

## Usage of N-List by the Teacher Fraternity in the Govt. College of Education, Jammu: A Case Study

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### **Abstract:**

*A large number of academic institutes are subscribing online resources through network based services called consortiums which provide timely and cost effective interchange of data and information to the users.. This paper attempts to explore the usage of e-Resources by the faculty of Govt. College of Education using N-List. A survey has been carried out to meet the objectives of the study. A semi self-structured questionnaire is designed to evaluate the usage pattern The study is descriptive in nature, conducted on a purposive sample of 30 faculty members of the college. The results reveal that although cent percent faculty members are aware of the N-List service provided by the college but on the other hand it is established that most of the faculty members lack awareness about the various e-resources covered under the programme and lack training to make use of the various databases covered under it.*

**Key words:** N-List, Teacher Fraternity, Govt. College of Education, Jammu

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is vital for enhancing productivity. Signifying importance of education for the socio- economic development, the nation has made considerable progress in creating a number of educational facilities and trained manpower, thereby achieving the goal of educational development pan country.

In an education system, colleges of education are the gateways where teachers are trained with best practices and innovations for imparting education to future generation. In J&K there are two such Govt. Colleges of education who are enriching the knowledge of teachers through various techniques of teaching and learning. Library service play an imperative role to stimulate knowledge and supplement pedagogies. From libraries the nectar of wisdom flow from generation to generations and leads to better future and success. A person who reads a lot and makes extensive and intensive use of library resources is never short of ideas. Teachers with broad vision, adopting new technological innovations can educate and teach others with better outcomes. Widening their vision they uplift the standards of education. Emerging technologies and changing dimensions of conventional library and information system are playing a dynamic role in promoting an environment of healthy education system world over. Earlier the conventional resources available in the libraries were consulted and considered to be the most powerful media to acquire information, to promote self education and research. With the advent of digital era, electronic resources have developed. This electronic information is now being handled and managed by electronic and network services. Various networked based consortia like DELNET, INFLIBNET, etc which have come up are promoting resource sharing by collecting, storing and disseminating information among the participating libraries and helping in achieving excellence in education. These network based services provide spontaneous

and cost effective interchange of data and information among the scholars. Since the educational institutions face acute shortage of funds for purchase of costly books and journals, such networked services has increased the accessibility to scholarly contents many-fold.

So in today's high-tech learning environment the library as a learning resource is taking up increasingly more academic space and time through such networked services. Such networked services are the initiatives of Ministry of human resource development (MHRD) to achieve excellence through ICT and NKN to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative research by interconnecting all institutions of higher learning and research.

## **2. ABOUT N-LIST**

N-LIST (National library and information service infrastructure for scholarly content) is one of such network based project under NKN scheme of National mission on education through ICT which provides access to scholarly contents. It is being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET digital library consortium, INFLIBNET centre and the INDEST-AICTE consortium, IIT Delhi. Under this project students, researchers and faculty from authorised colleges and other beneficiary institutions are provided the unique username and password to access unlimited databases of more than 51,000 e-books and more than 30,000 e-journals online. The database of the users is created online by the authorised administrator, which is usually a librarian. Users can download, save or print articles from the available metadata. This service will help the country evolve as a knowledge society. As per the guidelines on 'Quality indicators in library and information services' NAAC (National assessment and accreditation council) stresses that college libraries need to have facilities that promote effective and interactive access and

use conventional as well as online e- resources prescribed by Government, UGC, AICTE and other governing bodies. Keeping in view the pre-requisite of “NAAC” guidelines for institutional accreditation, the Govt. College of Education has provided access to e- resources through subscription to N-LIST so that the faculty is benefited by such collaborative learning environment.

**The consortium subscribes to the following resources for the colleges.**

**E-Journals (Full text)**

- (i) American Institute of Physics
- (ii) American Physical Society
- (iii) Annual Reviews
- (iv) Cambridge University Press
- (v) Economic and Political Weekly
- (vi) Indian Journals
- (vii) Institute of Physics
- (viii) JSTOR
- (ix) Oxford University Press
- (x) Royal Society of Chemistry
- (xi) H. W. Wilson

**E-BOOKS**

- (i) Cambridge Books Online
- (ii) E-brary
- (iii) EBSCoHost-Net Library
- (iv) Hindustan Book Agency
- (v) Institute of South East Asian Studies Books
- (vi) Oxford Scholarship
- (vii) Springer eBooks
- (ix) Taylor Francis eBooks
- (x) Mylibrary-McGraw Hill

In the words of secondary education commission(1952-53) “Individual work, the pursuit of group projects, many academic hobbies and co-curricular activities postulate the existence of good, efficiently managed library”

K. G. Saiyadain “No school or university without a library, adequate for its needs and size should be recognised as a worthy centre of education”.

