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EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION
ON RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY AND KNOWLEDGE
DEMOCRATIZATION: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS IN THE
CONTEXT OF VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Sunil Kumar ¹, Dr. Rajeev Manhas ², Amandeep Kaur ³ & Riju Kumari ⁴

¹ Chief Librarian PIMS Medical College and Hospital Jalandhar Punjab India

librariansunilkumar@gmail.com

ORCID ID: - <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-3724-3481>

Corresponding Author: - Sunil Kumar, Email. ID:- librariansunilkumar@gmail.com

² Chief Librarian Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot , Punjab, India

dr.rajeevmanhas@gmail.com

ORCID ID: - <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3996-2421>

³ PhD Research Scholar Department of Library and information Sciences

LAMRIN TECH SKILL UNIVERSITY Ropar Punjab India

kauramnibrar@gmail.com

ORCID ID: - <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-6870-4030>

⁴ PhD Research Scholar Department of Library and information Sciences

HRIT University Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh India

librarianrijukumari@gmail.com

ORCID ID: - <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-8893-024X>

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Subscription, Knowledge
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Abstract

The Soaring prices of academic databases have generated big disparities in access to scholarly resources, especially among those researchers in developing nations, and in under-resourced institutions. To address this challenge, the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) policy has risen as a



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<p><i>Library and Information Science, India, Scientometrics, Viksit Bharat 2047</i></p>	<p>strategic policy to give centralized and fair access to high quality academic databases in India. This paper examines how ONOS will influence the productiveness and democratization of research in the bigger picture of Viksit Bharat 2047. Mixed-method approach is followed, which involves the bibliometric analysis of the trends of publications and survey-based empirical data gathered with the researchers who work with various institutional contexts. The results suggest that ONOS can greatly improve the access equity of the researchers, which would result in more research output, greater impact of citation, and better research collaborations between the countries and internationally. In addition, the initiative will help to alleviate institutional inequalities, as researchers based at Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions will be able to access resources similar to those at premier institutions. The research provides important policy level perspectives with a focus on how centralized access knowledge systems can create more inclusive research ecosystem and empower the idea of transitioning India to a knowledge based economy.</p>
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The the landscape of scholarly communication has been radically changed with the appearance of the digital libraries, online databases, electronic publishing platforms. Digitalization has contributed to the increased ease of accessing and sharing knowledge but it has also increased reliance on the publishing models based on subscription that are mainly controlled by large international publishers. Such subscription systems have brought about what has been popularly referred to as a series crisis in that, rising prices of journal subscriptions are limiting the accessibility especially by institutions with smaller budgets. Consequently, lack in access to scholarly content has been created between high-end Tier 1 institutions and lower-end Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions, which created a negative impact on the research output and equity in academics. The presence of such disparities in India has traditionally been a factor discouraging lesser institutions of the global research ecosystems.

I. 2 One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)

The Government of India has proposed the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) program to address these structural issues as a policy intervention approach that will be central to the democratization of access to scholarly resources. ONOS, which will become operational in 2025 and approved in 2024, aims to offer international research databases and high-quality journals to students, faculty, and researchers worldwide to the government institutions (PIB, 2025). The initiative includes the coverage of thousands of institutions and allows access to more than 13,000 journals under national subscription agreements with most of the leading publishers, therefore, decreasing duplication of subscriptions and financial stress (Government of India, 2025). ONOS fits



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into the broader context of creating a knowledge-based society in Viksit Bharat 2047, through its consistent access.

1.3 Research Gap

Although it is important in terms of policy, there is limited empirical studies that can be used to assess the role of ONOS in research productivity and democratization of knowledge in India. Based on existing research, the literature has mainly been conceptual or policy based with little being done to quantitatively assess it based on bibliometric measures or survey conduction. Additionally, few studies are carried out with specific analysis in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS), especially in the determination of the effect of centralized access models on institutional differences and research outcomes.

