



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Use of N-List & DOAJ e-Journals in Science College Nanded: A case study

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Abstract

Present study attempts to study the use of N-List and DOAJ e-Resources by users of Science College Nanded. Few enquiries were made to check the use of database i.e. e-journals. Purpose of the study was to know usefulness, coverage of e-Journals and feedback of its users. Survey method was adopted to gather data and opinion of respondents. This study was limited to respondents of science field of science. In the study it was found that users are well aware about N-List database than the DOAJ and also they find N-List is more convenient for use. Coverage of N-List is wide than DOAJ. On the basis of the study few recommendations are suggested by the researchers which includes. There is a need to look in to the matter personally by the Heads, Librarian and professionals to promote use of these e-resources. Organize regular workshops to make effective awareness about DOAJ among the research scholars and students.

Key Words : Comparative study, N-List & DOAJ, Users, Science faculty, e-Resources

Introduction : Present scenario of traditional resources shows that cost of printed documents i.e. books and periodicals is increasing every year. Even after acquiring such type of literature it is not possible to serve all users at mass level distributed in different geographical areas. Realising this problem information scientists, professionals and publishers have made attempt to create database of their concern fields. This has become possible because of availability of internet at reasonable cost. The practice of developing database was emerged around 1970 onwards. To quote some examples of databases like Agricola, AGRIS, INIS, MEDLAR, INSPEC, CAB, CeRA J-Gate, Science Direct etc. Later on 2000 onwards new databases such as NLIST, DOAJ, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers), have come up.

Today, in respect of science discipline it is found that users of basic and applied sciences both are preferring information or any document in digital form. Even users of social sciences, humanities are also inclined towards use of digital resources. Hence use of traditional form of resources is being coming down speedily. May be in near future there is a possibility of replacing entire printed material in digital form as it is more convenient to access. About databases it is notices that they are more appropriate, feasible and user friendly for access.

1) N-LIST (National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Contents): N-LIST is an ambitious project of MHRD, Government of India took under the National Mission of Education launched on 10 May, 2010 in collaboration with UGC-INFONET through INFLIBNET, Ahmadabad, Gujrat now the headquarter has been shifted at Gandhinagar, Gujrat. Facility of N-List is provided at reasonable subscription cost for colleges and universities affiliated to UGC and recognised as 12(f) 2B where as subscription cost is higher for private and professional colleges.

Resources under N-LIST: There are more than 6000 colleges have enrolled their membership for NLIST database. INFLIBNET has made 6000 plus e-journals and 31,35,000 plus e-books and other databases available under this facility. e-journals of N-List categorized broadly in 10 websites viz. American Physical Society, Oxford Publications, Indian Journals, Economic and Political Weekly, JESTOR etc., e-books and databases.

2) DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) : Initially the DOAJ was launched in 2003 at Lund University, Sweden, with 300 open access journals. Today, this database has reached to 12000 open access e-journals covering subject like science, technology, medicine, social science and humanities.

Membership organization and membership of DOAJ has made available for three classes i.e. 1) Publisher, 2) Ordinary Member and 3) Sponsors. A DOAJ Qualitative, Peer Reviewed referred e-journals are provided through DOAJ. DOAJ reserves the right to reject applications for membership, in case of in any illegal practices such as manipulation of information and copyright. DOAJ has reserve his right for taking necessary actions.

DOAJ is a community-curated list of open access journals and aims to be the starting point for all information searches for quality, peer reviewed open access material. To assist libraries and indexers keep their lists up-to-date, we make public a list of journals that have been accepted into or removed from DOAJ but we will not discuss specific details of an application with anyone apart from the applicant. Neither will we discuss individual publishers or applications with members of the public unless we believe that, by doing so; we will be making a positive contribution to the open access community.