### **3. NEED OF THE STUDY**

In order to evaluate the usage of e-resources under N-LIST project, the study on “Survey on use of N-LIST by the teacher educators” is thus necessitated .

### **4. OBJECTIVES**

- i) To assess the awareness about N-List service.
- ii) To assess the Internet facility available in the college
- iii) To assess the purpose of using N-List
- iv) To assess the usage pattern of e-resources subscribed under N-List
- v) To assess the contribution of using N-List in academic efficiency.
- vi) To know the problems in using N-List.

### **5. METHODOLOGY**

A survey has been carried out to meet the objectives of the study. A semi self structured questionnaire is designed to evaluate the usage pattern of N-List service. The study is descriptive in nature, conducted on a purposive sample of 30 faculty members of Govt. college of Education.

## 6. DATA ANALYSIS

The data was analyzed on the basis of percentage of awareness, Internet infrastructure, purpose, pattern of usage, contribution and problems in usage.

**Table 1: Awareness about E-Resource Facility**

Awareness about e-resources facility in the college	Respondents	%
Yes	30	100%
No	0	0%
<b>Awareness regarding membership of N-List</b>		
Yes	30	100%
No	0	0%
<b>Source of Awareness about N-List facility</b>		
Notification from library	30	100%
Institution website	0	0%
Friends/Colleagues	0	0%
<b>Did librarian give orientation about N-List service</b>		
Yes	10	33%
No	20	67%
<b>Who Provided the Username and Password</b>		
Librarian	30	100%
Computer Teacher	0	0
Office	0	0
<b>Awareness about various electronic resources under N-List</b>		
Yes	9	30%
No	21	70%
<b>Awareness about various searching techniques</b>		
Yes	8	27%
No	22	73%

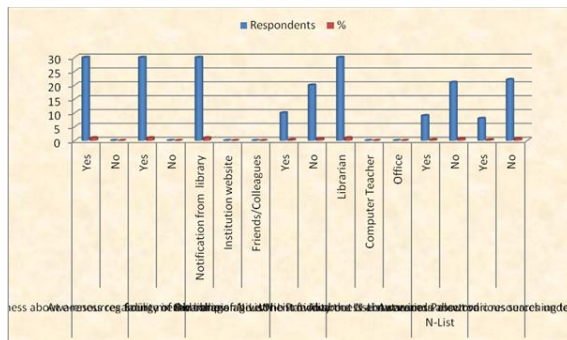


Table 1 shows that the entire faculty members (100%) were aware of e-resource facility provided by the college, the cent percent faculty was aware that the college is a member of N-List service and the similar percentage mentioned that the information was provided through the notification from the library. (67%) faculty members were not aware of the orientation provided by the librarian about the N-List service. (100%) faculty members responded that the username and password to access N-List service was provided by the Librarian. Majority of the faculty (70%) were not aware of various electronic sources provided under N-list, also (73%) were not aware of the various searching techniques used to access e-resources.

**Table 2: Internet Facility In The College**

Does the College have Internet Facility	Respondents	%
Yes	30	100%
No	0	0%
Satisfied With The Internet Speed		
Yes	0	0%
No	30	100%

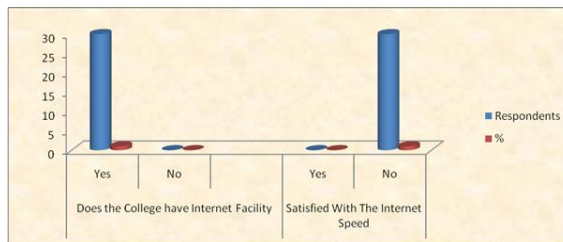


Table 2 indicates that although (100%) faculty members responded that the college has Internet facility but the like percentage was not satisfied with the Internet speed in the college.

**Table 3: Purpose of using E-Resources Under N-List Programme**

Purpose of accessing e-resources under N-List	Respondents	%
For studying course work	0	0%
For teaching purpose	0	0%
For writing articles	8	27%
For research papers	7	23%
To update knowledge	22	73%

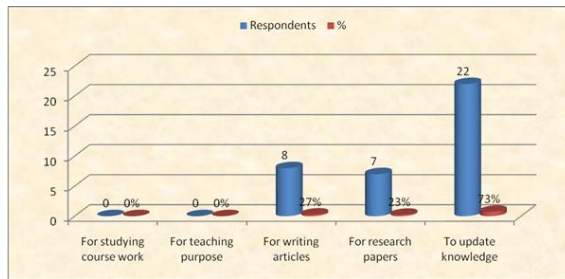


Table 3 highlights that majority of the faculty members (73%) were using e-Resources to update their knowledge in the relevant subject field and a few (27%) were using e-Resources for writing articles.

