# Promotional Responsibility Of N-List E-Resources By Librarians: A Special Reference Arts And Science Colleges Affiliated To Pondicherry University – A Study.

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**ABSTRACT:** E-resources have grown aggressively in the last five decades and play a vital role in the Higher Education system. In this knowledge explosion, now the role of Librarian has entirely changed and switched their duties from traditional to digital as Information officers, digital Librarians Special Information professionals etc. towards creating awareness in order to browse and use Electronic resources like e-books and e-Journals for Students, Scholars and Faculty. This Study focused on selected N-LIST 12(B) and 2(f) status Arts and Science College Librarians towards the managing unique e-resources of N-LIST which is provided by INFLIB-NET and funded by MHRD who is having 12(B) and 2(f) status of UGC Act. This study found Librarians are unable to disseminate e-resources to the user community lack of Infrastructure, Network connectivity, awareness and orientation etc.  It t is further suggested that regular training programmes should be conducted by the college libraries to create awareness and optimum utilization of N-LIST e-resources.

**Keywords:** N-LIST, e-resources, college librarians, N-LIST beneficiary colleges of Puducherry, INFLIBNET.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

At the turn of the century, college libraries entered a period of growth and after World War expanded rapidly, but their major concern in most cases was to acquire and preserve materials rather than to encourage and facilitate their use, for at that time, the textbook was the chief method of instructions. As more knowledge both general and specialized became available, dissatisfaction with the textbook as the core of the teaching process became widespread, and increasingly the college library was given the requirement and the opportunity to concern itself with selecting and evaluating learning materials to support the instructional programme and with aiding students in their use. Some college libraries emphasize education for democratic living, education for world affairs, specialization, the teaching of science, mathematics, and foreign languages, and the importance of using a variety of materials called for new courses and new methods of instruction. The library endeavour to support the new curricular and instructional programmes through long hours of service, larger collections, open stacks, flexible circulation policies, new

attention to instruction in library use, acquisition of various kinds of print and non-print materials, and the provision of carrels for listening and viewing facilities.

The Indian system of higher education, during the last thirty years or so, has been expanding primarily for social and political reasons rather than on economic and manpower considerations. Nearly one-third of the total outlay on education in India is spent on higher education, which reaches about ten per cent of the appropriate age group.

 The UGC brought about reforms in college education by freeing several colleges from the rigid regimentation of traditional course structure. The UGC provided generous funds for the purchase of reference books and textbooks as well as building grants and sponsored the colleges with the result that classroom teaching is now supplemented by library usage, through the purchase of books on the latest teaching methods and techniques and books which provide exhaustive knowledge of the subject to the students.

## II.REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

### E-resources:

 E-resources are key resources of higher education institutions which are used in digital format in various types of e-journals, e-books, and e-reference materials, databases provided by the Internet family or web-based servers to enrich the knowledge in the area of academic and research community of various kinds of users. E-resources services are very convenient for tracing accurate information in the vast area of Information through OPAC or Web OPAC facility 24*7 and after downloading we can access through soft and hard copies too. The flexibility of e-resources access is more appreciable and suggestable for higher education.

### N-LIST:

The Project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)" was introduced in the year 2010. Till 2013 it was funded by MHRD. After that it is being jointly implemented by the INFLIBNET Centre e-ShodhSindhu Consortium and IIT Delhi INDEST-AICTE Consortium, the authorized users provide for cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and e-ShodhSindhu resources for technical institutions, and access to selected e-resources to colleges.

The N-LIST programme was subsumed in the year 2014 under e-ShodhSindhu Consortium as a college component. The colleges (except Agriculture, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing) in India are eligible to get access to e-resources under N-LIST programme. It covers 10 fulltext e-journals (6000 above) and 12 e-books (1,99,500). All 12 B-status colleges and Non-Aided colleges except Medical, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Agriculture, Engineering, Management are can utilize these resources. Out of 36 states 4092

beneficiary colleges are successfully using this N-LIST e-resource. The main aim of this programme is to distribute the E-resources with a budget fee for the 12B status colleges for developing the higher education.

**Role of College Libraries:**

Now a day's higher education system has changed due to widening curriculum, improvement in exam pattern and development in information technology has brought tremendous changes in the higher education system and increased the upgradation of the knowledge level of college Libraries. The library is such a valuable and essential resource of the college library to support the teaching-learning process.  It should be maintained with a high cast expecting high satisfaction of education purpose in the college as an adequate return on the capital invested. It also needs adequate staff, need-based collections and sufficient funds.

