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ANNOUNCEMENTS

I A S L I C

XXI ALL INDIA CONFERENCE
December 1997, at Coimbatore

Call for Papers

**Theme : INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY
ITS IMPACT ON LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SERVICES IN INDIA**

Issues for Consideration

1. **INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY   (ISH)**
2. **INTERNET**

Correspondence should be addressed to the :

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IASLIC, P291, CIT Scheme No. 6M,
Kankurgachi, Calcutta - 700 054

Librarian's Day and Seminar on

**IMPACT OF INTERNET ON LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION CENTRES**

on
Saturday, August 16, 1997
at
Ahmedabad

**To celebrate the birth anniversary
of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan**

Organised by :
Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET)
and INFLIBNET Centre

Contact : **Hon. Director, ADINET**
P.B. 4116, Opp. University
Guest House, Navrangpura
Ahmedabad-380 009.

CALIBER-97 :

The fourth National Convention on automation of libraries in Education and Research Institutes, CALIBER-97, was held from 6th to 8th March, 1997 at Patiala. This Convention was jointly organised by INFLIBNET Centre with Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology in it's campus. The theme of the Convention was **" IT Application in Academic Libraries in India : With Emphasis on Network Services & Information Sharing. "**The topics selected for discussions during the technical sessions were :

1. Library Automation : Status, Problems and Future.

2. Development and Evaluation of Indigenous Databases.

3. Network Services for Libraries.

4. INTERNET for Libraries.

5. Organisation for Resource Sharing.

6. Education and Training of Information Professionals.

The inaugural session was held on 6th March, 1997 in the afternoon. Dr. M.P. Kapoor, Director, TIET welcomed the guests and the delegates to the Convention. The Convention was inaugurated by the Guest of Honour Dr.N.C. Mathur, Vice Chairperson, UGC. He delivered the Inaugural Address. The Key-note Address was delivered by Dr.S.Ramani, Director, National Centre for Software Technology and President, Computer Society of India. The inaugural function was presided over by Prof.Yash Pal, National Research Professor and Chairperson, GB of INFLIBNET Centre.

The deliberations in the Convention, spread over two days were held in six technical sessions. A total of 68 technical papers were presented in these sessions. Proceedings of CALIBER-97 was published by DESIDOC. We are bringing out this publication in a hard bound book form which will be priced. The technical sessions were followed by a panel discussion. The recommendations of the Convention were presented in the concluding session by the Reporteur-in-Chief. A report on status of automation of university libraries was presented by the Director, INFLIBNET Centre. Dr.(Miss) A. S. Desai, Chairperson, UGC appreciated the efforts of INFLIBNET and gave suggestions and comments in the concluding session.

CALIBER-97 was very well attended. More then 225 Library and Information Science professionals from across the country participated. The Convention came out with following major recommendations :

1   INFLIBNET should establish regional centres as stated in its original scheme and also stressed by the INFLIBNET Review Committee. The Regional Centres shall act as Resource Centres & provide Guidance, Training and other technical support to the participating libraries of the respective regions. They will also maintain databases of holdings of the region and other important databases of common interest.

2   INFLIBNET may plan to provide 64 kbps VSATs to each university library for networking, resourse sharing and for accessing INTERNET.

3   Libraries must lay greater emphasis on development of need based indigenous databases including their holdings.

4   At present there is no organised system to know about the ongoing research projects handled by researchers in the University system. University Libraries should initiate and organise these resources and make them available through the network.

5   Training is needed to access INTERNET and retrieve desired information in minimum possible time. INFLIBNET may coordinate and arrange on-site training for library professionals in this regard by identifying University/ Research Libraries where INTERNET facilities are available.
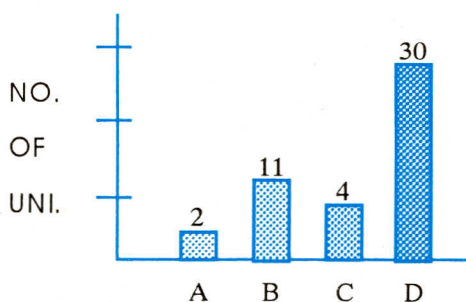
6   University libraries should try to procure image processing system like scanners for effective storage and use of important collections including manuscripts.

7   INFLIBNET may take up the task of mirroring useful INTERNET sources like "Course wave" enabling easy access with-in the country.

8   INFLIBNET can start subject-wise fora for interaction among academecians / researchers through e-mail. It may identify Institutions to act as coordinators for different fora based on their strength and fields of specialisation.

9.   It is necessary to formalise modus operandy for free flow and exchange of information among libraries. Priority should be given to resource sharing and creation of regional periodical holdings to minimise duplication in subscription to costly periodicals.

