

IRTPLA: a new step in INFLIBNET's HRD activities at Regional level.

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Introduction

IT impact on libraries has created requirement of skilled human resources to handle the automation and networking activities. INFLIBNET, since its inception, is laying emphasis on training library professionals to handle library automation activities. In the initial period, more emphasis was given for providing training to the university library staff. INFLIBNET has conducted 20 training courses of one-month duration, 7 workshops of one-week duration and other specialized training programmes in collaboration with NASSDOC/ICSSR, AIR and ERNET. All these training programmes have got very good response from professionals and it is proposed to conduct such training programmes regularly, if possible at regional level also. Apart from these, INFLIBNET organizes CALIBER, a convention for professionals to interact and discuss the issues related to library automation and networking. So far 9 CALIBERs have been held and the 10th in this series, International CALIBER-2003 will be held at Ahmedabad in collaboration with Nirma Education & Research Foundation on February 13-15, 2003.

INFLIBNET Regional Training Programme for Library Automation (IRTPLA)

The libraries at the college level have now started taking initiative in the implementation of automation activities. Based on the recommendations made during CALIBER-2001 at Pune and with the overwhelming requests from all parts of the country, INFLIBNET Centre introduced a new series of regional level training programmes for library and information professionals, called as "INFLIBNET Regional Training Programme for Library Automation (IRTPLA)".

Implementation of IRTPLA

Since the universities covered under INFLIBNET have got the infrastructure to conduct such training courses and also to cover the entire country at different places, it was decided

to utilize these facilities for library professionals in remote places and college librarians. Host institutions were identified at regional level by covering all the states in the country. INFLIBNET provided nominal financial assistance to conduct these programmes and for convenience and more attention, the number of participants is restricted to 20, with a limitation of one participant from one institute. The course is designed with lectures on INFLIBNET activities and services, Basics of computers, communication, networking technologies, UGC-Infonet, Library Automation Scenario in India, Use of Internet in Libraries, Bibliographic Standards with reference to MARC 21 and demonstration and practical on SOUL- the Library management software developed by INFLIBNET. The first IRTPLA was held at Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kerala for the state of Kerala and IRTPLA for other states were held at different places during 2001-2002 as per the following Table (See Annexure).

Conclusion

All the host institutions took efforts and interest to conduct the courses successfully by providing infrastructure facilities and local support. With out the co-operation from coordinators and host institutions, these programmes would have not been so successful. A total of around 700 professionals were trained in these programmes, spread all over the country and 75% of them were drawn from college libraries. There is a strong demand on INFLIBNET to hold such regional training programmes in future at various places in the country.

Annexure: IRTPLA for 2001-2002

	Host University	Date	Coordinator	Participants
1.	Andhra Univ., Visakhapatnam	22 – 26 July, 2002	Dr R S R Varalaxmi	17
2.	Banaras Hindu University	16 –20 July, 2002	Dr B N Singh	21
3.	Bangalore University	29 July-2 Aug, 2002	Dr M Anjanappa	33
4.	Calicut University, Kozhikode	5 – 8 November 2002	Dr M Bavakutty	19
5.	Delhi University, Delhi	8-11 January 2002	Dr M L Saini	20
6.	Dr YSP University, Solan	25-29 June, 2002	Dr M S Pathania	19
7.	Gauhati University, Gauhati	19-22 November, 2001	Prof. N Lahkar	22
8.	Goa University	21 – 24 January, 2002	Dr P V Konnur	20