
ONE NATION ONE SUBSCRIPTION (ONOS) : TRANSFORMING ACCESS TO SCHOLARLY RESOURCES IN INDIA

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Abstract : *The “One Nation, One Subscription” (ONOS) initiative, proposed by the Government of India, aims to democratize access to scholarly resources across the country by providing free access to journals, research papers, and academic publications. Under this model, the government negotiates and subscribes to major scientific publishers on behalf of the entire nation. This paper presents an overview of the ONOS scheme, its objectives, scope, potential benefits, challenges, and implications for researchers, students, and libraries in India. The study also discusses international parallels and highlights the role of this initiative in strengthening India’s research and innovation ecosystem.*

Keywords : One Nation One Subscription, Research Access, Open Knowledge, Higher Education, Digital Libraries, Scholarly Communication

Introduction :

On 15th August 2022, in his address to the Nation from the Ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister of India emphasized the importance of Research and Development in the *Amrit Kaal* and gave the clarion call of “Jai Anusandhan.” The **National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP 2020)** also identified research as a co requisite for excellence in education and national development. In line with the vision of making India *Atmanirbhar* and achieving *Viksit Bharat @2047*, the Government of India approved the **One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS)** scheme to provide nationwide access to international, high-impact scholarly research articles and journal publications. This access will benefit students, faculty, and researchers of Higher Education Institutions managed by central and state governments, along with Research and Development Institutions under the central government.

The ONOS scheme aims to acquire national licenses for e-journals and databases from leading international publishers, with 30 major publishers included in its first phase. All journals published by these publishers will be made accessible to students, faculty members, and researchers of participating institutions. The initiative will unlock a goldmine of knowledge from top-quality scholarly journals, reaching nearly 1.8 crore

students, faculty, researchers, and scientists across disciplines, including those from tier-2 and tier-3 cities. This is expected to promote both core and interdisciplinary research in India.

The ONOS scheme will commence operations on **1st January 2025**, with Phase-I approved for the calendar years 2025, 2026, and 2027. Journal access will be coordinated through a national subscription managed by the **Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre**, an autonomous inter-university center of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. A unified portal, **“One Nation One Subscription”** (<https://www.onos.gov.in/>), developed by the Department of Higher Education, Government of India, will serve as the access point for institutions. The **ANRF** will periodically review the usage of ONOS as well as the research publications produced by Indian authors from these institutions.

Overall, **One Nation, One Subscription** is a timely and strategic initiative aimed at integrating India into the global research ecosystem by simplifying access to resources and making high-quality research literature available at the doorstep of every student, teacher, and researcher in government institutions.

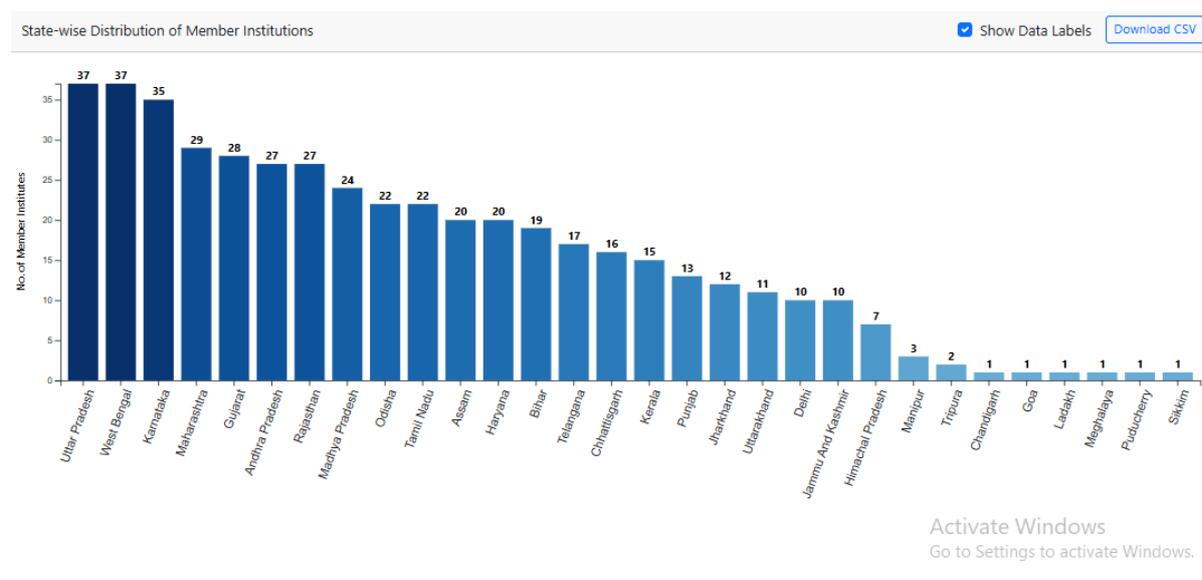
List of Publishers and number of Journals :

