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Welcome to e-ShodhSindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources

Provides access to e-resources to Universities, Colleges and Centrally Funded Technical Institutions in INDIA.

An Initiative by MHRD, Govt of India

Being Executed by INFLIBNET Centre
E-Resources access issue

Access is restricted within the confine of a given university campus.

Although, usage of e-resources is satisfactory, access to e-resources are restricted to university campuses due to lack of proper authentication mechanism.

Ideally authorized user should be to access e-resources from his / her campus, home or even while travelling.

Solution requires setting-up of proper user authentication and access control mechanism ensuring trust relationship between publisher, identity providing agency and the user institution.
INFLIBNET Access Management Federation (INFED), the first and only Federation in India, that has adopted Shibboleth (a SAML based) open source software, for authenticating authorized users from colleges and universities and provide them seamless access to e-resources from anywhere, anytime. The INFLIBNET Centre, as one of its core mandates, provides access to scholarly e-resource to universities and colleges in India under e-ShodhSindhu initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

The INFED has been set-up as a centralized entity to coordinate with member institutions in the process of implementation of user authentication and access control mechanism distributed across participating institutions using standardized rules and metadata for exchange of attributes.
Concrete Examples from Practice

- INFLIBNET Centre is always keen to implement any new technology and makes it available to all universities and member institutions in India. INFED is one of such examples of Identity federated Access Management.

- The main benefit with the introduction of Shibboleth and the INFLIBNET Access Management Federation (INFED) for institutions is a move towards a single password system (the local institutional login working on Shibboleth systems).

- INFED is giving almost all type of assistance to Universities/Institutions.

- At present, INFED is extending all help to the institutions to setting up their IdP, installation and configuration of LDAP and other tools.
Issues with current solution

- Many institutions are spending huge money to avail off-campus facility from private firms.
- Even we are not able to cover all Indian based service providers through INFED, since majority of the SP do not have shibboleth / SAML based services and they do not want to come forward to setup
- We are already in the process to develop the system to cover those publishers.
INFED in long run:

- INFED does not propose to charge any fee from the core member universities / CFTIs of the e-ShodhSindhu Consortium. In most of the countries (almost all), FAM is funded by respective Governments as separate establishment.

- INFED started with holistic objective “e-resources, anytime, anywhere” without any funding.

- A small amount as annual fees may be charged, or cross-funded by consortium.

- Globally federation operators provides add-on services like hosting, Enterprise Support and etc. INFED also will follow the same.
We may track the user access location.
At least 5000 potential IdPs to go
The Conclusion is..

- Indian higher education system encompasses more than 50000 institutions in India.
- INFED may play a major role in increasing research output for our country by providing access to scholarly e-resources to potential researchers at anytime, anywhere.
- Majority of the research institutions are not offering off-campus access to their subscribed resources because of multiple hindrances like lack of funding and as well as limited technical expertise.
- By joining INFED, Institutions may get most of the e-resources beyond the boundary of institutions anywhere, anytime.