.31%)	62 (12.50%)
American Physical Society	00 (00.00%)	86 (33.72%)	86 (17.34%)
Annual Reviews	47 (19.50%)	51 (20.00%)	98 (19.76%)
Cambridge University Press	26 (10.78%)	43 (16.86%)	69 (13.91%)
Economic and Political Weekly	159 (65.97%)	21 (08.23%)	180 (36.29%)
Indian Journals	114 (47.30%)	88 (34.50%)	202 (40.73%)
Institute of Physics	00 (00.00%)	49 (19.21%)	49 (09.88%)
JSTOR	36 (14.93%)	43 (16.86%)	79 (15.93%)
Oxford University Press	41 (17.01%)	37 (14.50%)	78 (15.73%)
Royal Society of Chemistry	00 (00.00%)	65 (25.49%)	65 (13.10%)
H. W. Wilson	21 (08.71%)	17 (06.66%)	38 (07.66%)

E-Books			
Cambridge Books Online	52 (21.57%)	41 (16.07%)	93 (18.75%)
E-brary	11 (04.56%)	16 (06.27%)	27 (05.44%)
EBSCoHost -Net Library	08 (03.31%)	02 (00.70%)	10 (02.00%)
Hindustan Book Agency	03 (01.24%)	01 (00.30%)	04 (00.81%)
Institute of South East Asian Studies(ISEAS) Books	27 (11.20%)	04 (02.56%)	31 (06.25%)
Oxford Scholarship	18 (07.46%)	06 (02.35%)	24 (04.84%)
Springer E-Books	06 (02.48%)	21 (08.23%)	27 (05.44%)
Sage Publication E -Books	45 (18.67%)	52 (20.39%)	97 (19.56%)
Taylor Francis E -Books	13 (05.39%)	37 (14.50%)	50 (10.08%)
Mylibrary -McGraw Hill	04 (01.65%)	09 (03.52%)	13 (02.62%)
Bibliographical Databases			
MathSciNet	05 (02.07%)	22 (08.62%)	27 (05.44%)
E-Resource for Universities			
Web of science	09 (03.73%)	114 (44.70%)	123 (24.80%)

The Table 5 depicts that in case of e-journals 202 (40.73%) faculty and students use Indian Journals, followed by 180 (36.29%) Economic and Political Weekly, 98 (19.76%) Annual Reviews and 86 (17.34%) American Physical Society. The table also depicts that 159 (65.97%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College use Economic and Political Weekly and 88 (34.50%) faculty and students Yuvraja's Science College use Indian Journals. The second part of table-5 depicts that in case of e-books 97 (19.56%) of faculty and students use Sage publication e-books, followed by 93 (18.75%) Cambridge Books Online, 50 (10.08%) Taylor Francis e-books and 31 (06.25%) Institute of South East Asian Studies Books. The table also shows that 52 (21.57%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts college use Cambridge Books Online and 52 (20.39%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Science college use Sage Publication e-books. In case of Bibliographical Databases 27 (05.44%) faculty and students use MathSciNet and 123 (24.80%) faculty and students use Web of science e-resources for universities.

Problems Faced While Accessing N-List Services

The problems faced by the faculty and students while accessing N-List Services of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 6.

Table 6: Problems Faced While Accessing N-List Services

Problems/Barriers	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
Varied search pattern	102 (42.32%)	108 (42.35%)	210 (42.34%)
Poor Internet Connectivity	86 (35.68%)	71 (27.84%)	157 (31.65%)
System Hardware Problem	44(18.26%)	37 (14.51%)	81 (16.33%)
Virus / Unwanted programs	31 (12.86%)	19 (07.45%)	50 (10.08%)
Application Software Problem	57 (23.65%)	26 (10.20%)	83 (16.73%)
Retrieval of Junk / irrelevant information	173 (71.78%)	122 (47.84%)	295 (59.48%)
Frequent Power failure	17 (07.05%)	21 (08.24%)	38 (07.66%)
No proper Guidance from Library Staff	27 (11.20%)	36 (14.12%)	63 (12.70%)

Note: Because of multiple choice options the percentage has exceeded to more than 100%.

The Table 6 depicts that 295 (59.48%) faculty and students face problem of retrieval of junk/ irrelevant information while accessing N-List Services, followed by 210 (42.34%) face problem due to varied search pattern, 157 (31.65%) poor Internet connectivity, 83 (16.73%) Application Software Problem, 81 (16.33%) System Hardware Problem, 63 (12.70%) no proper guidance from library staff, 50 (10.08%) Virus / Unwanted programs and 38 (07.66%) faculty and students face problem due to frequent power failure. The table also depicts that 173 (71.78%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College and 122 (47.84%) faculty and students of face problem with retrieval of Yuvraja's Science college face problem of retrieval of junk/ irrelevant information while accessing N-List Services.

Level of Satisfaction about Information Retrieved through N-List Services

The level of satisfaction about information retrieved through N-List Services by the faculty and students while accessing N-List Services of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science Colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 7.

