

NEWS-LETTER

INFLIBNET

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FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

In the first year of its publication, INFLIBNET has brought out three issues of its quarterly News-letter in the months of April, July and October, 1995. This issue marks the beginning of volume No.2 of the News-letter and is devoted to the annual national Convention on Automation of Libraries in Higher Education and Research Institutes, popularly known as CALIBER. CALIBER provides a forum for appraisal of the activities of INFLIBNET and plan its activities for future, besides sharing of our accumulated experiences and increasing awareness. We have so far organised three conventions. First one was held at Ahmedabad in 1994, second at Hyderabad under the auspices of University of Hyderabad in 1995 and third convention was held in collaboration with the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda at Vadodara in 1996. A brief report on the deliberations in these conventions and the recommendations made by the participants are included. I feel encouraged by the response received from the librarians and information scientists who took very active part in these conventions. Number of papers presented at the conventions have been increasing every year. CALIBER:96 also brings forth an important facet that a large number of lady participants numbering over 20 contributed working papers. This marks an important beginning in development of our Programme.

Our database of experts is becoming popular and is being used by quite a few institutions including UGC to select experts. I, therefore, once again request all the librarians to help us in getting completed data sheets from all the heads of the departments and professors.

With good wishes.



Pramod Kumar

A Request

Expert database is generating keen interest. Why delay sending data on experts in your University? An input sheet for experts is enclosed with this News-letter. Please make photocopies of it, get them filled by experts in your university and mail them to us pronto.



Inaugural Session at CALIBER-94



Audience in a technical session at CALIBER-94

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF INFLIBNET - CALIBER

Convention on Automation of Libraries in Higher Education and Research Institutes (CALIBER), is a series of annual meetings sponsored by the INFLIBNET Centre, to create an understanding of the problems of automation of libraries and networks in India and to review the activities taken up in this field and draw up plan of action for the coming years.

CALIBER-94

The First National Convention - CALIBER-94 was held on February 19-20, 1994 at Ahmedabad. The Convention was inaugurated by Prof. Yash Pal. It discussed several issues on the topic "Automation of Libraries in Higher Education and Research Institutes", namely :-

- 1 Automated libraries - Some experiences.
- 2 Infrastructure and facilities for information services.
- 3 Standardisation and Formats.
- 4 Database Creation, Management and Utilisation.
- 5 Computerising Libraries, financial and manpower development issues.
- 6 Networking and On-line services.

Working of computerised library systems and remote access of databases was demonstrated.

150 library and information science experts participated. It was also attended by British and American library experts.

A panel discussion on the topic "Automation of Libraries in Higher Education and Research Institutes", was also held. It was decided to hold such Convention as an annual feature on different topics of emerging trends.

CALIBER-95

The Second National Convention, CALIBER-95 was held at the University of Hyderabad during February 10-12, 1995. It was inaugurated by Dr. D. Balasubramaniam, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

Prof. Govardhan Mehta, Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad presided over the function. The response to the Convention was very encouraging. Over 200 library and information professionals participated. The Convention deliberated on the issues related to the topic "Information Access Through Networks". The highlights of the Convention were information users' direct participation on information requirements, usage, and demonstration of on-line access to database created at INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad.

The issues discussed were :

- 1 Information users.
- 2 Information sources and systems.
- 3 Information facilities through networks.
- 4 Current trends & future prospects in information technology.
- 5 Strategies for adopting new information technology.

Based on the experience in the CALIBER-94, the topics were divided into sessions and discussions were held in small groups, which provided opportunity to delegates to actively participate in the deliberations.

The Convention came out with following recommendations, most of which are being implemented.

The Convention recommended that :

- 1 INFLIBNET, which was rightly envisaged as a significant investment of the country towards enabling wider and easier access to information for and in the centres of higher learning and research all over the country, should be fully supported.
- 2 The funding of INFLIBNET by the UGC and Ministry of Human Resource Development should be enhanced in keeping with the legitimate demands of the modernisation of libraries and the development of library networks in the country.
- 3 In view of increasing awareness of the need for the library networks and eagerness to participate in the development of such networks by users, institutions of higher

- learning, and the governments at the centre, state and local levels should encourage investments in the development and promotion of networks and information access through networks.
- 4 The managements of institutions of higher learning should recognise the importance of modernising their libraries and appropriately investing to enable the objectives of INFLIBNET for the computerisation and networking to be fulfilled.
 - 5 Recognising the importance of sensitising and training of managerial, supervisory and operational staff at all levels to the technology of networking and managerial dimensions of the application of new technologies, INFLIBNET in association with other bodies should organise suitable awareness generation and training programmes at various levels.
 - 6 INFLIBNET in association with other bodies should device appropriate programmes and projects to enable centres of higher learning to improve their capabilities to access and handle new information sources and system.
 - 7 Keeping in view that networking requires conformity to mutually agreed standards, INFLIBNET standards which have emerged through wide consultations on a national scale should be adopted by libraries in centres of higher learning. However, standards are dynamic and INFLIBNET should monitor their developments and also ensure that problems faced by libraries in centres of higher learning in implementing these standards are addressed through appropriate methods.
 - 8 INFLIBNET and institutions of higher learning should take note of the trends in the world towards a distributed networking. Investments in technology and adoption of standards should be done with a perspective for distributed networking and distributed access to information products and services. This will enable even those in remote areas of the country to have efficient access to information needed by them.