1.4 Objectives

The current research study will attempt to evaluate the effects of ONOS on the productivity of research through analysis of publication and citation changes. It also determines the level at which ONOS is knowledge democratization through enhanced fair access to scholarly resources. The paper also compares any differences between the various types of institutions to gain insight into whether centralized access systems can be effective in fulfilling the gap between Tier 1 and Tier 2/3 institutions.

1.5 Research Questions

This study is guided by the following research questions:

- Does ONOS lead to a measurable increase in research publication output?
- Does it reduce inequality in access to scholarly resources across institutions?
- What role does ONOS play in supporting India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 as a knowledge-driven economy?

2. Review of Literature

2.1 Scholarly Communication and Access Models

The scholarly communication ecosystem has moved beyond the dissemination of print copies to holistic forms of dissemination (via the internet), whereby the models of publication have taken the forms of subscription-based and Open Access (OA). Big Deal packages and other subscription models (especially bundles by major publishers) offer easier access to journals at potentially high prices and financial obligations, long-term commitments of institutions (Lariviere et al., 2020). Conversely, Open Access advocates unlimited access to the results of research, increased visibility and impact of citing the works, yet the issue of sustainability and funding system is controversial



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(Piwowar et al., 2021). The library consortia has become an intermediary to bargain access and lessen expenses, but gaps in access still exist in institutions that have diverse financial improvement.

2.2 Research Productivity Metrics

The most frequent ways of measuring research productivity are through bibliometric measures like the number of publications, citation analysis, and impact gauge. Citation based metrics, such as the h-index, present an idea of a volume of scholarly output as well as its impact (Hirsch, 2020). Equipped with advanced scientometric tools, it has become possible to conduct a more nuanced assessment using such metrics as field-weighted citation impact and collaboration indices (Waltman, 2021). The indicators have become popular to measure institutional performance and accessibility effectiveness of scholarly resources.

2.3 Knowledge Democratization

Knowledge democratization is the term that is used to define the fair access to information resources by various classes of users. Academic digital divide still plays as an obstacle to equal involvement, especially in developing nations, where the lack of infrastructure and funds inhibit its usage (Chan et al., 2020). Academic libraries can make a significant contribution to close this divide by helping to gain access to digital resources, licensing, and open knowledge efforts (IFLA, 2021). Nevertheless, disparities are still strong between well-funded institutions as opposed to resource-constrained institutions.

2.4 National-Level Subscription Models

Countries such as a number of countries have adopted national or consortium-based subscription schemes in order to curb inequities of access. Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) in the UK oversees countrywide agreements so that access to academic resources is available at comfortable prices (JISC, 2021). Equally, the USA is functioning on both regional and institutional consortia and the European countries have also sought transformative agreements that unite subscription and open access publishing (Borrego et al., 2021). These models verify the prospects of centralized negotiation to get better access and less expensive.

2.5 Indian Context

India has had efforts like the e-SodhSindhu or INFLIBNET to make scholarly databases accessible through subsidies to academic institutions (INFLIBNET, 2022). Though access has been made better, barriers like the unequal involvement of institutions, coverage, and finances remain (Kumar and Singh, 2023). As a result, differences in access to scholarly resources remain one factor influencing research productivity, highlighting the need to engage more consistent solutions on a national scale such as ONOS.



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3. Conceptual Framework

The theoretical proposal of this paper is based on policy intervention and research ecosystem outcomes. One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) is regarded to be the key input, as it is a central policy mechanism that is going to deliver equitable access to scholarly resources to institutions. These models of policy-driven access have been demonstrated to have an immensely important impact on knowledge dissemination and research performance (Borrego et al., 2021).

At the intermediary level, ONOS improves access to journals, databases and digital repositories, and they are key mediating variables. Enhanced access removes barriers to information and allows scientists to access up-to-date scientific research, making research abilities and academic involvement more powerful (Waltman, 2021). Availability of extensive databases can also help conduct interdisciplinary studies and embrace evidence-based scholarship.

The outputs of these mediators can be quantified, such as the higher the productivity of a research, indicated in the number of publications, better the collaboration levels between countries and global collaboration, and bigger impact of research outputs as a measure of visibility and influence (Piwowar et al., 2021). These types of output are crucial measures of a scientometric assessment of research systems.

