

Resource Contribution of INFLIBNET: N-LIST for Legal Research

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Abstract

The article tries to popularise the use and accessibility of INFLIBNET services in the legal research by providing the necessary details of N-LIST programme. It focuses on various services offered by the INFLIBNET and other networks monitored by UGC for the various user communities in higher education system in India. It describes the various features of Knimbus to make the researchers to customise it for his convenience to use. It examines the quantity of the legal content of every publisher in their database and discloses the statistics of the same. It evaluates the resources of law for the reference by the researchers to their study and to immediate access. It also notifies the procedure and eligibility criteria for the enrolment as an authorised user to access the database.

Keywords

Databases, E-Books, E-Journals, INFLIBNET, Knimbus, Legal Content, N-LIST, Publishers

1. Introduction

In Indian system, the higher education is passing through the phase of information and knowledge revolution and growing at tremendous speed. In addition to this, the various library and information networks in India are playing a great role through resource sharing in satisfying information and resource needs of academic user community. The INFLIBNET, NICNET, INDONET, DELNET, CALIBNET, BONET, ERNET, MALIBNET, etc are the examples of these networks. In a simple sense, a network is usually a system where it consists

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of information, resources and services to the user community provided by library and information centres, and other organizations. The libraries may be indifferent in its collection, structure, service and jurisdictions but they all serve one another on the same basis as each serves its own user community. They are now gaining a great importance due to the growth of library and information networks in India.

2. INFLIBNET

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) is an autonomous body and inter-university centre under the University Grants Commission. It is located at Gujarat University Campus in Ahmadabad and engaged in modernization of libraries and information centers. It is established to promote information transfer and support access, scholarship, learning, and other academic activities in universities, R & D institutions, document resource centres and other various organisations. It is recognized to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication to the academicians and researchers, and facilitating automation and networking of academic libraries for resource sharing or exchange of information among libraries within the country and abroad in all the disciplines like science and technology, medicine, social sciences, agriculture, fine arts, literature and languages, humanities, etc. It has started many initiatives such as ShodhGanga (Platform for researchers to deposit their Ph.D. theses), Open Journal Access System, InfoPort (Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic Resources), Institutional Repository (Place to find information in proceedings, training materials, press clippings, newsletters, etc.), IndCat (Online union catalogue of books, theses and journals of university libraries in India), E-Consortium, InfoNet (Encourage to purchase IP based internet service), Soul (Software for library automation), etc.

3. N-LIST

The National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST) is one of the major programmes of UGC. It enables access to selected e-resources of many popular publishers and cross subscription to e-resources for the benefits of students, researchers and faculty of colleges, universities and other various institutions under this programme. The registered users from colleges and universities can able to access e-resources needed by them through the links listed in N-LIST website to the publishers' sites. To do this, the users have to register their names first in the programme and the same should be forwarded by their institution or college. Once they are duly authenticated as authorised users in the servers of INFLIBNET centre then they can start using and accessing the resources. A total number of 2336+ colleges have already registered themselves with the N-LIST programme including 2139+ government/ government aided colleges covered under the section 12B/ 2F of UGC Act as well as non aided colleges (Except agriculture, engineering, management, medicals, pharmacy, dentistry and nursing). Through 25+ directories users have access to 3000+ e-journals, 75000+ e-books, articles, etc. especially in the field of law and other subjects. The e-resources are accessible in the major languages like English, German, Dutch, French, Italian, etc. and they are in the form of e-journals, e-books, e-series, e-protocols, e-reference works, etc.

4. Knimbus

Finding a resource in any system like directories or databases is one of the major problems to get relevant information immediately on the hand. For this, a collaborative research platform was started to enable researchers to find and share resources and knowledge easily with one another of the same subject interest and this platform is called Knimbus. It has many features like the best of search, social features, library tools, etc. as added advantage to develop research productivity and valuable insights. It allows the researchers to discover, update,

personalise and share the resources and knowledge. It is used by most of the researchers from top organization as it provides a smarter way to do research. They spend more time at their work in finding relevant resources and knowledge for research.

The key features and advantages of using Knimbus are listed below:

- **Visual Clusters:** This search environment is powered with graphs, heat maps and sorting tools to help drill down to the right content.
- **Single Search Window:** It ensures zero noise & high relevance in single point access to all content which was subscribed and customized for the researchers of colleges and universities.
- **Real Time Search:** This high speed real-time search option provides an updated content directly from publishers to researchers.
- **Popular Articles:** It provides all articles that researchers of various interests have liked in a digital library.
- **Bibliography:** The search results have included the bibliography like title, authors, publication details, etc. and that can also be exported in the form of citations.
- **Social Tagging:** The collective intelligence of the knowledge community puts information and resources in relevant context and then creates an information signal to pointing the relevant.
- **Personalized Workspace:** The users can create their own online folders for saved searches, links to published content, their own documents, etc.
- **Shared Projects:** The instant sharing of knowledge within specific teams enables to avoid duplication of work and their efforts, and to keep everyone in line to trace.

