

## Collection and Use of E-Resources in the College Libraries of Goa: A Study

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### ABSTRACT

*The advancement in ICT brought many changes into human life. The information is generated in many forms and formats which enabled the libraries to meet the varied demands of its users. This study presents the collection of libraries both print & electronic form with an aim to understand the status of automation and Internet connectivity in the college libraries affiliated to Goa University. It also reveals the effective use of e-resources. Further, it attempts to find out whether the college libraries in Goa are subscribing online databases or not and how effectively these e-resources have enhanced the existing library resources and services. There is a growing trend in collection development in most of the libraries to provide need based services to the user community.*

**Keywords:** E-resources, Information Technology, College Libraries, Goa, India.

**Electronic Information Resources:** ZA4050-4480

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Advances in Information and Communication Technologies have brought revolutionary changes in the very outlook and activities of libraries in the present time. Information professionals have to switch over to new methods and techniques for handling information. In this context, the role of information professionals is becoming very challenging. In 1980s the optical storage technology has brought a sea change in information storage and retrieval system. The library collections are growing multifold and electronic information resources are becoming convenient means of reference and use. Almost entire gamut of primary, secondary and tertiary information resources hitherto embodied in print format are now available in the form of electronic databases.

The Internet and www have ushered in a new era bringing enormous information within reach of common user. E-resources are becoming a part of traditional library's collection. ICT also promoted the academic research and enabled the researchers to access the information irrespective of time, space, language, form and format. Today's users are tech savvy and they require information almost

instantly. To fulfill their needs, libraries have to make all out efforts to develop the collection useful to the users along with print materials. It is believed that E-resources enable libraries to provide fast and accurate services thereby saving the valuable time of library staff as well as its users. Apart from saving storage space e-resources are cheaper as compared to the print sources. Due to the escalating prices of the print resources and increased demands of users libraries are finding it difficult to acquire print materials, hence e-resources are the best possible alternatives. Recently, Encyclopedia Britannica has announced that its 2010 edition will be the last print version & henceforth, it will be published only in digital form.

It is observed that majority of the publishers are shifting from print publication to electronic form because of which numerous online databases are available today. Full text databases such as N-List, ProQuest, EBSCO, Emerald databases, Nature Journal etc., are online accessible and playing an important role in ongoing research and development. Ascertaining the impact of electronic resources on reference services is essential for the future of the library service as an information provider (Gardner, 2002).

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The libraries with their traditional holdings in print format are now being added with electronic resources in various formats like CD-ROM and DVD-ROM databases, On-line databases, E-journals and abundant Open Access resources. The content of these sources varies from bibliographic or factual information to full text. These include microfilms in the 1930s, audio-visual materials in the 1940s-1950s and CD-ROMs in the 1980s. In the 1990s, online electronic resources such as e-journals, e-books, the worldwide web and the full text databases have emerged as important sources of information (Bhatt and Rana, 2011).

CD-ROM/DVD-ROM databases are increasing day by day in almost all fields due to their many advantages in information storage and retrieval. The CD-ROM technology has given ample opportunities for information professionals to introduce more effective information services to end-users. One of the reasons that CD-ROM based databases proved so popular is because they allowed users to access materials for themselves, run their own searches and keep up to date from their own desks, without needing to constantly come down to the library, or ask the librarian to intervene in the data collection process on their behalf (Pathak, et.al. 2008).

The recent growth of Internet and the popularity and ease in use of Web are making libraries to subscribe to online information services. E-journals are gaining prominence with the emergence of Internet. The publishing world is undergoing a revolutionary change as more and more publications are becoming Web centric. The breadth of choice available is positively overwhelming, even to those who work with information resources daily (Library Association Information Services Group, 1999). These online formats allow users who have access to Internet connections to search and retrieve information from anywhere and anytime (Nisonger, 2003). As such, it is now possible for users to have cheap and effective access to information which was previously not known or accessible (Pantry, 1997).

The faculty members at Qatar University are successfully utilizing electronic resources to develop their teaching, research and personal knowledge (Kindilchie and Samarraie, 2008). The libraries have accepted e-resources as they bring more advantages, performances of user's will increase and further they lists few barriers faced during the use of e-resources (Haridasan and Khan, 2009). The

study carried out to find out the usage of UGC-Infonet e-journals consortium by faculty members and research scholars of Karnataka University revealed that due to e-resources faculty and research scholars could produce qualitative work with minimal time period (Kumbar & Hadagali, 2009).