**Table 4: Usage of E-Resources with respect to Place and Periodicity**

Place of accessing N-List service	Respondents	0%
Library	0	0%
Department	0	0%
Computer Lab	5	17%
Home	22	73%
Periodicity of accessing e-resources		
Daily	0	0%
Once a week	5	17%
Once a month	2	7%
Occasionally	15	50%
Never	8	27%

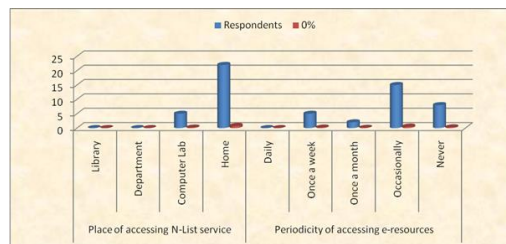




Table 4 classifies the periodicity of accessing e-resources . It is observed that a good majority of the faculty members (50%) were making use of N-List service at times, whereas (27%) had never used N-List service.

**Table 4.1: Usage of E-Resources with respect to guidance and Motivational aspect**

Appropriate method of guidance to access e-resources	Respondents	%
Trial and error	16	53%
Guided by the librarian	6	20%
Orientation programme	0	0%
Guided by friends/colleagues	0	0%
Online user guide	0	0%
Through you tube tutorial	0	0%
<b>Benefits of N-List service</b>		
Time saving	9	30%
Cost effective	10	34%
Availability of Full text resources	20	67%
Abstract of the articles	10	34%
Core journals	4	14%
Downloading material	4	14%

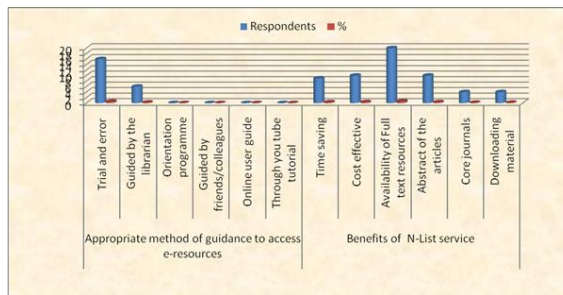


Table 4.1 reveals that majority of the faculty members (53%) had learnt to use e-Resources under N-list, through trial and error and a few number (20%) responded that they had been guided by the librarian to make use of N-List service. Also majority of the faculty (67%) mentioned that they are able to search full text articles from N-List service. An equal percentage (34%) of the faculty members were also motivated to

consult N-List database due to its cost effectiveness and availability of abstracts.

**Table 4.2: Usage with respect to Type of E-Resources**

Type of E-Resources consulted most	Respondents	%
E-journals	22	73%
E-Books	0	0%
Bibliographic Database	0	0%

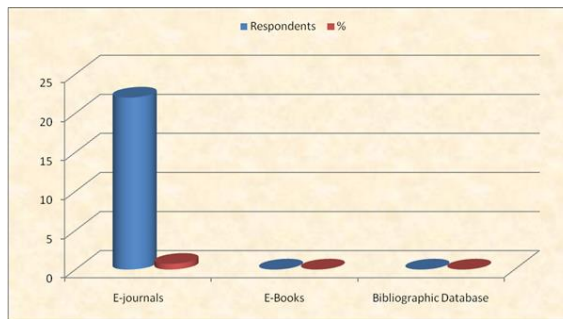


Table 4.2 indicates that majority of the faculty members used only e-journals.

**Table 4.3: Usage with respect to E-Journal Database**

Most visited E-Journal Database	Periodicity	Respondents	%
American Institute of Physics	Frequently	0	
	Occasionally	0	
	Never	30	100%
American Physical Society	Frequently	0	0
	Occasionally	0	0
	Never	30	100
Annual Review	Frequently	3	10%
	Occasionally	19	63%
	Never	8	27%
Cambridge Univ. Press	Frequently	0	0
	Occasionally	0	0
	Never	30	100%
Economic Political Weekly	Frequently	0	0
	Occasionally	0	0
	Never	30	100%
Indian Journals	Frequently	5	17%
	Occasionally	17	57%

	<b>Never</b>	8	27%
Institute of Physics	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
JSTOR	<b>Frequently</b>	4	13%
	<b>Occasionally</b>	18	60%
	<b>Never</b>	8	27%
Oxford University Press	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Royal Society of Chemistry	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
H.W. Wilson	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%

Table 4.3 shows that out of eleven e-journal databases available at N-List, the college faculty were only using database of Annual Review, Indian Journals and JSTOR . The frequency of visiting the consulted database varied. (63%) faculty members visited Annual review database occasionally, similarly Indian journal database was also seen to be consulted once in a while by (57%) faculty members and a few (17%) consulted them frequently. (60%) faculty members used JSTOR database occasionally and only (13%) used it frequently.