10 UGC may provide recurring grants as part of 9th plan development allocation for the Universities. This may be provided separately to the libraries who have been given grants under INFLIBNET Programme.

11 Some Universities could not utilise the funds for various reasons under non-recurring grants. They may be allowed to spend un-utilised grants in the next two years as a special case.

STATUS REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AUTOMATION :

Status of automation of university libraries which were funded by the UGC, under INFLIBNET Programme, till March, 1996 was reviewed at Patiala on March 5, 1997. Out of 54 university libraries which were sent questionnaire, 47 libraries responded with their replies by the date of the review meeting. Representatives of 39 universities attended the review meeting convened by the Deputy Secretary, UGC. The status is as given below :

COMMISSIONING OF COMPUTER SYSTEM :

Status of 47 universities out of 54 universities where funds were provided under INFLIBNET Programme is summerised below. It includes Central universities, and universities established before 1964.

STATUS OF COMPUTERISATION

A   -   Purchase order yet to be placed.
B   -   System under Procurement, system yet to be delivered.
C   -   Systems Partially commissioned.
D   -   systems fully commissioned.

DATABASE CREATION :

Fourteen universities have been able to enter records in excess of 30,000. Status is given in the following table.

NO. OF RECORDS ENTERED INTO COMPUTER	NO. OF LIBRARIES
* Above 30,000	14
* Between 10,000 and 30,000	5
* Less than 10,000	20
* Nil	6

NETWORKING FACILITIES :

Status of networking facilities acquired by the universities is given in the following table. E-mail facilities are now available with 27 universities and 11 of them have I-NET access.

NETWORKING STATUS	NO. OF LIBRARIES
* Dedicated telephones Installed in libraries	26
* Email facility available	27
* INET connectivity available	11
* Applied for INET connection	9

Under INFLIBNET Programme there is a provision for recruitment of an Information Scientist. Only 8 universities have been able to recruit Information Scientists for their libraries.

ON-SITE TRAINING :

On-site training was provided to 12 university libraries as given below, after commissioning of computer systems in their libraries including installation of softwares.

SR. NO.	NAME OF UNIVERSITY	
1	Andhra University,	Visakhapatnam
2	Anna University,	Chennai
3	Banaras Hindu Univ.,	Varanasi
4	Bombay University,	Mumbai
5	Gulbarga University,	Gulbarga
6	Jai Narain Vyas Univ.,	Jodhpur
7	Manipur University,	Imphal
8	Nagpur University,	Nagpur
9	Osmania University,	Hyderabad
10	Pandit Ravi Shanakar Shukla University,	Raipur
11	SNDT Women's Univ.,	Mumbai
12	Sri Venkateswara Univ.,	Tirupati

UNIVERSITY NEWS

PANJAB UNIVERSITY LIBRARY :

The Panjab University Library, Chandigarh, already endowed with magnificent building and fabulous collection consisting of manuscripts, periodicals going back to 19th Century and reference books of post-1947 period, has undergone metamorphosis recently. Thanks to grant of Rs.50 lacs by the University Grants Commission, the library has acquired latest series of computers, and enriched its collection and strengthened its infrastructure.

Under the automation programme, the library has acquired Intel-based Pentium Main Server, running under SCO UNIXware Operating System, supported by fifteen 486 DX2 nodes, a pentium machine running under LINUX operating system for E-mail and Internet connectivity and CD-NET interconnected on high speed LAN. The Library has opted for Basisplus based Techlib Library Management Software. Introduction of Bar-coding system and Multi-media facility are next on its agenda.

The Library has acquired latest reference sources, both Indian and foreign, besides filling gaps of important periodicals.

With the latest acquisitions, the Panjab University Library, Chandigarh, can rightfully claim to be one of the few modernised university libraries in the country, capable of competing with its counterparts in the information-rich world. The library can be contacted on :
Fax No. : 0172-548159 and
E-Mail : arsethi@puniv.chd.nic.in.

A.R. Sethi
University Librarian, Panjab University

SEMINAR ON LIBRARY MANAGEMENT AT PATIALA :

A two days seminar on **"Library Management"** was organised by the Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala on 10th and 11th of January, 1997. There was dynamic interaction among the participants and a few resolutions were adopted, at the end of seminar. A book exhibition was also organised on this occasion.

SPECIAL GRANT FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE :

UGC decided to provide a grant of Rs.1 lakh for creating core facilities in university libraries for information exchange. This grant was to be provided to those universities who did not receive normal grant under INFLIBNET Programme. The aim of this grant was to enable all the university libraries to participate in information exchange using computers and networking. A total of 62 universities, who responded in time to UGC's offer, were sanctioned this grant in F.Y 1996-97.