

# RESOURCE MOBILISATION : A PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR RAILWAY STAFF COLLEGE

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## ABSTRACT

The paper gives a vivid picture of various libraries of Indian Railways. With special emphasis on the availability of the vast resources of Railway Staff College Library, Vadodara. The author suggest a well-knit Railway Network, viz. Railway Information Network System (RINS) which would eliminate duplication of resources and optimum use of the same.

Railway Staff College is the apex training institute for the officers of the Indian Railways. It imparts training to Officers of other allied services of India and to the Railway officers of Common Wealth Countries also. Established at Baroda (Gujarat) on the 31st February, 1952, the Railway Staff College fulfils an important function in the organisation of Indian Railways an undertaking with a capital investment of over 32,000 Crores and employment of 17 lakhs persons including 14000 Officers. All fresh entrants to the officer's cadre of various departments need foundational studies besides 'infield' training before they can take working charge of appointments they are meant for. Senior officers holding positions of higher responsibility also need opportunities to constantly gear themselves upto the ever changing managerial techniques and methodology so necessary to provide a basically customer-oriented services to the railway users.

The principal objectives and activities of the institutional and other activities provided in this institutions are :

- 1) To develop 'an esprit de coros', character and personality.
- 2) To develop executive and administrative abilities.
- 3) To develop organisationally effective personnel with pride in their work and faith in management.
- 4) It acts as national resource centre for probationers of Indian allied services like Indian Police Service (IPS). Indian Revenue Service (IRS). Indian Information Service (IIS), etc.

The college provides and ideal 'Campus' atmosphere, located in Pratap Vilas Palace covering an area of 55 acres.

## COMPUTER CENTRE :

The computer centre is housed on the first floor of the library building. A minicomputer (HCL Magnum) presently with 22 terminals has a capacity to accommodate in all 64 terminals. With the advancement in Information Technology and a growing need for

training railway officers in Management Information Systems (MIS) made the railway authorities to establish this centre. There are CAD and CAM facilities attached to a Digitizer and a Plotter. At present, in addition to minicomputer there are twenty four 486 DX-II computer NOTEBOOKS with colour LCD display, fifteen 486 PC/AT's, thirteen 386 PC/AT's, two HP Laser printers and eight bubble jet colour printers are available in the computer centre; all system operate on Windows environment. Most of the modern computers and software packages are available in the computer centre and library of Railway Staff College. Facilities for automax, pcfax, e-mail, chat-mode, operation etc. have also been provided. A unique facility of visiting Internet and World Wide Web (WWW) has been made operational very recently. This is based on a satellite communication link operating in extended C Band. (VAST). RSC computer centre is the only centre in Baroda which has been connected to Internet.

## LIBRARY

Railway Staff College is having a well equipped library with a large stock of technical books on subjects of railway interest, management and computer science. At present, there are about 80,000 books. In addition to books the present library collections include CD-ROM's, wide variety of Audio and, Video Cassettes, etc.

We are moving towards total computerisation of library activities. Most of the library operations have been computerised for the last two years, viz. acquisition of library documents, serials control, charging and discharging of documents, cataloguing, indexing etc. The updation of library database is done step by step. The database of books contains about 25,000 records.

RSC library has already been connected to INFLIBNET shortly.

A photocopying machine has been placed in the library premises which would enable the users to get the photocopies of documents. In the recent past an

Audio-Video section has been opened in the library. Presently the section is having four TVs and VCRs, 50 walkmans & 12 Two-in-house Audio Systems. 500 Audio cassettes, 600 Video cassettes, 6 CD ROM's etc.

The other organisations and undertakings of Indian Railways are :

1. Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
2. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES).
3. Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC).
4. Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR).
5. Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC).
6. Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).

In addition to Railway Staff College, Vadodara Indian Railways has various training institutes and schools for the officers and different categories of staff connected with Railways.

Some of the important institutions of Indian Railways are :

1. Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering at Pune.
2. Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications at Secunderabad.
3. Indian railways Institute of Electrical Engineering at Nasik.
4. Indian Railway Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering at Jamalpur.

Apart from these premier institutions there are a number of staff training centres or schools in nine Railway Zones in all over India.