Mission of DOAJ : Primary mission of DOAJ's is to increase the visibility, accessibility, reputation, usage and impact of quality, peer-reviewed, open access scholarly research journals globally, regardless of discipline, geography or language. DOAJ works with editors, publishers and journal owners in order to help them understand the value of best practice publishing and standards and apply those to their own

operations. DOAJ is committed to being 100% independent and maintaining all of sites services and metadata as free to use or reuse for everyone.

Need of the study: One can justify need of study with various reasons. To few reasons here increased use of e-Resources due to android phones and social medias. Users are finding use of ICT has became user friendly. Information available on Wikipedia and Google provide fast access. Any single word as per our knowledge and idea is enough to search needed information. It is easy to download and save at our destination. This is very convenient. No need to go to library or to check working day or holiday or timings etc. Besides N-List, DOAJ, J-Gate, CeRA, CAB, INSPEC etc are considered as authentic databases as they are prepared by expert and are official. In academic and nonprofessional colleges where Humanities, arts, commerce and science subject are taught It is expected to make use of N-List and DOAJ and promote use of ICT and to make optimum use of e-Resources available under these databases. Hence considering the importance of these two databases in college libraries This topic has been selected in present study.

Objectives of the study:

1. To know the use of N-List and DOAJ e-resources
2. To know users opinion about interface of N-List and DOAJ
3. To find out difficulties faced while accessing these e-resources.
4. To suggest remedies for improvement of access.

Methodology: Survey method was used in this research. Survey of the literature was made in the first stage with the help of internet. Further questionnaire tool has been used for collection of data from users. Then after the data collected from this survey was analyzed considering different parameters and inferences were drawn.

Scope and limitations of the study: As e-resources are emerging at fast speed its use also increasing in every field in respect of wide coverage. On the contrary N-List and DOAJ consortia's also have wide scope for users of science discipline.

This study was restricted to the science discipline particularly of basic sciences and the period of the consortia's was studied from their inceptions i.e. DOAJ from 2003 onwards and NLIST from 2010 onwards to till date.

Total population of respondents : Total 110 respondents were selected in the study. Out of these 70 were PG students, 10 Research Scholars and 30 Faculty members. Accordingly questionnaire were distributed to 110 users. 94 users have responded these questionnaire. It means 85% users responded from the total respondents. This indicates good response.

Tabulation and interpretation of data :**Table No. 1: Respondents details about access of e-Resources of N-List & DOAJ**

	Access	Not access	Total
Faculty/Teacher	17	04	21
PG Student	61	07	68
Researcher	05	00	05
Total	83 (88%)	11 (12%)	94 (100%)

In order to know the users approach towards N-List and DOAJ e-resources. The enquiry was made and users response is shown in the Table No.1. Out 94 respondents 83 (88%) users have said that they access these resources. Whereas remaining 11 (12%) respondents said they do not access it.

