

# Impact of the Services of INFLIBNET in the Uttar Pradesh University Libraries: A Study

\* Dr. Shyam Sundar Pandey

\* Assistant Librarian, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Deemed University, Jaipur (Rajasthan)  
Email: ssprssdu@gmail.com

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## *Abstract*

*UGC has established INFLIBNET centre primarily for the information and library network activities in higher education in India. The paper presented the impact of INFLIBNET in the development of university libraries in study conducted by researcher in select university libraries in U.P. The impact of INFLIBNET is measured by conducting survey in select of university libraries in Uttar Pradesh in north of India. The study reveals that majority of libraries has been using the services offered by INFLIBNET to meet their automation and e-resources requirements.*

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**Keywords:** INFLIBNET, Information Service, University Libraries, Uttar Pradesh.

## **1. Introduction**

Realising the need to encourage resource sharing for optimum and effective utilisation of library resources and for avoiding unaffordable duplication of reading materials especially periodical resources, reference collections, etc. The University Grants Commission (UGC) in April 1988 had setup a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Yashpal to work out the details of National Network System for University Libraries. The committee in its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1988 decided to constitute a “working group” on “Information and Library Network”.

The year 1998 has been an exciting year for INFLIBNET Programme. There was a flurry of activities, number of new staff members joined as helping hands, 36 more universities were funded, number of new systems were added, proposal of VSAT based network took a shape, newly designed training programs and workshops were conducted. Database activities were streamlined adding a number of new databases also Bibliographical Information Service was introduced at the national level, all the union databases were placed on the network for on-line access over Internet, search engines to retrieve the data were designed and tested. INFLIBNET web site providing information about centres activities and services which were launched. A software package for university libraries - SOUL was developed to meet the expectation of university libraries CALIBER-98 was another successful event of the year. Libraries have started taking much more interest in the activities and services of INFLIBNET.

## **2. Review of Literature**

Library networking has proved a boon to the users. Resource sharing activity has at its heart, the goal of maximising the availability and utilization of information resources and services

at minimum cost. Infact the modern concept of resource sharing overflows the boundaries as defined above and encompasses other stages of activities like: cooperative acquisitioning, cataloguing and classification, cooperation in training and development of library information science profession (Balkrishnan and Paliwal, 2001). Library and information centres face daily challenges of making their book collections more visible for use. In addition to visibility, materials should also be easily available if possible online. To achieve this goal, catalogues are essential tools for finding the desired information. University libraries need to create storage of local documents with open access to theses, dissertations, scientific research papers and their institutional memory.

## **2.1 Library Network and Cooperation in World**

CD-ROMs networking in the university of Virmirghan library proved too successful in a number of academic institutions (Biddiscombe, 1991). The International Association of Aquatic and Marive Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC) comprised of 325 members from 86 countries, has a long history of resource sharing based on personal connections among its members (Bulter, 2003). In 2002 IAMSLIC developed a resource sharing system using a unified search interface that relies on Z39.50 broadcast search capabilities to query individual catalogue.

Information technology and telecommunication networks accelerate a powerful impact on higher education and academic libraries in Australia (Cleary, 1994). The system acted as a catalyst for change university sector through the use of Australian Telecommunication Networks such as AARNET, access to online databases and electronic publishing. (Fong, 1997) focused on library and information technology in special libraries of UK, technological advancement can be seen everywhere in Hong Kong. There are seven higher education institutions in Hong Kong funded by the government. They all have shared their catalogues via the internet. That also can be individually accessed by the university homepage.

To know the current status of automation in Iranian Academic Libraries, (Hossein, 1994) surveyed 42 Iranian academic libraries and deserved that computerisation of library services which are stated in the late 1970s revealed a developing trend. Locally developed software is playing an important role in computerised library services in Iran.

It has been summarised that university libraries may adopt the work culture of the corporate sector for building their collection, managing their finances, training their staff, upgrading their technologies, ameliorating their operations, but for rendering their services they must ensure humanism in practice.

## **2.2. Library Network and Cooperation in India**

Resource sharing is the significant concept to justify the problems on the basis of tremendous growth as well as diversity of explicit knowledge. Increasing population of user, demand, diminished budgets, high prices for subscribing periodicals and purchasing books, etc. (Biswaas and Dasgupta, 2003) as suggested resource sharing was invisible among libraries and mentioned the concepts, the areas and modalities for cooperation through library consortia in the networked information environment.

Cooperation amongst institution for sharing the library resources is being practiced for decades to provide cost-effective and efficient services to its users that the library could not

bear all the expensive information resources individually. Barua and Saibaba (1992) evaluated cooperation and networking among engineering and technology institution's libraries in India. Book stock, current periodical and bound periodicals have taken for the study.

