
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Library Campus Networking : A Proposal

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Abstract

Describes in brief the development of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and upgradation of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Library as one of the six Regional Libraries of India. Gives the collection of the library and purpose of the study. Mentioned the advantage of the networking and database creation in the library. The feature of CAS which is going to be converted to electronic version is given. Shows the networking in the library (LAN) and future plans in phase manner and also gives man power planning. Concludes inviting supports from management and state authority.

Keywords : Medical Library, Manipur, Library Network, LAN, RIMS Library.

0. Introduction

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Library was established on September 14, 1972 to feed the staff, and students of RIMS, medical practitioners and professionals working in the state of Manipur and other health professionals of the region intellectually. The institution admits nominees from all NE states except Assam.

In the year 1992, on the 19th of Nov. RIMS authority and National Medical Library (NML), Directorate General of Health Services, Govt. of India have agreed to develop RIMS Library as one of the Six Regional Medical Libraries (RML) of India under the Health Literature Library and Information Service (HELLIS) network sponsored by World Health organization. Since then all the health professionals and practitioners working in the region are allowed to access to the resource of the RML. The library has to serve 5002 end users – 267 teachers, 662 medical policy makers' administrators professionals and practitioners, 708 students and 3365 other staff of the state.

1. Collection

The annual budget of the library is more than 40 lakhs of Rupees for purchase of reference books and subscribe to journals. The library has a good collection in the area of biomedical and allied subjects with number of books, monographs, WHO technical report series, proceedings, back volumes of the journals which are being subscribed.

The library subscribes to 94 journals including WHO periodical publications and gets another 151 complementary journals regularly.

2. Purpose

Health is a major determinant of human development by virtue of its direct relationship to the quality of life. The definition of health, thus, cannot be limited to the mere absence of disease but it is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and should enable people to lead to socially and economically productive lives. Health is a state of feeling well in body, mind, spirit together with a sense to reserve power; based upon normal functioning of tissues, a practical understanding of the principle of healthy living, a

harmonious adjustment to the environment (physical and psychological); it is a means to a richer life of service.

Healthy people are the most valuable resource of a nation as they alone can contribute to its productivity and development to a great extent. The Indian Constitution directs the states to aim at elimination of poverty, ignorance and ill health by raising the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people; improvement of public health, securing the health and strength of workers, ensuring healthy development and growth of children as its primary responsibilities.

The health professionals engaged in the area of improving health standards of people particularly in this backward region are to be supported in their endeavour by an efficient information support system to enable them to work as a functionary agent for delivery of quality health care service. The following categories of the health professionals need to be provided health information support.

- a) Planners and decision-makers.
- b) Programme administrators and implementers.
- c) Service personnel – teachers, practitioners, trainers, instructors, auxiliary and other ancillary staff.
- d) Research and evaluation personal.
- e) Communicators – health educators, motivators, media men, information specialists.
- f) Students and trainees.

3. Need and advantage of Campus Networking

1. Information needs of the users have been changed with times in a fast changing field like health sciences. To provide right information to every health professional working in RIMS, state and the region shall be the target of the networking.
2. Advantages:
 - (a) The network will allow more efficient management of resources. A well managed network helps to keep information reliable and up to date allowing multiple users to access the data from different locations.
 - (b) Network helps speed up data sharing. Transferring files across network is always faster than others.
 - (c) Networks will allow the working groups to communicate each other more efficiently. Electronic mail and messaging is a staple mechanism of most network systems in addition to other scheduled systems helping the team to be more productive.

4. Database creation – Automation

An effort for automation of the library has started from 1992 after upgradation of RIMS Library as RML. The main objective of computerization of the library is to provide better and faster service with wider access and exact location of information at the most appropriate point of time of end users.

The unprecedented hike in the cost of foreign journals and books forced the libraries particularly in the field of health sciences to expose and exploit computerization networking for optimum utilization of the resources. In the library an integrated information system has been developed with home-made programming.

- a) Computerized acquisition system
- b) Computerized cataloguing system
- c) Computerized circulation system

- d) Computerized serial control system
- e) Read E-mail and print from facilities

5. Selection of software for use in the proposed database

The factors for selection of software are to be governed by the level of automation depending upon the cost of hardware and software. Keeping these points in view UNESCO developed PC based software titled CDS/ISIS and is available at a very normal price to all libraries in the developing countries. Or AutoLib which is a multi user and cost effective software can be used.

Some issues of the library automation.

- i) All the library staff members have to go in-service extensive training regularly.
- ii) Need full support of the management.
- iii) Apprehension of cost-effectiveness between technological expensiveness and its return.

6. Current awareness service to the end users

An alert service to cater the needs for an easy accessment of the teaching faculties and post graduates students was giving. Hard copies were distributing to the 25 segments of the institution to create aware of new arrivals for journals along with the list of articles from each issues of journals received.

Each issue of current awareness service has the following sections.

1. Content page
2. Main part – list of articles from the issues of journals received during the period covered. The entries are arranged by author under the main class like medicine, surgery etc.
3. A list of latest additions of the journals received during the period is also appended.

Secondly issues of recent additions of books procured annually are brought out and made available to all segments. Arrangements of the entries are made by author under subject. The service will be converted into electronic version.

