

Changing Dimension of KKHL With INFLIBNET in the Participatory ERA

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Abstract

Libraries and Knowledge are the two faces of a same coin. The University libraries act as an important medium of generating knowledge between the academic communities. The traditional process of organizing, retrieving and dissemination of information is out of fashion and time consuming. INFLIBNET through the application of IT is making great efforts to build up their information infrastructure in order to provide a fast and efficient information highway to help their users in sharing and utilizing the information all over the world. This paper deals about the different developments activities of Krishna Kanta Handiqui library of Gauhati University under INFLIBNET which includes digital collection development, HRD development, status of different databases created by KKHL. The article also discuss about the records contributed by KKHL in the Union Catalogue of Indian Universities and digitization aspects of Thesis and Dissertation collections.

Keywords: INFLIBNET, Library Automation, UGC-Infonet

1. Introduction

Libraries are the repositories of knowledge and form an integral part of education. "According to Prof.P.N.Kaula (1989) -Knowledge is what I know and Information is what we know. In other words, knowledge is restricted to individual who gains it while information is, knowledge shared by the communication. In this sense recorded knowledge, i.e, a record of what I know becomes information by being communicated and a library is a repository of such recorded knowledge or information." The advancement of IT has changed the way of information stored, retrieved and disseminated. It has become very difficult to manage the information manually due to the explosion growth of knowledge. To serve the users even in the virtual environment these libraries are innovating new technologies so that a value added services can be

provided. Before any such vision they need to strengthen their resources and services so that they can equally participate in sharing and accessing the source of knowledge. Most of the universities have accepted the challenges to re-design the system and subsystems of the present library to cope with present as well as future needs.

2. INFLIBNET- A path finder for KKHL Library

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre is an autonomous Inter-University Centre (IUC) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) located at the Gujarat University Campus, Ahmedabad. As a consequence of UGC's efforts, INFLIBNET, a network of university and college libraries in India was established in 1988, which became functional in 1991. The centre became autonomous Inter-University centre of the UGC in May 1996.



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3. Statement of the Problem

The study is carried out to focus the present scenario of KKHL under INFLIBNET in terms of financial support, automation status, HRD development.

4. Scope of the Study

The area covered under my study is limited to the K.K.Handique library of Gauhati University. The study is confined to those areas where INFLIBNET has provided its different support. The different sections of KKHL are selected for the purpose of my study.

5. Aims & Objectives of the Study

The study is aimed at investigating various impact of INFLIBNET in different aspects of KKHL. The following are the main objectives for carrying out this study:

- a) To identify the areas of basic automated house-keeping operation.
- b) To identify the basic services of KKHL provided in the automated environment.
- c) To know the status in HRD development of KKHL under INFLIBNET.
- d) To know the status of records contributed by KKHL in the Union catalogue of INFLIBNET since joining the programme
- e) To measure the growth rate of electronic resources provided by INFLIBNET during the last six years.

6. Methodology

In order to study the assign topic keeping the above scope and objectives in mind, the methodology and

technique applied are survey method. Questionnaire, personal interview and observation.

7. K. K. Handiqui Library, Gauhati University

Gauhati University was established under the Gauhati university act, 1947 started functioning from 26th January, 1948. Krishna Kant Handiqui library was established in the same year. The library is located at the centre place of the University campus on the western fringe of the university administrative building and on the North of the NH 37, not far from the different Department so that the students, research Scholars & the faculty members can reach the library easily.

The overall collection of the library is as given below-

Table 1: Shows the status of collection

Sl. No	Documents	No. of Documents
1.	Books	215,212
2.	Bound Periodicals	45,000
3.	Thesis and Dissertations	8,980
4.	Reports	3,400
5.	Maps	306
6.	Bulletins	10
7.	Manuscripts	4,500
8.	K. K. Handiqui Collection	7,593
9.	E-journal	5,587

8. Staff

A staff in a library plays a vital role in imparting the services to the users. At present KKHL have all total 54 numbers of staff out of which 17 staffs are professionally qualified.