The general public is not necessarily aware of, or trained in, strategies to find and evaluate information, yet they must now cope with the multitude of extraneous data available and sift through it in order to acquire the answers to specific enquiries (Gessesse, 1997). The research scholar face problem while searching information on Internet (Madhusudhan, 2007). The role of librarian has become even more important, because it is the librarian who is responsible for teaching end users how to work effectively in the gathering of data, to choose the most appropriate resources, and to deploy them within the organization (Bradley, 2007).

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

The study consists of the following objectives:

- a) To take stock of the collection of E-resources in the college libraries.
- b) To assess the infrastructure to make use of E-resources.
- c) To study the usefulness of electronic resources as compared to print materials.
- d) To identify the awareness of the library professionals towards open access resources.
- e) To know the effectiveness of library instructions in using E-resources &
- f) To understand the effective use of e-resources as supplementary resources over traditional library resources and services.

### **4. HYPOTHESIS**

- a) There is an increasing trend to have Internet connectivity in the libraries.
- b) Electronic resources started attracting the attention of the user community.
- c) The trend to acquire electronic databases in the college libraries is in formative stage.

### **5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION**

The scope of the present study is limited to study of collection and use of e-resources in college libraries of Goa, affiliated to Goa University.

### **6. METHODOLOGY**

Present study has selected questionnaire and personal interview for data collection. Literature survey was useful in collecting textual data from print and electronic resources. To assess the collection and usefulness of e-resources the data obtained from questionnaire, personal visit to few libraries and discussion with the librarians was done. Among 47 college libraries (Goa University, 2011) 37 (79%) have responded. The data collected has been tabulated, analyzed and interpreted using.

## 7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data from the responses were checked and numerically coded and then entered on to a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel to obtain descriptive statistics, percentage etc. Then the findings were synthesized and presented in figures, table and narrative form. The findings of the study are presented as follows.

### 7.1 Category wise Distribution of Colleges

Figure No.1 shows that, out of 37 respondent 6 are government colleges, 23 are aided colleges and 8 are unaided colleges.

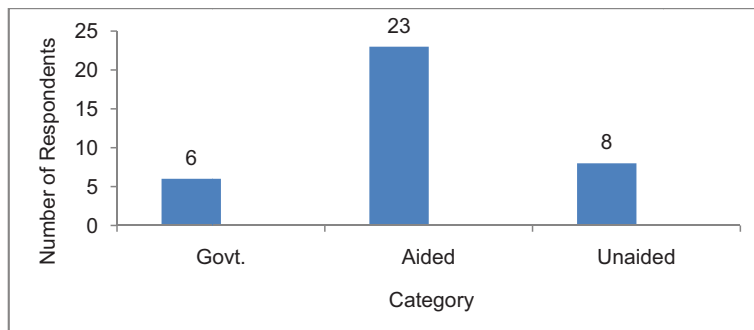


Figure No.1

The study revealed that the aided colleges (run by the private managements) form the lion share of higher education in the state of Goa. This shows the keen interest of the private managements to improve & provide better education to the general masses. This also true I other states. Government alone can't cater to the needs of the growing educational awareness. Hence, private sector has to play its role.

### 7.2 Collection of the Libraries (Books)

The below figure no.2 shows that out of 37 respondents, 13 college libraries have the collection in the range of 'up-to 15000', 20 libraries come in the range of '15001-30000' and 4 college libraries come in the range of '30001 – 40000'.

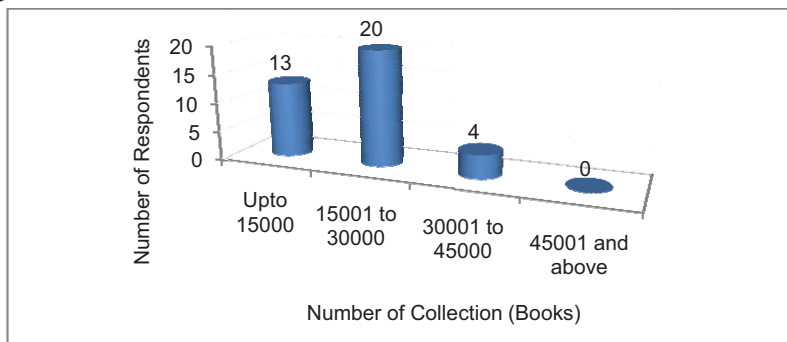


Figure No.2

It is observed from the above data that majority of the colleges are in the formative stage.