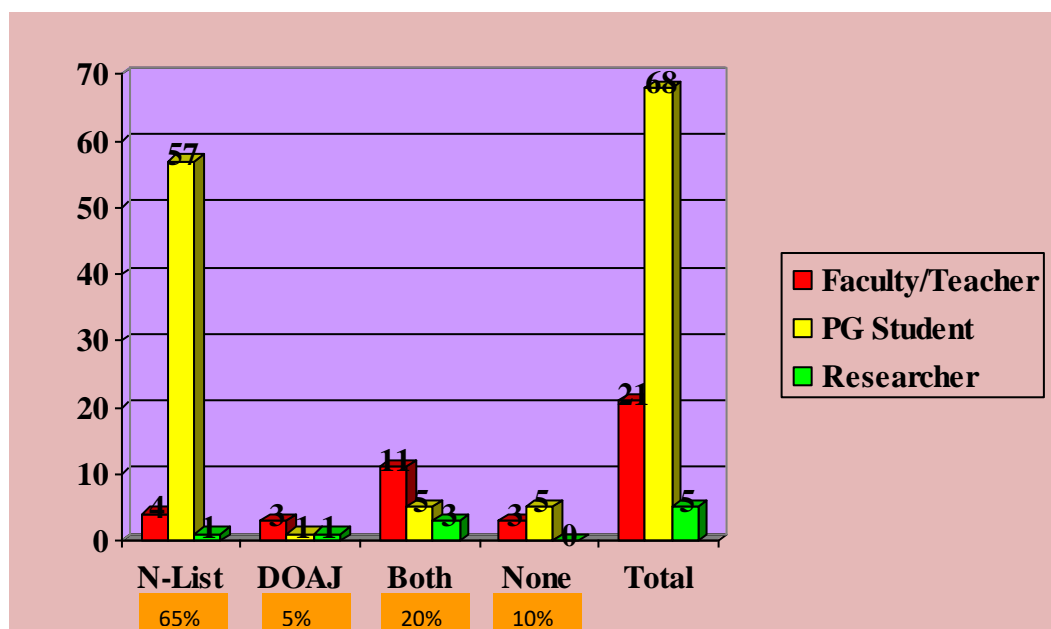
Among 83 respondent 21 faculty members have indicated their responses and accordingly further out of 21 faculty, 17 have stated that they access N-List and DOAJ. It means maximum faculty members prefer to access these e-resources and very few numbers i.e. only 4 do not access.

In case of PG students it was found that out of 68 students maximum number of students i.e. 61 access N-List and DOAJ e-resources. This maximum use may be because of compulsory writing of project for completion of PG Degree. .

Besides this in respect of research scholars it came to know that all research scholars access these e-resources.

Table No. 2: Use of N-List and DOAJ e-resources

	N-List	DOAJ	Both	None	Total
Faculty/Teacher	4	3	11	3	21
PG Student	57	1	5	5	68
Researcher	1	1	3	0	05
Total	62 (65%)	5 (5%)	19 (20%)	8 (10%)	94 (100%)



Graph : Use of N-List and DOAJ e-resources

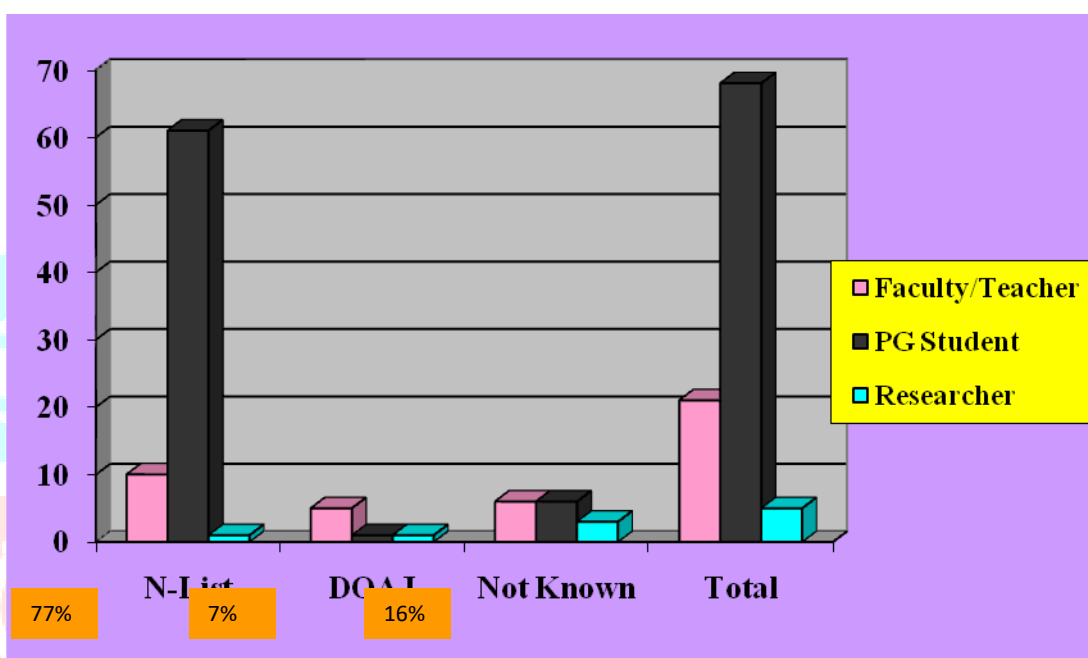
Table No. 2 presents data about usefulness of N-List and DOAJ e-resources. As per the data provided by the respondent express that out of 94 respondents 62 (65%) respondents have stated that they found N-List database is more useful than DOAJ. Only 5 (5%) respondents have said DOAJ is useful. Besides these 19 (20%) have said that both databases are useful and remaining 8 (10%) respondents said these databases are not that much helpful in academic field..