**Table 4.4: Usage with respect to E-Books Database**

<b>Most visited E-Books Database</b>	<b>Periodicity</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Cambridge books Online	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
E-brary	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
EBSCO Host-Net Library	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Hindustan book Agency	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Institute of South East	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0

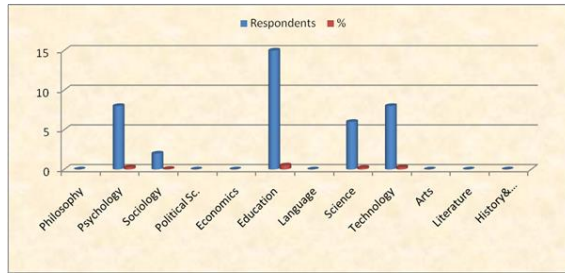
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Asian Studies Books	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Oxford Scholarship	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Springer eBooks	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Sage Pub.eBooks	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Taylor Francis eBooks	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%
Mylibrary-McGraw Hill	<b>Frequently</b>	0	0
	<b>Occasionally</b>	0	0
	<b>Never</b>	30	100%

It is evident from Table 4.4 that (100%) faculty members were not at all using e-books database provided through N-List service.

**Table 5: Most visited subject area**

<b>Most visited e-resources of the following sub. area</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Philosophy	0	
Psychology	8	27%
Sociology	2	7%
Political Sc.	0	
Economics	0	
Education	15	50%
Language	0	
Science	6	20%
Technology	8	27%
Arts	0	
Literature	0	
History& Geography	0	



Analysis in table 5 indicates that most of the faculty (50%) were consulting the e-resources in the field of education. However an equal numbers of respondents (27%) were consulting e-resources in the area of Psychology as well as in technology also.

**Table 6: Searching Techniques to search relevant information from e-resources.**

Searching Techniques used	Responses	%
Simple Search	22	73%
Advance Search	0	0
Boolean search	0	0
Field search	0	0
Parentheses	0	0
Wildcard	0	0
Truncation	0	0

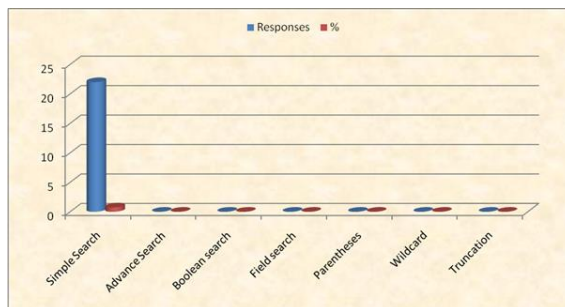


Table 6 shows that all the (73%) faculty members making use of N-List service, were using simple searching technique to search e-resources.

**Table 7: Time spent to search information**

Time Spent to Search Information	Responses	%
Less than 1hr	22	73%
Less than 3hrs	0	0
Less than 5hrs	0	0
More than 5hrs	0	0

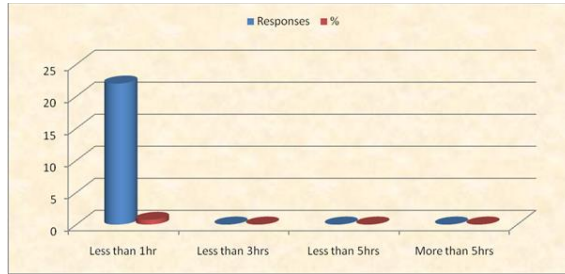
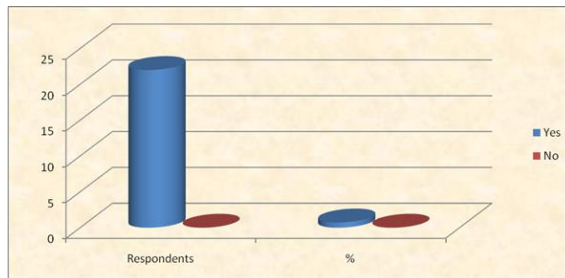


Table 7 indicates that (73%) faculty members responded that it took them less than 1 hr to search the relevant information from N-List database.