### 7.3 Subscription of Journals

The below figure no. 3 shows that out of 37 respondents, the subscription of journals by 15 colleges are subscribing 'up-to 20 journals', 18 are in the range of '21-40', whereas equal number of libraries come in the range of '41-60' and '61 and above'.

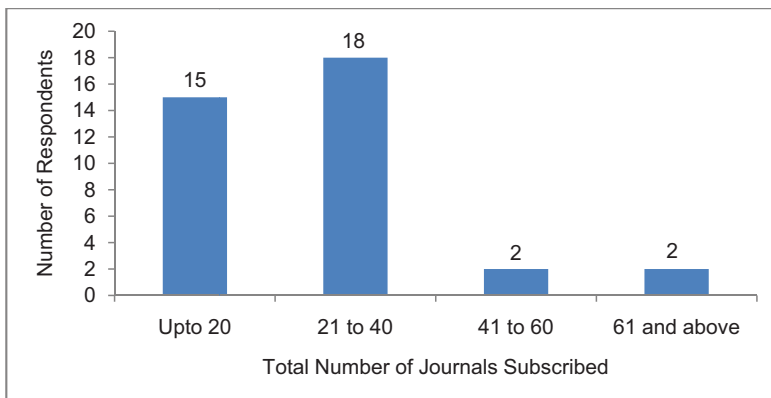


Figure No.3

Providing current information to students, researchers & faculty is the utmost important activity of the libraries. Since journals are the primary source of information which gives current & up to date information to the users. It is observed from the results of the survey that the colleges need to strengthen their journals' collection in order to keep the users abreast of their subject.

### 7.4 Subscription of Magazines

The below figure, reveals the status of subscription of magazines in college libraries of Goa. About 17 colleges come under the group 'up-to 20', a few no. of libraries i.e. 8 come under the group '21-40' and only one 1 college come under the group of '41-60'.

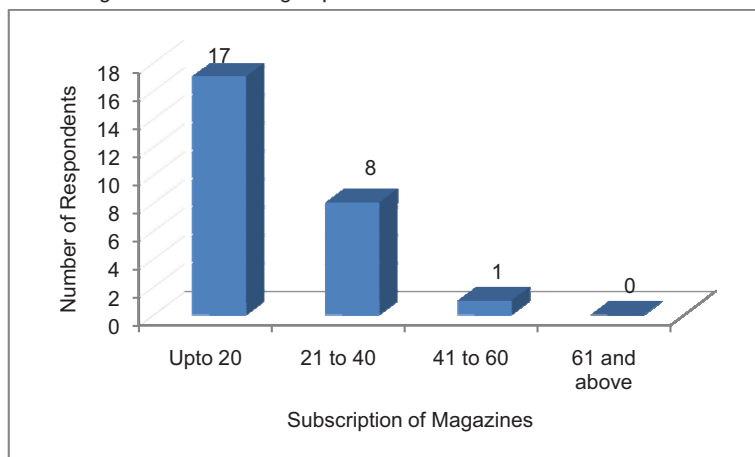


Figure No.4

Magazines play a vital role in providing information about current affairs, which is very essential for the users to keep up to date about the new developments in the social & political environment. The survey shows that the colleges are subscribing fairly good number of magazines.

### 7.5 Collection of E-resources

Figure 5 reveal that 20 respondents have 'up-to 50' CDs in their collection, 5 libraries fall in the range of '51-100', and 3 libraries fall in the range of '101-150'. Only 2 libraries have 'more than 151' CDs in their collection.

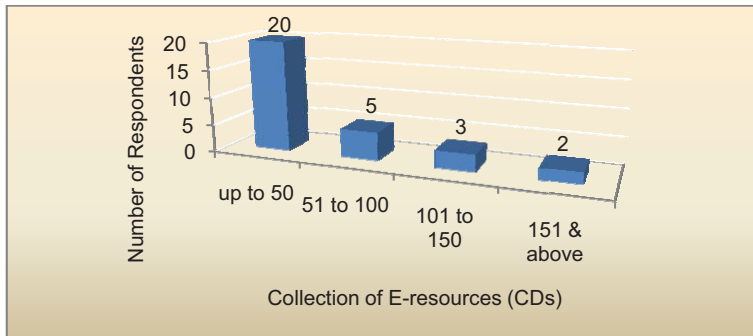


Figure No.5

Due to the developments in ICT, large numbers of publishers are publishing the authors work in CD's also. It is observed from the results of the study that e-resources in the form of CDs have become the part of the growing collection of college libraries. Hence, it proved hypotheses no.2 that '**Electronic resources started attracting the attention of the user community**'.