On the basis of these facts mentioned in table it can be concluded that as compare to these databases N-List is more useful may be because the database is purely developed and administered for education purposes. As the N-List database is commercial and user colleges are required to pay some kind of registration fees. This indicates, N-List provider agency i.e. INFLIBNET is authentic UGC centre. They are bind to take a care and maintain some quality and standard of e-resources provided in the database. This may be the another reason for more use of N-List database and users are also regularly use this database which leads to more familiarity and user friendly nature.

With regard to minimum use of DOAJ database it seems that there may be lack of awareness among users community and since it is open source the general attitude of users shows they do not prefer to use any kind of resource is valued and important unless and until it is not purchased.

Table No. 3: Users opinion about size of N-List & DOAJ e-Journals

	N-List	DOAJ	Not Known	Total
Faculty/Teacher	10	5	6	21
PG Student	61	1	6	68
Researcher	1	1	3	5
Total	72 (77%)	7 (7.44%)	15 (16%)	94 (100%)

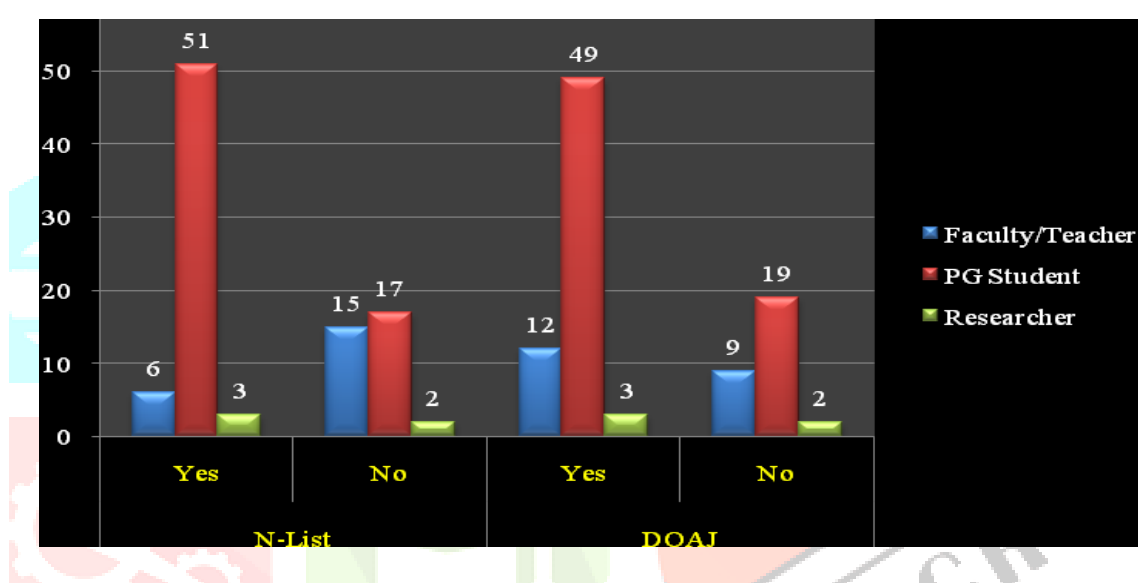
**Graph : Users opinion about size of N-List & DOAJ databases**

Second query was also made to the respondents to know which database is bigger of science stream in the sense of its coverage. On the basis of collected data and indicated in the table no 3 it came to know that 72 (77%) respondents stated that N-List database is more bigger as compare to DOAJ database and only 7 (7.44%) respondents have said DOAJ is bigger database and 15 (16%) respondents from the remaining have indicated that they did not know which database is bigger in respects of their coverage.