SL No	Designation	No. of staff
1	Librarian	1
2	Deputy librarian	Vacant
3	Assistant librarian	4
4	Professional Assistant	8
5	Senior library Assistant	2
6	Junior library Assistant	2

Table 2: Professional Qualified staff of KKHL

9. Library Automation

It is one of the important aspect of KKHL for which lot of Planning were done. KKHL had faced many difficulties while planning for library automation. KKHL first started the automation process with the CDS/ISIS software. But with the procurement of SOUL software the library started to automate the house keeping operations as well.

9.1 Database Creation

Entering the elements (information) in the records is the primary job of any library to start the automation process. Database should be created in such a way that the information can be retrieve even through the minute field. With the help of SOUL at present KKHL prepares three types of databases :Books Databases, Serials and, User databases. Thesis databases of the library are still prepared with CDS/ISIS

9.1.1 Book Database

In KKHL, preparation of book database is one of the important tasks which are still in process. Creation of book databases started from the year 2005 with the first version of SOUL. But after procurement of SOUL 2.0 the earlier databases created with SOUL1.0 were converted to its upgrade version

Sl No.	YEAR (April-Mar)	Total Collection (according to Accession register)	Increase in database (including duplicate records)	% wise records
1	2005-06	1,98886	14900	7.49
2	2006-07	2,00025	64900	32.44
3	2007-08	2,00876	94900	47.24
4	2008-09	2,04522	119900	58.62
5	2009-10	2,13724	129900	60.77
6	2010-11	2,15212	136400	63.37

Table 3: Book Database Created by KKHL with SOUL

Table 3 shows that till March 2011 all total 63.37% (136,400nos.) of records of books are entered in the book databases whereas 36.63% (78,812 nos.) records of book are still to be entered in the database.

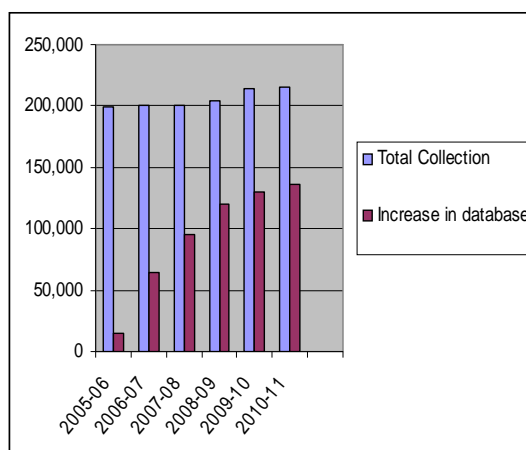


Figure 1: Shows status of records in the Book Database

9.1.2 Serial Database

After lots of unjustified criticism to SOUL2.0, the librarian of KKHL himself studied thoroughly the

serial control model of SOUL 2.0. Based on his personal study and observation he found that serial control model is satisfying all the requirements required for managing the serials of KKHL. As a result, modules of Serial control have been implemented recently from July 2011.

Sl. No	Type	Total Collection	Individual Title	Database (For individual Title)	Total Item entered in the database
1	Current Periodical	220+	220	143	143
2	Bound Periodical	4500+	165	105	125

Table 4: Status of Serial Database of KKHL

9.1.3 User Database

KKHL started to prepare the user database with SOUL 2.0. KKHL have basically five categories of users-Students (includes PG + LLB + M.Phil + Med), Research Scholars, Faculties, Officers and the University Staff.

Sl. No.	Categories Users	Total no. of Users	User Database created	Percentage created
1	Students	2,962	1346	45.4%
2	Research Scholars	1,176	100	8.5 %
3	Faculty	253	253	100 %
4	Officer	77	77	100 %
5	University staff	375	375	100%

Table 5: Status of User database created by KKHL

Table 5 reveals that out of total 4,843 users, KKHL have already created 2,151 (44.4%) records of the user's in the user databases and 55.6% of records are still to be converted. While 100% records of faculties, officers, university staff and 45.4% & 8.5% records of students and research scholars are entered in the user databases.