The growth of library and information network in India are achieving development, INFLIBNET has emerged as a front runner, facilitating automaton and networking of academic libraries for networking and resource sharing among libraries using networking and access to information. Chandraiah (2003) focused on the current situation of automation in different libraries, hardware, software, manpower facilities are studied through a survey and highlighted the specific problems of the university libraries in automation. The 12 central university libraries in north region of India have proposed a model as NIULNET (North Indian University Libraries Network). The main function of NIULNET is to improve the services of libraries of north region by the way of resource sharing and networking. Features of library automation software which is mostly in practice by libraries i.e. LibSys, SOUL are compared with open source system software KOHA (Kushwaha, Gautam and Singh, 2008).

### 3. Objectives of the Study

The major objective of the study is to find out the impact of INFLIBNET on the development of university libraries in Uttar Pradesh contain the following objectives:

- To find out information regarding the automation, modernization and hardware and software infrastructure provided by INFLIBNET.
- To investigate the initiatives taken by INFLIBNET for HRD and their implication on university libraries in U.P.
- To identify the use and acceptance of e-Shodh Sindhu.
- To examine the efforts of INFLIBNET for the development of university libraries of U.P.
- To provide suggestions to INFLIBNET and library authorities for the development of university libraries in U.P.

### 4. Scope of the Study

There are 15 selected universities of U.P. taken for the study which is listed below in table:

**Table - 1 Selected University Libraries (Basis of Establishment)**

S.N.	Name of University	Year of Establishment the University	Year of Establishment of the Library
1.	Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh	1920	1960
2.	Allahabad University (AU), Allahabad	1887	1916
3.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow	1996	1996
4.	Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi	1916	1917
5.	Bundelkhand University (BU), Jhansi	1975	1980
6.	Choudhary Charan Sing University (CCSU), Meerut	1965	1968
7.	Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Universtity (CSJMU), Kanpur	1966	1968
8.	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University (DBRAU), Agra	1927	1956

9.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia University (DRMLU), Faizabad	1975	1975
10.	Deen Dayal Upadhyay University (DDUU), Gorakhpur	1957	1958
11.	Lucknow University (LU), Lucknow	1921	1921
12.	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV), Varanasi	1921	1921
13.	M.J.P. Rohilkhand University (MJPRU), Bareilly	1975	1988
14.	Sampurnanad Sanskrit University (SSU), Varanasi	1791/1958	1894
15.	V.B.S. Purvanchal University (VBSPU), Jaunpur	1987	1999

## 5. Significance of the Study

The research has taken up the present study which would be useful in the following aspects:

- It is hoped that the study would provide a broad idea about the computerization and automation work taking place in university libraries to the library professionals of U.P.
- This study would provide library managers, professionals, automation planners and policy makers a clear insight about the benefits of resource sharing and networking. This would also affect their perceptions of planning library automation and network connectivity and may enable them to take more appropriate decisions regarding access to maximum source of INFLIBNET.
- INFLIBNET will also get an opportunity to check his lacunas.

## 6. Limitations of the Study

The major limitation of the study is the time dimension of the current status of use of computer operations and IT facilities in U.P. university libraries. There are rapid developments in all components of IT at breathtaking speed and this is the actual necessity in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchange of information towards optimal use of INFLIBNET resources and facilities. Therefore, this study covers the status of automation and computerisation of libraries up the academic year 2016-2017 and has no control over new implementations and future developments that take place subsequently in the libraries surveyed.

## 7. Analysis and Discussion

All together 15 university libraries have been taken for the study. In which 4 are central university libraries and rest are the state level from the state of Uttar Pradesh. To do the survey 15 questionnaires have been distributed and received.

**Table - 2 Utilization of Financial Support on Different Activities in University Libraries**

S.N.	Utilization of Financial Support	Automation		Modernization & Automation		Infrastructure Development	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Yes	14	93.3	12	80	13	86.6
2	No	1	6.6	03	20	02	13.3
Total		15	100	15	100	15	100

**F- Frequency, P- Percentage, 0-denote No, 1-denote Yes.**

Table 2 shows the financial support provided to 14 (93.3%) university libraries funded by INFLIBNET whereas BU library has not get the any fund. It is clearly represented that the universities are procuring the fund and use in different areas.

**Table - 3 Utilization of Financial Support by University Libraries**

S.N.	Universities	Automation	Modernization & Automation	Infrastructure Development
1	AMU	1	1	1
2	AU	1	1	1
3	BBAU	1	1	1
4	BHU	1	1	1
5	CCSU	1	1	1
6	CSJMU	1	1	1
7	DBRAU	1	1	1
8	DDUU	1	1	1
9	DRMLU	1	1	1
10	LU	1	1	1
11	MGKV	1	1	1
12	MJPRU	1	0	1
13	SSU	1	1	1
14	VBSPU	1	0	0
Total	F	14	12	13
	P	100	85.7	92.8

Table 3 clearly indicates that the more emphasis has been given on library automation. Above analysis shows that almost all the university libraries were benefitted by the financial support provided by the INFLIBNET.

