Perspectives And Efforts Towards The N-LIST Access In Arts And Science Colleges Affiliated To Pondicherry University – A Study

A. Uma Swarna Manjari[1*], Dr.T. Prabakaran[2], Dr .G. Saravanan[3]

[1*]Research Scholar, Dept of Library and Information Science, Annamalai University, Email: manjari999@gmail.com

[2]Assistant Professor, Dept of Library and Information Science, Annamalai University, Email: prabalis123@gmail.com

[3]Librarian, French Institute of Pondicherry, Puducherry, Email: saravanan.g@ifpindia.org

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The role of digital libraries plays a vital role in order to disseminate the accurate information to the user community especially in the field of higher educational institutions in 21st century. There are n numbers of e-books, e-journals, reference books, inter-linked hypertext documents and other study-oriented material are helping the users to boost their knowledge in the field of education. But is it too much expensive. So that Govt of India encouraging the higher educational institutions with N-LIST progamme for using e-resources with nominal fee who are having 12B and 2(f) status colleges. This Study conducted 10 N-LIST beneficiary affiliated colleges of Arts and Science and revealed that the, age, category, average time spend time in the library, speed of the e-resources and browsers and benefits and extent of user's satisfaction with based on N-LIST e-resources usage. A structured Likert's 5 scale technique Questionnaire was distributed among faculty and students of U.G and P.G. Arts of Science colleges in Puducherry. Out of 2000 students 1713(86.65%) responded. The collected data is analyzed through SPSS version 24 and the major findings of the study revealed 84.9% of respondents agreed that they benefitted by using the electronic sources whereas Very less percentage (5.9%)of the users are revealed that of respondents reported that they did not benefit by using the electronic resources. Based on the findings it is suggested that regular training programmes should be conducted by the college librarians and the users of the N-LIST for creating awareness and optimum utilization of e-resources particularly of N-LIST consortium.

KEYWORDS: N-LIST; Higher education of India; Digital Libraries, college e-resources; Puducherry ,N- LIST Arts &Science colleges; Academic Libraries in Puducherry. |

1 INTRODUCTION

The N-LIST (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content) programme provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through servers installed at the INFLIBNET Centre who are covered under Sections 12(B) and 2(f) of the UGC Act.This programme is funded by the MHRD to extend access to selected e-resources i.e. 6000 plus core and peer reviewed journals, 1,99,500 e-books to coveredunder the authorized users from colleges can access e-resources and download articles/e-books required by them directly from the publisher's website and once they are authenticated as authorized users by INFLIBNET centre. Since 2014, N-LIST is subsumed as college component of e-ShodhShindu, except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing colleges all other colleges in India. All eligible colleges are required to register themselves online by paying a nominal fee to reap its benefits. In December 2015 e-ShodhSindhu was formed by merging three consortia; UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium

and N-LIST. All over in India there are 4566 colleges are registered under the umbrella of N-LIST e-resources.

2 LITERATURE SURVEY

Harihararao Mojjada and LakshmipriyankaAsi, (2023), stated that E-resources are a valuable substitute that users may utilize to consult their basic curriculum. The provision of appropriate hard copy materials to users at the appropriate time and location is becoming problematic for library and information professionals in the LIS field due to the heavy productivity of information from various innovations, subjects, researches, and financial complications of the institutions.

Aswathi and Sajna, (2021) revealed that postgraduate students at Kerala's autonomous colleges were using N-LIST e-resources less effectively than they ought to, emphasizing the need for improved infrastructure and wireless connectivity.

Sadanand Bansode and Manisha Jadhar, (2020) the study found that faculty members from specific colleges associated with SavitribaiPhule Pune University, Pune, were aware of and utilized the N-LIST Consortium. A structured questionnaire was employed as a means of gathering data. 150 faculty members' replies served as the basis for the analysis.

 Mahesh R. Solanki,(2016) The present study has been undertaken with a view to know the scenario of the usage pattern of e-resources available under N-LIST programme by the Faculty members, under graduate students and P.G students of colleges affiliated to Saurashtra University.

