

Impact Of E- Consortia Resources on Academic Excellence: A Study on Users of University Libraries of Southern Rajasthan

Ram Shay Kumawat¹, Dr. Anil Sharma²

¹ *Research Scholar, Sangam University, Bhilwara (Raj)*

² *Head of the Dept,*

² *Dept. of Library and Information Science, Sangam University, Bhilwara (Raj.)*

Abstract—Recent improvements in technology have changed how e-consortia users find and retrieve the information. The information is required by every user but all the university libraries have limited budget. To fulfill the requirement of users the e-consortia have become important. The e-consortia are groups that allow libraries to share and access more electronic resources together for making it cheaper to everyone. This research studied on the library users for awareness of e-consortia among the users and what problems they are facing while accessing the e-consortia. The research found that better library databases, faster internet and improved infrastructure are needed to help the users. The study suggested that more types of e-consortia resources should be available to enhance the academic quality of users. It focused that why these e-consortia resources are important for the students, research scalars and faculty members. It highlights that how e-consortia resources are help to improvement of academic quality.

Index Terms—E-consortia, E-resources, university library, Library users, Information technology.

I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of Information Technology is the most important development in scholarly communication. It overcomes the limitations and time barriers that prevent scholars and information seekers from accessing information for their academic purpose. The attractive features of e-resources result in publication of massive literature in digital format. The Internet facilitates are required for information seekers to retrieve information anytime and anywhere. The rapidly increase in academic literature which is available on online. Libraries are

now facing the challenges of excessive demand from their users and trying to provide better services with the limited library budget. Library collaboration has emerged as ‘state of the art’ to face the challenge. The library e-resources are being shared using E-consortia. The e-consortia are formed to expand resource availability and increase the power of resources purchasing for collaborating institutions to provide e-consortia services. The university libraries are embracing technology by subscribing to various e-consortia. This is enhancing the research experience and increasing the users access to knowledge.

II. E-RESOURCES

E-resources represent information in various electronic formats including full-text databases, e-journals, image collections, multimedia on CDs, tapes and online platforms. They encompass e-journals, online discussions, e-news, data archives, e-mails and chat services. According to Singh (2018)¹, moving from printed material to electronic ones has made information easier to find and has given users new tools to search for and collect data. These e-resources are more useful for research because e-resources are giving more ways to find and use information.

III. E-CONSORTIA

A library e-consortium is a group of libraries that come together to share e-resources like e-books, databases and online journals. They collaborate and purchase these resources as a team instead of each

library paying separately for expensive online content. The libraries can save money, get better deals and offer more materials to their users using this way. E-consortia are especially helpful for universities, colleges and research institutions. When libraries work together in a consortium then they can provide access to a wider range of information which helps students, research scholars and faculty members in their studies and research. The resources are usually available online so users can access them anytime and anywhere. In a library e-consortium members usually share not just e-resources but also expertise and best practices. They may organize joint training sessions, workshops or events to help librarians and users to make the most of e-consortia resources. (ebook INFLIBNET, 2025)²

IV. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

NTULLO AND JAISWAL (2025)³ observed that library consortia are groups of libraries that work together to improve their services. According to this study when libraries join together, they can save money and get better access to digital books and resources. The libraries working as a team can help their staff, learn new skills and promote open access e-journals with fewer resources. Groups like JISC, CAUL and CALIS show that good planning and clear rules make a big difference. Newer group as COTUL show that it is important to think about local needs and build both users skills and technology. In the future libraries should keep working together, use new technology and share ideas so they can keep serving students and researchers well.

SONTAKKE AND SURYAWANSHI (2025)⁴ in their study explained how libraries are increasingly collaborating within the library networks. Through resource sharing such as lending books or utilizing shared digital collections. The libraries can provide more information, save money and build better collections for the users. Working together allows libraries to share more resources and avoid duplicating materials. The article also emphasizes the importance of libraries adopting consistent policies and finding ways to share digital information with one another.

CHAVAN AND KESHAVA (2024)⁵ highlighted the library e-resources consortia started in the late 20th century to help libraries for get electronic materials more easily. The INDEST-AICTE Consortium began in 2002 in India for CFTIs. Three consortia were merged into e-Shod Sindhu in 2015. The number of research papers grew after joining the consortium. English is the main language for these publications. Over three decades the research output from CFTIs grew nearly twice and the number of papers increased fourteen times. Institutes like IISc, IITs and NITs saw big jumps in publications. Library committees found that working together to buy e-resources is valuable because it gives access to more materials and supports research.