### 7.6 Status of Automation

It is indicated in the below figure that out of 37 respondents 18 respondents said that they are automated their house keeping activities and the remaining 19 respondent said they have not automated their library.

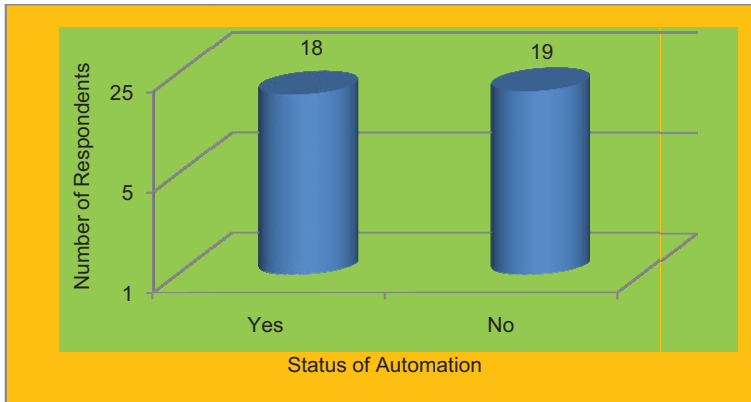


Figure No.6

Automation helps to enhance the quality of services offered by the library. The study shows that the status of library automation in college libraries of Goa is less satisfactory. Hence, it is suggested that the college libraries must make an effort to automate their house keeping operations using suitable library software.

### 7.7 Status of Internet Connectivity

The below figure unravels the status of Internet facility in the Colleges libraries of Goa. Majority of the college libraries i.e., 27 responded that they have internet connectivity, however 10 respondents said they do not have Internet connectivity in the library.

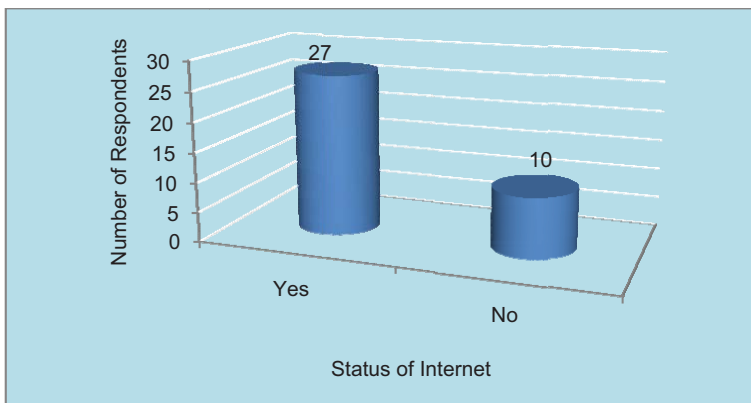


Figure No.7

Internet plays a key role in serving the modern day tech savvy users. Since many resources are available on the Internet & www the libraries need to provide Internet facility to its users. The study indicates that majority of the college libraries are having Internet connectivity in their libraries, hence it proves hypothesis number 1 that, **'there is an increasing trend to have Internet connectivity in the libraries'**.

### 7.8 Subscription of Online Databases

Figure No.8 reveals that out of 37 respondent 17 are subscribing online electronic databases and remaining 20 are not subscribing any online databases.

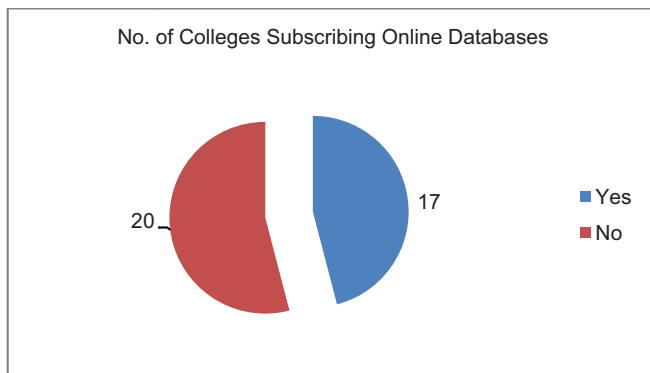


Figure No.8

The survey of the study reveals that only few colleges are subscribing online databases. It is the need of the hour that the remaining colleges must subscribe to online databases to keep their user up to date.

