Sharing Online Journals & Magazines among IMU Campuses – A Case Study

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Abstract

The growing cost of publications, the budget crunch faced in libraries have led to resource sharing and consortia options wherein all the participating libraries are benefitted equally and enjoy more resources at their end to serve their patrons. The introduction of ICT application in almost all walks of life has made systems and services at more reachable state. The present day libraries too are not far behind, they are making use of all latest technologies within the budget available to them and having a success story.

Introduction:

Libraries and librarians enjoy an established role in society – to connect people with information. Despite any and all other changes in the information world, or the world at large, that purpose remains a vital and consequential one. However, the challenges in meeting it are now taking on new dimensions. Enormous technological advances are pushing the boundaries of the information landscape and providing researchers with new ways to find and access resources. In addition, economic limitations are challenging librarians to meet the demand for quick access to global and digital information as efficiently and cost effectively as possible, while maintaining access to print material.

A fundamental shift is underway in the role libraries play. Within this new landscape, libraries' collection development strategies have shifted from "just in case" to "just in time", making users' access to resources held outside of their home library even more critical (Shorley, 2008). In this era, resource sharing has become a dynamic and increasingly strategic area of service that reflects a constantly changing information landscape and the commitment libraries are making to empower their communities to discover and access information efficiently and effectively.

A Brief about Indian Maritime University:

The birth of Indian Maritime University is a long cherished dream of the maritime community of India. The Indian Maritime University, established through an Act of Parliament (Act 22) in November 2008 as a Central University, is poised to play a key role in the development of trained human resource for the maritime sector. The **objectives of the University** is to facilitate and promote maritime studies, training, research and extension work with focus on emerging areas of studies like oceanography, maritime history, maritime laws, maritime security, search and rescue, transportation of dangerous cargo, environmental studies and other related fields, and also to achieve excellence in these and connected fields and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The **Role of the University -** IMU is in the category of Professional University intended for fulfilling the requirements of the Maritime Sector. Ability to establish and develop a critical mass of activities in the maritime sector is the primary advantage of the IMU system .All activities need not be in a single location but should be distributed across different locations in the country, which have the comparative advantages to facilitate the best possible education and training in a given area of specialization. The Structure and content of the programmes leading to different levels of qualification of the personnel engaged in the maritime sector can be uniquely addressed by the IMU unconstrained by the limitations of the general purpose universities.

The **Headquarters of IMU** is located at Chennai. IMU has its regional campuses at Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam and Cochin. IMU presently offers Port & Marine short term courses and degree courses in Nautical Science, Marine Engineering, Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering, Ship Building & Repair. Master's degree and PhD.
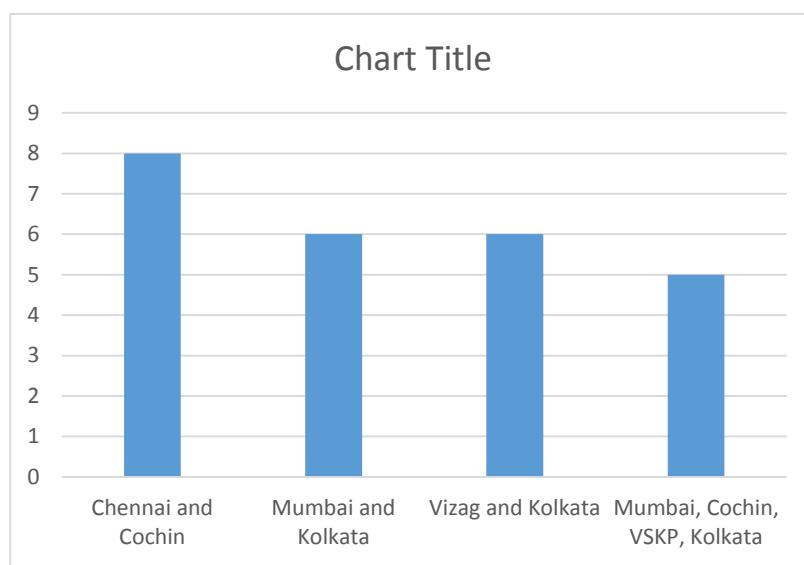
Genesis:

In the beginning of 2015 the Headquarters felt the need to set up a central library with digital collection. In this respect the author was entrusted to make a study of setting up of a Digital library and consortia. During the study it was learnt that both AICTE/ INDEST and INFLIBNET have stopped new memberships. As part of the study a few libraries at Bangalore like IISc and RRI, at Chennai IIT and CLRI were visited. A report was prepared and at the same time a questionnaire was circulated to all IMU campus libraries by email. The filled in questionnaire, Journals list and the required journals list of all campuses were compiled. As per the findings:

