# DELNET: A WIDESPREAD EMERGING LIBRARY NETWORK IN INDIA

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*Abstract:*

*DELNET was set up in India in 1988. In January 2024 DELNET had 8393 Institutions members of this Network in India and Overseas. This network is spread in every state of India. Due to the 24\*7 availability of resources, it is useful for the common colleges. Their video lecture facility, Manuscripts, Online Newspaper facility, American Patents, E-books, E-journals facility, different database facility, and a very unique "DELNET Guest House Facility" make it useful for learners. In 2023 they have conducted more than 30 workshops, and webinars Training programs for Library Professionals make it a useful network.*

**Keywords:** DELNET, Digitization, Library Network

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**Introduction:**

Today higher education is surrounded by the digital environment. The increasing digital environment in the knowledge society is supporting e-learning with the help of digital or e-resources. The information needs of the knowledge society are very specific. They want pinpoint information at their fingertips 24\*7. To fulfill their specific needs libraries changed their traditional way of work. They have started using technology in day-to-day library activities like the acquisition storage preserve and retrieval the information.

Technology makes traditional libraries free from limited buying capacity. it solves Storage problems, allowing them to distance learning, providing online access, no physical attendance needed, 24\*7 availability of resources, multiple access, and easy copy-saving facilities are attracting facilities for readers.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To gain knowledge on DELNET (Developing Library Network)
- To Study facilities, services, and resources available in DELNET.
- To study the current status of DELNET.
- To find out the advantages and disadvantages of DELNET.
- To find out the reasons why to use DELNET

**Methodology:**

To fulfill the objectives, the following methodology is adopted.
- Information for this study is collected through the Internet by making use of their websites.
- Reference sources are also being tapped for collecting information on those Services that are readily available in the documentary form.
- Exhaustive survey on documentary sources of information like Books, journals, and
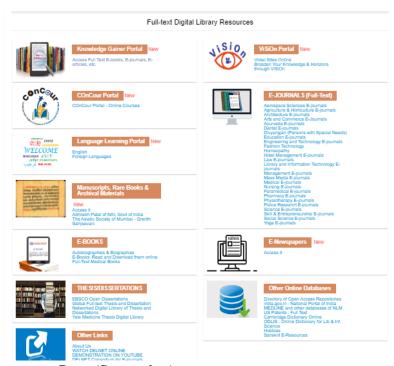
Research papers.

**Delnet:**

Developing Library Network was previously known as Delhi Library Network which was started in 1988 and then registered as a society in 1992. Initially, it was supported by NISSAT. Then it was supported by the National Informatics Centre, Dept. of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Govt. of India, and the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. DELNET is awarded with Prestigious IIPA award for excellence in public service on October 2020.

- **Aims and Objectives of the DELNET:**

DELNET aims to collect, store, and disseminate information besides offering networked library services to users. DELNET started compiling various Union Catalogues of the resources available in member libraries.



Full Text Library Resources Page (Screenshot)

1. **RESOURCES IN DELNET:** Union Catalogues and Databases it includes Union Catalogues of Books, Current Periodicals, Articles, CD-ROM Database Union List of Video Recordings and Sound Recordings, Theses and Dissertations, Profile of Member Libraries.

    a. **Knowledge Gainer Portal:** It allows member libraries to access nearly 1.6 Crore full-text E-books, E-journals, and E-articles, on different subjects.

    b. **ViSiOn Portal (Video Lectures):** In this portal, DELNET provides Video lectures delivered by subject experts can be searched by Title, Subject, or Speaker's name. Around 23458 video lectures are available through the portal

c. **DELPLUS:** DELNET offers DELPLUS Library Automation Software Free of Cost to Member Libraries. It is based on MARK-21, AACR-II LCSH standards.

2. **SERVICS:** DELNET also provides Inter Library Loan, Document Delivery Service, and Consortium for E-resources. Retro-Conversion, Reference Service. They also conduct Training Programmes, Workshops, Lectures, and Webinars for the knowledge society. They also organize National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) Conferences every year. They provide help by their coordination units which are in Pune, Bangalore, and Hyderabad. They also provide Technical Support to libraries, they have their own Guest House Facilities for the member Institutes which are available at very low rates to the members.

3. **RESEARCH:** DELNET provides training for Koha and DSpace Library Software.

4. **MEMBERSHIP:** Any Institution/Library interested in using DELNET resources for research and reference can be a member by paying a subscription fee of Rs. 19470/-.

5. **CURRENT STATUS OF DELNET:** DELNET was started in 1988 and is now in 2024 following table shows a clear image of its growth.

**State Wise List of Members in India (8368)**

| Name Of the State | No. of Institutions in DELNET |
|---|---|
| Maharashtra | 1206 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1081 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 963 |
| Telangana | 677 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 545 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 540 |
| Haryana | 396 |
| Rajasthan | 373 |
| Karnataka | 356 |
| Kerla | 353 |
| Delhi | 333 |
| Gujarat | 320 |
| Punjab | 279 |
| Orissa | 171 |
| West Bengal | 147 |
| Chhattisgarh | 119 |
| Uttarakhand | 102 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 70 |
| Bihar | 59 |
| Assam | 55 |
| Jharkhand | 53 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 33 |
| Puducherry | 31 |
| Goa | 30 |
| Chandigarh | 21 |
| Sikkim | 10 |
| Manipur | 9 |
| Meghalaya | 9 |
| Tripura | 9 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Arunachal Pradesh | 7 |
| Mizoram | 3 |
| Nagaland | 3 |
| Andaman & Nikobar | 2 |
| Daman & Diu | 2 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 1 |
| | **8368** |

**List of Members out of India**

| Name Of the Nations | No. of Institutions |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 8 |
| Nepal | 5 |
| Oman | 4 |
| United Arab Emirates | 3 |
| USA | 2 |
| Bhutan | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | 1 |
| Philippines | 1 |
| | **25** |

From the above tables we can say that as of January 03, 2024, DELNET has a total of 8393 members. Of which 8368 are from India and 25 in overseas countries. From the above table we can see Maharashtra State is in the Top position in membership and Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are in Second and Third positions.

According to Debal Chandrakar's article published on December 31, 2013, DELNET had 4705 Libraries as its members of which 4681 were Indian Libraries and 24 Libraries from Overseas. This means DELNET is a highly growing Network in India. DELNET is spreading in India very fast but there is no growth in overseas memberships.

## 6. Advantages:
- Remote Access to resources with a common ID and Password to every user of the Institution makes it easy to use.
- Features like Online Dictionaries and Newspapers in all Indian Languages make it usable to every reader. It also saves time too.
- It provides multiple accesses through a single ID and Password. It is available 24*7 to all users.
- We can find rare ancient manuscripts/ paintings in one place.
- Any institution can be a member of this network they have a common Fee Structure for all users.

## 7. Disadvantages:
- Absence of Printed copies of books and journals.
- Lack of archiving Problem.
- Internet Access Necessary.

- Require training for the users for search purposes.
- Various reading material is not directly available on site but it shows a union catalog list available through ILL and it takes time.
- Subscription Fee seems higher for small grant/no-grant conventional Arts, Commerce College.

**Conclusion:**

Through this study researcher found that DELNET is a very useful Library Network for Institutions/Colleges. This network is spreading throughout India day by day. In 2023 they organized more than 30 Training, Workshops, Webinars, and Lectures for library persons to update their knowledge. Users from overseas, show that this is a very useful Library Network.

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