### 7.9 Subscription of Various Online Databases

Figure 9 indicates that 17 college libraries are subscribing only N-List database. This indicates that no other online databases are subscribed by these colleges other than N-List.

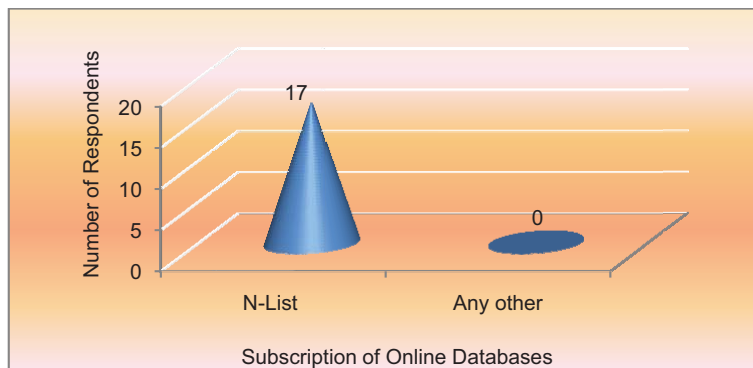


Figure No.9

It is evident from the results of the study that N-list is the most popular database among the college libraries of Goa. However, it is suggested that these libraries should make an effort to subscribe other important databases which are available in their subject area. Thus, it proves hypotheses no.3 that **'the trend to acquire electronic databases in the college libraries is in formative stage'**.

### 7.10 Awareness of Open Access Resources

Figure No. 10 depicts that majority of the respondents i.e. 24 said that they know about the open access resources, however still 13 respondents are unaware about these resources.

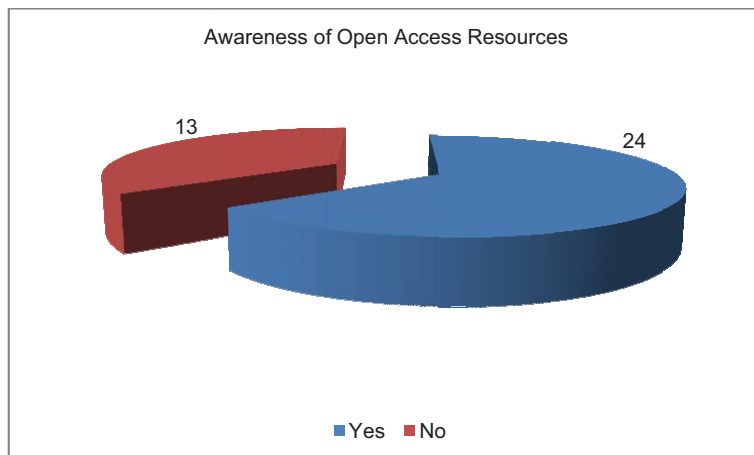


Figure No.10

It is observed from the study that majority of the librarians said that they know about Open Access resources. But, it is unfortunate that still few librarians do not know about it. It is hereby suggested that such librarians must attend professional conference, seminars, workshops etc., so that these forums would enable them to know about such resources.

### 7.11 Colleges Providing OA Resources

The below figure indicates the results of the survey that about 21 respondents are aware of 'DOAJ', 8 respondents are aware of "Open J-Gate", 6 respondents are aware of 'open DOAR' and 5 respondents said they are aware of 'ROAR'.

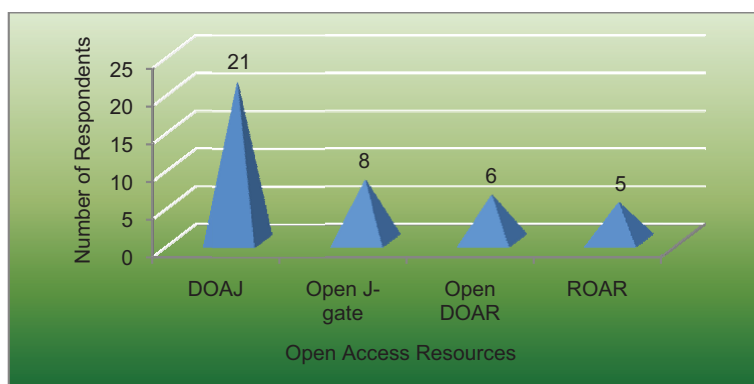


Figure No.11

The results of the study indicate that 'DOAJ' is the most popular OA resources among the college libraries. However, a few respondents said that they are also aware of Open J-gate, DOAR, ROAR.