10. Library Activities with SOUL2.0

KKHL has already discontinued most of the traditional method of library operations and now performed these activities with the help of automated software i.e. SOUL 2.0

Sl. No.	Activities Imple-	Fully Imple- mented	Partially Imple- mented	Not ented	Year of Imple- mation
1	Budgeting	√	-	-	2011
2	Acquisition	√	-	-	-
	For books	√	-	-	2011
	For Periodicals	√	--	--	2011
3	Cataloguing	-	-	-	2005
	Copy Cataloguing	√	-	(Already installed)	2011
4	Circulation	-	√	-	2010
	Transaction	-	√	-	2010
	New Membership	√	-	-	2010
	Collection of fine	-	√	-	2010
	Stock verification	-	-	-	-
5	Serial control	√	-	-	2011
6	Administration	-	-	-	-
	Grouping of Users	√	-	-	2010
	Transactional rights	√	-	-	2010

Table 6: Library Activities covered under library Automation with SOUL 2.0

From the Table 6 it is seen that KKHL have implemented all the main modules of SOUL 2.0. The table reveals that from 2010 onwards most of the library activities are performed in the automated form. Copy cataloging software is already installed but due to some technical error it is not able to implement at present.

11. UGC INFONET & KKHL

Increase in Bandwidth in KKHL with UGC-Infonet: KKHL is getting better amount of bandwidth with the shifting of its network connectivity under INFLIBNET.

Sl. No.	Name of Connectivity	Establishment Year (April-Mar)	Increase Bandwidth	ISP
1	UGC Infonet	2004-2010	256-2 mbps	ERNET
2	UGC Infonet 2.0	2010-2011	10 mbps	BSNL
3	NKN (National Knowledge Network)	2011-Till Now	1 Gbps	BSNL

Table 7: Increase in Bandwidth in KKHL

From Table 7 it is seen that there is a high rate of increase in Bandwidth of KKHL. At present (From April 2011 onwards), the UGC Infonet 2.0 connectivity of KKHL is subsume into NKN where it receive a high bandwidth of 1 Gbps.

12. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium

KKHL join the consortium during the first face in the year 2004. Before joining the consortium KKHL were unable to subscribe most of the journals due to its limitation. It proves a great boon for the KKHL where almost from diverse subject field, users can access quality based e-journals and other bibliographic databases..

Sl. No.	Year	e-Journal (nos.)	Increase/ Decrease rate of journals (%)	Bibliographic Database(nos.)	Increase/ Decrease rate of E databases (%)
1	2005-06	4228	-	8	-
2	2006-07	3740	(-11.5)	8	(0)
3	2007-08	4039	(+7.9)	8	(0)
4	2008-09	6039	(+49.5)	9	(+12.5)
5	2009-10	5779	(-4.3)	6	(-33.)
6	2010-11	5587	(-3.3)	6	(0)

Table 8: Status of e-Resources under UGC Infonet Digital Library Consortium of KKHL

Here + & - sign indicates increasing and decreasing rate of e-resources.

Table 8 reveals that during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, the e-journals of KKHL under the UGC-Infonet Consortium have increased by 7.9% and 49.5% respectively whereas during 2006-07, 2009-10 and 2010-11 it was decrease by 11.5%, 4.3% and 3.3% respectively.

13. Union Catalogue of INFLIBNET & KKHL

KKHL, Gauhati University has joined the INDCat project in the year 2005. KKHL contributes three types of records viz. Books, Serials and Thesis. All the records are created by using the software CDS/ISIS (developed by UNESCO). These records are sent by the KKHL to INFLIBNET center.