DEVI AND BHATT (2024)⁶ observed that the E-resources have changed the way people learn and do research. More and more people use digital tools and online resources for their studies. These e-resources make it easier to find information, share knowledge and create new materials. They help students, teachers and research scholars to connect and exchange ideas. Libraries now often need to buy both print and online versions of journals to give better services to their users. The e-resources have made learning and research more effective and accessible. Library users were satisfied with these changes and look forward to even more improvements in the future.

ALLISON LI ET AL. (2024)⁷ highlighted in their research article that the State University of New York (SUNY) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) worked together to start the Health Research Consortium. Their aim is to solve Jamaica's main health problems by doing research and sharing knowledge. The group plans to use new technology, like better lab methods, electronic health records and robotic surgery to improve health care in the Caribbean.

CHOUDHARI (2023)⁸ emphasized that access to information is more important than just having large collections. Libraries in India face limited budgets and rising costs. Many libraries join together in groups called consortia and share their resources to save money. This teamwork helps them work better and offer more to users. Members need to have clear

goals and work closely together for succeed to consortia. The libraries can handle money problems and give people access to more information with using this way.

HOSSAIN (2022)⁹ analyzed that universities are spending more on online resources so students and teachers can get information easily from anywhere. Online resources like JSTOR give access to many subjects and materials in different formats. Using electronic resources such as e-books, e-journals and e-magazines is cheaper when shared in groups. This shows that e-resources are very important for learning and teaching at universities. They help meet the needs of students and teachers in a simple and affordable way.

JHA (2021)¹⁰ observed that digital tools like image search engines and online archives help arts and education. Libraries are changing how users find information. Up-to-date information is important for students especially in engineering and management. More people want electronic resources. Engineering college libraries in Delhi (NCR) offer things like CD-ROMs and online databases but they do not fully meet users' needs. Technology has moved information from print to digital, making it easier to find and use different kinds of books and articles.

V. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research focused on students, Research Scholars and faculty members from 15 government and private universities in Southern Rajasthan. It studied that how well know about and use of e-consortia. The research explored how these resources are accessed, what problems faced and which resources users are

mostly like. It also finds out how students and teachers are satisfied with e-consortia that their universities provided. The main goal is to learn about the benefits, challenges and overall use of e-consortia in higher education. The findings help universities understand how to improve online library services.

VI. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives was planned to achieve in this research -

1. To know about how many library users know about and use e-consortia resources.
2. To see how often and why users use e-consortia resources.
3. To find out which e-consortia resources library users like the most.
4. To understand the reasons and problems face by the users when using e-consortia resources.
5. To understand that how users are satisfied with the availability and range of e-consortia resources.
6. To give helpful suggestions to improve the facilities and services for using e-consortia resources.
- 7.

VII. METHODOLOGY

This study used a survey method to collect information from certain groups of university library users. In this research could not include all library users and chose users randomly to fill the questionnaires because there were not enough time and money. The 520 questionnaires gave out to the university library users in Southern Rajasthan between April to June 2025.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE LIBRARY USERS

S. No.	Library users	No. of questionnaires distributed	No. of questionnaires received	Percentage %
1	Faculty Members	105	98	22.27%
2	Research Scholars	135	115	26.14%
3	Postgraduates	195	148	33.64%
4	Undergraduates	85	79	17.95%
	Total	520	440	100.00%

The 440 questionnaires were filled and returned out of the 520 distributed questionnaires. This is an 84.61% response rate. The researchers used statistical methods to analyzed the received data to get results.

VIII. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The primary information for this research came from questionnaires that library users filled out. The answers were studied and the results are shown in the tables below.

TABLE 2 GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Course	Male	Female	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1	Faculty Members	62	36	98	22.27%
2	Research Scholars	65	50	115	26.14%
3	Postgraduates	102	46	148	33.64%
4	Undergraduates	42	37	79	17.95%
	Total	271	169	440	100.00%

The data shown that their male respondents are more than female responded. This is because women are generally less willing to share this kind of information.

