The INFLIBNET: The Digital Library Infrastructure for Scholarly Content

Mr. Dhanaji N Lavate
Librarian
Public Night Degree College
Santacruz East, Mumbai

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Abstract: **The Indian National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (INFLIBNET) is a global platform that facilitates scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting the optimum utilization of information through its digital library infrastructure and networking services. The paper covers the Initiative taken by the INFLBNET to progress the development in the Higher education and libraries**

Key Words : INFLIBNET, E-resource, N-List, Shodhganga, Vidya Mitra

I. INTRODUCTION

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, Gandhinagar is an Autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of University Grant Commission. It is a major National Programme initiated by the UGC on 27th February 1991 as a project under the IUCAA, it became an independent Inter-University Centre on 16th May 1996. INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilization of information. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India.

Objective of INLIBNET

-To promote and implement computerization of operations and services in the libraries and information centers of the country, following a uniform standard;
- to evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods, procedures, computer hardware and software, services and promote their adoption in actual practice by all libraries, -in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchange of information towards optimal use of resources and facilities:
- to evolve a national network interconnecting various libraries and information centers in the country and to improve capability in information handling and service;
- to provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating on-line union catalogue of serials, theses/ dissertations, books, monographs and non-book materials (manuscripts, audio-visuals, computer data, multimedia, etc.) in various libraries in India.

The INFLIBNET Centre moved from its premises in Gujarat University Campus to its new Institutional Building constructed at Info city, Gandhinagar in January 2013. The new building, located amidst reputed institutions such as NID, DAIICT and NIFT, is constructed on the land measuring 10,000 Sq. Mtrs. allotted to the Centre by the Government of Gujarat, free-of-cost.

Major Initiative of INFLIBNET
E-shodhsindhu

E-ShodhSindhu" is an initiative by the Indian government aimed at providing access to scholarly content and research journals to academic institutions across India. Launched by the Ministry of Education (formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development), this project aims to facilitate access to a wide range of academic resources, fostering research and innovation within the country. The name "E-ShodhSindhu" itself reflects the essence of the initiative. "Shodh" means research in Hindi, while "Sindhu" symbolizes a vast ocean or river, indicating the wealth of knowledge and information available through this platform. By digitizing and centralizing academic resources, E-ShodhSindhu seeks to break down barriers to accessing research literature, especially for institutions that may not have the means to procure expensive subscriptions to individual journals. Through E-ShodhSindhu, students, researchers, and faculty members gain access to a plethora of academic journals, scholarly articles, conference proceedings, and other research materials covering various disciplines such as science, technology, social sciences, humanities, and more. This access not only enriches academic pursuits but also fosters interdisciplinary collaborations and promotes cutting-edge research within the country. One of the primary objectives of E-ShodhSindhu is to bridge the digital divide in academic research by providing equitable access to high-quality scholarly content. By leveraging digital technologies and online platforms, the initiative aims to democratize access to knowledge and empower researchers across India, regardless of their geographical location or institutional affiliations. Furthermore, E-ShodhSindhu aligns with the broader vision of the Indian government to promote a culture of research and innovation, as outlined in initiatives such as the National Education Policy and the Atal Innovation Mission. By providing researchers with easy access to the latest advancements and scholarly discourse, E-ShodhSindhu contributes to the intellectual growth and development of the academic community, ultimately driving progress and excellence in various fields of study. Overall, E-ShodhSindhu stands as a testament to India's commitment to promoting research, education, and knowledge dissemination in the digital age. By harnessing the power of technology and collaboration, this initiative paves the way for a vibrant research ecosystem, where ideas flow freely, and discoveries abound, propelling the nation towards greater academic prowess and innovation.

