Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture

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Oral communication has been an integral part of people to people interactions in all ancient civilizations. With the advancement of science and technology, the process of communication has been expanded over the years to cover print and other modes like computer and associated gadgets.

India is predominantly an agrarian country, and the growth of agriculture is reflected in the good yields of different crops that depend on various factors – natural and man-made. Agricultural research, the backbone of agricultural growth in the country, demands timely dissemination of knowledge being generated and updated across the globe from time to time. Institutions in NARS, by and large, have been procuring print versions of journals and literature in aid of science and technology. With the rapid growth of internet facilities and advancement of web technology, almost all reputed international journals are available on-line and can be accessed by researchers over the network.

Since ICAR is having network connectivity across institutes and state agricultural universities, select journals could be made available over the network for the use of scientific community. Accordingly, the Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) was established in November 2007 for facilitating accessibility of scientific journals to all researchers / teachers in the National Agricultural Research System by providing access to information specially access to journals online which is crucial for having excellence in research and teaching.

Objectives of CeRA
- To upscale the existing R & D information resource base of ICAR Institutions/Universities comparable to world’s leading institutions / organizations.
- To subscribe e-journals and create e-access culture among scientists / teachers in ICAR Institutes / Agricultural Universities.
- To assess the impact of CeRA on the level of research publications measured through NAAS ID and Science Citation Index.

Accomplishments
- IP addresses from Institutions in NARS were collated for providing online accessibility of articles from more than 2900 journals related to agricultural sciences comprising Consortium Subscribed, Library Subscribed and Open Access Journals. Compiled three reports (one on IP address and contact details; library subscribed journals based on (1) Publishers and (2) Institutions in NARS.

- A web-based application was developed for facilitating the online access. The URL is www.cera.jccc.in. All Consortium members are provided the access through respective IP address(es).

- Currently 147 institutions in NARS have 24x7 online access to important journals in CeRA platform through IP authentication. Thomson Web of Science for Science Citation Index (SCI) has been made available to the Lead Institute (IARI), but the facility is available to all members of CeRA.
Two Committees, namely Steering and Monitoring, Negotiation have been constituted for smooth functioning of CeRA activities.

To assist researchers to access full text of library subscribed journals (which are not subscribed by CeRA), the Document Delivery Request System has been introduced.

More than 62 awareness / training-cum-workshops were held covering institutions in NARS and more than 3500 scientists were directly benefitted. Besides these, clarifications on specific problems on CeRA accessibility are looked in to through live chat and online interactions.

Outcome/Impact/Deliverables

- Online accessibility of all important journals related to agriculture and biotechnology to researchers and students of the Consortium members
- Quick access to world R & D information as available world wide
- Permanent archive of the subscribed e-databases.
- Improvement in the quality of scientific publications, and teaching and research guidance

About Host Institute: The Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture is committed to promote ICT driven technology and information dissemination system for quick, effectual and cost-effective delivery of messages to all the stakeholders in agriculture. Keeping pace with the current knowledge diffusion trends, Directorate is delivering and showcasing ICAR technologies, policies and other activities through print, electronic and web mode. Directorate is the nodal center for design, maintenance and updating of ICAR website along with facilitation of network connectivity across ICAR institutes and KVKs. Besides, Directorate provides public relation and publicity support to the council and its constituents across the country.

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