8th Convention PLANNER 2012

Sl. No.	Year	Book Data-base	Serial Data-base	Theses Data-base	Total Contribution	Increasing percentage	Name of software
1	2006-07	2135	211	2636	4,982	-	CDS/ISIS
2	2007-08	2135	211	2685	5,031	0.98	CDS/ISIS
3	2008-09	10000	211	2685	12,896	156.33	CDS/ISIS
4	2009-10	1000 (NC)	211 (NC)	2685 (NC)	12,896 (NC)	0 0	- -
5	2010-11	1000 (NC)	211 (NC)	2685 (NC)	12,896 (NC)	0 0	- -

Table 9: Records Contributed by KKHL in INDCat

NC-No Contribution

Till 2011 all total 10000 records of books, 211 records of serials and 2685 records of Thesis are contributed to the INDCat (Union catalogue of INFLIBNET). But after 2009 no records has been contributed in the Union catalogue by the KKHL. It is also seen that the databases which is created with SOUL2.0 is still to be sent to the INFLIBNET centre for merging in the Union Catalogue i.e. INDCat.

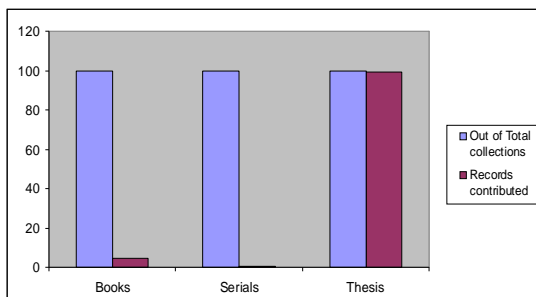


Figure 2: Shows the percentage of records contributed by KKHL in INDCat till March 2011

14. Human Resource development

14.1 Training

INFLIBNET has providing training to university library staff since its inception. KKHL staff has attended both Long and short term courses.

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Sl. No.	Name of the programme	No. of Universities	No. of programmes	Total no. of participants
1	CALIS	-	20	400
2	IRTPLA	53	66	1,961
3	WANULIP	7	-	142
4	Awareness programme on e-resources	70	70	11,756
5	CALIBER	16	16	5,875
6	PLANNER	7	7	1,850
7	National Seminar	1	1	125

Table 10: Training programme conducted by INFLIBNET for the University Libraries of India since its inception (Till March 2011)

Sl.	Name of the course	Duration	Year	No. of Persons	Place
1	CDS/ISIS & OTHERS	28 days	1994	2	INFLIBNET Centre
2	ILIMS	5 Days	1997	1	INFLIBNET centre
3	IRTPLA	5 Days	2001	2	Gauhati University
4	SOUL1.0	5Days	2005	1	INFLIBNET centre
5	SOUL2.0	5 Days	2009	1	INFLIBNET centre
6	ATP	6 months	2010	1	INFLIBNET centre

Table 11: Shows the status of Training of KKHL staff under INFLIBNET (year wise)

Except “IRTPLA (2001)” all the other training programmes were conducted at the INFLIBNET centre. K.K.H.library, Gauhati University is the first library from the north eastern region that had avail the Attachment training programme conducted by INFLIBNET at its centre. So all total 4 staff of KKHL are sent for 6 different training programme conducted under INFLIBNET.

14.2 Annual Convention

14.2.1 CALIBER and PLANNER

The staff of KKHL has also attended CALIBER/ PLANNER programme conducted by INFLIBNET center.

Sl.	Name of the CALIBER	Place	No. of staff attended
1	CALIBER-1999	Nagpur	1
2	CALIBER-2000	Chennai	1
3	1 st PLANNER,2003	Shillong	1
4	2 nd PLANNER,2004	Imphal	1
5	4 th PLANNER,2006	Aizwal	2
6	5 th PLANNER,2007	Guwahati	5
7	6 th PLANNER,2008	Dimapur	1
8	7 th PLANNER,2009	Tezpur	5

Table 12: CALIBER and PLANNER Programme Attended by KKHL Staff

Table 12 reveals that out of all total 16 CALIBER held in sixteen different locations across India, one (same) staff each has attended two CALIBER programme and 10 staff has attended 6 PLANNER programme except the 3rd PLANNER.