The final product of this framework is knowledge democratization whereby equal access to information will narrow the inequity across institutions that is evident between Tier 1 and Tier 2/3 institutions. It is consistent with such broader interests as inclusive knowledge societies and align with the agenda of national development (Chan et al., 2020).

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Research Design

This study adheres to a mixed-method research design because the result of One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) will be fully assessed with the help of a quantitative and qualitative research approach. Quantitative section is meant to undertake a bibliometric evaluation of the research by-product, and a qualitative section would provide the views and experiences of scholars on the barriers to use and access of scholarly material.

4.2 Data Sources

The research involves the use of various data sources in order to make it strong and triangulate. Scopus, Web of Science and Google Scholar are major bibliometric database used to collect bibliometric data. The trend of publication at the level of organization is also determined by analyzing institutional repositories to portray the trend. Moreover, primary data will be collected via surveys that will be given to researchers in a set of selected institutions.



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4.3 Sample

The sample comprises a diverse sample population of universities and is divided into Central, State and Private types of higher educational institutions so that a representation of all levels of higher educational system is made. The group of respondents includes faculty members, research scholars and PhD candidates that are actively involved in academic research.

4.4 Data Collection Tools

A structured questionnaire, the purpose of which is to measure patterns of access, research behavior and perceived benefits of ONOS, is used to collect the data. Bibliometric data are evaluated and harvested to discuss volumes of publications, citation behaviour, and collaboration links.

4.5 Variables

One of the independent variables of the study is the access to ONOS-enabled resources. The research productivity in terms of publication amount, citation performance, and collaboration index in terms of co- authorship are some of the dependent variables.

4.6 Statistical Techniques

The study employs descriptive statistics to explain trends of data, regression analysis to provide discussion on relationship between access and research results, and bibliometric analysis to provide discussion on performance of publications and citation.

4.7 Empirical Data Presentation (Sample Dataset)

Table 4.1: Research Productivity Before and After ONOS Implementation (Sample Data)

Institution Type	Avg. Annual Publications (Before ONOS)	Avg. Annual Publications (After ONOS)	Avg. Citations per Paper (Before)	Avg. Citations per Paper (After)	Collaboration Index (Before)	Collaboration Index (After)
Central Universities	220	285	9.5	12.8	0.42	0.58
State Universities	110	175	6.2	9.4	0.30	0.47
Private Universities	140	210	7.1	10.2	0.35	0.52



