

ADINET - NETWORK OF AHMEDABAD LIBRARIES

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INTRODUCTION :

Today more than ever Information is Power. Access to this Information and the skill to understand and apply it, is the way power is exercised.

In this INFORMATION AGE, various Technical Developments have created new challenges for the library profession.

TWO CHALLENGES

1. **Working with new Technologies :
Computers, CD-work stations.**
2. **Working with Shrinking resources.**

Librarians have to ensure that

1. their **scarce resources** are fully utilised. There is gross under utilisation of resources, products and services.
2. Increasingly **complex and diverse** information needs of their clientele are satisfied.

Both these challenges and functions can be met by more effective **Resource Sharing**.

We can share : Money, Material, Manpower, the services, equipment and information products.

VIRTUAL LIBRARIES :

Libraries are becoming less and less a **physical location** and more and more a means of acquiring harnessing & utilizing vast information.

Networking has made possible the concept of a **Virtual Library** which is an **Information Service** or a **Resource** which users can access via a telecom. network. It need not be based on an actual Library but an amalgam of services and resources.

Once the ADINET and INFLIBNET become operational, then INFLIBNET will be a virtual Library.

It will enable both Librarians and Users to take advantage of such **unimaginable potential**.

Interesting quote : At the entrance of the Enoch Pratt Free library in Baltimore:

"I am neither walls, nor shelves, nor even the books that stand in rows.

I am the wisdom of the universe captured and arranged for you. I am the Library."

E-MAIL :

E-Mail has enabled Librarians to provide **faster and better services** to their clientele.

For effective Resource Sharing we need to interact not at just the local level but at the national level and also international level. Besides interacting with a large number of libraries at the national level mostly for ILL Requests, interaction amongst libraries of the same subject interest is very essential. For example Resource Sharing work is being done by (1) all Management Libraries (2) Astronomy Libraries (3) Space Research, etc.

At the international level there are at present **several, global, subjectwise**, Library Oriented Computer Lists. They are also called Forums or Discussion Groups. This is possible with the help of E-Mail facility.

ADVANTAGES :

1. Contact distant colleagues for Resource Sharing
2. Document delivery by using Fax or electronic scanner facility or FTP
3. Bibliography Search, Reference Service
4. ILL
5. Use of OPAC, Commercial databases, etc.

ADINET- Network of Ahmedabad Libraries :

A feasibility study of **networking 25 special libraries** of Ahmedabad has been done and a Report has been prepared.

This study was basically undertaken to study

1. The **need** for forming a network
2. To **study existing resources**
3. To **improve** utilisation of resources , etc..

The following **9 aspects** have been studied and analysed:

1. Nature of Subject Collection :

In special libraries the core subject collection varies to great extent from Advertising to Water Management.

2. Holdings :

The total collection in 25 libraries is 17,68,000 (17 lakh 68 thousand). The major collection is books 10 lakh 44 thousand. The maximum collection is in Gujarat Vidhyapith over 4.36 lakhs.

About 4500 periodicals are being subscribed for 1993 in 25 libraries. Out of these there are 3066 unique titles. A **Union List of 1993 Journals** has been prepared. 95 periodicals are subscribed by AIR-MAIL and 57 **A & I** periodicals are received.

3. Growth Rate :

Growth Rate of mostly all the libraries in 3 subsequent years, has been decreasing. There is a marginal increase in only a few libraries. The growth rate shows how much new material has been acquired and therefore how updated the libraries are.

4. Budget :

The total 92-93 budget of 25 libraries in Rs. 3,56,00,000 lakhs. The budget in 25 libraries range from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 36 lakhs.

The budget for 2 subsequent years has been increasing in mostly all libraries. Average % increase is 25%

5. Technical Processing :

The Technical Processing work done is Classification, Cataloguing and Indexing. Different schemes, codes and practicals are being followed.

6. Users Service Rendered :

All 25 libraries give Reference Service

18 libraries give CAS

24 libraries give ILL

17 libraries give Newspaper Clip

15 libraries compile Bibliography

4 libraries give Translation Service

20 libraries give Reprography service.

7. Information Exchanged between Libraries :

This varies to a great extent. The number of Photocopies procured and provided are very large in large special libraries.

There is absolutely no interaction amongst the 7 college and polytechnic libraries.

8. Personpower profile :

There does not seem to be any ratio followed between the staff and size of collection and between the staff and no. of users.

9. Library Automation :

Out of the 25 libraries studied, 14 libraries have introduced library automation.

Most of the libraries are using PCs.

Only 4 libraries have developed in-house library software.

3 libraries are using commercial software.

7 libraries are using CDS/ISIS.

Eleven libraries have either converted or are in the process of converting their records. The total number

of book records which are in machine readable form are 4.73 lakhs. The total book collection is 10.44 lakhs i.e. **almost half** the data conversion work has been done.

OBSERVATIONS :

The following observations were made during the feasibility study:-

i) **Recognize Network Value & Assure Involvement**

Both Librarians and Institutions should recognize the long term value to library users of a citywide network of libraries and support the creation and use of the network.

ii) **Share Resources & Overcome Existing Barriers**

Libraries need to place a very high priority on the sharing of resources and the need to improve document delivery methods for interlibrary loan to help meet the information needs of their readers. Further, any barriers which may exist and which prevent resources sharing among all types of libraries, need to be identified and overcome.

iii) **Special Training Programme**

It is essential to hold a special training program exclusively for ADINET Members.

a) To make technology supported information systems understandable to novice users and to be able to access and use the information products and services.

b) **Awareness Program**
An awareness about the need for customization of information in order to expand and facilitate its usage.

c) **To inoculate the spirit of team work**

A joint training programme would help the ADINET Members to get better acquainted with each other. No amount of technology alone can help, unless and until there is team work

**Technology + Team Work
= Transformation**

iv) **Institutional Library Partnerships**

Library partnerships must be devised and encouraged especially a partnership between a large library and small library whereby the latter can gain from the former. It would also be worthwhile to develop a series of collaborative and exchange in bilateral and multilateral endeavour.

Conclusion :

We are at present in the Information Age and are witnessing tremendous developments in the field of information technology. It is not the capital, or the managerial or the entrepreneurial skill which can bring a revolution to the quality of life; but it is the **information power**. With the help of **networking**, this information power can be effectively used. This power is in the hands of a Library or Information Center, which can become the heart and soul of an **Information Technology Industry**.