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FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

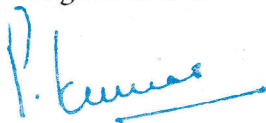
Dear friends,

I am happy to note that the first issue of the INFLIBNET News-Letter has been very well received by our members and well wishers. Some of them have written that they found the activities impressive and the news-letter very informative. These remarks act as tonic for us to improve and enlarge our activities.

I am happy to report that our database has grown significantly within the last three months. We have also enlarged our scope in training to include on-site training programmes at universities. Our young professional teams of staff members are moving from university to university commissioning computers, installing application software, providing training and extending all possible help to start computerised operations and networking. They work with the local library staff and ensure timely execution of work, solving problems on the spot. As before, our advisory services to university libraries in computerising their activities are continued with more vigour and are being very well utilised. The feedback received has been a great help and is being utilised for making the software more user friendly and need based.

We have recently started offering E-Mail services. We have approached I-NET, NICNET and ERNET authorities for extending communication facilities to INFLIBNET members on priority to enable them pool their resources and extend services to the users all over the country and inculcate the new "Networking Culture".

With good wishes.



Pramod Kumar

1 E-MAIL ACCESS TO INFLIBNET DATABASES

INFLIBNET has started a new service – access to its Union Catalogue of about 25,000 periodical and 50,000 thesis holdings using E-Mail facility. This includes holding details of more than 60 universities and other institutions of higher learning. E-Mail facility has been started as an economical and easily implementable means for exchange of data for resource sharing. The procedure involves sending queries by E-Mail to INFLIBNET Mailbox on **query@infahd.ernet.in** or **inlibhq@shakti.ncst.ernet.in** address. The query is then processed and results put back in respective mail boxes. One can then collect back the results through E-Mail. Libraries subscribing to any one of the data communication networks such as I-NET, ERNET and NICNET can avail of this facility.

E-Mail facility using ERNET is available to the libraries @Rs.5000/- per annum and is being provided on priority basis to the participating libraries of INFLIBNET Programme. For details please contact: Dr. SP Nawathe, Additional Director, ERNET Project, Deptt. of Electronics, 6, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003, Tel: 011-4363071. Facility is also available on NICNET.

2 ON UNIVERSITY FRONT.....

INFLIBNET teams visited the participating universities who have already procured computers for establishment and operationalisation of computer and network systems. These teams worked in close cooperation with the host library personnel to ensure satisfactory implementation of systems. The universities covered include Anna, Osmania, Gulbarga, Bombay, Jodhpur, Raipur, Manipur and Banaras Hindu

University. Activities of the teams included :

Library Management Software Installation and Feedback :

Integrated Library Management Software (ILMS) on cataloguing and circulation developed jointly by DESIDOC and INFLIBNET, was installed in libraries. Suggestions for improvement have been collected and are being incorporated.

On-Site Training :

Training included basics of computer hardware and software, networking, E-Mail and library management software. The operational staff working in different sections of the library were given exhaustive on-site training on applications of computer for acquisition, cataloguing and circulation work.

E-Mail System :

Use of E-Mail system was demonstrated in almost all the libraries visited. Demonstration was given using temporary login and password to the libraries which did not have E-Mail account in order to make them familiar and promote the use of E-Mail.

Data Acquisition in Indian Languages :

Universities have procured Gist Cards for creating databases of documents available in different Indian languages. Gist Card was integrated with CDS/ISIS software for creating databases of the documents available in Indian languages and training was given for data entry in different languages.

The visits have been quite productive and have made good impact on the working

environment of the libraries. The participants showed a lot of interest and enthusiasm.

3 TRAINING COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES

Training courses on "Application of Computers to Library and Information Services" were organised jointly by INFLIBNET and the university libraries in order to link the college libraries affiliated to the universities. INFLIBNET sent a team of resource persons to these universities for the courses. Lectures followed by practical sessions with hands-on experience and project work were the high-lights of these courses to provide required confidence to the library staff in working with computer systems. Courses were organised in following universities.

Gulbarga University :

Gulbarga University organised the course from May 18-28, 1995 at Gulbarga. The course was inaugurated by Mr. Sudhir Krishna, IAS, Divisional Commissioner and presided over by Dr. N.Rudraiah, Vice-Chancellor, University. Mr. Sudhir Krishna emphasised the need for utilising the latest technology for offering better library services, while Dr. N. Rudraiah highlighted the need for training the college librarians as part of the university's programme to link all the college libraries in the Gulbarga city. About 25 participants from the local libraries participated in this course. Mr. Ravi Gaddagimath, Librarian, Gulbarga University, served as the Course Coordinator. Dr. (Mrs) N. Parvathamma, Dept. of Library and Information Science, Mr. Darley Pattathil and Mr. H. Iranna from Computer Centre and INFLIBNET team served as resource persons.

Anna University :

Anna University Library organised training course with 17 participants from June 5-10, 1995 at Madras. Dr. K.M. Mehata, Professor In-charge, Library and Mrs. Vasantha, Dy. Librarian, were Coordinators.

Osmania University :

Osmania University organised similar course with 12 participants from May 29 - June 3, 1995 at Hyderabad. Dr. (Mrs.) D. Isaac, Librarian was the Course Coordinator.

4 INFLIBNET DATABASES GROW

With more and more universities extending their cooperation, INFLIBNET database is growing steadily. INFLIBNET has so far received data of serial holdings, theses/dissertations from 60 universities. Our database now covers 25,000 serial, 50,000 doctoral dissertation and about 5 lakh book holdings.

5 INFLIBNET ACQUIRES MORE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

INFLIBNET has now procured CD-NET system which will enable easy access to CD-ROM based information. It facilitates speeding up the database development activity at INFLIBNET Programme. INFLIBNET has simultaneously subscribed to a number of important international bibliographic databases for the purpose. Its noteworthy acquisition includes OCLC database.

6 10TH TRAINING COURSE AT INFLIBNET

INFLIBNET'S tenth training course on "Applications of Computers to Library and Information Services" is scheduled from July 17, 1995 with 20 participants. The universities/institutions covered include Tezpur University, Nagpur University, Kashmir University, MS University of Baroda, Himachal Pradesh University, Dr. Harisingh Gour Visvavidyalaya, CIEFL, Mangalore University, Kalyani University, Gujarat University, MEPCO Schlenk Engineering College and UGC.

7 ADINET MOVES AHEAD.....

Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET) is in the process of procuring computer and associated systems for database creation and networking. NISSAT/DSIR has subscribed to CD-ROM databases viz. Inside Information,

CD-MARC BIB, CD-MARC Name and CD-MARC Subject for ADINET.

Union catalogue of serials with over 3000 records of the 32 participating libraries at Ahmedabad has been created and is now available for use. Creation of databases of institutions and theses/dissertations is in progress. ADINET organised a training course for local libraries at Ahmedabad from July 3-11, 1995. 15 participants attended the course. INFLIBNET is extending all technical assistance and the resources for database creation by ADINET and in organising various programmes.

ADINET and INFLIBNET are jointly celebrating Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's birth anniversary with a seminar on "21st Century Libraries and Librarians" on August 12, 1995. ADINET also plans to conduct a three day workshop on E-Mail in September, 1995.

ANNOUNCEMENT : CALIBER-96

Third national Convention on Automation of Libraries in Higher Education and Research Institutions, CALIBER-96, will be jointly organised by INFLIBNET and MS University of Baroda in the third week of February, 1996 at Vadodara, Gujarat.