3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is an attempt to find out the accessibility of N-LIST e-resources used by the affiliated colleges of Arts and Science faculty and students to the Pondicherry University was conducted with the following objectives:
1. To find out how far users are using the N-LIST e-resources as gender wise.
2. To find the frequency and utilization of N-LIST E-resources at library.
3. To know about the timings of usage of the Library of N-LIST users.
4. To understand how far users are satisfied by using N-LIST e-resources.
5. To find out what kind of browsers are using the N-LIST e-resources.
6. To find out what type of categories are using N-LIST e-resources.
7. To find out the level of speed and level of satisfaction about the usage of N-LIST e-resources.

4 METHODOLOGY

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE
Total population of the N-LIST Arts and science colleges is 17342 (Students 16689 and the Faculty 653). Since the population is high, researcher has used the stratified random sampling method for 10 N-LIST beneficiary colleges for collecting primary data from the users of P.G and P.G students and faculty members of N-LIST beneficiary colleges of Arts and Science, affiliated to Pondicherry University, Puducherry.

Sl.no	College's name	Distribution of Questionnaire				Received Questionnaire			
		U.G	P.G	Faculty	Total	U.G	P.G	Faculty	Total
1	Achariya Arts and Science College	75	75	50	200	75	75	26	176 (10.3 %)
2	Arignar Anna College	150		50	200	119	-	30	149 (8.7 %)
3	Ayyaiyar Govt. College for Women	150		50	200	146	-	39	185 (10.8 %)
4	Bharathidasan Govt. College for Women	90		110	200	72	-	107	179 (10.4 %)
5	K.M.C.P.G.S		150	50	200		149	34	183 (10.7 %)
6	Kasthurba College for Women	180		20	200	139	0	16	155 (9.0 %)
7	Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Arts College	170		30	200	162	0	24	186 (10.9 %)
8	Pope John Paul II College of Education	85	85	30	200	76	74	23	173 (10.1 %)
9	Saradha Gangadharan College	85	85	30	200	68	65	26	159 (9.3 %)
10	Tagore Arts College	140		60	200	119	0	49	168 (9.8 %)
	Total	1125 (56.25 %)	395 (19.8 %)	480 (24.0 %)	2000 (100.0 %)	976 (57.0 %)	363 (21.2 %)	374 (21.8 %)	1713 (100.0 %)

Survey table for data collection

CONSTRUCTION OF QUESTIONNAIRE
The study data was analysed using SPSS version 24. Categorical variables were analysed for frequency and percentage, while continuous variables were assessed for mean values and standard deviations. To determine significant differences among study constructs, chi-square analysis, student t-test, and one-way ANOVA were conducted.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY
The present study is confined to affiliated colleges of Arts, and Science to Pondicherry University in Puducherry region. There are many N-LIST beneficiary colleges are there to Pondicherry University, but this study is mainly aimed at investigating to the 'Use of N-LIST e-resources among Arts and Science affiliated colleges to Pondicherry University.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS
The data gathered in this research was analysed using SPSS software version 24. Frequency and percentage calculations were conducted for categorical variables specifically tailored for this study.

5 ANALYSES AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The data collected by different methods were analyzed and interpreted and some are presented in the following demographic tables like age, gender, category, web browser, retrieving speed, visit of college library, average time spending in the library, benefit of N-LIST e-resources by the Arts and Science faculty and Students in Colleges, affiliated to University of Pondicherry.

5.1 AGE
Since age determines a person's experience, aptitude, and physical and mental state, it is a crucial demographic variable. Table 5.1 presents the results of frequency analysis used to gather and analyse data regarding the age of the respondents. The respondents in this survey fell into two age groups: those under 25 and those between 45 and 55. 75.9% of respondents were under 25 years old, followed by 13.4% who were 45 to 55 years old and older, 8.2% who were 36 to 45 years old, and 2.5% who were 26 to 35 years old respectively.

Thus, it can be deduced that the majority of survey participants were young, with the middle-aged group comprising the following largest group of respondents.