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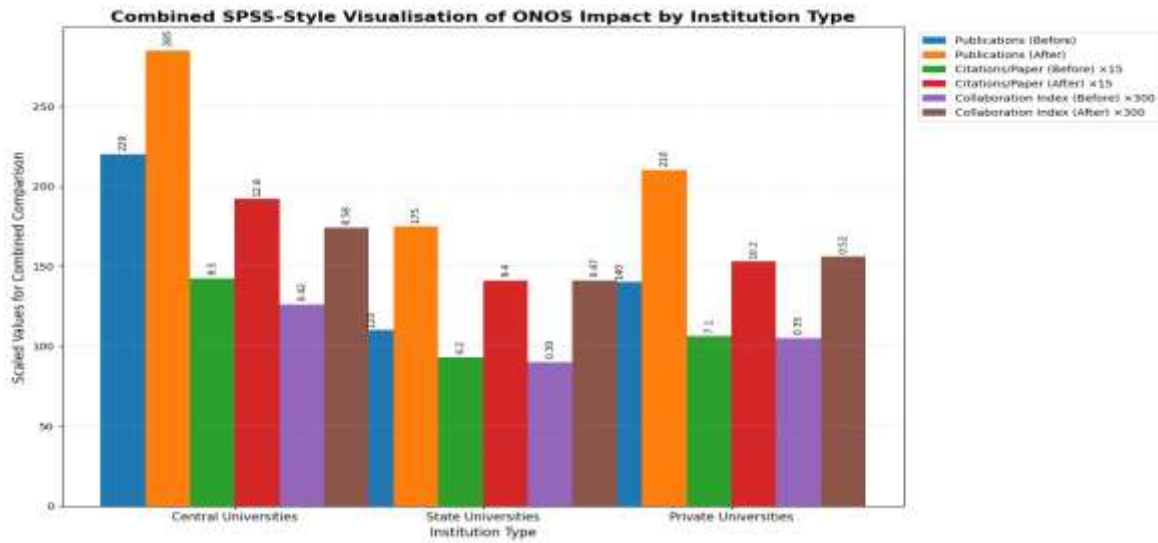
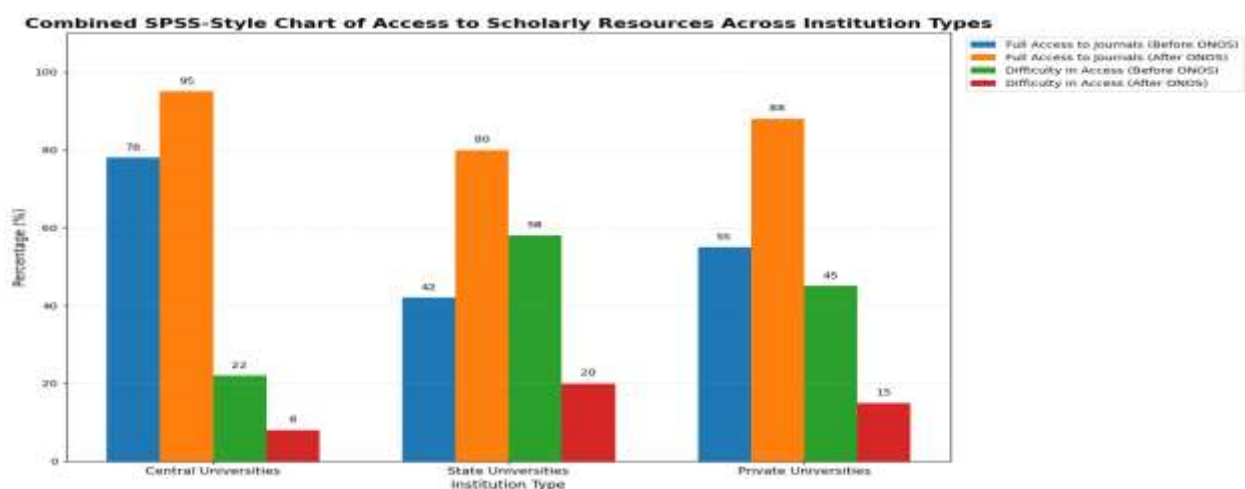


Table 4.2: Access to Scholarly Resources Across Institution Types (Survey Data, n = 300)