Based on the above discussion it can be concluded that since there are registered users to N-List database from faculty, researchers and students hence they must have stated, N-List is more bigger database as compare to DOAJ. But in reality in scientific manner this could not be proved because there is no facility of enrolment of regular users in DOAJ as it is open source. There may be some sort of technique of finding list of DOAJ users but it was noticed in first hand investigation and this aspect was not considered in the present research.

Table No. 4: Difficulties face by users while accessing N-List & DOAJ database

	N-List		DOAJ	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Faculty/Teacher	6	15	12	9
PG Student	51	17	49	19
Researcher	3	2	3	2
Total	60 (64%)	34 (36%)	64 (68%)	30 (32%)

**Graph : Difficulties face by users while accessing N-List & DOAJ database**

To overcome the difficulties arises while accessing the databases, the query was asked to the users whether they face any difficulty while accessing e-journals. The fact provided by the users has been shown in Table no. 4. Overall picture about access problem shows that as compare to DOAJ users have found N-List is more convenient and easy.

In education sector N-List database received more recognition as it is promoted by higher body of education i.e. UGC. Whereas in case of DOAJ it seems that though it was initiated in 2003 before N-List but not took responsibility by any authority or governing agency for giving recognition and publicity. The DOAJ resources became common in academic community very late i.e. after 2013. Besides as it is open source no one gave due attention to this resources. Thus no considerable population in academic sector prefer use of DOAJ even today.

Table No. 5: Users face problems in reading, downloading and accessing

	N-List			DOAJ		
	Faculty/ Teacher	PG Student	Researcher	Faculty/ Teacher	PG Student	Researcher
Reading	4	13	0	3	7	0
Downloading	2	28	3	9	31	3
Accessing	0	10	0	0	11	0
Total	6	51	3	12	49	3

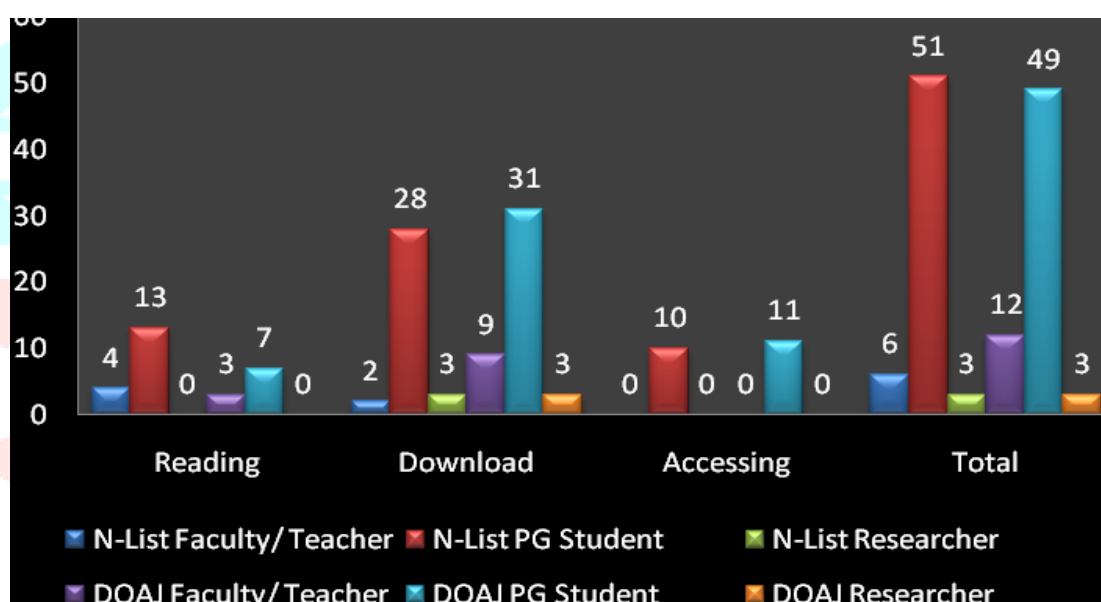
**Graph : Users face problems in reading, downloading and accessing**

