

# DISCOVERING E-SHODHSINDHU AND DELNET UNDER ONE NATION, ONE SUBSCRIPTION

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**Abstract** *e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET, both Library consortia, are considered as a significant factor in resource sharing and academic collaboration throughout India. The research determines their operational models, emphasizing e-ShodhSindhu's focus on digital resources for higher education institutions and DELNET's expensive method to inter-library collaboration amongst academic, public, and specialized libraries. The research assesses their contributions to library services and research productivity through observing their membership structures, technological platforms, and impression on scholarly communication. The 'One Nation, One Subscription' initiative's potential to unify and expand their operations is explored, emphasizing its role in creating a fair and efficient resource-sharing framework in India.*

**Keywords:** *Library Consortia, e-ShodhSindhu, DELNET, One Nation One Subscription, Academic Libraries - India*

## INTRODUCTION

In the current era, the role of Library consortia is very crucial in various perspectives like resource sharing, collaboration, and enabling access to academic resources. Considering India, the quick extension of digital content has made consortia such as e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET that are important in supporting continuous access to scholarly resources. e-ShodhSindhu, managed by the INFLIBNET Centre, primarily serves higher education institutions, whereas DELNET, established in 1988, operates on a broader scale, encompassing academic, public, and special libraries. This investigation is an attempt to relate the operating models of these two consortia and explores their roles in the developing library ecosystem under the "One Nation, One Subscription" initiative. The core purpose of this framework is to modernize access to academic resources, safeguarding reasonable resource-sharing throughout various kinds of libraries in India.

Primary aims of the investigation are as follows:

- To evaluate the membership structures of e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET.
- To evaluate the resource-sharing models of e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET.
- To evaluate the utilization of technological platforms by e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET.

- To evaluate the influence of e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET on library services and scholarly communication in India.

The investigation evaluates e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET to discover their roles in resource sharing and access surrounded in India's library ecosystem that purposes to offer understandings into their impression, predominantly under the "One Nation, One Subscription" initiative, by examining their structures, models, and technological platforms.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Library consortia are fundamental for resource sharing and increasing access to academic resources. Sharma (2021) and Suresh (2022) highlight the role of consortia in decreasing purchasing costs and encouraging collaboration. e-ShodhSindhu mainly assists higher education institutions, providing digital resources, while DELNET, with a wider membership, suggests an inter-library loan system and networking tools (Sharma, 2021; Suresh, 2022). Gupta and Rani (2020) focus the function of digital consortia and technological innovations in assisting resource access through various libraries. Singh (2021) states the substantial effect of e-ShodhSindhu on academic transmission, though DELNET reinforces the research capability of public and specialized libraries. Even though, a comparative study of the two consortia's effect on India's academic panorama

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stays narrow. The “One Nation, One Subscription” initiative, intending to join resource-sharing models, could restructure these consortia’s operational frameworks (Kumar, 2023). Literature also highlights the challenges of sustaining large-scale consortia and the consequences of technological adaptation (Suresh, 2022).

## METHODOLOGY

This investigation utilizes a qualitative research methodology, applying content analysis to evaluate the official websites of e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET and scholarly resources, were also investigated to assess respectively the consortium’s resource-sharing models, technological frameworks, and membership structures. The study focuses on the following key parameters:

- *Membership and Service Models:* Exploring suitability measures, membership categories, and the benefits provided.
- *Resource Sharing Mechanisms:* Assessing the availability of various kinds of resources and the access decorum.
- *Technological Infrastructure:* Evaluating the digital platforms used via each consortium for resource access and member support.
- *Impact on Libraries and Research:* Measuring the consortia’s impact on academic efficiency, research productivity, and library services.

## ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### e-ShodhSindhu

e-ShodhSindhu was invented to give access to electronic resources, containing journals, databases, and e-books. Its membership incorporates universities, colleges, and research institutions across India.

- *Membership Structure:* e-ShodhSindhu has around 4115 institutional members. As far as growth is concerned that is quite fair enough annually. Membership is constrained to academic institutions, including an emphasis on those expecting massive access to digital resources.
- *Resources and Access:* e-ShodhSindhu offers access to over 809524 academic journals, bibliographic databases, and digital books, numerous with full-text access. It has enabled democratized access to scholarly resources, exceptionally in underserved institutes.

- *Technological Infrastructure:* The consortium operates a unified platform with user-friendly access. For providing ease of access to the members, Integration with institutional repositories and assistance for single sign-on authentication are considered as notable contributions.
- *Impact on Academic Libraries:* e-ShodhSindhu has extensively provided research capabilities of universities, exceptionally those with constrained budgets for resource procurement.

### DELNET

DELNET nurtures resource sharing amongst libraries of all types like academic, public, and specialized. It has given a platform for libraries to collaborate and share resources and information.