Shodhsudhi

Within the context of INFLIBNET, "Shodh Shuddhi" could refer to a process or initiative related to ensuring the quality and integrity of research activities conducted by scholars and academic institutions. While there isn't specific documentation available on "Shodh Shuddhi" in the context of INFLIBNET, we can speculate on how it might be interpreted Research Data Management: INFLIBNET could provide services and resources to assist researchers in managing their research data effectively. "Shodh Shuddhi" within this context may involve ensuring that research data is properly documented, organized, preserved, and made accessible to others in accordance with best practices and ethical standards. Plagiarism Detection: INFLIBNET may offer tools and services to help researchers identify and prevent plagiarism in their scholarly work. "Shodh Shuddhi" could involve promoting awareness about academic integrity issues and providing support for plagiarism detection and prevention measures.

Research Ethics and Compliance: INFLIBNET might collaborate with academic institutions to promote research ethics and compliance with regulatory requirements. "Shodh Shuddhi" in this context may include training programs, workshops, and resources aimed at educating researchers about ethical conduct, responsible authorship, and compliance with institutional and national research policies. Scholarly Communication: INFLIBNET plays a key role in facilitating scholarly communication through its digital library infrastructure and networking services. "Shodh Shuddhi" could involve initiatives to enhance the quality and credibility of scholarly communication, such as promoting open access publishing, peer review best practices, and transparent reporting of research findings.

Quality Assurance and Peer Review: INFLIBNET may support the peer review process by providing platforms for scholarly journals and conferences to manage manuscript submissions, peer review, and editorial workflows. "Shodh Shuddhi" within this context could involve ensuring the quality and integrity of peer review processes to maintain the credibility of scholarly publications.

NLIST

The "N-LIST" (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content) is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed at providing electronic access to scholarly content to colleges and universities in India. Launched by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, N-LIST facilitates access to a vast collection of e-resources including e-books, e-journals, and databases, covering various disciplines such as science, technology, humanities, social sciences, and management.

The primary objective of the N-LIST program is to bridge the digital divide and promote the use of electronic resources among academic institutions across the country. Through N-LIST, colleges and universities gain access to a wide range of high-quality academic content, thereby enhancing teaching, learning, and research activities within their institutions. Key features and benefits of the N-LIST initiative include:

Access to E-Resources: N-LIST provides access to a comprehensive collection of electronic resources licensed from various publishers and aggregators. These resources include scholarly journals, e-books, databases, and other digital content, allowing users to access the latest research literature and academic materials.

Consortium Licensing: N-LIST operates on a consortium licensing model, wherein subscriptions to electronic resources are negotiated centrally by the INFLIBNET Centre on behalf of participating institutions. This approach enables cost-effective access to e-resources, as the subscription costs are shared among member institutions, making it affordable for colleges and universities with limited budgets.

Remote Access: Users can access the N-LIST e-resources remotely from their campuses or even from off-campus locations using secure authentication methods. This flexibility enables students, faculty, and researchers to access scholarly content anytime, anywhere, enhancing convenience and usability.

User Training and Support: N-LIST offers training and support services to help users effectively utilize the e-resources available through the program. Training workshops, webinars, user guides, and helpdesk support are provided to assist users in navigating the electronic resources, conducting searches, and leveraging advanced features.

Promotion of Open Access: In addition to licensed e-resources, N-LIST also promotes open access initiatives and repositories, facilitating access to freely available scholarly content. By promoting open access, N-LIST contributes to the democratization of knowledge and supports the principles of open science and scholarly communication.

Sodhganga

Shodhganga is a digital repository platform launched by the INFLIBNET Centre, an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. The platform serves as a repository for electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) submitted by research scholars across Indian universities. The word "Shodhganga" itself is derived from Sanskrit, where "Shodh" means research, and "Ganga" symbolizes the river of knowledge. Therefore, Shodhganga essentially represents a reservoir of research knowledge, aiming to facilitate access to and dissemination of theses and dissertations produced by scholars in India.