## III. OBJECTIVES:

The researcher aims to find out the N-LIST management by the selected college Librarians for improvement of N-LIST e-resources services by the study in the given following objectives:

        i. How did they come to know the N-LIST programme.

        Ii what basis is the of N-LIST Electronic resources subscription to their Library.

        iii. Find out the infrastructure for maintaining the e-resources.

        iv. To find out the handling of N-LIST e-resources.

        v. How did they provide access to N-LIST e-resources to their users.

        vi How do they estimate the usage of N-LIST e-resources in their library.

        vii. What are the effects of using N-LIST E-resources on the staff of the library.

## IV.METHODOLOGY:

Data is collected in three ways for getting the relevant information for the above objectives.

a) Interview Method: Some direct interviews were made with some of the Librarians to know about the management of e-resources and their uses in the libraries.

b) Questionnaire Method: Questionnaires were distributed to the selected college Librarians to get data about services.

c) Literature Search: Another important method of literature search was made for accumulating knowledge and information regarding roles and their services. Right from tertiary sources like books to primary sources like seminar papers were searched for availing information.

Moreover, general discussions with librarians of respective colleges were also important and beneficial for gathering data.

### V. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS:

Data analysis is the ultimate step to finding out the results of the above study. After data collection it is represented in the tabular format is given below:

**Table 1- Librarian's Background on N-LIST**

| Sl. No | Key Elements to handle N-LIST | Highly Satisfied | Satisfied | Moderate | Not at all Satisfied | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Educational Qualifications | 10% | 75% | 15% | 0% | 100% |
| 2 | Professional Skills | 7% | 64% | 22% | 7 % | 100% |
| 3 | N-LIST Awareness | 86% | 6% | 8% | 0% | 100% |
| 4 | N-LIST management | 64% | 22% | 14% | 0% | 100% |
| 5 | Years of Experience on N-LIST | 25% | 72% | 3% | 0% | 100% |
| 6 | Satisfied with Infrastructure | 12% | 64% | 10% | 14% | 100% |
| 7 | Technical and Internet Support | 7% | 33% | 50% | 10% | 100% |
| 8 | Management Encouragement | 14% | 75% | 9% | 2% | 100% |
| 9 | Trying to adapt new things | 35% | 60% | 3% | 2% | 100% |
| 10 | Attended N-LIST training programmes and workshops | 10% | 60% | 29% | 1 % | 100% |

The above table represents86% of the Librarians having awareness of N-LIST. 75% of Librarians are having the experience to handling the N-LIST e-resources. This study also finds that Librarians are getting 50% technical support for disseminating the N-LIST services from the administration. So they are satisfied with the infrastructure14% only.
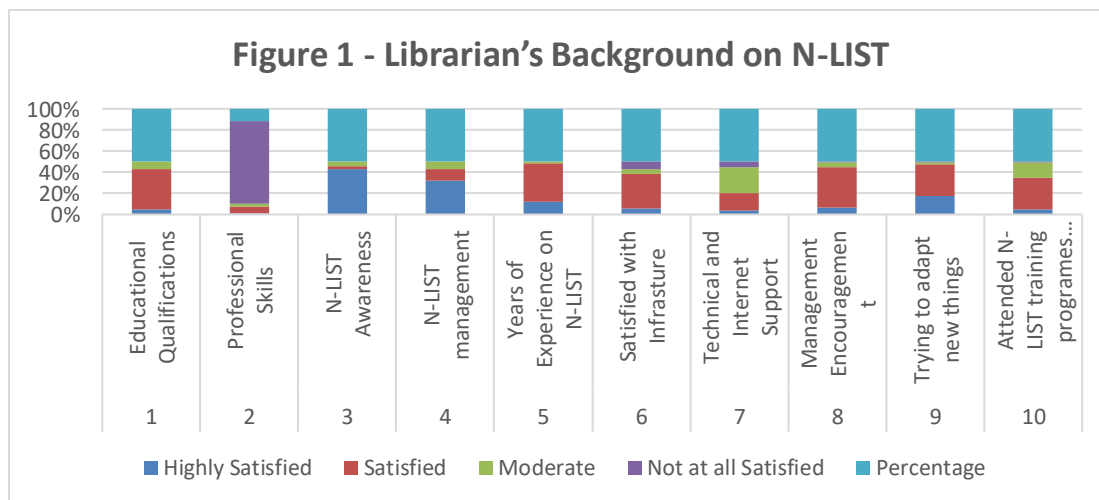


Figure 1 - Librarian's Background on N-LIST

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**Table 2 –Basis of the N-LIST Electronic resources subscription**

| Sl.No. | N-LIST e-resources subscription | Percentage |
|--------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Recommendation by the faculty member | 45% |
| 2 | HOD's recommendation | 25% |
| 3 | Personal conviction | 17% |
| 4 | Trade bibliographies | 8% |
| 5 | Students demand | 5% |
|  |  | 100% |

The table 2 represents that 45%of N-LIST e-resources are highly recommended by the faculty for subscribing to the N-LIST resources. 25% recommended by the HOD (Principal or Directors) for the subscription. 17%of Librarian's Personal convictions involving for N-LIST subscription. The college management gives very less importance to trade bibliographies (8%) and Student demand (5%) involved in the subscription process.