**Table - 4 Use of SOUL Software in University Libraries**

S.N.	Universities	Use of SOUL Software	Version		Year of Installation
			1.0	2.0	
1	BU	1	0	1	2003
2	CCSU	1	1	0	2008
3	CSJMU	1	0	1	*NR
4	DBRAU	1	0	1	2010
5	DRMLU	1	1	0	*NR
6	SSU	1	0	1	2003
7	VBSPU	1	0	1	2010
Total	F	07	02	05	-
	P	100	28.5	71.4	-

**\*NR- Not Respondent**

Table 4 provides the information about the installation of SOUL software in 7 university libraries out of 15. It is clear that rest of the university libraries, who are more than 50% not using SOUL software, which is more economic than the software they are using for automation.

**Table - 5 Use of SOUL Software Modules in University Libraries**

S.N.	SOUL Modules	Universities						
		BU	CCSU	CSJMU	DBRAU	DRMLU	SSU	VBSPU
1	Acquisition	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Cataloguing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	Circulation	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
4	OPAC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	Serial Control	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	Administration	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	F	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
	P	83.3	83.3	100	100	100	100	100

Table 5 lists the housekeeping operations computerised in U.P. university libraries. Circulation module is not used by BU and CCSU.

**Table - 6 Use of INFLIBNET Services by University Libraries**

S.N.	Name of Universities	Retrospective Conversion	DDS	ETDS	Union Database Services	University Homepage
1	AMU	0	1	1	1	1
2	AU	0	0	1	1	1
3	BBAU	0	1	0	1	0
4	BHU	0	1	1	1	0
5	BU	0	0	1	1	0
6	DBRAU	0	0	0	1	1
7	DDUU	1	0	0	1	0
8	DRMLU	0	0	1	1	0
9	LU	0	0	1	1	1
10	SSU	1	0	1	1	0
11	VBSPU	0	0	0	1	1
12	CCSU	0	0	1	1	0
13	CSJMU	0	0	1	1	0
14	MGKV	0	0	0	1	0
15	SSVV	0	0	0	1	0
Total	F	02	03	09	15	05
	P	13.3	20	60	100	33.3

Table 6 shows that selected university libraries are availing different services offered by INFLIBNET. Which in respective conversion 13.3%, document delivery services in 20%, electronic theses & dissertation services 60%, university homepage 33.3% and union database 100%.

**Table - 7 Record Contribution in Union Database of INFLIBNET (Indcat)**

S.N.	Name of Universities	Books	Theses	Serial Holdings	Current Serials	Databases in S&T
1	AMU	162157	10251	1596	1105	0
2	AU	5300	1947	0	223	0

3	BBAU	15850	08	0	31	0
4	BHU	445000	15860	849	1347	0
5	BU	80000	3000	125	0	10000
6	CCSU	35000	1926	0	0	0
7	CSJMU	5000	2252	0	0	0
8	DBRAU	133000	3675	14	41	0
9	DDUU	15992	1626	0	0	0
10	DRMLU	0	383	0	0	0
11	LU	0	2622	217	388	0
12	MGKV	0	142	0	0	0
13	MJPRU	0	1579	0	0	0
14	SSU	10000	80	680	30	0
Total		907299	45351	3481	3165	10000

Table 7 highlighted the data contributed by U.P. university libraries to prepare union catalogue where as VBSPU has not included his data.

**Table - 8 INFLIBNET Training Programmes**

S.N.	Universities	4 week Training Programme	Special Training Programme	Visit of INFLIBNET Team as a Trainer	SOUL Training Program
1	AMU	1	1	1	0
2	BHU	1	0	0	0
3	BU	0	0	0	1
4	DBRAU	1	0	1	0
5	DDUU	1	0	0	0
6	LU	1	0	1	0
7	SSU	1	0	1	1
8	VBSPU	1	0	1	0
Total	F	7	1	5	2
	P	87.5	12.5	62.5	25

Table 8 indicated the participation of university libraries staff in different training programmes conducted by INFLIBNET in collaboration with universities. Other universities have not participated.

**Table -9 Contribution of Theses by Universities in Shodhganga Portal**

S.N.	Name of Universities	Contribution of Theses
1	AMU	7120
2	AU	270
3	BBAU	0
4	BHU	01
5	BU	1693
6	CCSU	1919
7	CSJMU	01
8	DBRAU	0
9	DDUU	00

10	DRMLU	01
11	LU	549
12	MGKV	0
13	MJPRU	0
14	SSU	0
15	VBSPU	0
Total		11554

Table 9 shows the contribution of theses in shodhganga by U.P. university libraries, out of these 15 universities only 8 university libraries have contributed their theses in Shodhganga portal.