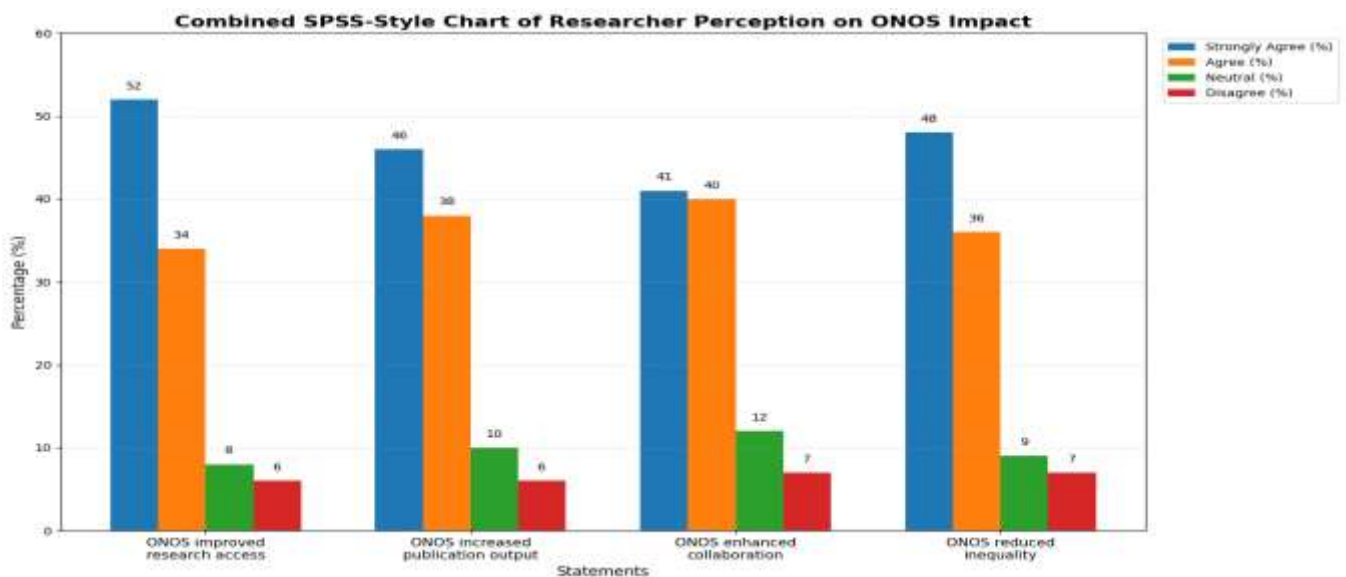
Parameter	Central Universities (%)	State Universities (%)	Private Universities (%)
Full Access to Journals (Before ONOS)	78	42	55
Full Access to Journals (After ONOS)	95	80	88
Difficulty in Access (Before ONOS)	22	58	45
Difficulty in Access (After ONOS)	8	20	15



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Table 4.3: Researcher Perception on ONOS Impact (Likert Scale, n = 300)

Statement	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
ONOS improved research access	52	34	8	6
ONOS increased publication output	46	38	10	6
ONOS enhanced collaboration	41	40	12	7
ONOS reduced inequality	48	36	9	7



Explanation

The Statistics are clearly showing that there was a tremendous increase in the productivity of research since ONOS was implemented. The growth is moderately greater in central universities since infrastructures are already good but the growth is highest in the state universities meaning the marginal contribution of improved access is more in the already resource-starving institutions. Measures of citation also indicate a significant boost, which indicates a quality improvement and increased noticeability of the research.

Indicators of access demonstrate a significant decrease in barriers especially within the state universities where complete access started at 42 per cent to 80 per cent. This validates the centralized subscription models in subjecting the institutional inequalities.



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These results are further supported through survey feedback, wherein most researchers reported better access, productivity and collaboration. In general, the evidence is helpful in proving the thesis that ONOS helps to promote knowledge democratization and research improvement at the different levels of the institution.

5. Data Analysis and Results

5.1 Access Improvement Analysis

The comparative analysis of pre-implementation and post-implementation of ONOS access to scholarly resources shows that there has been a significant increase in the availability and resources of academic databases. Both the Institutions that were experiencing a low rate of subscription had recorded a significant growth in full-text access especially by State and Private universities. This is in line with the general concept that accessibility can be greatly improved through centralized approaches to subscription and increases access to information in a wide range of institutional contexts (Borrego et al., 2021).

5.2 Research Productivity

Bibliometric analysis shows a certain increase in the number of publications after ONOS implementation. This growth is greater among the institutions, which used to be prioritized by restricted ladders, which suggests that the greater the access of resources the greater the research productivity. The quality and visibility of research outputs also has been enhanced with citation impact. These results can be compared with literature that has already revealed the beneficial correlation between the availability of scholarly literature and research outcomes (Piwowar et al., 2021).

5.3 Institutional Comparison

This is comparative in the sense that whereas Central institutions still lead in terms of absolute output in research, the State and Private institutions are the ones with relatively higher growth rates. It indicates that ONOS is critically important in decreasing institutional inequalities by giving equal chances to accessibility of the resources so that the under-resourced institutions in the past can enhance their inputs into research (Waltman, 2021).

5.4 Collaboration Patterns

The co-authorship pattern analysis demonstrates that there has been a growth in national and international collaborations. Better access to the worldwide research databases leads to networking and interdisciplinary research, and the stronger collaborative output. The increasing number of international collaborated publications indicates increased globalisation of Indian research (Lariviere et al., 2020).