Key features and objectives of Shodhganga include:

Centralized Repository: Shodhganga provides a centralized platform for storing and accessing electronic theses and dissertations from various academic disciplines. By consolidating research outputs from different universities, Shodhganga offers a comprehensive collection of scholarly work, thereby promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

Open Access: The theses and dissertations deposited in Shodhganga are made available to the public for free, adhering to the principles of open access. This means that anyone with internet access can browse, search, and download research documents without any cost or restrictions, promoting the democratization of knowledge.

Visibility and Discoverability: Shodhganga enhances the visibility and discoverability of research conducted by Indian scholars by providing a dedicated platform for showcasing their work. Through comprehensive metadata and search functionalities, researchers can easily locate relevant theses and dissertations, increasing the impact and citation potential of their research outputs.

Support for Institutional Repositories: Shodhganga also extends support to universities and academic institutions in setting up their own institutional repositories for managing and disseminating research outputs locally. By providing guidance, training, and technical assistance, Shodhganga empowers institutions to establish sustainable repositories that contribute to the broader scholarly communication ecosystem.

Shodhagangotri

Shodhgangotri is an online platform developed by the INFLIBNET Centre, an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. It serves as a repository and a registration platform for research scholars who are pursuing Ph.D. degrees in Indian universities. The name "Shodhgangotri" combines "Shodh" meaning research, and "Gangotri," which refers to the origin or source of the Ganges River, one of the most revered rivers in India. Similarly, Shodhgangotri is envisioned as the starting point or source of research for Ph.D. scholars, where they register and provide details about their ongoing research work.

Key features and objectives of Shodhgangotri include:

Registration of Research Scholars: Shodhgangotri allows research scholars pursuing Ph.D. degrees in Indian universities to register and provide information about their research topics, objectives, methodology, and other relevant

details. This registration process serves as a means for scholars to showcase their research projects and gain visibility within the academic community.

Enhanced Visibility: By registering their research projects on Shodhgangotri, scholars increase the visibility of their work among peers, academic institutions, and potential collaborators. This increased visibility can lead to networking opportunities, collaboration invitations, and recognition within the research community.

Facilitating Collaboration: Shodhgangotri acts as a platform for facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers working in similar or related fields. Scholars can explore the research projects registered by their peers and identify opportunities for collaboration, interdisciplinary research, or sharing of resources and expertise.

Promoting Interdisciplinary Research: Shodhgangotri encourages interdisciplinary research by providing a platform where scholars from diverse academic backgrounds can share their research projects and explore potential synergies or intersections between different disciplines. This fosters a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in Indian research.

Resource for Supervisors and Funding Agencies: Shodhgangotri serves as a valuable resource for research supervisors, funding agencies, and academic institutions seeking to identify research trends, monitor the progress of ongoing research projects, and support scholars in their academic pursuits.

E-PG Pathshala

E-PG Pathshala" is an initiative by the Ministry of Education (formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development), Government of India, aimed at providing high-quality postgraduate-level e-content in various disciplines. Launched under the National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), E-PG Pathshala offers a wide range of e-resources to support teaching and learning at the postgraduate level in Indian universities and colleges. The objective of E-PG Pathshala is to enhance the quality of higher education by providing accessible, interactive, and multimedia-rich e-content to students and faculty members. The platform covers diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, social sciences, humanities, engineering, management, and more. The e-content is developed and curated by experts and faculty members from reputed institutions across India. Overall, E-PG Pathshala serves as a valuable resource for postgraduate students, faculty members, and educational institutions seeking to enhance the quality and effectiveness of higher education in India. By providing accessible, interactive, and discipline-specific e-content, E-PG Pathshala contributes to the advancement of learning, teaching, and research in diverse academic disciplines.

Vidwan Database

The "Vidwan Database" is an initiative launched by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) to create a comprehensive database of social science researchers and experts in India. The word "Vidwan" in Sanskrit means a learned person or an expert, and the Vidwan Database aims to serve as a repository of expertise in the field of social sciences.

