
E-Resources under E-ShodhSindhu-eSS 2018: A Case Study of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Library, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology Hisar-125 001, Haryana

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Abstract

Purpose- For quality syllabi contents and quantitative & qualitative research activities, e-Resources have been playing significant and substantial role since inception and helping in save the physical efforts to access the required information. Countless opportunities have been offered to research scholars in order to get the relevant study and research material/s by e-resources. The prime advantage with e-resources is that huge amount of databases are available on single platform on subsidized price. These are accessible 24×7 throughout the year. The present study aims to show the impact of INFLIBNET Centre decision regarding to stop the free access of e- resources to Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar after attaining the h-index 74 (which is the highest one among the technical universities of all over India) as per Scopus.

Methodology/approach- The facts have been extracted from the processed files and from INFLIBNET Portal which were uploaded for the information of affected institutions and universities. The information is used for case study purpose.

Findings- Though INFLIBNET Centre decision led the financial burden on the concerned institutions/universities but they got success to know the actual requirements of e-resources and through this practice they could control the free flow of funds which were involved to provide the free access of e-resources. However, free access of few prominent e-resources has given to few universities/institutes that the usage was high along with high h-index.

Originality/value- The facts are genuine and Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology has undergone this process.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, e-Resources, eSS, Research, h-index, Qualitative & Quantitative Contents, GJUS&T.

1. Introduction

Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology started its journey on October 20, 1995 under Haryana State Legislative Act No. 17 of 1995 at Hisar, Haryana State of India to impart education on the frontiers of Technology, Pharmacy, Environmental Studies, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Mass Media and Management Studies. The University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 2(f) for recognition of degrees on 11.1.1996 and under section 12(B) of the UGC Act to be eligible for central assistance on 7.2.1997. As information and Resource Centre (Library), the university is having a four-storey large circular building. The name of the library is placed after the name of great Indian Jurist, Economist, Politician, and Social reformer Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The seating capacity of the University Library is 400 seats. The Library runs in two shifts i. e. 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. and 11.00 A.M. to 7.00 P.M. and remains open on Saturdays and Sundays also. The timing of Night Reading Halls is 8 A.M. to 12 Midnight, however during examinations these remain open ROUND THE CLOCK. To access the e-resources, the library contained two labs with internet and state-of-the-art facilities.

2. Availability of E-Resources under eSS- eShodhSindhu up to December 2017

Realizing the crucial role of up-to-date information services for conducting high level R&D activities, the library since its inception has been in the continuous process of building and updating a standardized collection with latest publications. The Library has always been in forefront in the application of latest information and communication technology, whenever available. To make it accomplish, the Library in its electronic repository, has the access to 7500+e-journals of 19 publishers through UGC-INFONET Consortium under e-Shodhsindhu Project. In addition, the access of Emerald Management with special 298 packages and ASPP of IEEE has also been provided under e-Shodhsindhu project by INFLIBNET. The POP of IEEE is also subscribed up to December 2017. Moreover, the Library has the perpetual access of SPSS and also subscribed Knimbus and Prowess Database for 2017-2018. The detail is as under:



01	ASPP + POP From IEEE
02	American Chemical Society
03	American Institute of Physics
04	American Physical Society
05	Annual Reviews
06	Cambridge University Press
07	Economic & Political Weekly
08	Emerald CFTI Collection
09	Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) Database
10	Institute of Physics
11	J-Gate Plus (JCCC)
12	JSTOR
13	Oxford University Press
14	Project Muse
15	Royal Society of Chemistry
16	Springer Link
17	Taylor and Francis
18	Web of Science
19	Wiley Blackwell Publishing

