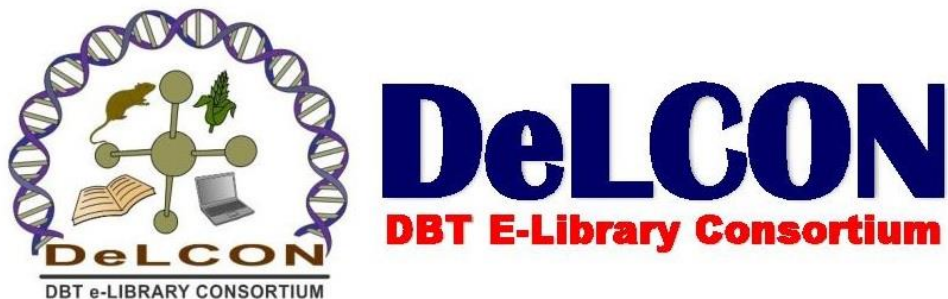


An e-library Consortium – DeLCON



In 2009, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India, launched an Electronic Library Consortium (DeLCON) to enhance information resources in its 10 institutions with large number prominent handpicked online journals. The DeLCON, as a topical endeavour offers access to scholarly electronic resources including full text and bibliographic databases in all the life science disciplines. Currently, there are 33 members of DeLCON Consortium which include both DBT institutions and other institutes and universities in North Eastern States of India.

At present, DeLCON provides current access to archives of 1181 crore peer reviewed biology and biotechnology journals. It also provides access to bibliographic database know as SCOPUS for different disciplines from 22 overseas publishers and aggregators. The free access to research material primarily aims to provide high quality e-resources to enhance research, teaching and learning in our country.

Initially, DeLCON was started with ten DBT institutes only. Later on in 2010, emphasis was given to include both state and central government institutions and universities of North Eastern states of India in order to promote life science and biotechnological research NER. The e-Library Consortia for North Eastern Region (NER-DeLCON) provided the primary users access to more than 900 high impact e-journals. The facility is being offered to 18 selected NER institutions free of cost. The consortium has helped faculties, scientists, research scholars, students and project assistants to save time and the e-initiative has evolved with an excellent usage pattern.

The initiatives like DeLCON has promoted online research output that is free from all restrictions including access tools and copyright and license restrictions in most of the cases. It has helped students, academicians and research scholars to overcome price and permission barriers as well that may at times hinder their scientific growth and access of scientific literature.

The general benefits of DBT's DeLCON consortium initiative includes

- I. The consortia-based subscription to e-resources is a feasible solution to access electronic resources at affordable subscription rates.
- II. Consortium also provides a single window service to large number of both DBT and non-DBT supported institutions diverse research and academic mandates.
- III. DeLCON attracts high discount rates of subscription with most favorable terms of agreement for wide range of e-resources.
- IV. It provided a platform and easy interaction with e-publishers.
- V. DeLCON has remarkably attracted huge number of participating institutions.
- VI. The research productivity of DBT institutions has improved with easy and affordable access to scientific journals and databases.
- VII. At DeLCON consortium, all DBT institutions are provides chance to join and improve in terms access to scientific literature access.
- VIII. DeLCON provides superior terms of agreement for use, archival access and preservation of subscribed electronic resources to different users.
- IX. Consortium provides its members with facilities to build up digital libraries, library services such as CAS and SDI cost sharing for technical and training support.
- X. DeLCON services also reduce the space requirements of the library and provide round the clock access during all 07 days of the week.

The user base of DeLCON is increasing every day and it has been seen that its use has direct impact on growth and development scientific literature.

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