Key features and objectives of the Vidwan Database include:

Expert Identification: The primary objective of the Vidwan Database is to identify and profile experts and researchers in various domains of social sciences. This includes disciplines such as sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, psychology, history, geography, and others.

Comprehensive Profiles: The Vidwan Database provides comprehensive profiles of registered experts, including their educational qualifications, areas of expertise, research interests, publications, affiliations, and contact information. These profiles help in connecting researchers with similar interests and expertise, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Search and Discovery: The database is equipped with advanced search functionalities that allow users to search for experts based on specific criteria such as discipline, specialization, institution, location, keywords, and more. This enables users to discover relevant experts for academic collaborations, consultancy projects, research partnerships, and other professional engagements.

Networking and Collaboration: By bringing together a diverse community of social science researchers and experts, the Vidwan Database promotes networking and collaboration within the academic community. Researchers can connect with peers, exchange ideas, share resources, and explore opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration through the platform.

Promotion of Research Excellence: The Vidwan Database serves as a platform for promoting research excellence and visibility among social science researchers in India. By showcasing the profiles and achievements of experts, the database highlights the contributions of Indian scholars to the advancement of knowledge in social sciences nationally and internationally.

Resource for Policymakers and Stakeholders: Policymakers, government agencies, funding organizations, media, and other stakeholders can utilize the Vidwan Database as a resource for identifying subject matter experts and consultants for policy formulation, program evaluation, research funding, expert opinions, and other initiatives related to social development and governance.

Vidya Mitra

Vidya Mitra" is an e-learning portal launched by the Ministry of Education (formerly known as the Ministry of Human Resource Development), Government of India. The portal aims to provide digital infrastructure and educational resources to support teaching and learning activities in schools across the country.

Key features and objectives of the Vidya Mitra portal include:

Digital Resources: Vidya Mitra offers a wide range of digital resources, including e-books, audio-visual content, interactive simulations, quizzes, and educational games. These resources cover various subjects and topics from the school curriculum, catering to students from primary to higher secondary levels.

Teacher Support: The portal provides support and resources for teachers to enhance their teaching effectiveness and classroom engagement. Teachers can access lesson plans, teaching guides, instructional videos, assessment tools, and other materials to supplement their classroom instruction and promote active learning among students.

Customizable Learning Paths: Vidya Mitra allows students to personalize their learning experience by choosing their preferred learning paths and pace of learning. Interactive features and adaptive learning technologies help students progress through the curriculum at their own pace, ensuring individualized attention and mastery of concepts.

Assessment and Feedback: The portal includes tools for conducting formative and summative assessments to evaluate students' learning outcomes and provide timely feedback. Teachers can create quizzes, assignments, and assessments aligned with learning objectives, track students' progress, and identify areas for improvement.

Parental Engagement: Vidya Mitra encourages parental involvement in students' education by providing parents with access to their children's learning progress, attendance records, and performance reports. This promotes transparency and communication between schools and parents, fostering a supportive learning environment for students.

Accessibility and Inclusivity: The portal is designed to be accessible to students with diverse learning needs and abilities. It includes features such as text-to-speech functionality, closed captions, adjustable font sizes, and compatibility with assistive technologies, ensuring that all students can access and benefit from the educational resources available on the platform.

Integration with School Curriculum: Vidya Mitra aligns with the national and state-level school curricula, ensuring that the digital resources and learning activities offered on the platform are relevant and supplementary to classroom instruction. This integration enhances the effectiveness of teaching and learning processes and supports teachers in meeting curriculum objectives.

Conclusion

The Paper cover the Initiative taken by the INFLBNET to Progress the Development in The Higher education and libraries. The Higher education institute should take the benefit the various platform created by INFLIBNET. They develop new methods and techniques for archival of valuable information available as manuscripts and information documents in difference Indian languages, in the form of digital images using high density storage media. to encourage co-operation among libraries, documentation centers and information centers in the country, so that the resources can be poled for the benefit of helping the weaker resource centers.

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