- *Membership Structure:* DELNET has around 9052 member libraries throughout India, covering academic, public, and special libraries. This distinct membership permits us to facilitate an extensive range of users, from researchers to the public.
- *Resources and Access:* DELNET offers an extensive collection of bibliographic records, e-books, journals, and inter-library loan services. Its institutional repositories facilitate extensive access to a diversity of scholarly resources.
- *Technological Infrastructure:* DELNET utilizes a dynamic online catalog, digital libraries, and networking tools, safeguarding easy access and sharing of resources whatever of geographical locations.
- *Impact on Libraries and Research:* DELNET has notably impacted the research community via encouraging inter-library collaboration. In addition, it is making resources accessible for the under-resourced libraries.

## COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

### Comparison of Resource Sharing Models

e-ShodhSindhu ‘s model highlights supporting electronic resources principally for academic institutions, concentrating on scholarly contresource DELNET supports a broader range of libraries, containing public and specialized institutions, with a comprehensive method for the resource sharing. Its inter-library loan system enables both physical and digital resource swaps throughout institutions. That makes it a versatile model.

## Technological Frameworks

Although equally consortia utilize digital platforms to enhance resource access, e-ShodhSindhu’s infrastructure is highly specialized for academic institutions, integrating

with institutional repositories. DELNET, however, supports a more diverse technological infrastructure that includes online catalogs and collaborative tools for various types of libraries.

**Table 1: Technological Frameworks**

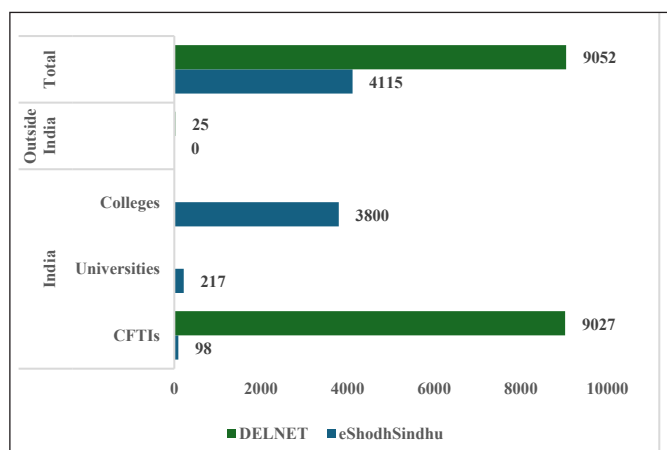
| Measures             | e-ShodhSindhu   | DELNET   |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Platform Type        | Centralized access portal.  | Distributed network of libraries.  |
| Example              | e-ShodhSindhu’s web portal gives access to several e-journals and databases.          | DELNET associates libraries within India, allowing shared access to resources. |
| Access Mechanism     | Single sign-on (SSO) for institutions.  | Library-based authentication and resource sharing.                             |
| Example              | Users from participating universities log in using their institutional credentials.   | DELNET members authenticate through library membership.                        |
| Resource Access      | E-journals, e-books, and databases.   | Physical and digital resources, inter-library loans.                           |
| Example              | Access to resources like JSTOR, SpringerLink, and Cambridge Journals.                 | Access to books and journals across member libraries.                          |
| Search & Discovery   | Integrated search for multiple resources.   | Union catalog for shared resources.  |
| Example              | The search tool on the e-ShodhSindhu portal to find e-books, journals, and databases. | DELNET’s union catalog lets users search resources from several libraries.     |
| International Reach  | No international access.  | 25 institutions outside India.   |
| Example              | e-ShodhSindhu is restricted to Indian institutions.                                   | DELNET connects libraries in 25 countries outside India.                       |
| Data Security        | IP-based authentication, encrypted connections.                                       | Secure data transmission, library membership-based.                            |
| Example              | Access is constrained to IPs of contributing institutions.                            | Protected access founded on library membership authentication.                 |
| Cloud-based Services | Cloud infrastructure for scalable access  | Primarily inter-library cooperation, some cloud services.                      |
| Example              | Hosted on cloud for easy access to resources by member institutions.                  | DELNET’s resource-sharing is supported by cloud technology.                    |
| Technical Support    | Centralized support for members.  | Library-based technical support.   |
| Example              | e-ShodhSindhu offers devoted help desk for member institutions.                       | DELNET offers support via participating libraries.                             |

Table 1 describes that e-ShodhSindhu is a centralized platform presenting digital resources for instance e-journals, e-books, and databases using single sign-on access for institutional users, constrained to Indian institutions. It safeguards data security through IP-based authentication and extends centralized technical support. On the contrary, DELNET is an allocated network connecting libraries throughout India and in 25 nations, permitting access to both physical and digital resources, containing inter-library loans. DELNET utilizes library-based authentication, maintains cloud-based services for resource sharing, and offers decentralized technical support through contributing libraries. Although e-ShodhSindhu aims for digital access, DELNET extends a wider, shared approach to resource sharing.

contains public and specialized libraries. The various membership permits DELNET to forward cross-institutional collaboration on a national level, while e-ShodhSindhu offers precisely to the requirements of academic research.