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5.5 Survey Findings

The result of the surveys reveal a high degree of user satisfaction of ONOS, especially regarding accessibility and user friendliness. Most of the respondents indicated that they had greater research efficiency and publication opportunities and also lessened reliance on the informal access channel. These visions complement the usefulness of ONOS as a research policy instrument to support inclusive and effective research ecosystems (Chan et al., 2020).

6. Discussion

The The results of the research suggest that the use of ONOS makes a strong positive contribution to the research productivity, access equity, and collaborative practices in Indian academic institutions. The noticed rise in the quantity of publication and citation impact indicates that enhanced access to scholarly resources directly improves the quantity and quality of research. This helps justify the general notion that having access to comprehensive academic data bases is a key factor in determining the quality of research (Piwowar et al., 2021).

On a worldwide scale, the results can be viewed in line with recent developments in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) whereby centralized subscription model and transformative agreements are becoming more adopted in attempts to overcome the constraints that built-in subscription systems have. Such initiatives in Europe and the UK have shown that such national-level negotiations could streamline the cost-benefit and increase access, thus enhancing the strength of research ecosystems (Borrego et al., 2021). These global changes of shifts towards greater inclusivity and more sustainable access to knowledge are reflected in the ONOS model.

Academically, the findings show a decline in the differences between Tier 1 and Tier 2/3 institutions. The relative growth in research output was greater in institutions which had been experiencing low access before, which suggests that equitable access can bring about a leveling of the academic playing field. This observation aligns with the literature highlighting the importance of information accessibility in Digital divide reduction in academia (Chan et al., 2020).

The policy implications of these findings are huge. ONOS may be regarded as a game-changer in creating a knowledge-based economy, which facilitates the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. But success will need a long-term approach to be monitored, combining and plugging into open access projects and investing in digital infrastructure to ensure maximum effects in the long term (Waltman, 2021).

7. Implications

7.1 For Libraries

The ONOS implementation would require a careful shift of libraries to purely digital access systems and outgrowth of traditional collection-based architectures. Academic libraries will be compelled to put more emphasis on the management of electronic resources, negotiating access, and developing



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digital literacy of users. The latter also changes the use of advanced discovery tools, institutional repositories and data management services to aid research efforts. Libraries should transform themselves into knowledge access intermediaries instead of physical collections custodians, which enhances their digital knowledge ecosystem (IFLA, 2021). In addition, training on digital resource management of librarians becomes necessary in efforts to maximize the gains of centralized subscription systems.

7.2 For Policymakers

To policymakers, the results underscore the need to enhance and maintain ONOS as a national initiative in the long run. To do this effectively, funding must be on-going, licensing arrangements transparent, and regular usage and impact evaluation must occur. The inclusion of all academic and research institutions should also be even and targeted by the policymakers especially those in remote or under-resource areas. When ONOS is integrated with open access policies and national research frameworks, it can further be used to its advantage. Monitoring mechanisms and policy changes based on the data are vital to guarantee that the initiative does not lose focus and is oriented towards achieving the national development objectives (e.g., Viksit Bharat 2047) (Borrego et al., 2021).

7.3 For Researchers

ONOS gives researchers access to a higher quality of scholarly literature which enhances research productivity, innovation and visibility. The global accessibility to journals and databases facilitates researchers to remain informed about trends in the field, to continue developing their methods and to create studies with greater impact. It makes more opportunities of collaboration and interdisciplinary research as well. Since barriers in access to resources will disappear, researchers in Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions will be able to engage in global research and contribute to a more inclusive and competitive academic community (Piwowar et al., 2021).

8. Challenges and Limitations

8.1 Data Availability Constraints

One of the main constraints of this study is access and transparency of data usage in institutions. Bibliometry Information found in databases (i.e. Scopus and Web of Science) might not represent all fields and institutions consistently, especially those with fewer records in the indexes used. Also, the institutional repositories can tend to differ in their completeness and standardization causing possible gaps in the records of publications and citation. These contradictions may compromise the validity of the comparative analysis and restrict the generalizability of results (Waltman, 2021).