- 9 INFLIBNET, which is truly a national endeavour, should involve all sectors of the government and not just the UGC. Investments in fulfilling the goals of INFLIBNET should come from local, state, central governments and other bodies.

The Convention was held at Hotel Viceroy and everyone appreciated the arrangements made by the organisers, the library staff and Prof. E. Ram Reddy in particular. A very nice programme of classical dance was also organised for the benefit of participants.

CALIBER-96

The Third National Convention, CALIBER-96, held at Smt. Hansa Mehta Library, Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda, Vadodara, during February 15-17, 1996, deliberated on the topic "Library Database Management". Prof. N.C. Mathur, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, inaugurated the Convention. Dr. (Smt) Mrunalini Devi Puar, Chancellor, M.S. University of Baroda presided over the inaugural session. Smt. Padma Ramachandran, Vice Chancellor of the university, was the special speaker. Dr. (Smt.) Veena Mistry, Pro-Vice Chancellor, who took keen interest in organising the Convention, welcomed the participants at the inaugural session. The key note address on the topic "Digitized Information Resources and Networks in the Academic and Research Environment" was delivered by the eminent scholar in the field of Library and Information Science, Prof. A. Neelameghan, Ex-Director, DRTC and UN Expert.

Database creation, development and maintenance assume an important role for making library information resources and services accessible to academic users in education centres and research institutions.

Several software packages for creation of library databases are in use in different academic libraries. Compatible developments in library database management is necessary for exchange and access to bibliographic and other information through networking of libraries.

The specific objectives of CALIBER-96 were:

- 1 To get appraisal of current developments in the field of database creation, development, services and maintenance in the context of library and information services.
- 2 To promote development of library databases and their management in academic libraries in India.
- 3 To help in exchange of information and experiences in the problems of database creation, development and maintenance in the libraries.
- 4 To identify library software and hardware problems in creation of bibliographic and other databases.
- 5 To help identify problems and review the progress made in library networks of various types and suggest ways and means to cooperate in terms of standards in formats and procedures for database creation.
- 6 To develop guidelines, standards and systems for retrospective conversion of library records.

The main theme of the Convention was "Library Database Management". It was divided into 5 sessions and a number of papers were presented on following topics:-

- 1 Library Database Creation and Management.
- 2 Software and Hardware Problems in Database Creation and Maintenance.
- 3 Full Text and CD-ROM Databases.
- 4 Current Trends and Prospects in Library Networking and INTERNET.
- 5 Resource Mobilisation.

Demonstrations were arranged to provide an idea of operational environments. These demonstrations included :

- (a) Integrated Library Management Software package developed by DESIDOC and enhanced by INFLIBNET.
- (b) Union Catalogue of databases (serials, theses,

books and database of experts), developed by INFLIBNET.

- (c) Remote access of database using both E-Mail and on-line facility.
- (d) Exploitation of GIST Card for working with different Indian languages, by INFLIBNET.
- (e) Catalogue Card generation in the library for main as well as added entries, developed by INFLIBNET.
- (f) Customised user friendly application software for database creation, search and print developed by INFLIBNET.
- (g) Down-loading of catalogue card from remote central database - on-line Union Catalogue developed at INFLIBNET.
- (h) A user friendly menu driven PASCAL interface program in CDS/ISIS for COPSAT users subscribing for profiles in ISO 2709 format, a project of INFLIBNET and NCSI.
- (i) Applications of Bar code system.
- (j) CD-ROM database on Women's studies, presented by U.G.C. National Information Centre, SNDT Women's University, Bombay.

CALIBER-96 was epoch-making in many ways and a grand success. The response was overwhelming as over 220 professionals attended the Convention. It received 54 papers, contributed by 83 authors - the largest number so far, for discussion. Also it was interesting to note that it included papers from 20 woman professionals. It showed an important trend and a positive response to the activities undertaken by INFLIBNET.

As in CALIBER-95, the discussions, held in various smaller groups, gave opportunity to the delegates to actively participate in the deliberations in the house and outside. The discussions were lively, educative and purposeful. It was heartening to see that all the sessions, group discussions and demonstrations held were attended in large numbers. Everybody appreciated the arrangements made by the organisers, the library staff of M.S. University and Prof. M.K.R. Naidu in particular.

A very good cultural programme was organised for the benefit of participants. This was thought-provoking, entertaining and was highly appreciated.