TABLE 3: AWARENESS ABOUT E-CONSORTIA RESOURCES

S. No.	Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
1	Yes aware	356	80.91%
2	Not much aware	84	19.09%
	Total	440	100.00%

The research found that about 19% of the people surveyed did not know very much about the online resources offered by their university library. This shown that many users are not taking full advantage of the e-consortia that can help them do better in their studies.

TABLE 4: SOURCES OF AWARENESS ABOUT E-CONSORTIA RESOURCES

S. No.	Sources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Through Library Visit	143	32.50%
2	Through colleagues	118	26.82%
3	Through Library Staff	95	21.59%
4	Library Website	84	19.09%
	Total	440	100.00%

The data shown that most library users find out about the e-consortia resources by visiting the library (32.50%) and through colleagues (26.28%). Some users know about them from library staff (21.59%) and the library website (19.09%). This suggested that the library staff and other facilitators need to do more to spread the word. To improve awareness and utilization of e-consortia resources, there is a pressing

need to organize orientation programs or training workshop aimed at educating library users about the available digital resources. Enhancing these initiatives could significantly boost up the student's engagement and usage of library e-consortia resources.

TABLE 5: POPULARITY OF E-RESOURCES

S. No.	E-Consortia Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	E-Journals	142	32.27%
2	E-Databases	119	27.05%
3	E-Books	83	18.86%
4	Audio/Video books	51	11.59%
5	Theses /Dissertation	45	10.23%
	Total	440	100.00%

The analysis of data revealed that most of the respondents preferred navigation of e-journals (32.27%) and e-databases (27.05%) to fulfill their academic needs, followed by navigation of e-books (18.86%) and audio/video books (11.59%). Only 10.23% of users search e theses/dissertation on e-consortia.

TABLE 6: THE MOST POPULAR E-CONSORTIA AMONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY USERS

S. No.	E-Consortia	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	DELNET	82	18.64%
2	J-Gate	65	14.77%
3	UGC-INFONET	54	12.27%
4	PubMed	48	10.91%
5	CeRA	42	9.55%
6	HELNET	38	8.64%
7	EBSCO	36	8.18%
8	JSTOR	31	7.05%
9	Proquest	24	5.45%
10	IIM consortia	20	4.55%
	Total	440	100.00%

The data shows that most library users use DELNET e-consortia (18.64%). Next most used are J-Gate (14.77%), UGC-INFONET (12.27%), PubMed (10.92%), CeRA (9.55%), HELNET (8.64%), EBSCO (8.18%), JSTOR (7.05%) and Proquest (5.45%). The IIM consortia is only used at IIM Udaipur, so it is the least popular e-consortia (4.55%).

TABLE 7: SATISFACTION LEVEL WHILE USING E-CONSORTIA RESOURCES AND SERVICES

S. No.	Level of Satisfaction	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Satisfied	174	39.55%
2	Very Satisfied	113	25.68%
3	Extremely Satisfied	78	17.73%
4	Partially Satisfied	41	9.32%
5	Dissatisfied	34	7.73%
	Total	440	100.00%

Most library users (39.55%) were satisfied with the e-consortia resources and services. Another 25.68% were very satisfied and 17.73% were extremely satisfied. About 9.32% were only partly satisfied and 7.73% of users were not satisfied.

TABLE 8: PROBLEMS FACED WHILE NAVIGATING E-CONSORTIA RESOURCES

S. No.	Reasons	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Slow Internet speed	182	38.16%
2	Difficulty in finding relevant information	167	35.01%
3	Infrastructure not suitable	48	10.06%
4	Library timing not suitable	42	8.81%
5	Library staff not supportive	38	7.97%

The data presented, revealed the problems faced by the library users while navigating e-consortia resources. The majority (38.16%) of library users complained about slow Internet speed and 35.01 % users reported difficulty in finding relevant information. 10.06% users stated that the infrastructure is not suitable to fulfill their needs, 8.81% library users reported that library timing is not suitable to them and 7.97% pointed out that library staff is not co-operative. As they expected the staff to make them aware of the new services and e-consortia resources in the library, but the results are contrary to their expectations.

IX. IMPACT OF E-CONSORTIA USERS' DEMOGRAPHICS ON THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The user's gender, type of library membership and course of study may influence how much they know about e-consortia and services. These resources can be impacting academic excellence of users. To find

out to these factors with using three null hypotheses were tested.