Table 7: Level of Satisfaction about Information Retrieved through N-List Services

Level of satisfaction	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
Extremely satisfied (100%)	12 (04.98%)	44 (17.25%)	56 (11.29%)
Satisfied (75%)	34 (14.11%)	61 (23.92%)	95 (19.15%)
Moderately satisfied (50%)	89 (36.93%)	73 (28.63%)	162 (32.66%)
Slightly satisfied (25%)	37 (15.35%)	46 (18.04%)	83 (16.73%)
Not at all satisfied	69 (28.63%)	31 (12.16%)	100 (20.16%)

The above Table 7 depicts that 162 (32.66%) faculty and students are moderately satisfied with the information retrieved through N-List Services, followed by 100 (20.16%) are not at all satisfied, 95 (19.15%) are satisfied, 83 (16.73%) of them are slightly satisfied and 56 (11.29%) are extremely satisfied. The table also depicts that 89 (36.93%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts college and 73 (28.63%) of faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science college are moderately satisfied with the information retrieved through N-List Services.

Training/ Orientation Program by the Library Staff for Accessing N-List Services

The opinion about the faculty and students towards the Training/ Orientation Program by the library staff for accessing N-List Services at Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science Colleges has been summarised in the form of Table 8.

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Table 8: Training/ Orientation Program by the Library for Accessing N-List Services

Adequacy of library training	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
Strongly agree	13 (05.39%)	26 (10.20%)	39 (07.86%)
Agree	21 (08.71%)	24 (09.41%)	45 (09.07%)
Disagree	109 (45.23%)	139 (54.51%)	248 (50.00%)
No opinion	98 (40.66%)	66 (25.88%)	164 (33.06%)

The above Table 8 depicts that 248 (50.00%) faculty and students disagree with the statement that the library staff are providing Training/ Orientation Program for accessing N-List Services, followed by 164 (33.06%) no opinion, 45 (09.07%) agree and 39 (07.86%) strongly agree. The table also shows that 109 (45.23%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts College and 139 (54.51%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science College disagree with the statement that the library staff provides Training/ Orientation Program for accessing N-List Services.

Preferred External Storage Medium

The preferred external storage media by the faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science colleges for storing downloaded information resources from N-List Services has been summarised in the form of Table 9.

Table 9: Preferred External Storage Medium

Preferred external Storage Medium	Maharaja's Arts College (N=241)	Yuvraja's Science College (N=255)	Total (N=496)
CD -ROM	76 (31.54%)	45 (17.65%)	121 (24.40%)
DVD-ROM	54 (22.41%)	82 (32.16%)	136 (27.42%)
Pen Drive	143 (59.34%)	188 (73.73%)	331 (66.73%)
Portable Hard Disk	09 (03.73%)	24 (09.41%)	33 (06.65%)
Others like memory card, Blue Ray Disc, etc.	31 (12.86%)	51 (20.00%)	82 (16.53%)

Note: Because of multiple choice options the percentage is exceeded to more than 100%.

The above Table 9 depicts that 331 (66.73%) faculty and students prefer Pen Drive for storing N-List downloaded resources, followed by 136 (27.42%) DVD-ROM, 121 (24.40%) CD-ROM, 82 (16.53%) Others like memory card, Blue Ray Disc, etc. and 33 (06.65%) use Portable Hard Disk. The table also shows that 143 (59.34%) faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts college and 188 (73.73%) faculty and students of Yuvraja's Science College use Pen Drive for storing downloaded resources from N-List services.

Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

In the present study the authors have provided a useful summary of use of N-List services by the faculty and students of University of Mysore constituent degree colleges in Mysore. The major findings of the study and suggestions to improve the access and usage of these electronic information resources have been summarised below:

- About 167 (33.66%) faculty and students access N-List services weekly.
- College Computer Centre is the place from where the majority of 258 (52.01%) faculty and students access to N-List Services.
- For the purpose of seminar presentation preparation majority of 214 (43.14%) faculty and students access N-List.
- The Indian Journal is used by 202 (40.73%) faculty and students and 97 (19.56%) of faculty and students of Maharaja's Arts and Yuvaraja's Science Colleges use Sage publication e-books.
- About 295 (59.48%) faculty and students face problem of retrieval of junk/ irrelevant information while accessing N-List Services.
- Majority of 162 (32.66%) faculty and students are moderately satisfied with the information retrieved through N-List Services.
- About 248 (50.00%) faculty and students disagree with the statement that the library staff are providing Training/ Orientation Program for accessing N-List Services.
- The most preferred storage medium is Pen Drive used by 331 (66.73%) faculty and students for storing resources downloaded via N-List Services.

Suggestions

- The faculty and students should be trained in using advance search options available in search menu of N-List resources for retrieval of relevant information.
- The Library and Information Centre should organize seminars, workshops and orientation

USE OF N-LIST SERVICES BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE CONSTITUENT DEGREE COLLEGES IN MYSORE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

- programmes for faculty and students for accessing N-List Services at regular interval of time to keep them pace with latest technological changes.
- The infrastructure in the college computer centre should be further improved for providing better N-List services.
 - The faculty and students should further improve their information searching skills to make better use of largely available electronic information resources.

Conclusion

The emergence of internet as a ubiquitous global information and communication resource propelled people's lives into the digital epoch. Due to rapid advancement in ICT the internet has become an inseparable part of today's higher educational system. With the development in the area of Internet and information technology, more and more of the educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the digital format. The government of India is spending large amount on the e-resources which are made available via consortia. The electronic resources in the virtual world represent a large investment of people's effort, money and wisdom. The users should become familiar with latest information resources and to make optimum utilization of electronic information resource available in the institution.

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