**Table - 10 UGC- Infonet Digital Library Consortia Connectivity in University Libraries**

S. N.	Name of Universities	UGC- Infonet Digital Library Consortia Connectivity		
		Central Library	Computer centre	Departmental Libraries
1	AMU	1	1	1
2	AU	1	0	1
3	BBAU	1	0	1
4	BHU	1	1	1
5	BU	1	1	1
6	CCSU	1	0	1
7	CSJMU	1	0	0
8	DBRAU	1	1	1
9	DDUU	1	0	0
10	DRMLU	1	0	0
11	LU	1	1	0
12	MGKV	1	1	0
13	MJPRU	1	0	0
14	SSU	1	1	0
15	VBSPU	1	1	0
To tal	F	15	08	07
	P	100	53.3	50

Table 10 shows that most of the universities also provide the access of e-resources in their central library and departmental libraries. All the university libraries having the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortia Connectivity.

**Table - 11 Level of Satisfaction from INFLIBNET Activities and Services**

S.N.	Name of Universities	Satisfied to Large Extent		To Some Extent		Not at All		Can't Say	
		A*	S*	A*	S*	A*	S*	A*	S*
1	AMU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
2	AU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	BBAU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
4	BHU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5	BU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	CCSU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	CSJMU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0



8	DBRAU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	DDUU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
10	DRMLU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
11	LU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	MGKV	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
13	MJPRU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	SSU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	VBSPU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	F	06	06	09	09	0	0	0	0
	P	40	40	60	60	0	0	0	0

\*A- Activities, \*S- Services

The result of data analysis is presented in table 11 only 6 (40%) university libraries have answered that they are satisfied to large extent while 9 libraries (60%) are satisfied to some extent.

**Table - 12 Status Wise Membership e-ShodhSindhu**

S. N.	Universities	e-ShodhSindhu status by (Formerly UGC- Infonet Digital Library Consortia)
1	AMU	Central Univerisity
2	AU	Central Univerisity
3	BBAU	Central Univerisity
4	BHU	Central Univerisity
5	BU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
6	CCSU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
7	CSJMU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
8	DBRAU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
9	DDUU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
10	DRMLU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
11	LU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
12	MGKV	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
13	MJPRU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
14	SSU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University
15	VBSPU	12 (B) / 2 (f) State University

Table 12 shows that all university libraries subscribed e-resources get availability by e-ShodhSindhu.

**Table - 13 Level of Satisfaction from University Libraries Activities and Services**

S.N.	Name of Universities	Satisfied to Large Extent		To Some Extent		Not at all		Can't say	
		A*	S*	A*	S*	A*	S*	A*	S*
1	AMU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
2	AU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	BHU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
4	BU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	CCSU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
6	DBRAU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

7	DDUU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
8	DRMLU	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
9	LU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	MGKV	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
11	MJPRU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	SSU	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	F	06	06	06	06	00	00	00	00
	P	50	50	50	50	00	00	00	00

The present study seeks to examine the usage of the services provided by INFLIBNET and again up-to what extent the university libraries are able to further scattered these services and opportunities to their own library users.

Level of satisfaction about the services and work pattern of library functions are covered in this research was sought by the respondents. The results are shown in table 13, it reveals of 12 respondents, in which 6 (50%) respondents stated that they are satisfied to large extent and 6 (50%) to some extent they are satisfied with the services of their libraries. BBAU, CSJMU and VBSPU libraries have not given any response.

## 8. Conclusion

INFLIBNET do various activities to connect library and information resources, providing e-journals consortium, database on research work conducted in the form of theses and dissertations, union catalogue of libraries, library management software, developing e-contents, training programmes, etc. There is a great impetus in the development of library and information services in the education and research in the university libraries.

## 9. Suggestions

IT applications for total computerisation require heavy investment at the initial stage. Therefore adequate financial support in the form of special grants should be made available for university libraries. INFLIBNET should provide SOUL software freely or at concessional rate to all university libraries. INFLIBNET must conduct training programmes for users regarding how to use online journals and online databases. As more steps need to be taken to improve e-journal usage INFLIBNET should make the existing union databases easily accessible on wider scale at the earliest by all university libraries for retrospective conversion of catalogues and promote the development of local databases.

As large numbers of information sources are now available in electronic form, libraries need to access e-ShodhSindhu, which are offered by INFLIBNET in order to get electronic media as well as the libraries must conduct e-awareness programmes for students and research scholars at a regular interval. It is also suggested that universities should develop its own library web page to provide links to electronic journal service of its library.

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