SN	Name of Publisher	No of Journals
1	AAAS- Science	01
2	ACM- Digital Library	158
3	American Chemical Society Journals	90
4	American Institute of Physics and Astronautics (AIAA) Journals	8
5	American Institute of Physics Journals	28
6	American Mathematical Society Journals	09
7	American Physical Society - ALL	15
8	American Society of Microbiology Journals	16
9	Annual Review Journals	51
10	ASCE Journals Online	36
11	ASME Journals Online	38
12	Bentham Science Journals	118
13	BMJ Journals	36
14	Cambridge University Press Journals	441
15	Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press Journals	08
16	Elsevier Science Direct Journals	2389
17	Emerald Publishing Journals	311
18	ICE Publishing Journals	34
19	IEEE Journals	210
20	Indian Journals.cpm	253
21	Institute of Physics Journals	90
22	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (Wolters Kluwer) Journals	376

23	Oxford University Press Journals	376
24	Project Muse	731
25	Sage Publishing Journals	1097
26	SPIE Digital library	16
27	Springer Nature Journals	2404
28	Taylor and Francis Journals	2548
29	Thieme Journals	47
30	Wiley Journals	1332
INDIAN OPEN ACCESS SOCIETY JOURNALS		
31	CSCR - NIScPR	18
<i>(PUBLISHED BY GOVERNMENT FUNDED INSTITUTE)</i>		

e :- <https://www.onos.gov.in/publishers> Access date 18/09/2025

State-wise Distribution of Members Institutes :



Source :- <https://www.onos.gov.in/instituteDashboard> Access date 18/09/2025

Objectives of the ONOS Initiative :

- 1. Universal Access :** Provide free and equitable access to high-quality journals and databases across India.
- 2. Cost Reduction :** Reduce the overall expenditure on multiple institutional subscriptions by adopting a centralized model.
- 3. Promote Research :** Enhance the quality and quantity of research output by enabling easy access to scholarly literature.
- 4. Inclusivity :** Extend benefits beyond major universities to smaller colleges, state universities, and independent scholars.
- 5. Strengthen Innovation:** Support India's goal of becoming a global leader in

science, technology, and innovation.

Scope of the Scheme :

The ONOS initiative is designed to cover :

- International and national scientific journals.
- Digital databases and e-books.
- Publications across STEM, social sciences, and humanities.
- Resources for both public and private institutions.
- Access through government-managed digital platforms.

Benefits of the ONOS Model :

- **Equitable Access** : Bridging the gap between well-funded and resource-poor institutions.
- **Financial Efficiency** : Negotiating a single national license could significantly lower costs compared to fragmented subscriptions.
- **Research Empowerment** : Improved access will enhance citations, collaborations, and research impact.
- **Support for NEP 2020** : Aligns with the vision of democratizing education and promoting research at all levels.
- **Boost for Libraries** : Academic and public libraries will be able to provide wider resources to their users.

Challenges and Concerns :

1. **Negotiation Difficulties** : International publishers may resist large-scale national deals or demand high fees.
2. **Sustainability** : Long-term financial and operational sustainability needs to be ensured.
3. **Diversity of Needs** : Different disciplines have varying requirements, making uniform subscription tricky.
4. **Copyright and Licensing Issues** : Legal and technical barriers might arise in access and distribution.
5. **Implementation Gaps** : Ensuring seamless digital access across rural and remote areas remains a challenge.

International Parallels :

Several countries have attempted nationwide agreements for research access :

- **Egypt and Brazil** have national-level subscription deals with publishers.
- **European Union initiatives** like Plan S promote open access to publicly funded research.
- These examples demonstrate both the potential benefits and challenges of large-scale subscription models.

Implications for India :

The ONOS initiative, if implemented successfully, could :

- Transform the research landscape by democratizing knowledge.
- Reduce dependency on foreign publishers in the long term by encouraging Indian open-access publishing.
- Strengthen India's global research ranking and innovation index.
- Support equitable education by providing rural and regional institutions with world-class resources.

Conclusion :

The **One Nation, One Subscription** scheme is a landmark initiative that holds the potential to revolutionize access to scholarly resources in India. By centralizing negotiations and subscriptions, the government can ensure that every researcher, teacher, and student regardless of institutional affiliation has equal opportunities to access knowledge. While challenges related to cost, negotiations, and implementation exist, the long-term benefits for research, education, and innovation make ONOS a crucial step towards India's vision of becoming a knowledge-driven economy.

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