**Table 8: Influence of N-List service on academic efficiency**

Influence of N-List service on academic efficiency	Respondents	%
Yes	22	73%
No	0	0%



From Table 8 it is clearly evident that all the faculty members (73%) accessing e-Resources responded that the use of N-List service has influenced their academic efficiency.

**Table 9: Problems Faced**

Problems faced while using N-List	Responses	%
Non-friendly user interface	1	3%
Lack of Training	30	100%
Not enough coverage	4	13%
No Problem	0	0

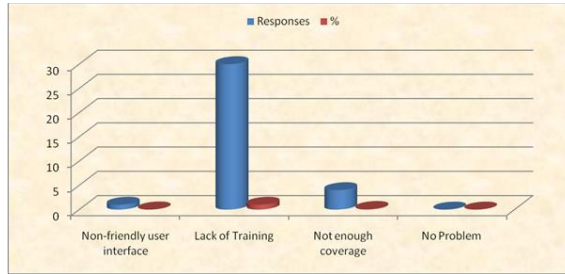


Table 9 indicates that a negligible number (3%) expressed that due to non-friendly Interface they faced problem in using N-List, whereas (100%) faculty members believed lack of training to be one of the reason for not optimally utilising the service and a very small number (13%) also believed that there was not enough coverage on the required topic.

## FINDINGS

All the faculty members (100%) were aware of the N-List service and e-resource facility provided by the college, under the programme. On the other hand it is established that the faculty members lack awareness about the various e-resources covered under the programme.

The primary source of awareness about N-list facility was found to be notification from the library.

The analysis shows that the username and password to use N-list service has been provided by the librarian.

Majority of the faculty (67%) had no awareness about the orientation provided by the librarian.

The results reveal that in spite of having Internet facility in the college cent percent faculty members were not satisfied with the speed.

Findings indicate that majority of the faculty members (70%) were neither aware of the coverage of various e-resources under N-List nor had awareness about the various searching strategies to access electronic resources (73%).

It is established that the main purpose of utilising N-List service was to update the knowledge in the relevant subject area.

Majority of the respondents (73%) were accessing N-List service from home once in a while, however (27%) were not using the service.

Most of the respondents (53%) had learnt to use N-List by trial and error.

Bulk of (67%) members is motivated to consult N-List service due to availability of full text articles.

It is observed that majority of the faculty members (73%) were simply exploring e-journals, whereas e-books remained untouched.

Majority of the faculty members are consulting the e-resources once in a while.

The most used e-resources covered the subject area in the field of education followed by Psychology and technology thereafter.

It is found that majority of the faculty members were using simple search techniques to search the relevant information.

The time taken to search the required information was found to be less than 1 hr.

It is found that no matter the faculty is making use of limited databases and resources provided under N-List but still they think that this service has influenced their academic efficiency.



Lack of training was the indicated problem by (100%) faculty members.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the emerging era Network based services like N-List Consortia has promoted exchange and sharing of resources. Such consortia are offering timely and economic interchange of data and plenty of information to the academic world. This service is a boon for the institution who cannot afford to buy costly books and periodicals, due to limited budget. N-list is providing full text electronic resources that contain complete articles, bibliographic details as well as abstracts, which can be navigated through various searching techniques like, simple or advance search.

As reflected in the survey it is observed that though the faculty is aware of N-list service provided in the college but the awareness regarding the various databases and resources covered under them is not satisfactory because they are consulting a few of the e-journals that too preferably in the field of education and psychology. Since it's an educational training college, may be the faculty is more focused to update their knowledge in the field of education. As they are not well informed about the potential of such resources that is why such resources especially e-books databases has been completely overlooked and not optimally used. Majority of the faculty members are also not aware of the various searching techniques and through trial and error they are able to search information using simple search techniques. Lack of training, orientation programme, inhibition to use technology, less interaction among colleagues and with the librarian could be some of the reasons which may have affected the proper utilisation of such resources. Hence use of e-resources must be encouraged in the college by conducting awareness and training programmes on the use of N-list service. Instructions need to be

given to all the faculty members to attend such programmes. As suggested by the college faculty Internet facility needs to be upgraded for the maximum practice and learning through interaction with in the college campus. It will surely increase their competencies and frequency of visiting different databases. Based on some intellectual responses, quantity of open access resources rather than the subscribed ones should be increased to serve the purpose. A social networking group of similar interest can be created and administered by the librarian where alerts about the relevant sites, resources and feedbacks of this service can be shared.

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