7. Campus LAN–Feature plan

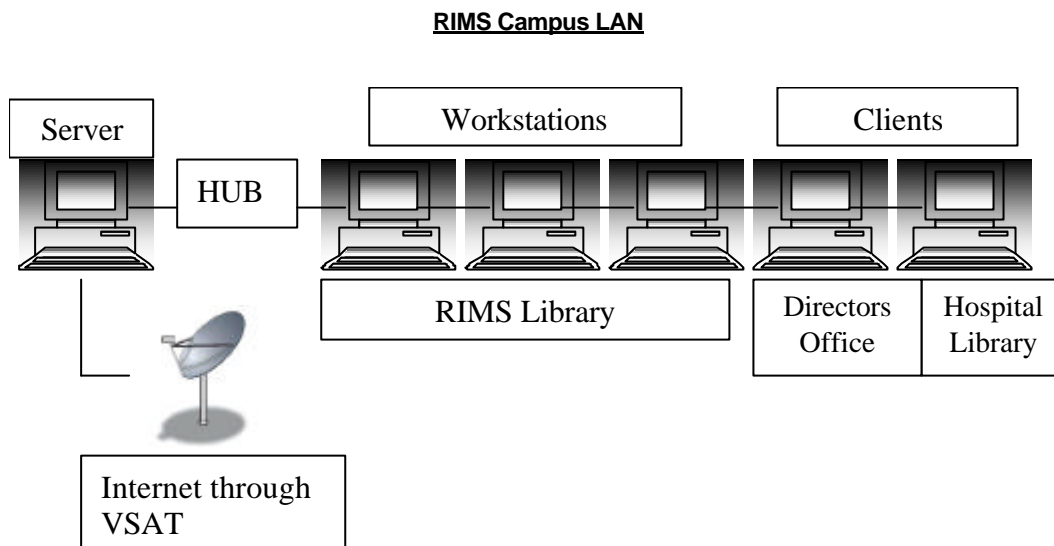
A networking (LAN) within the library has been developed during the last two years.

Server	Intel Pentium IV Processor @ 1.80GHz, 128KB (L2) Cache memory 128MB RAM 40GB hard disk 1.44MB FDD/52X CD-ROM 15" IBM E54 color monitor 10/100 MBPS Ethernet adapter OS Windows XP professional
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Another 3 numbers of Intel Pentium IV processors have been installed at 3 workstations for processing in-house operations of the library.

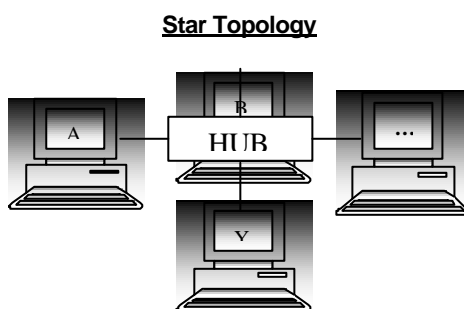
7. Future plan phase-I

After complete automation and creation of the database a networking and internet environment will be developed connecting some segments in the campus as below.



Phase II :

Intel Pentium IV Processor @ 1600MHz, 512KB (L2) Cache memory, 128MB RAM, 20GB hard disk, 1.44MB FDD/52X CD-ROM, 15" HCM 580M color monitor, 10/100 MBPS Ethernet adapter, OS Windows XP professional has been installed in all the 25 segments/ departments from where all the members working in these segments can access to the data to be created in the library from their desktops. Routers or Multiplexers and Fiber Optics cable will be used.



25 Clients/Departments of RIMS, A-Y

Phase III :

Planning for hoisting website is going on. After having website the other libraries at JN Hospital, Porompat and District Hospital libraries can access to the database through internet.

8. Some challenging issues

Creation of database in RIMS Library is very challenging. It is yet to be created fully though it had already started in 1992. It needs a constant support of the management.

Standardization of the data formats for entry is a problem. Due consideration has been given to this aspect.

9. Revival and continuity of current awareness service

There was no much demand when this service started in the year 1984-85. Now there are more demands due to increase of the research environment among the teaching faculties and P.G. students and other medical professionals in the state. This issue is very challenging on the part of the library professionals. It will not take much time to revive the service and convert into electronic version. During that time number of trained library staff was also less. The library has now the infrastructure to see and maintain uniform standard and accuracy in designing new data format, and in finding elements and search points etc.

10. Man power planning

The library needs at least seven more staff trained in library and information science with a good knowledge of computer application or trained in library and information science and information technology, as per recommendations of the National Workshop on Standards for Health Science Libraries held at New Delhi during 28-30 Oct, 1983 and approved by Medical Council of India.

All the existing library staff including senior staff members need to undergo 3 months at least one time in-service training in computer application so that data entry can be made at any level and at any workstation and also can check from any point. Regular short term course training of library staff also should be given to make themselves aware of the new IT environment which may come across from time to time.

11. More hardware and software facilities

Proposal for purchase of 6 hardware's more had already been submitted. If it is provided creation of database can be completed at any point of time. Faculty members and students also can be made accessible from the terminals to be installed in the library.

12. Conclusion

Health Sciences Libraries need to be recognized as an integral part of health care delivery system, as repositories of health literature meeting the needs of all categories of users overcoming geographical and linguistic barriers.

Content creation and management of the library is another important factor to be looked into for the users community in the region. There will be no dearth of resource if management is done with full IT facilities. State governments of the region may create facilities for accessment to the proposed database.

13. References

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