Figure 2 - N-LIST Electronic resources subscription
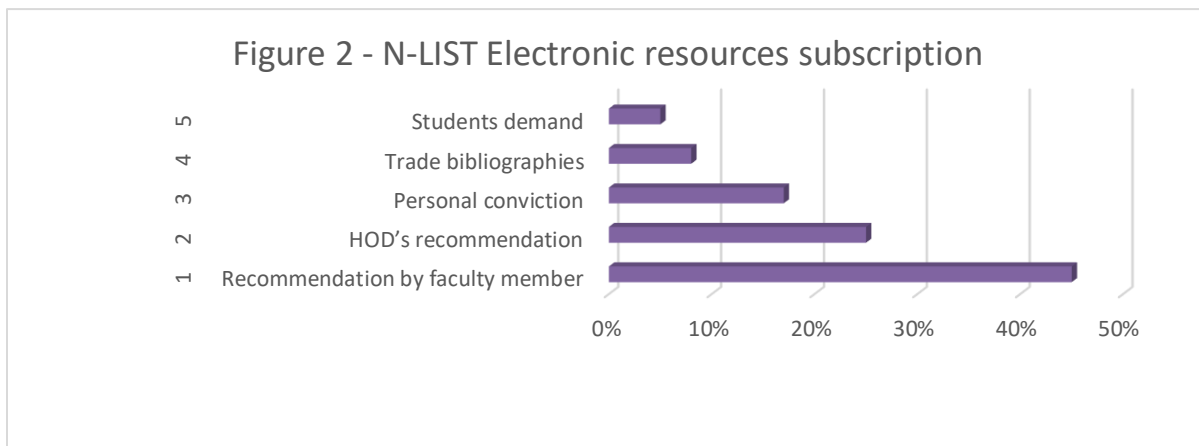
**Table 3 - Handling of N-LIST e-resources**

| Sl. No. | Staff | Percentage |
|---------|-------|------------|
| 1 | Library and Information Science qualified staff | 57% |
| 2 | Staff with a computer science background | 22% |
| 3 | Staff with neither Library Science background | 15% |
| 4 | Nor Computer Science background | 4% |
| 5 | Others | 2% |
|  |  | 100% |

Table 3 discusses57% of the N-LIST e-resources handled by college Librarians. In the case of Librarians not that much familiar with ICT background than 22% of e-resources maintained by the teaching staff those are having computer background. Low priortity15% and 4% only maintained by the other subject staff. Very rarely (2%) maintained by the others like non-teaching or office staff.
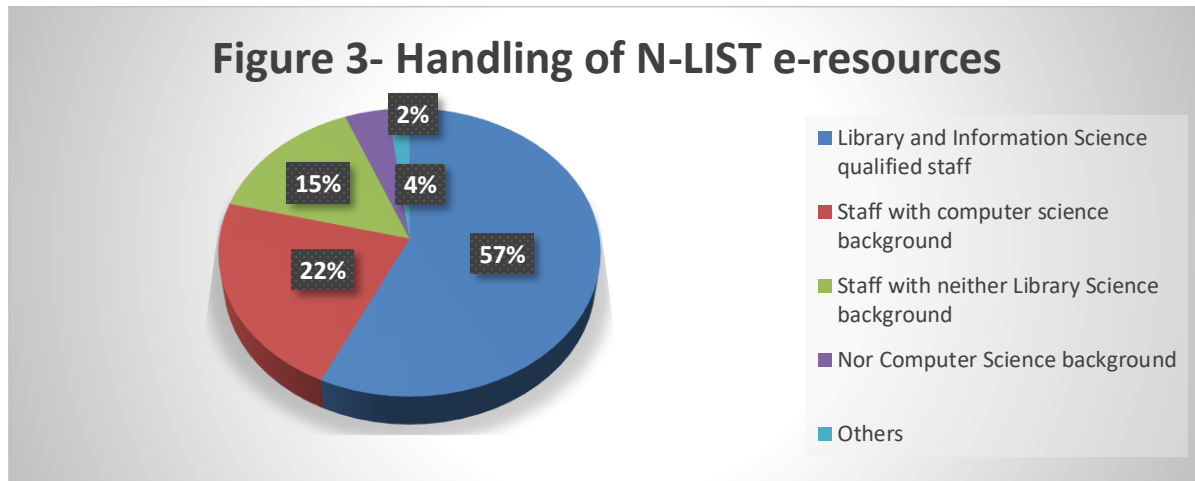
## Figure 3- Handling of N-LIST e-resources