**7.12 Library Instruction in using E-resources**

The below table revealed that of 37 respondents 23 provide instruction in using E-resources and 14 said that they are not providing any instruction in using the same.

**Table No.1: Instruction in Using E-resources**

|                    | Yes        | No         | Total       |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| No. of Respondents | 23 (62.00) | 14 (38.00) | 37 (100.00) |

*Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage*

Instruction in using resources of the library that too e-resources makes remarkable difference in one's own research. It is observed from the study that it is unfortunate that still considerable numbers of libraries are not providing instructions in using e-resources. It is strongly suggested that these libraries must make an effort to provide instructions so that users will search e-resources with ease.

**7.13 Effect of Library Instruction in accessing E-resources**

Table no.2 describes that all the respondents i.e., 23 said that the instructions provided by the libraries have benefited and helped them in maximum utilization of electronic resources.

**Table No.2: Effect of Library Instruction in Using E-resources**

|                    | Yes         | No         | Total       |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| No. of Respondents | 23 (100.00) | 00 (00.00) | 23 (100.00) |

*Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage*

The result of the survey shows that the instructions provided by librarians have helped the users in maximum utilization of e-resources. Therefore, it is suggested that each library must provide instructions in using e-resources.

**7.14 E-resources Supplementing Traditional Library Services**

Figure No. 12 shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 27 responded for the category 'any number of users can access E-resources simultaneously', 22 for the category 'occupies less space', whereas 21 responded for the category 'available 24X7', 20 responded for the category 'avoids duplication of work', equal number of librarians responded for the category 'can be easily portable' and 'maintenance is cheaper'.

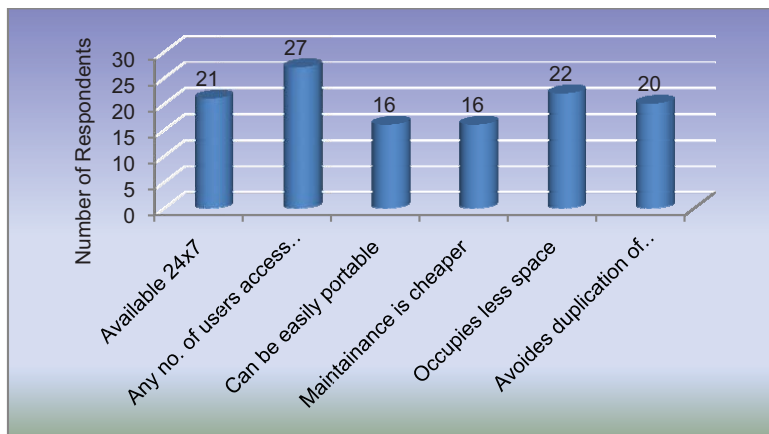


Figure No.12

It is evident from the result of the study that almost all librarians said that e-resources have enabled them to provide quality & timely services and any number of users can access them simultaneously across the globe.

## 8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The rapid changes in Information & Communication Technologies have given a new face- lift to the college libraries. As a result the libraries are in a position to procure enormous e-resources. This has enabled the libraries to fulfill the dire needs of the user communities consisting of faculty, students and research scholars. The electronic resource provide numerous benefits like allowing multiple access to a same source from anywhere across the globe apart from saving space. The N-List programme launched by INFLIBNET (Information & Library Network) for providing e-resources to colleges has been gaining wide popularity among college libraries in Goa. Many colleges by virtue of their affiliation to Goa University are accessing enormous number of journals through N-List by paying a nominal subscription fee to Inflibnet centre.

It is found from the study that still few colleges are not subscribing to N-List database. The reason may be attributed as to lack of awareness among library professionals about such resources. One of the important reasons for underutilization of electronic information is lack of requisite level of working knowledge and consumption skills among users and information intermediaries (Shreedhar, 1997).

The colleges must make efforts to utilize the benefits given by the agencies/bodies like INFLIBNET. However, it is very much pertinent to note that, many college libraries are aware of the open access resources and bringing such resources to the notice of the users. Thus, it is observed from the results of the study that e-resources whether payment based or free based have created an impact on the college libraries in Goa and it is more significant to note that majority of the college libraries have welcomed the new trend which has enabled them to strengthen the existing resources and services. However, still a long way to go, hence the authorities of these institutes must give more emphasis on acquiring more e-resources in order to prepare the users to face the challenges thrown by the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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