## Membership and Geographic Exposure

e-ShodhSindhu’s membership is constrained to academic institutions, however DELNET’s extensive membership



**Fig. 1: Membership and Geographic Exposure**

Fig. 1 analyses between e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET focus substantial variations in their exposure and range. DELNET contains a total of 9,052 institutions, greatly exceptional e-ShodhSindhu’s 4,115. Surrounded by India, DELNET reaches 9,027 institutions, counting an extensive scale of academic and research organizations, whereas e-ShodhSindhu mainly aims at 217 universities and 3,800 colleges. Additionally, DELNET offers its network globally, with 25 institutions foreign, although e-ShodhSindhu has no such universal representation. Generally, the findings specify that DELNET has a broader institutional scale, both in India and internationally, evaluated to e-ShodhSindhu , which has a additional strengthened converge on national educational institutions.

### Impact on Research and Library Services

e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET consortium had a remarkable impact on academic libraries of India. e-ShodhSindhu has supported the research expertise of universities by supporting digital content access, in contrast DELNET has increased resource sharing through different library types, allowing significant collaboration and resource access.

**Table 2: Impact on Research and Library Services**

| Measures            | e-ShodhSindhu                                | DELNET  |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Effect on Research  | Supports access to 809524 + resources        | Enables access to physical and digital resources via inter-library loans. |
| Access to Resources | Principally digital, boosting remote access. | Suggests both digital and physical resources by shared library networks.  |
| Collaboration       | Constrained to institutional access.         | Stimulates inter-library and global partnership.                          |
| Resource Discovery  | Integrated search for digital resources.     | Union catalog for searching across libraries.                             |
| Support             | Centralized technical support.               | Decentralized support via member libraries.                               |
| International Reach | Constrained to Indian institutions.          | Connects libraries internationally in 25 nations.                         |
| Library Services    | Focal point on digital resource management.  | Improves resource sharing and inter-library loans.                        |
| Cost Efficiency     | Cost-effective digital resource access.      | Decreases costs via resource sharing.                                     |

Table 2 discloses significant contrasts involving e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET in terms of their effect on

study and library services. e-ShodhSindhu offers access to over 809,524 digital resources, principally improving remote access, and cooperation centralized technical assistance. Nevertheless, its partnership is constrained to institutional access, and its global scope is constrained to India. Conversely, DELNET assists both digital and physical resource sharing via inter-library loans, puts on universal partnership through libraries in 25 nations and directs using decentralized support. DELNET is also concentrating on enhancing resource sharing and inter-library loans although suggesting cost efficiency via resource sharing. But e-ShodhSindhu shines in digital resource management, DELNET is responsible for an additional comprehensive approach through its universal scope and collaborative model.

### IMPACT OF “ONE NATION, ONE SUBSCRIPTION” ON E-SHODHSINDHU AND DELNET

The “One Nation One Subscription” (ONOS) initiative was accepted by the Union Cabinet in November 2024. The primary objective is to offer countrywide access to approximately 13,000 e-journals from 30 key publishers that facilitate 1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers throughout 6,300 government institutions. It is directed by INFLIBNET via a unified portal, obtained to ensure equal access to scholarly resources, encouraging research, innovation, and equity, specifically in tier-2 and tier-3 cities with a budget of Rs. 6,000 crores for 2025-2027. Although it agrees substantial academic and universal influence, involves concerning economic feasibility and capable performance have been extended (LSE Impact Blog, 2024).

Since the “One Nation, One Subscription” (ONOS) initiative is yet to be implemented, it is presently concerned as a conceptual framework. The “One Nation, One Subscription” (ONOS) initiative is a transformative movement concerning centralizing access to scholarly resources in India. ONOS objectives are to decrease expenditures, reduce terminations, and provide reasonable access to academic content throughout institutions over negotiating subscriptions at the national level.

Concerning e-ShodhSindhu, ONOS could notably boost its capability to extend an extensive span of resources that contain journals, e-books, and databases to its member institutions. ONOS would also decrease economic expenses on universities and colleges by combining purchasing attempts. Nevertheless, the initiative might limit the autonomy of e-ShodhSindhu in customizing subscriptions and adapting resources for certain institutional needs.

Whereas in the case of DELNET, its focal point on inter-library collaboration, could look at its resource pool

development, encouraging its various membership that contains public and special libraries. The combination of ONOS resources might also enhance the need for the inter-library loan services of DELNET. The unified nature of ONOS may overlap couple of existing functions of DELNET, involving it to revamp its role and highlight capacities, for instance physical resource sharing and specialized services.

Broadly speaking, the “One Nation, One Subscription” (ONOS) initiative has the feasibility to boost the competencies of both e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET by encouraging a supplementary consistent and well-organized resource-sharing framework moving forward to academic and research happenings in India.

## CONCLUSION

This investigation emphasizes the corresponding responsibilities performed by e-ShodhSindhu and DELNET in the libraries of India. e-ShodhSindhu’s concentration on digital resources for academic institutions has significantly boosted access to scholarly content. In contrast, DELNET’s extensive network assists collaboration amongst a variety of libraries. The ‘One Nation, One Subscription’ framework could potentially unify these models, enhancing resource-sharing efficiency across the nation. Both consortia have meaningfully contributed to the progression of academic research and library services in India, and their development in response to technological developments and comprehensive resource-sharing models is crucial for the future of academic libraries in India.

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