- H₀₁ There is no important difference between male and female users of the E-consortia resources on the level of academic excellence.
- H₀₂ There is no important difference in academic excellence between different types of library members i.e. students, research scholars and faculty about the e-consortia resources.
- H₀₃ There is no important difference in academic excellence between students in professional courses and non-professional courses about the e-consortia resources

TABLE 9: INFLUENCE OF E-CONSORTIA RESOURCES ON PROMOTING ACADEMIC QUALITY

Null Hypotheses	Test	Calculated Value	Degree of freedom	Table Value		Table Value	
				5% level of significance	1% level of significance	5% level of significance	1% level of significance
H ₀₁	z	2.446	438	1.952	2.581	Significant	Insignificant
H ₀₂	F	2.242	2, 437	3.00	4.61	Significant	Insignificant
H ₀₃	z	2.661	438	1.952	2.581	Significant	Significant

A tested value with z-test is significant on the level of 5% and not significant on the 1% level so hypothesis H₀₁ is accepted. The result shown that academic quality does not affect by the gender. Both male and female users are using e-consortia for similar academic purpose.

Hypothesis H₀₂ calculated by f-test and resulted value find significance on the both 5% and 1% levels.

The hypothesis H₀₂ was accepted. There is no difference in the academic quality of different types of library members because all are using e-consortia as per there requirement.

Hypothesis H₀₃ calculated with z-test and shows significant on the both 5% and 1% levels. The hypothesis H₀₃ was rejected and there was a difference in the type of courses, the users are

admitted in professional courses are better academic excellence than admitted in non-professional courses.

X. CONCLUSION

This Research evaluated that the e-consortia are affect to the academic quality of students, research scholars and faculty members of university libraries in Southern Rajasthan. The maximum users are known about and use of the e-consortia. The users are using these e-consortia for the purpose of the help in their studies. Some of the users are not aware about e-consortia resources which are available in the library. The universities spend a lot on the subscription of these e-consortia resources. The more efforts are required by library staff for aware to the users about e-consortia. Some students are unhappy because of slow internet, short library hours and not enough access to the e-journals. To fix these problems the libraries should conducted regular training and workshops to hands on to the students about how to use e-consortia. Upgrading to the computers and internet would also require and help to the users in the access the e-consortia. Using these e-consortia resources can improve to academic quality of the users.

REFERENCES

- [1] Singh, Priya. (2018). Consortia and Digital Libraries. Information access in the 21st Century. *Library Science Press*. 145-172.
- [2] INFLIBNET eBooks. https://ebooks.inflibnet.ac.in/lisp11/chapter/resource-sharing-networks-and-consortia-2/?utm_source=chatgpt.com/ (Accessed in 2025)
- [3] Ntullo S.H. and Jaiswal B. (2025). Transforming Academic Libraries through Consortia: A Global Perspective on Shared Access and Collaboration. *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)*. 7(5). 1-10 www.ijfmr.com
- [4] Sontakke, A.G., & Suryawanshi, S.D. (2025). Resource sharing networking and consortia in India. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research*, 12(1). 56-69.
- [5] Chavan, S.B. and Keshava. (2024). Impact of E-Resources Consortium on Research Productivity

- of Centrally Funded Technical Institutes in India. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology* 44(1) 10-16. DOI: 10.14429/djlit.44.1.18978
- [6] Devi, G.R. and Bhatt, D. (2024). Impact and Usage of E-Resources in Academic Libraries. *Degrees Journal*. 9(4). 24-33. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6470-5101>
- [7] Allison Li et al, (2024) University consortium to address public health priorities and research capacity building in the Caribbean. *Front. Educ.* 8:1241031. doi:10.3389/feduc.2023.1241031
- [8] Choudhari, B.R. (2023). Importance of library consortia in resource sharing for academic libraries. In *Impact of Information Technology in Multidisciplinary Research (Conference presentation)*. Govt. Bilasa Girls P G College, Bilaspur.
- [9] Hossain, K. (2022). Subscription to E-Resource Database JSTOR Digital Library: A Usage Statistics of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Library. *International Journal of Information Dissemination & Technology*, 12(2), 43–46. <https://doi.org/10.5958/2249-5576.2022.00009.7>
- [10] Jha, K.K. (2021). Access and use of e-resources in engineering and management college libraries in NCR: A study of current status and future strategies of library consortia. Mewar University Ph.D. thesis, <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/627275>