Table 5.1 Age of respondents

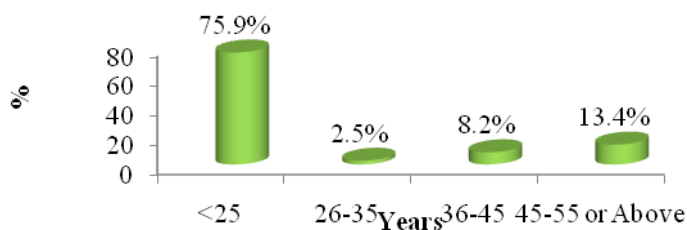| Age	Frequency	Percent
<25	1300	75.9
26-35	42	2.5
36-45	141	8.2
45-55 or above	230	13.4
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.1 Age of respondents

5.2 GENDER

There were nearly equal numbers of male and female responders in this survey. Table 5.2 shows that 49.4% of the 1713 respondents were men and 50.6% of the respondents were women. (Figure 5.2). By contrast, the percentage of female respondents was 1.2% greater than that of male respondents.

Table 5.2 Gender of respondents

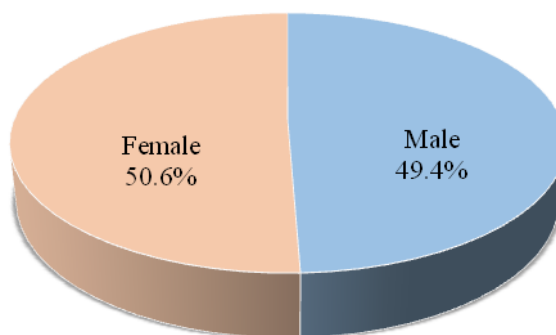| Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	846	49.4
Female	867	50.6
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.2 Gender of respondents

5.3 CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS

The N-LIST user demographic segmentation offers important information into how college students utilize N-LIST e-resources. The training made clear the N LIST resource requirements of a particular user group that was making the most of the e-resources to meet their academic obligations. The study revealed that N-LIST was most frequently used by undergraduates (57%) and significantly less frequently by postgraduates (21.2%). The results of the data analysis showed that respondents pursuing science and arts courses used N-LIST e-resources equally overall (Table 5.5 and Figure 5.5). This equal distribution of use highlights how N-LIST resources are applicable and relevant across a wide range of academic fields.

Table 5.3 Category of respondents

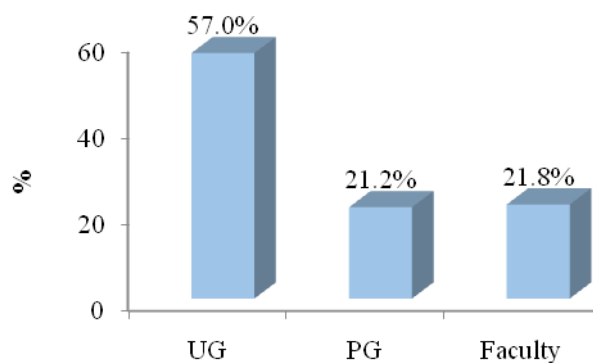| Course	Frequency	Percent
UG	976	57.0
PG	363	21.2
Faculty	374	21.8
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.3 Category of respondents

5.4 WEB BROWSER
Five main categories were identified for web browser usage: Google, Firefox, Chrome, Yahoo, and Others. More than 78.9% of respondents in this poll said that Google was their preferred web browser, followed by Firefox (16.6%), Chrome (3.2%), and Yahoo (0.8%), among other forms (Table 5.4 and Figure 5.4).

Table 5.4 Web browser usage

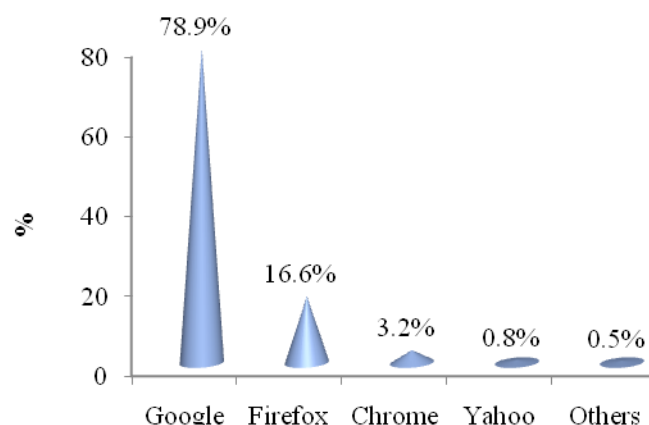| Format of information	Frequency	Percent
Google	1352	78.9
Firefox	285	16.6
Chrome	54	3.2
Yahoo	13	0.8
Others	9	0.5
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.4 Web browser usage

