

OFF CAMPUS ACCESS TO LICENSED E-RESOURCES OF CENTRAL LIBRARY CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA through Knimbus: A STUDY

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A study of off campus (remote) access to licensed/subscribed e-resources of the Central Library Central University of Karnataka, which offers access to subscribed e-resources outside the campus using remote access software. Due to the demand from the user community for accessing the subscribed e-resources of library outside the campus the Central Library of CUK has implemented Knimbus remote access software as a tool to provide access to the user community. Knimbus platform provides a single point remote access to various subscribed e-resources of the library. Knimbus is a system that allows users at off-campus locations to access all subscribed e-resources by inserting user name and password provided by the institution. This article provides steps involved in the implementation of off campus access facility in the library. It also helps the beginners in understanding the steps to be followed for using Knimbus remote access software.

Keywords: Knimbus, remote access, off campus, e-resources, Central Library CUK.

1. Introduction:

The major developments taking place in library and information centres today are the widespread availability and use of various kinds of electronic learning resources. Electronic learning materials have increasingly become the focus of research and development of any institution in the recent years. The commonly available electronic resources namely CDROMS, OPACs, web databases, Internet, Remote Access and other networked information sources are competing with, and in some instances replacing the print-based information sources, which have been in place for centuries as the primary medium for storage and communication of recorded information

Remote access is the ability to get access to a computer or a network from a remote distance. A remote access server is the computer and associated software that is set up to handle users seeking access to network remotely. This allows library users to work offsite, such as at home or in another location, while still having access to a distant computer or network, such as the office network. Remote access can be set up using a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN) or even a virtual private network (VPN) so that resources and systems can be accessed remotely. Remote access has playing an important role in disseminating the library resources in the form of e books, e journals, to its users at their desired place.

Usually in any library, access to subscribed e-resources is made available on IP ranges/intranet environment which is limited to users residing in the campus. Remote or off campus access to e-resources among user community wherever they reside is the priority of the library. Remote access to e-resources is a best practice of libraries because it offers opportunity for the best use of the e-resources, which is one of the objectives of a modern library. Remote access offers easy access of multiple resources subscribed by the library through its interface making simpler the task of the users

2. CUK Library:

The Central Library, provides access to information not just to widen the horizons of the users' knowledge but also to support a host of their learning activities that range from books, e-books, journals, e-journal, databases, reports dissertation, thesis, CD/DVDs and newspapers etc. It provides access to available subscribed e-resources to its users through the library portal. Due to the demand from the user community for accessing the subscribed e-resources of library outside the campus the Central Library of CUK has implemented Knimbus remote access software as a tool to provide access to the user community. A user can access e resources both within the university premises and outside the campus. For providing off campus access CUK library management has searched and selected Knimbus remote access software.

2.1 Subscribed E-Resources:

The CUK Library has subscribed e-databases like Prowess and IndiaStat, 5,897 e-journals, 903 e-books of various publishers recommended by subject experts. Along with this library is using DSpace as a software for maintaining institutional repositories.

3 Off Campus Access to E-Resources using Knimbus:

The Knimbus technology plays a vital role in accessing the library material off-campus by authenticating the users through a password. Proxy servers work between web browsers and server, and acts as an intermediary between the two ends of a user server network connection. This middleware functions by authenticating user against local authentication systems to provide licensed resources based on the authorization of users. Link resolvers are part of remote access that helps users find the materials they need without having to start a new search in another database. Reaching more patrons and expanding circulation requires extending the library beyond the campus and providing a 24x7 service. Knimbus provides single sign on for remote information seekers to get secure access to the e-Library.

4. Benefits of Knimbus:

- a) Integrated platform for all eResources.
- b) eLibrary Mobile App provides easy 24x7 access from Anywhere.
- c) Brings awareness towards eResources.

Knimbus is a comprehensive Digital Library Solution that curates and integrates high quality academic content. Its cloud-based digital platform integrates all e-resources on an 'easy-to-find' platform enabling libraries to build their online presence and meet the demands of the users who are migrating online to consume knowledge content.

4 Technical Details

Remote access software allows one to access other computers remotely from other locations via the World Wide Web. Knimbus is a customizable middleware program that provides access to library's licensed content for remote library users. It operates as an intermediary server between users and library's licensed databases. Users connect to Knimbus, then it connects on their behalf to library's licensed databases to obtain web pages and send them back to users. When the user click on a link to an online library resource, remote login access software checks, whether the user computer is on campus or off campus.