- Library and Information Science qualified staff
- Staff with computer science background
- Staff with neither Library Science background
- Nor Computer Science background
- Others

**Table 4 –Providing access to N-LIST e-resources**

| Sl. No. | Access | Percentage |
|---------|--------|------------|
| 1 | Login ID & password given | 51 % |
| 2 | IP-based access in the library only | 42 % |
| 3 | Through mobile services | 7 % |
| 4 | IP-based access through Intranet | 0 % |
| | | 100 % |

The above table says that 51% of the N-LIST e-resources are providing the colleges with a Login ID & password and 42% providing the access of N-LIST e-resources access through IP-based duty for security reasons to stop misusing. 7% of the colleges are providing mobile bases services with their personal request for their research purpose. No college has an Intranet facility to the library.
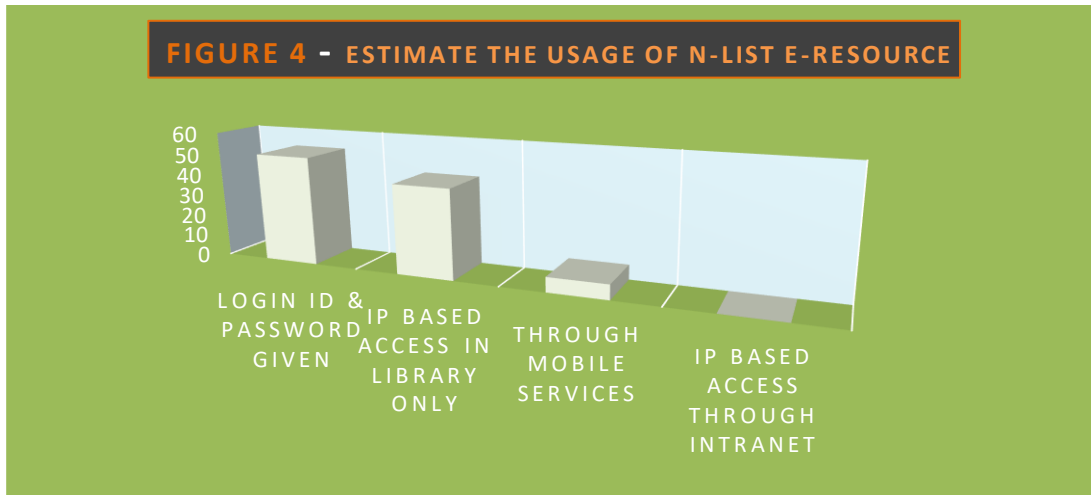
*Research paper*



**FIGURE 4 - ESTIMATE THE USAGE OF N-LIST E-RESOURCE**

**Table 5 - Effects of using N-LIST e-resources on the staff of the library**

| Sl. No. | Effects | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Offered new challenges and better opportunities for professional growth | 42% |
| 2 | Upgraded knowledge and skills | 21% |
| 3 | Improved competence and performance | 12% |
| 4 | Add more responsibility to work | 9% |
| 5 | Made it mandatory to learn to use modern technology | 9% |
| 6 | Reduced workload | 4% |
| 7 | Increased job satisfaction | 3% |
|  |  | 100 % |

Table 5 indicates that 42% of the professional staff are using the N-LIST resources for offering new challenges and better opportunities for professional growth.21% of the resources are used for upgrading their knowledge and 12% for improved competence and performance.
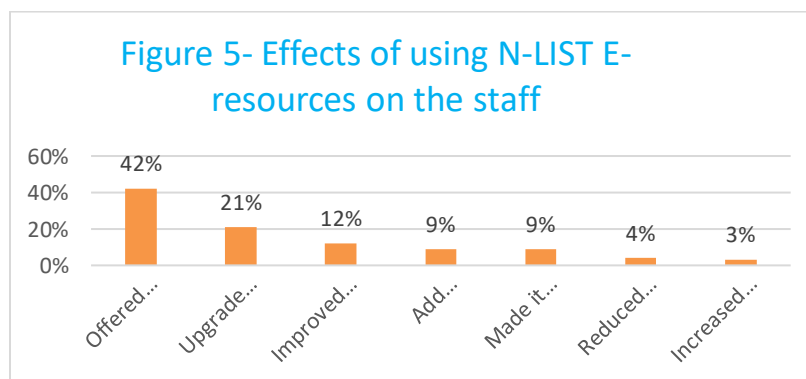