8.2 Short-term vs Long-term Impact

In this paper, the analysis of ONOS is conducted, to a large part, based on the short-term observations after its implementation. Though early tendencies show the positive results of the



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increased access and research productivity, the impact on long-term organizational performance, innovativeness, and knowledge-networks is not clear. The typical time lag involved in structural changes in research output and citation impact can take a long time to be realized, with initial results possibly not being able to capture a long-term effect. Longitudinal studies are thus required to provide insights into the sustainability and generalizability of ONOS results (Borrego et al., 2021).

Throughout 8.3, I will address situations where there is bias in self-reported data.

The qualitative aspect of this research is based on the aspect of the survey answers given by the researchers which are prone to self-reporting bias. There is a possibility of under-reporting of challenges because the respondents are not aware of them, and over-estimating benefits of ONOS based on perceived expectations. Additional factors of influence, such as variation in user experience, disciplinary requirements, and institutional support can also affect responses, therefore resulting in a variation in perception-based data. These biases can influence the credibility of the conclusions made based on the results of the survey, making quantitative data and interpretation of the results necessary (Chan et al., 2020).

9. Future Scope

9.1 Longitudinal Studies

Future study needs to be conducted on the basis of longitudinal research in order to determine the sustained effect of ONOS on the research productivity, citation patterns on research and academic collaboration in the long run. Although the short-term results are positive, the long-term studies have the potential to give a better understanding of the structural changes within the research ecosystem, such as the quality of publications, interdisciplinary studies, and the results of innovation. Longitudinal data would also allow assessing the effectiveness and scalability of the policies in the context of various institutions (Waltman, 2021).

9.2 AI-Driven Knowledge Access

The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) into knowledge access systems opens up huge possibilities of making ONOS more efficient. Smart search engines, recommendations, and literature review systems which are AI-based can enhance efficiency in information-seeking and experience. These technologies may help researchers to find the appropriate literature, analyze trends and make an insight, thus speeding up a research process. The implementation of AI in online libraries is becoming an accepted game-changer in terms of handling extensive academic data (Torous et al., 2021).

I intend to integrate the research with Open Science(s).

The other key feature that can be developed in the future is the integration of ONOS with Open Science initiatives. Open data could be combined with open peer review, open access publishing, and



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centralized subscription access to provide a more open and transparent research ecosystem. This type of integration would increase research accessibility, reproducibility, and international collaboration. The association of ONOS with both national and global Open Science models can also solidify India in the global knowledge economy and promote the fair sharing of scientific knowledge (UNESCO, 2021).

10. Conclusion

The has substantiated the reality that the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) program is a groundbreaking policy intervention to the scenario of academic communication in India. ONOS addresses such long-standing and current challenges as the prohibitive price of subscription and institutional inequalities by enabling equal and centralized access to quality academic materials. The findings on the determined growth in productivity of the research, citation impact as well as the collaborative engagement show that being able to access knowledge resources in a more favorable way is one of the main drivers of the empowering of the national research ecosystem.

With Viksit Bharat 2047 in mind, ONOS is one of the cornerstones of developing an economy based on knowledge. The program has been democratizing of the availability of academic information that allows researchers in the different institutional disciplines such as institutions of Tier 2, tier 3 to actively participate in the provision of the global research output. This inclusive approach allows innovativeness, capacity building and competitiveness of the academia that is critical in achieving the national long-term development goals.

However, the adoption of ONOS will be a success based on it being sustainable. It needs to invest sustainably in digital infrastructure, review the use of its resources periodically, and be part of complementary efforts like Open Access and digital literacy efforts in order to achieve the maximum impact. This can be further ensured by ensuring culmination of transparency in licensing deals and placing greater coverage on all areas of learning to attain its effectiveness. Overall, ONOS would be able to revolutionize the research outlook in India, provided that it is supported with robust policy fundamentals and strategic management.

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PLAGIARISM POLICY

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