A cookie is sent to the user's browser whenever the user authenticates successfully allowing Knimbus to validate user access rights. If the user is on campus, he/she bypass Knimbus and are sent directly to the e-resources of the library using IP authentication. If the user is off campus, user will be required to login with remote username and password and need to setup their browser for accessing e-resource.

Knimbus eLibrary platform is available both online and on mobile devices. It provides access to library subscriptions as well as to open access and web content through a single interface. The interface comes with a customized Mobile App that ensures that library patrons are always connected from Anywhere and Anytime with easy access to information on their smartphones.

4.1 User Authentication:

The purpose of Knimbus is to provide a simple system that allows you to create one set of web pages that can be used by both on-site and off-site users to gain access to licensed databases and there is no requirement to authenticate on-site users, but there is a requirement to authenticate remote users to verify their affiliation with your institution.

4.2 Implementation of Knimbus at Central Library CUK:

Knimbus has started in the year 2017 the off campus service has started to all the students research scholars, teaching & non teaching staff. For remote access link, users who are staying outside the campus/hostel or who wish to access e resources outside the campus have to fill up Knimbus remote access requisition form and submit to the library for getting user name and password.

After collecting request forms we have created user accounts for which Knimbus automatically send user name and password to given email address.

5. STEPS TO ACCESS E-RESOURCES USING KNIMBUS AT CUK

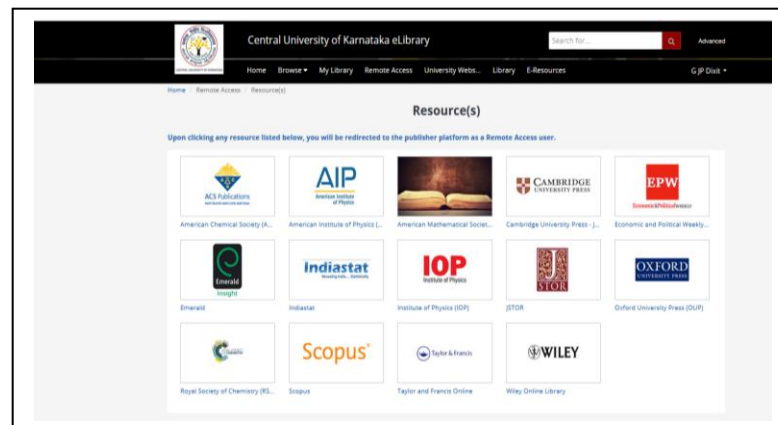
To access e-resource when off-campus, user has to go through few steps

- i. Open 'Library website i.e. cuklibrary.ac.in,
- ii. click on the link remote access at right top corner
- iii. Enter authenticate username and password which has provided by the Knimbus server
- iv. It link to the e-resources webpage of the library.

Figure 1 shows the login page of Knimbus at CUK Library

The screenshot shows the login interface for Knimbus at CUK Library. On the left, a red sidebar lists navigation options: 'MY LIBRARY', 'SAVE CONTENT', 'NOTIFICATIONS', and 'REMOTE ACCESS', along with a 'New User? Sign Up' button. The main white area is titled 'SIGN IN!' and contains input fields for 'Enter your email address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot your password?' link, and a red 'Sign In' button.

Figure 2 shows the CUK e-resources page after login via Knimbus at CUK Library



5.1 Terms and Conditions for using Knimbus:

Central Library CUK has few terms and conditions for using Knimbus to its users.

The terms and conditions are as follows:

- Library borrower card holders are eligible for getting Knimbus remote access to e-resources
- PG students, research scholars, teaching and Non teaching staff's who are staying outside the campus and those who are staying inside the campus are eligible for remote access to e-resources
- Authorized/eligible users have to fill up the form and send to the library through the Head of dept.
- Username and password should not be shared with anyone,
- The Library will monitor the user's activity regularly to prevent unauthorised usage and multiple login.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Knimbus platform provides a single point remote access to various subscribed resources of the library. Thus it facilitates the maximal usage of licensed e-resources in large libraries. Knimbus is a system that allows users at off-campus locations to access all subscribed resources by inserting user name and password provided by the institution. In Knimbus we can see the usage report which shows the usage by particular user, how much he has used the resources how many articles he has downloaded etc. So remote access technology make is convenient to library users work off the campus.

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