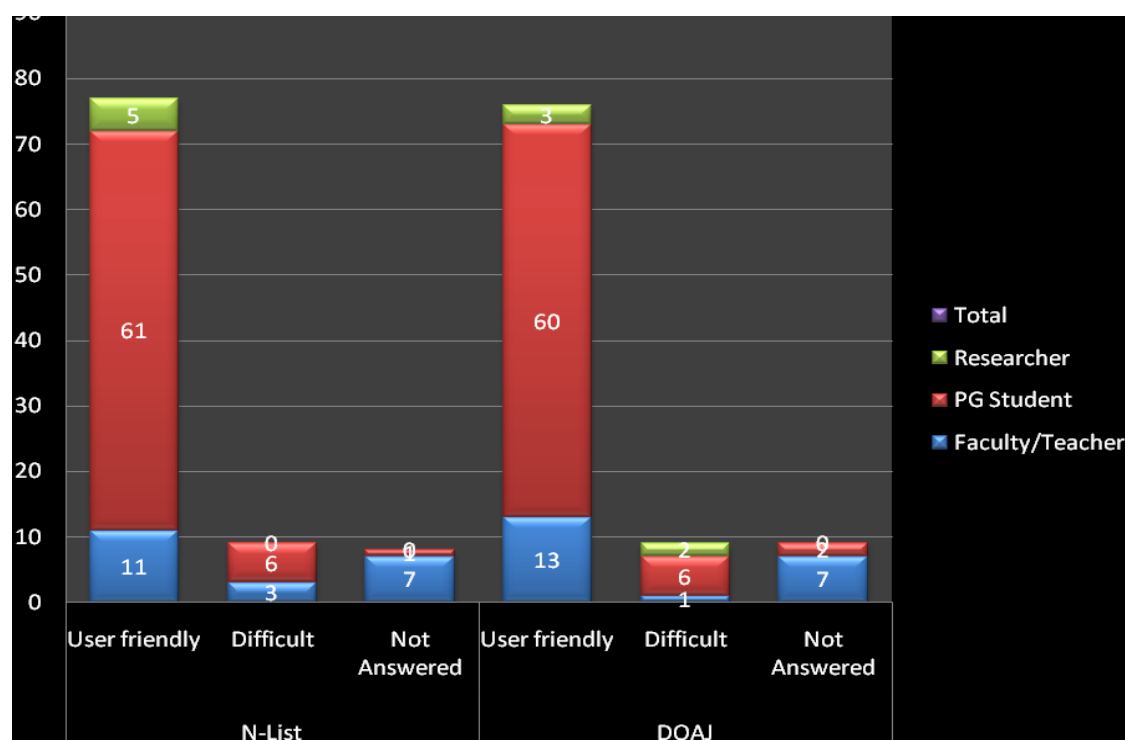
Table no. 5. indicates difficulties faces by the users while Reading , download , Accessing. The figures shown in table in N-List database it was found that most of the users particularly faculty and students they face problem in reading and download. In some cases students have faced the problem of access. In case of research scholars out of total 5 users 3 of them have mentioned that they faces problem in download in both databases. Whereas about DOAJ database faculty and students both have mentioned that they face a problem in reading and download.