- **Research Profile:** The detailed profile feature can help the researchers to get work recognized in the respective community and networking and also it facilitates peer review.

5. Objectives and Methodology of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- To promote the accessibility and use of resources in N-LIST database for legal research.
- To find the quantity of exact legal content in the entire database.
- To examine the data quantity of each publisher in the subject of Law.

This study starts with searching and referencing primary and secondary resources. The required data is collected by accessing individual links or website of every publisher of the database provided under the scheme of INFLIBNET: N-LIST programme. The legal content of the publishers will be examined and the total e-books, e-journals and other e-resources to be noted in a number scale. The data is further calculated and compared with other subjects and publisher also in the scale of percentage. The findings and conclusion will be drawn at the end after the data tabulation and analysis. The present study is limited only to the N-LIST database under INFLIBNET programme and does not consider any other database or networks.

6. Data Analysis and Tabulation

The INFLIBNET: N-LIST programme includes many publishers from all over the world. The data shown below is taken only from the publisher who contains only the legal content or resources in his database. In this regard, only 13 publishers' data is considered in the

percentage scale of their legal content compared with other subjects' data. In the below Table-1 the publisher Springer Link (Sl. No. 10) seems to be having millions of resources in his database. In addition to e-books and e-journals, he also counted and included the articles, chapters, reference work entries, protocol, etc., therefore, the number seems to be highest compared to other publishers. In the same table the second column shows the names of the publishers, the third column shows the total content, the fourth column shows the actual legal content and the fifth column shows the percentage of legal content. In the last row it gives the total of 3rd, 4th and 5th columns data.

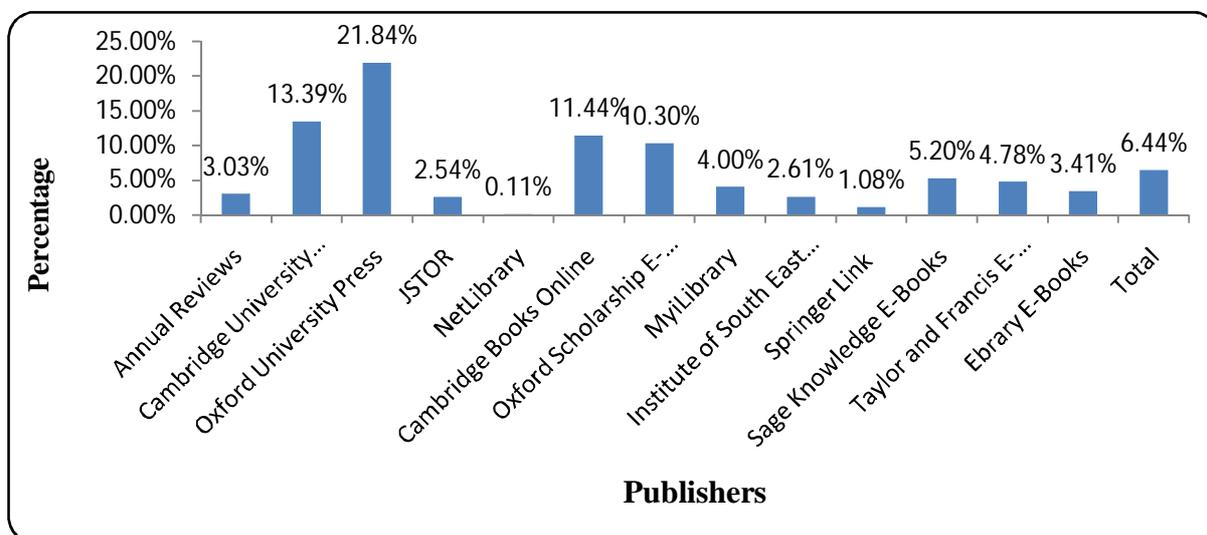
Table-1

Sl. No.	Publisher	Total Content	Legal Content	Percentage
1	Annual Reviews	33	1	3.03%
2	Cambridge University Press	224	30	13.39%
3	Oxford University Press	206	45	21.84%
4	JSTOR	27,000	686	2.54%
5	NetLibrary/ EBSCOHOST (H W Wilson)	2,800	3	0.107%
6	Cambridge Books Online	12,000	1,373	11.44%
7	Oxford Scholarship E-Books	8,926	920	10.3%
8	MyiLibrary/ McGraw Hill E-Books	1,124	45	4.003%
9	Institute of South East Asian Studies	382	10	2.61%
10	Springer Link (Includes articles, chapters, reference work entries, protocols, etc.)	Resources 7,870,338	85,406	1.08%
11	Sage Knowledge E-Books	Resources 4,000	208	5.2%
12	Taylor and Francis E-Books	40,000	1,914	4.78%
13	Ebrary E-Books	70,000	2,392	3.41%