3. Issues with E-Resources under eSS-e-ShodhSindhu for the year 2018

On October 10, 2017 at 3.47 PM a mail was received in the Library from INFLIBNET regarding 2018 subscriptions under eSS vide which it was cleared that the concerned institutions would have an option to select resources from a comprehensive list of resources that are being subscribed by the consortium. Further, institutions would themselves be responsible for paying the required e-resources from their own funds. At the first instance, it was seemed a very critical decision as it brought the extra financial burden of Rs.1.5 Crore (inclusive GSTs). Therefore, in this regard many clarifications have been taken from INFLIBNET but ultimately Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Library, GJUS&T, Hisar had pursued the matter to University authorities vide which it was resolved that before submitting the final requirement of e-resources to INFLIBNET, funds must be specified and spared accordingly and minutes of the same had been approved by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, GJUS&T Hisar. Thereafter, due to paucity of funds, the list of e-resources has been uploaded of worth Rs.50,00,000/-. However, being the member of the INFLIBNET, Library had sent the request to the Director, INFLIBNET, Gandhinagar-Gujarat i.e. Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar is the member of INFLIBNET; thereby the university is having the free access of 19 databases of different publishers since long. Therefore, it has become possible to conduct the better research activities. Consequently, Scopus based institutional 'h-index' of GJUS&T university is 74 which is highest in the region and amongst the Technical Universities of the Country. Faculty members mobilized and completed their projects of worth more than Rs.2.5 crores during last 4 years. Eight departments of the university have been awarded the SAP-DRS projects by UGC and the same has been added to their stature and infrastructure.

In addition, the NACC peer team visited the university in the month of October 2014 and accredited 'A' Grade consecutively for third time and the same is extended up to 2021. The peer team is pleased to be witness 2422 articles published by the faculty members in leading International/National Journals during the tenure of 5 years which shows the extensive use of electronic resources. Apart from the above, the Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar has the honor to be the 1st Technical University of the Country, established in 1995.

However, the INFLIBNET Centre has informed the universities and institutions (who were availing the facility of free access e-Resources under eSS) through mail vide which it has been cleared that the institutions would have an option to select resources from a comprehensive list of resources that are being subscribed by the consortium as well as those that are being subscribed by individual institutions. Consortium would continue to act as a body to negotiate the rates of subscription with publishers on behalf of institutions and negotiated prices shall be shared with the institutions. Accordingly, the concerned institutions have to pay directly to the publishers for the access of required e-resources.

Pursuant to the above decision, GJUS&T, Hisar has uploaded the list of required e-resources according to the budget provision. However, due to budget constraints, we could not upload the list of e-Resources which are more in demand by the faculty members even repeatedly requesting since 2015 i.e. Emerald eSS 298 titles Collection, Science Direct, SciFinder, ASME, ACM, Royal Society of Chemistry, Web of Science, Oxford University presses Collection- 262 titles, Annual Reviews-eSS Collection, and Institute of Physics eSS Collection.

In view of the above, you are requested to please consider the legitimacy of this request and provide the free access of above said e-Resources so that qualitative research activities shall be conducted. Considering the request and see the usage of e-resources of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar, the INFLIBNET has considered the request and provided the access of following eight e-resources instead of 19.

- i) American Chemical Society - eSS Collection
- ii) American Institute of Physics - eSS Collection
- iii) American Physical Society - eSS Collection
- iv) Economic & Political Weekly
- v) JGate Plus (JCCC)
- vi) JSTOR
- vii) Springer Link 1700 Collection
- viii) Taylor and Francis eSS Collection (1076 titles)

To stimulate the research activities consecutively in the university pursuit, these e-resources were not sufficient; hence more e-resources were required. Therefore, Emerald (exclusive for Management Studies) and ASPP+POP for IEEE had been subscribed by the Library by using own funds which were really realized extra financial burden. For other remaining e-resources, Library had pursued the matter to the University Authority. Realizing the crucial demand of e-resources for updated information and to maintain the pace of research in university, the Authority has sanctioned 1.5 Crore for Electronic Resources and Journals which is really a commendable job.

4. Impact of INFLIBNET Decision regarding Stop the Free Access of E-Resources

Undoubtedly to stop the free access of e-journals under eSS carried extra financial burden for concerned university. Through this decision of INFLIBNET, the affected institutions have uploaded the list of e-resources which were in extensive use only and according to the availability of funds. Through this decision, INFLIBNET got the information about the exact requirement of e-resources of the universities and institutions. Therefore, INFLIBNET could manage the extra flow of finance of Ministry of Human Resources Management.