As compare to N-List database more number of users particularly students faces problem of download in DOAJ database. This status indicates that there may not be proper and effective awareness programmes conducted for DOAJ database. There is a scope to enhance use of DOAJ. Hence investigator would like to suggest that as use of e-resources is becoming regular part of our duty of library professionals

and teachers. There should be a provision of organize programmes of awareness in formal way and that should be periodically.

Table No. 6 : Users opinion about interface of N-List and DOAJ

	N-List			DOAJ		
	User friendly	Difficult	Not Answered	User friendly	Difficult	Not Answered
Faculty/Teacher	11	3	7	13	1	7
PG Student	61	6	1	60	6	2
Researcher	5	0	0	3	2	0
Total	77 (82%)	9 (10%)	8 (8%)	76 (80%)	9 (10%)	9 (10%)



Graph : Users opinion about interface of N-List and DOAJ

Since users are the main factor in the study hence a question was asked to give their opinion about the interface of N-List and DOAJ databases. Basic idea behind this question was to understand and to know whether user find these databases convenient, time saving and user friendly while accessing. Accordingly the data provided by the users is presented in the table 6. The facts shows that 77 (82%) users and in which almost all students and cent percent research scholars have stated that interface of N-List is user-friendly and in case of DOAJ database also users said the database is user friendly.

Findings & Conclusion : This study deals with study of e-journals in N-List Consortia and in Directory of Open Access Journals(DOAJ). Primary aim of the study was to assess the status related to availability, access and users approach, usefulness, relevance, problems while accessing information etc. in these consortia's.

1. About usefulness of N-List and DOAJ e-resources it was found that N-List is more useful. It may be because the database is developed and administered for education purposes. Beside this user colleges are required to pay some kind of registration fees and N-List provider agency i.e. INFLIBNET is authentic UGC centre is bind to take a care and maintain quality and standard of e-resources provided in the database..

In respect of minimum use of DOAJ database it seems that there may be lack of awareness among users community and since it is open source hence no due importance and preference is given.

2. Respondents were asked give remark out of these two which database is bigger of science stream in the sense of its coverage among. On the basis of data of respondent it can be concluded that since there are registered users to N-List database viz. faculty, researchers and students hence they might have stated that N-List is more bigger database as compare to DOAJ database. But in reality in scientific manner this could not be proved. There is no facility of enrolment of regular users in DOAJ as it is open source.

3. It was also noticed that in education sector N-List database received more recognition as it is promoted by higher body of education i.e. UGC. Whereas in case of DOAJ it seems though it was initiated in 2003 before N-List but not took responsibility by any authority or governing agency for giving recognition and publicity hence this database has not become popular. .

4. To know difficulties in reading , download and accessing faced the respondents were asked the query. As per their response it came to know that students users faces problem of download in DOAJ database. This status indicates that there may not be proper and effective awareness programmes conducted for DOAJ database. Or students may not take initiative in accessing DOAJ resources. Or students are not interested for use of DOAJ . Or they do not take care of orientation programme conducted by the librarian. It seem they depend on readymade notes given by their teachers.

5. Respondents were also asked to give their opinion regarding interface of N-List and DOAJ. i.e. homepage. Basic idea behind this question was to understand and to know whether user find these databases convenient, time saving and user friendly. The facts shows that 77 (82%) users and in which almost all students and cent percent research scholars have stated that interface of N-List is user-friendly than the DOAJ.

Suggestions:

After completing study of the project in detail in unbiased manner based on the facts investigator has suggested few recommendations mentioned as under. .

1. There is a need to look in to the matter personally by the Heads, Librarian and professionals and make maximum use of these resources.
2. Organize regular workshops to make effective awareness about DOAJ among the research scholars and students.
3. Arrange special lectures of experts regarding importance and contribution of Journals provided in N-List and DOAJ.
4. Faculty members should take active initiative to maximize the access of such e-Resources.

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