Total	80,37,033	93,033	6.44%
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The following Chart-1 is an alternative of the data shown on Table-1 and it is a graphical representation of the data shown in the above table for the understanding of the concept of present study in a better way. The percentage of the legal content of every publisher is tabulated here and only this is considered and drawn in the below chart.

Chart-1



The following Table-2 shows the language wise total resources of database of N-LIST. In this table the second column shows the language of the resources and third column shows the total resources of that particular language which contains in the database.

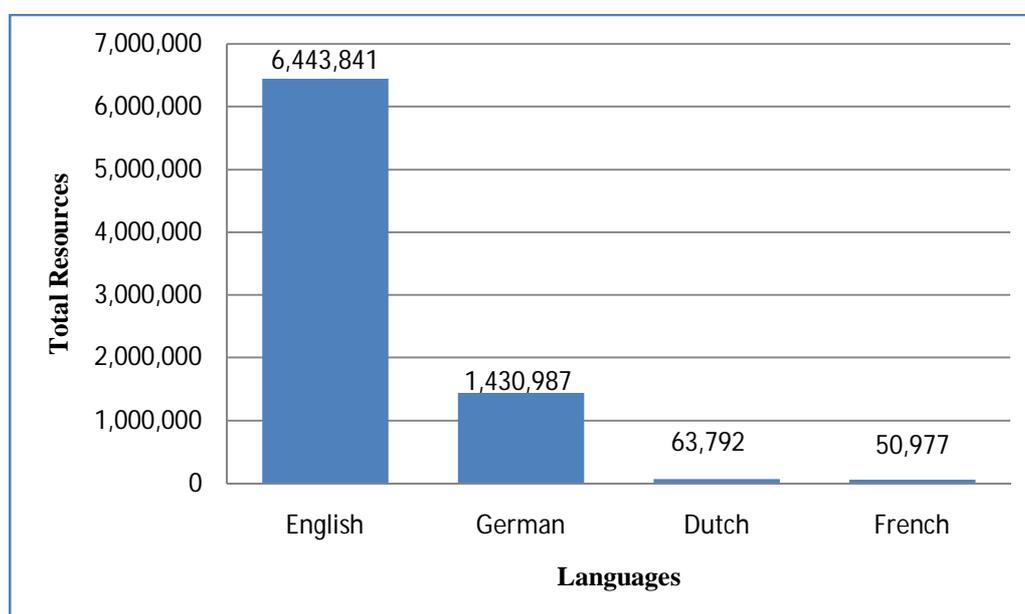
Table-2

Sl. No.	Languages	Total Resources
		(Includes Articles Chapters Reference Work Entries Protocols)
1	English	6,443,841

2	German	1,430,987
3	Dutch	63,792
4	French	50,977

Similar to Chart-1 the following Chart-2 also clearly shows the total resources of database in N-LIST programme in a language wise order.

Chart-2



7. Findings

The following findings are drawn from this study.

- Many of the publishers have not made any efforts to provide the quantity of exact content and the subject coverage of their respective resources and materials.
- The Oxford University Press is contained the largest quantity of legal content compared to any other publishers in the database.

- The Net Library contained the least quantity of legal content compared to any other publishers in the database.
- The Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press are having highest number of e-journals and it serves the largest users in the field of Law.
- The Ebrary provides the highest number of e-books and it may be considered the best in the series of collection of e-books compared to others.
- The 6.44% of total legal content of entire publishers in the database is a good number and it still needs to be increased to promote legal research.
- The majority of the resources in this entire database are in English language, followed by German, Dutch and French in the sequence.
- Every publisher and INFLIBNET have to prepare and send the promotional materials for the researchers to make them aware about latest additions and legal updates of the database.

8. Conclusion

On the basis of the above facts and findings of the study, the INFLIBNET is on the way to reach its goal through N-LIST programme in promoting the research in higher education system in India by providing the resources for legal research. It has already included electronic resources and various training materials to popularise the concept of e-publication at colleges and universities. It has the responsibility to help the researchers in creating repositories of e-resources and provide wide availability of research data. It is satisfying the information needs of the research community in India and hoped that many more activities and services will be added shortly in contributing to the progress and prosperity of the country.

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