5.5 SPEED OF RETRIEVING THE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES
After analysing the data, it was discovered that 17.2% of respondents could retrieve the e-resources very quickly, 52.7% could do so very quickly, 27.6% could do so quickly, 2.4% could do it relatively quickly, and just 0.1% could do so slowly (Table 5.5 and Figure 5.5).

Table 5.5 Speed of retrieving electronic resources

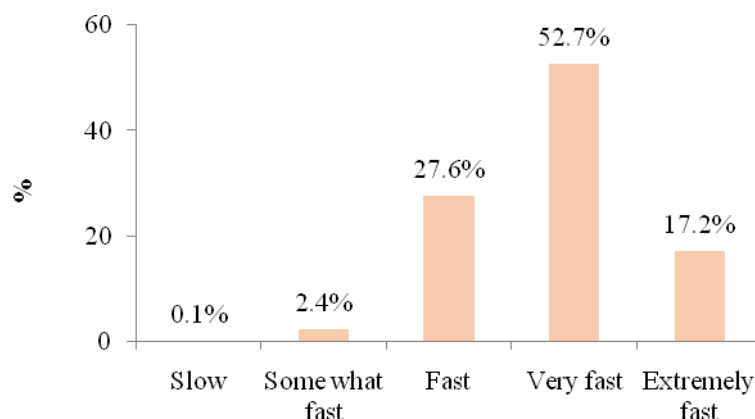| Ability to retrieve electronic resources	Frequency	Percent
Slow	2	0.1
Somewhat fast	41	2.4
Fast	473	27.6
Very fast	903	52.7
Extremely fast	294	17.2
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.5 Speed of retrieving electronic resources

5.6 AVERAGE TIME SPENT IN THE LIBRARY

The bulk of respondents (83.7%) reported spending 30 minutes in the library. Table 5.7 and Figure 5.6 show that just 13.8% of respondents spent between 30 minutes and two hours in the library, and 2.5% of respondents spent an average of four to five hours there.

Table 5.6 average time spent in the library

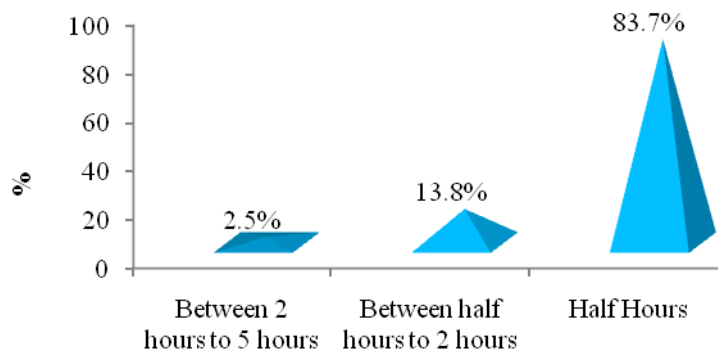| Average time spent in the library by respondents	Frequency	Percent
Between 2 hours and 5 hours	43	2.5
Between half an hour and 2 hours	237	13.8
Half an hour	1433	83.7
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.6 Average time spent in the library

5.7 AWARENESS OF N-LIST

One aspect assessed in the study pertained to the understanding and origin of awareness about the N-LIST e-resources across various demographics. The awareness levels of N-LIST e-resources were evaluated using several parameters: library staff, orientation programmes, institutional prospectuses, college websites, interpersonal networks, such as friends and colleagues and participation in workshops. The results revealed that the awareness of N-LIST was the highest among library staff (98.1%), followed by engagement

Table 5.7Awareness of N-LIST

	Frequency	Percentage
Library staff	1680	98.1
Orientation Programme	1326	77.4
Institute's Prospectus	-	-
College Website	55	3.2