Sl No.	Campus Name/ Location	Software Used	Number of Journals Subscribed	
			Print	**Online**
1.	Chennai	Libsys	51	2
2.	Cochin	Koha	21	5
3.	IIPM (Kolkata)	Koha	13	-
4.	MERI (Kolkata	Libsys	10	2
5.	LBS (Mumbai)	Manual System	07	-
6.	MERI (Mumbai)	Libsys	11	-
7.	TSC (Mumbai)	SOUL	08	-
8.	Vizag	Libsys	30	5

- ➢ A total number of 151 journals, 14 online journals and 40 magazines were being subscribed by all campuses at an approx. cost of Rs. 30 lakhs
- ➢ Nearly 25 journals were commonly subscribed across Campuses
- ➢ These Common Journals were subscribed at an approx. cost of Rs. 15 lakhs
- ➢ Vizag Campus is subscribing to CD database and Online database at an approx. cost of Rs. 4,17,797
- ➢ Mumbai does not have any Online Journals
- ➢ Vizag and Cochin campus get 5 online journals
- ➢ Chennai and Kolkata gets two online journals

Print Journals subscribed at Campuses

Chart Title

- ➢ Chennai and Cochin libraries were subscribing 8 common titles
- ➢ Mumbai and Kolkata libraries were subscribing 6 common titles
- ➢ Kolkata and Vizag libraries were subscribing 6 common titles
- ➢ Mumbai, Cochin, Vizag and Kolkata libraries were subscribing 5 common titles

The advantages of Online/E-Journals:

Some of the advantages of Online Subscription are-

- ➢ Full-text of articles along with their bibliographic details can be accessed in one's own computer/ Laptop
- ➢ Accessible on IP address directly from the Publisher's web site.
- ➢ No "Login ID and Password" required.
- ➢ Resources are accessible throughout the campus network 24/7

Marine and Maritime related Online Journals:

IMU Head Quarters decided to go for a centralized purchasing/ processing of Online Journals/ Online Magazines. A committee was constituted to find out and suggest online journals related to marine and maritime subjects. A lot of effort went into find out the Online Journals available in the field of Marine and Maritime related subjects. The Major publishers like -

- ➢ SNAME (Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers)
- ➢ RINA (Royal Institution of Naval Architects)
- ➢ IMarEST (Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology)
- ➢ IMO (International Maritime Organization)
- ➢ JASNOE (The Japan Society of Naval Architects & Ocean Engineers)
- ➢ WMU (World Maritime Organization)
- ➢ Taylor & Francis Group International Ship Building Progress
- ➢ UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade & Development)
- ➢ Sustainable Shipping etc.,

were contacted, apart from that, the print journals so far subscribed also revealed that online version available. The google search too revealed a number of titles. Trial run of marine related online journals of Elsevier and Springer was arranged to all campus. Trial run of IBI from Informatics Bangalore was given to three campuses dealing with Maritime Management courses.

After collecting suggestions from board members and faculty at all campuses, a list of 80 Online Journals and 23 Online Magazines with complete subscription details was compiled and put up for approval. Since the university is subscribing for the first time on consortia model, it wanted to test for the first year the usage of these resources, so limited its purchase and subscribed 18 Online Journals, 21 Online Magazines and one Online Database and one Aggregator service to all campuses of IMU @ an approx. cost of 20 lakhs. A list of free online journals were compiled and shared with all IMU campuses, List at Annexure - I

Infrastructure at Campuses:

All campus libraries have the leased line from its respective government telephone services. As it is thought of to increase the online resources and from the point of setting up digital library/ institutional repository at HQ and share its resources like - syllabi, learning material, research thesis and dissertations of students, publications and project/consultancy reports of faculty etc., efforts are underway to get NKN connection to all IMU campuses for sharing all educational related resources for the benefit of students and faculty and research scholars.

NKN: National Knowledge Network is a state-of-the-art Pan-India Gigabit network and is a revolutionary step towards creating a knowledge society without boundaries. Presently over 1500 institutes are connected. NKN is designed as a Smart Ultra High Bandwidth network that seamlessly interconnects the leading Scientific and Technological institutions - which are pursuing world-class research and development.

We have approached NKN for Generic Services, Community Services and Special Services like VPN (Virtual Private Network) for all IMU campuses.

Conclusion:
IMU aims at transforming its campus libraries into world-class information centre, where students and faculty have access to information resources beyond the contents of their campus libraries. The facilities to achieve these are gradually taking off, as witnessed by the rise in the deployment of the internet and newer ICTs in library operations. However, to fully realise the goal of effective resource sharing among campus libraries there is a need for proper planning and capacity building.

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