Figure 5- Effects of using N-LIST E-resources on the staff

**Table 6 - Problems faced by the Librarians to promote of the use N-LIST E-resources**

| Sl. No. | Problems | Percentage |
|---------|----------|------------|
| 1 | Lack of maintenance | 35% |
| 2 | Slow downloading | 25% |
| 3 | Lack of training/orientation | 14% |
| 4 | Slow connectivity | 13% |
| 5 | Frequent power cuts | 8% |
| 6 | Others | 5% |
|  |  | 100 % |

The College librarians even wanted to provide better services to the user community but they are facing 35% maintained issues, 25% slow downloading fluctuations, 13% slow connectivity of the net connection and others.



FIGURE 6 -PROBLEMS FACED WHILE PROMOTE THE USE OF N-LIST E-RESOURCES
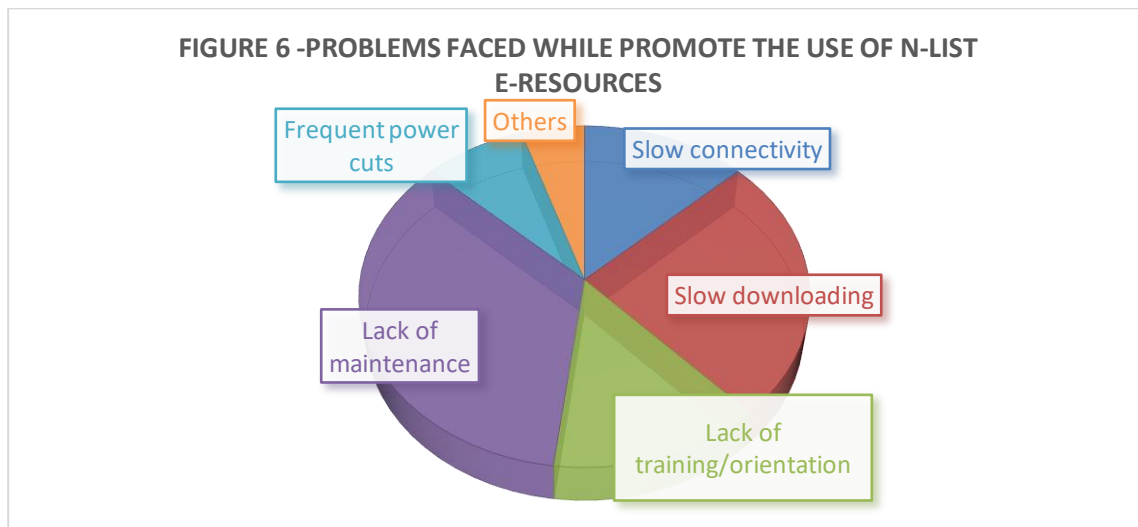
**VI: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:**

From the above analysis and findings, this study gives some suggestions for the best N-LIST services to the user community as given below:

1. The Librarians should maintain the N-LIST portal for updating the knowledge about seminars, workshops and orientation programmes to enrich their skills for providing their better services to the students and faculty.

2. Librarians should conduct orientation programmes at that college twice in a year for the users' awareness through seminars, hands-on training programmes etc.

3. It is the primary objective of the Librarian to inform the N-LIST resources of importance to the faculty towards the utilization of the student community with the channel of e-mail services, Library notices, WhatsApp, College website alerts, Library Portal alerts, mouth-convincing etc.

4. Along with that they have to update their professional skills towards Information technology for better digital services.

5. Librarians should maintain the timetable for all students to visit the Library in order to browse the N-LIST e-resources with the support of teaching staff for the assignments, projects and latest developments in their subjects.

Finally, this study reveals and concludes that the college Librarians are trying to disseminate the N-LIST services as much as possible without proper infrastructure, insufficient power back-up facility, non-involvement of librarians in decision making, shortage of manpower, slow internet connectivity. There is a need for continuous monitoring of modernization activities and services of libraries for improvement of the situation and for meeting future needs. If the management supplies all those shortages as mentioned above, definitely college librarians can enhance its reputation by providing maximum services to a great extent and justify. N-LIST is a very beautiful programme for making colleges accessible to a large extent of e-resources which is providing an affordable price for the development of higher education.

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