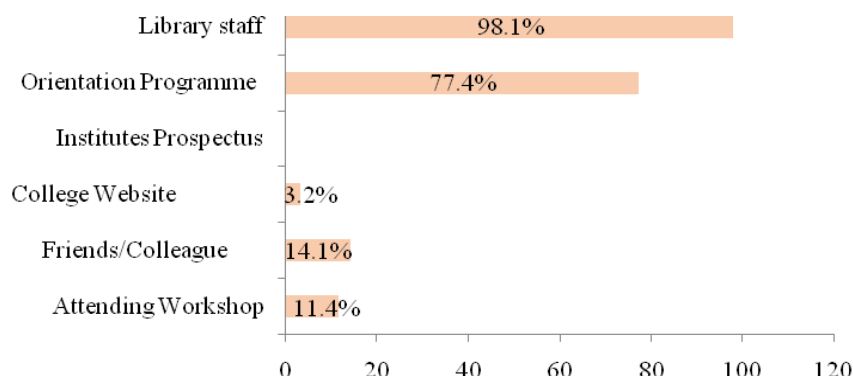|	Frequency	Percentage
Friends/Colleague	242	14.1
Attending Workshop	196	11.4

Figure 5.7 Awareness of N-LIST

5.8 FREQUENCY OF N-LIST USAGE

It was determined how frequently N-LIST e-resources were used. The N-LIST was found to be utilised weekly by 64.2% of respondents, fortnightly by 16%, monthly by 9.3%, and sometimes by 7.2% of respondents. Table 5.10 shows that 3.3% of respondents used the N-LIST on a daily basis only.

Table 5.8 Frequency of N-LIST usage

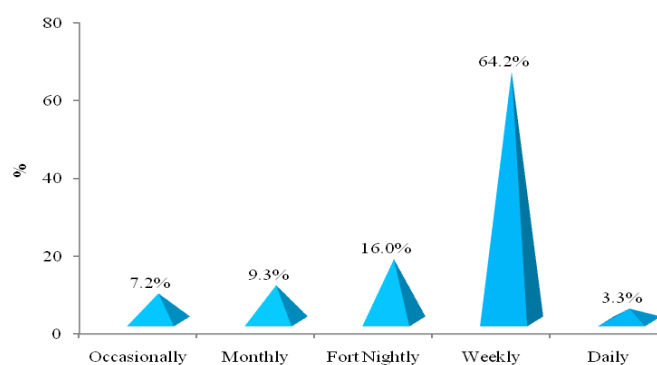|	Frequency	Percent
Occasionally	123	7.2
Monthly	159	9.3
Fortnightly	274	16.0
Weekly	1100	64.2
Daily	57	3.3
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.8 Frequency of N-LIST usage

5.9 BENEFITS OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The perspectives of the respondents regarding the advantages of using electronic resources were assessed.

While 5.9% of respondents claimed they did not gain anything from accessing the electronic resources, about 84.9% of respondents believed that doing so had been beneficial. According to Table 5.8 and Figure 5.8, it was discovered that 9.2% of respondents benefited in part from accessing the electronic resources.

Table 5.9 Benefits of using electronic resources

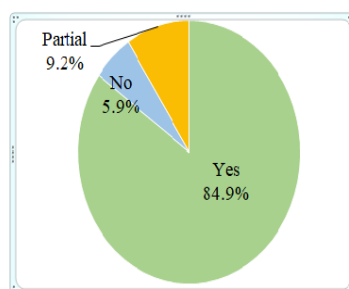| Benefit	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1454	84.9
No	101	5.9
Partial	158	9.2
Total	1713	100.0

Figure 5.9 Benefits of using electronic resources

6. MAJOR FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher distributed 2,000 questionnaires to N-list beneficiary users (F&S) of Science & Arts colleges in Puducherry State. 1713 users responded to the survey, which represents almost 86.65 % of the total number of users.