At the concluding functions following recommendations were made :

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CALIBER-96

In order to promote faster computerisation and sustained development of the Library Databases in the University and Research Libraries in the country, it is recommended that :-

- 1 INFLIBNET should, as far as possible, provide support for purchase of pentium and other State-of-the-Art technology in Computer and Communication fields. It should provide facilities for accessing GIST Cards for Indian languages databases.
(Note: INFLIBNET has already taken action.)
- 2 INFLIBNET should educate and train at least two professionals from the Library and one from the Computer Centre.
- 3 All libraries should adopt standards laid down by INFLIBNET Programme for data capturing. Individual libraries should take prior permission of INFLIBNET to use software of their own choice, to encourage uniformity in the country.
- 4 INFLIBNET should create data conversion programme for integration of databases of various libraries.
(Note : INFLIBNET has already developed several programmes for conversion and integration of databases.)
- 5 INFLIBNET should promote projects to identify few libraries to concentrate on database creation in Indian languages such as BHU for Sanskrit and Hindi, AMU or Osmania University for Urdu, Tamil University for Tamil languages, etc. and come up with a software package for creating databases for Indian languages.
- 6 For the purpose of developing a common union catalogue of books, it would be helpful if INFLIBNET can pool all the documents having ISBN since 1969 and develop a database using the ISBN system. All the Universities should provide details of documents having ISBN to INFLIBNET Programme for developing union catalogue of books using ISBN system.
- 7 The UGC/INFLIBNET may be requested to issue directions to the State Universities to take immediate steps to fill the sanctioned post of computer/information scientist under the INFLIBNET Programme with a view to expedite automation and library database creation activities. The facility should be continued till the end of Eighth Plan and later also in the Ninth Plan of the UGC.
- 8 INFLIBNET should develop a multi-media teaching kit on database creation for libraries and provide access to it for all participating libraries in the INFLIBNET Programme.
- 9 INFLIBNET should promote action towards facilitating INTERNET connectivity to all libraries and also help access INTERNET.
- 10 INFLIBNET having a National Mission for promoting academic library systems, should coordinate with NISSAT and other national systems such as National Informatics Centre, New Delhi, INSDOC and DESIDOC, etc. to develop a national union catalogue for on-line access and other common areas of interest to university and academic world.
- 11 INFLIBNET should provide continuous training programme for university library staff on modern information handling tools such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and other imaging systems, Expert systems for cataloguing and On-line Public Access Catalogues (OPAC), etc.
- 12 INFLIBNET in collaboration with appropriate organisations/institutes in India such as DRTC, INSDOC, etc. should organise short training programmes and workshops on information analysis, knowledge organisation, and vocabulary control with practical exercises. This can enhance the use and usefulness of databases and quality of retrieval of information and records from library databases.



Prof. N.C. Mathur, Vice Chairman, UGC, delivering inaugural address at CALIBER-96



A Technical Session at CALIBER-96

- 13 Courses/Programmes designed to promote the application of information technology in information centres and libraries should include and emphasis on quality and quality assurance concepts, methods and techniques in handling information products, services and management of information centres and libraries.
- 14 INFLIBNET and NISSAT are promoting the use of MICRO CDS/ISIS. There are several PASCAL utilities and interfaces available in India that enhance the capabilities and user-friendliness of the Standard MICRO CDS/ISIS distributed by UNESCO. INFLIBNET and NISSAT can jointly promote the use of and make accessible to users in India, these PASCAL programmes along with related manuals and write ups.
- 15 In order to encourage sustained software development for library databases, every library should be encouraged to create a special software development fund at least twenty per cent of the hardware cost. This fund should be utilised for interactive development of software packages by library and computer scientists.
- 16 In order to facilitate sustained and continued development of library databases in all regions of India, the UGC and MHRD should immediately plan to develop five regional centres of INFLIBNET through out India. Such Regional Centres should provide adoption of National Standards for library databases and networking facilities. They should also encourage training in the computer and networking. Services of several existing National Centres in different regions such as DRTC, INSDOC, NCST, NIC, etc. can be utilised for the purpose.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IASLIC (CIRCULAR 1) - CALL FOR PAPERS

The XVII National Seminar of the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres will be hosted by the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, during December, 1996. Full particulars of the same will be announced in due course.

General Instructions :

- 1 Both invited and contributed papers will be considered.
- 2 A very generalised presentation should be avoided.
- 3 Full papers should not exceed 1500 words for presentation in the Seminar.
- 4 Full papers with abstract, signed by author/s, typed in double space (in duplicate) along with floppy, if any, should reach the IASLIC by 19-8-1996.
- 5 Abstract/synopsis of papers mentioning the points/facets to be covered in the paper/s signed by the contributor/s must reach the IASLIC by 30-6-1996.
- 6 A declaration by the author/s should be made separately that the paper/s has/have not been sent elsewhere for publication.
- 7 Only accepted papers will be invited for presentation in the Seminar.
- 8 Only selected papers will be included in the printed Seminar Volume.
- 9 Photos, Graphs, Charts, if included within the papers, should be submitted along with the negative.
- 10 Author of the selected papers are entitled to get reprints of his paper.
- 11 The decision of the Editorial Committee in this regard will be final and no correspondence regarding the inclusion of the papers in the volume or otherwise will be entertained.
- 12 Correspondence regarding papers should be addressed to the Convenor, Editorial Committee, XVII National Seminar of IASLIC.

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