5. Why e-Resources are essential for any Academic Institutions especially in Higher Education?

Higher Educational Institutions are the backbone of the country and its development. When any problem persists, the higher educational institutes play a significant role through research as revealed by many studies. To strength the research activities, the up-to-date information is required without wasting the precious time. With print media it is not feasible as to access the information you have to travel if the concerned information is published at a distance even you have to exhaust the physical efforts. Therefore, to overcome from these issues, the e-resources are only the single solution. Hence many agencies have generated the e-contents and provided to academic institutions on subsidized prices, thereby under budgeted and under privileged institutes could participate in the rapid changing world.

6. Why e-Resources through eShodhSindhu?

To subscribe the e-resources on genuine price is the biggest challenge in front of the stake holders. Sometime it invites the negotiation. Therefore, the stakeholders remain in dilemma in order to finalize the price. Hence, the Government of India has decided and took initiative and brought all publishers under one umbrella namely eShodhSindhu- eSS. Consequently, as of now the e-resources are available on controlled and negotiated prices, thereby the efforts of the stake holders have been reduced and they can go with the price list which is available on INFLIBNET Portal to subscribe the required e-resources according to budget. Therefore, role of eSS is significant especially in negotiating the prices.

7. Merits of E-Resources

Since inception, the following merits of e-resources have been noticed which may be considered:

- Biggest solution of the space problem
- Changed the orientation of the academic institutions
- Hive of Qualitative and quantitative digital contents

- Access available 24×7 throughout the year
- Unlimited access
- Multi users can use the same at one time
- Key-words make access easy
- Indexing facility is available
- Save the time of the end users
- Provide right information at the right time which helps to take the right decision for the betterment of the academics
- Stored without occupied physical space
- Portable
- Access from any corner of the world. Distance doesn't matter
- Transfer the data within few seconds
- Promoting the research activities
- Back volumes may be accessed without wasting time as all are available in the archive of the product
- Advanced searching by using Boolean codes which helps to filter the information and provide exact information

8. Conclusion

To sustain the modern academic industries along with International market the access of e-resources is the regular demand for any progressive academic institution. In the present environment, no one can realize to conduct the qualitative research without the availability and accessibility of e-resources. See the example of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar which is having 74 h-index as per Scopus that is the witness of quality research. It has become possible only due to availability of e-journals in substantial quantity. However, stopping the free access of e-journals by INFLIBNET was really a brutal decision. It created extra financial burden on the concerned institutions and brought troubles for those institution which were already bearing the burden of non-availability of funds. But this action released the partial financial burden of INFLIBNET itself. However, for consecutively qualitative research, the faculty members of GJUS&T Hisar repeatedly submitting the demand of Emerald eSS 298 titles collection, Science Direct, SciFinder, ASME, ASTM, ACM, Royal Society of Chemistry, Web of Science, Oxford University Press, Annual Reviews, Institute of Physics and Wiley Blackwell Publishing. However, INFLIBNET considered our request for eight e-resources only. In previous model of eShodhSindhu Project, eighteen e-resources had given to our universities which were freely access through Campus Wide Network. It was really a setback for our university. But this year, to meet the demands of the faculty member, scholars and students, the university authority has released the funds of Rs.1.5 crore which shall really fruitful and shall help to maintain the pace of research in the University Pursuit.

9. Suggestions

After undergoing the whole process regarding subscription of e-resources for the year 2018 under eSS project, the authors intend to give few suggestions which might be considered for further use and hopefully might help to take the rational decisions in future.

- It must be mandate for every academic institute/university whether the concerned is private one or public one has to subscribe the e-resources for their students, scholars and faculty members so that they may also conduct the qualitative research and may participate in the rapidly changing world and may sustain in the International market.
- Through Log Book the INFLIBNET Centre should analysis the usage of the products which have been provided freely to any institution, if the usage is high and the h-index of the concerned university and institution is also high, then INFLIBNET Centre must provide the free package of e-resources (which are in high demand) so that better research may be conducted in future which is the demand of the time as of now.

- MHRD should free some budget for under budgeted and under privileged institutes for the subscription of e-resources and compel them to use the same even annually a usage percentage should be fixed; if the usage level is below the fixed percentage, the granted funds may be snatched accordingly.

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