☞ This study says that a majority of respondents in this study were young, with the subsequent largest group of respondents belonging to the middle-aged category (Refer Table No 5.1)

☞ In the present study, more than 78.9% of the respondents used Google as their preferred web browser, 16.6% used Firefox, 3.2% used Chrome and only 0.8% and 0.5% were found to use Yahoo and other formats, respectively.(Refer Table No Table 5.4)

☞ It finds that 17.2% of respondents are says that, 17.2.7% users are able to retrieve the e-resources extremely fast, 52.7% were very fast only (Refer Table No Table 5.5)

☞ It was found that a majority (83.7%) of respondents spent half an hour in the library. (Refer Table No Table 5.6)

☞ This study reveals that 100% users are aware of N-LIST resources with the help of Librarians (98.1%) (Refer Table No Table 5.7)

☞ It was found that 73% of respondents visited the library once a week, 14.5% of them visited on alternate days, 8.9% of them visited daily and only 3.6% of them visited occasionally(Refer Table No Table 5.8)

☞ 84.9% of respondents agreed that they benefitted by using the electronic source (Refer Table No Table 5.9)

All of them are having awareness of N-LIST e-resources. Hence the N-LIST services are successfully used by the affiliated colleges of Arts and Science of Pondicherry University in Puducherry.

The present study unfolds that a large number of beneficiary faculty members and students have greatly benefitted from the N- LIST e-resources. Though the N - LIST has become a boon to the academic community, some of the limitations such as avoiding junk resources and adding select useful information resources, making search strategy easier and user friendly, ensuring regular training to librarians and users about strategies for accessing N-LIST resources, encouragement programmes for active users for the role model to other college N-LIST users etc.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The emergence of internet as a ubiquitous global information and communication resource propelled people's lives into the digital epoch. Due to rapid advancement in ICT the internet has become an inseparable part of today's higher educational system. With the development in the area of Internet and information technology, more and more of the educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in the

digital format. The government of India is spending large amount on the e-resources which are made available via consortia. The electronic resources in the virtual world represent a large investment of people's effort, money and wisdom. The users should become familiar with latest information resources and to make optimum utilization of electronic information resource available in the institution.

REFERENCES

[1] Nagesh,R and Naveen, C.L. (2016) ."Status and Problems of N-LIST Consortia Subscription in Government First Grade Colleges of Hassan District, Karnataka: A Study", International Journal of Library and Information Studies, 6(2), 28-35.
[2] Panda, S. K., Arora, J., & Rai, A. K. (2016). Inter lending and document delivery in India through INFLIBNET and the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium. Inter lending& Document Supply, 44(3), 115-120.
[3] Singh,Bhue and Bhoi(2015). "Usage of N-LIST resources in the college library: a Case study of G.M autonomous college and Sohela Degree college, Odisha", e-Library Science Research Journal,3(12),01-05.
[4] Kumar, Rajeshwar (2013). Awareness and use of electronic resources through N-LIST: A boon to academic libraries. International journal of librarianship and administration, 4 (1), 17-25
[5] Kumbar, Mallinath (2013). Use of N-LIST services by the faculty and students of University of Mysore constituent degree colleges in Mysore: A comparative study. Paper presented at national seminar on emerging trends in ERMS in college libraries.
[6]. Chauhan, S. K., & Mahajan, P. (2013). Use of UGC-Infonet E-resources by Social Science Academics in Indian Universities: An Evaluation Study. Journal of Academic Librarianship, 40(3/4), 359-366.
[7]. Londhe, N. L., & Deshpande, N. J. (2013). Usage Study of UGC-INFONET E-resources at University of Pune. DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology, 33(5), 385- 393.
[8]. Sinha, M. K., Bhattacharjee, S., &Bhattacharjee, S. (2013). ICT and Internet Literacy Skills for Accessing to E-resources available under NLIST Programme. Library Philosophy & Practice, 20.
[9]. Ahmad, N., Basha, I., & Fatima, N. (2012). Use of UGC-Infonet Consortia by the Research Scholars at University of Delhi: A Survey. Library Philosophy & Practice, 1-14.
[10]. Mulimani, M. N. (2012). Use of UGC - Infonet E-Journal Consortium in Selected University Libraries of Karnataka State. SRELS Journal of Information Management, 49(4), 387- 397.
[11] https://nlist.inflibnet.ac.in/