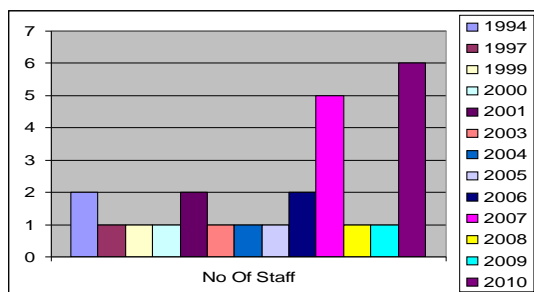


Figure 3: Shows the status of HRD of KKHL (year wise)

15. SHODHGANGA and KKHL

KKHL have already taken the initiative to implement some of the new projects sponsored by INFLIBNET. These which do not come under the Purview of UGC Act will be digitize by KKHL. With the end of work in the first phase, users from the world can access the Thesis collection of KKHL which will provide a platform of better communication as well as literature search of the research scholars across the world.

Name of the Project	Year of MOU	Support that will be receive from the INFLIBNET	Activities that will be performed by KKHL
SODHGANGA	June 2011	1.Financial assistance for the digitization work	1.Digitization of Thesis collection
		2. Training to one library staff	2. Digitization of Dissertation collection

Table 13: Shows the Future plan of KKHL with Shodhganga

KKHL will get financial assistance towards digitization of back files of Thesis/Dissertations submitted before 2009 from INFLIBNET. In addition to that KKHL have also set the objective to put the Dissertation collection in to the digital repository in the second phase.

16. Findings

- a) At present KKHL prepares basically three types of Databases viz- Books, Serials and User’s databases with SOUL 2.0.
- b) The study reveals that KKHL has already started to implement all the main modules of SOUL 2.0 (From Table 6)

c) The study reveals that during last eight years there is rapid growth in bandwidth of internet accessibility in KKHL. (Table 7)

d) From the study it is found that KKHL is providing the current periodical to its users basically in electronic form in addition to few printed periodicals.

e) Till today KKHL from its total collections has contributed 4.6% records of book, 0.4% records of serials and 99.4% records of Thesis in the Union catalogue of INFLIBNET. (Table 9).

f) From the study it reveals that the INFLIBNET has played key role in HRD development of KKHL. At present out of 17 professionally staff, 12 staff of KKHL has attended 14 different programmes under INFLIBNET.

17. Suggestions

Some of the points which we have mentioned for the further improvement in KKHL in as follows :

I. The work of entering the records in the books, serials and user database should be made completed as soon as possible. The thesis database created with CDS/ISIS can be converted to SOUL 2.0 so that users can directly access the records through OPAC

II. KKHL can contribute the records to the Union catalogue of INFLIBNET of those documents which have already converted to different types of database.

III. KKHL can take maximum advantage from INFLIBNET by joining different new programmes

and projects like “Open Journal System” and so on.

18. Conclusion

INFLIBNET is trying to change the environment of handling the data processing work in the universities libraries. In addition to that it also promotes scholarly communication in the universities, institutions of higher learning and R & D institutions in India. But one important thing is that lack of proper initiative is one of the hindrances in the path of development of these libraries.

It is hoped that the present study has provided for understanding the developmental scenario of different aspects of KKHL under the INFLIBNET. But it cannot be termed as “Rapid development”. Though INFLIBNET provides special drive for the North-eastern region but the library is still lacking behind to some extent to grasp this opportunity as compared to other Universities of North-eastern region. One of the main reasons may be lack of full time librarian for the last 10 years. It is hope that with the appointment of full time librarian since last two year, KKHL may cover a long mile in the developmental journey and may fill the gap in different aspects as compared to other university libraries. K.K.Handique library have to walk a long journey to re-design its method of providing the services to its users in the new learning environment in the participatory age. Before introducing any new technology it should provide better training to the staff without which all process of acquiring new technologies will be useless. In future INFLIBNET can bring a lot of new opportunities for the University libraries in India.

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