The various production units in Indian Railways which are :

1. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Chittaranjan.
2. Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi.
3. Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Madras.
4. Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore.
5. Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

Indian Railways have well established libraries in their respective organisation. All training centres, production units, and headquarters have their own libraries with books arranged according to various popular classification schemes, viz. UDC, DDC, CC, etc. The libraries in various organisations and undertakings of Indian Railways are special in nature, in a way that they cater to the specialised needs of their own.

Some of the well organised and reputed libraries of

Indian Railways are:

### **(1) RAILWAY BOARD LIBRARY**

it is said to be the first library established by the Railway Board since 1905 and it gives Current Awareness Services (CAS) and bibliographical Services. The total collection is about 55,000 documents.

### **(2) RDSO Library**

The Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is the sole Research and Development unit of Indian Railways, providing direction to the technological developments in almost all the fields of Railway activities. It functions as the technical advisor and consultant to Indian Railways.

RDSO Library was formed in 1957 by the authorities of Indian Railways. It is the biggest library of Indian Railways with a collection over 1.5 lakhs. The resources include 24,000 books, 12,400 bound volume journals, 16,000 reports, 56,500 specifications, 50,000 patents, 2,400 translations and 1,000 microfiches. The major publications are weekly "Current Awareness List", fortnightly "Current Abstracts", bi-monthly "Documentation Notes" and quarterly notification for "Indian Railway Standard Specifications and Drawings". There are also facilities for translation of literature in RDSO Library.

Over and above there are other libraries and they are RITES Library, IRFC Library, CONCOR Library, CRIS Library etc. These are functional libraries attached to the parent organisations.

### **Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES)**

RITES provides comprehensive consultancy services in sectors such as railways, airports, highways, urban transport, inland waterways, ports and harbours and industrial engineering.

### **Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC)**

Set up in 1986 to partly finance the plan outlay of Indian Railways, IRFC raised Rs. 6,101.25 Crores including Rs. 131.14 Crores for Konkan Railway Corporation through bonds till 31.3.94.

### **Container Corporation of India Ltd., (CONCOR)**

CONCOR provides multimodal transport services. Some of the highlights of its performance are increased handling of containers. Starting of block-rake services on important railway routes, stepping in for promoting container manufacturing industry, etc.

### **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**

CRIS was set up in 1987. Some of the important projects undertaken by it are:

#### **(a) Freight Operations Information System (FDIS):**

This is on-line real-time system with terminals at all functional centres of IR, when implemented, will be one

of the largest networks of its kind anywhere in the World.

(b) Passenger Reservation System:

Substantial progress has been made in the development of the new reservation software, which will provide for networking of the PRS computers at all the selected locations.

(c) Micro-processor based Self-printing Ticketing Machines (SPTM):

The system is designed to replace manual issue of printed card tickets for unreserved rail journey.

### Training Centre Libraries

The major libraries associated with training centres are:

- 1 Railway Staff College Library, Vadodara.
- 2 Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering, Pune.
- 3 Indian Railway Institute of Electrical Engineering, Nasik.
- 4 Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications, Secunderabad.
- 5 Indian Railway Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering, Jamalpur.

(Ref: Appendix-A, Table No.1)

The Libraries at these training centres are technical libraries which are meant for serving the needs of the special Staff and Trainees undergoing training courses.

### Zonal Railway Libraries

Indian Railways are divided into nine zones. viz. Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern, Central, South-Central, North-Eastern, South-Eastern and North-East Frontier Railways.

Zonal libraries are small independent units functioning from each zonal headquarters.

(Ref: Appendix-A, Table No.2)

### Production Units Libraries

The libraries attached to IR Production Units contains books which are highly technical in nature, containing production data and other allied subjects which are of particular interest to the respective production units only.

(Ref: Appendix-A, Table No.2)

### Recommendations

- 1 Systematic organisation of information at various centres.
- 2 Thorough study of the manual library system existing at the various centres.
- 3 Identification of standard format for the creation of the database, which would facilitate in easy data exchange.
- 4 Creation of a central database.
- 5 Conversion of library resources in a machine

readable form.

- 6 The last step is the creation of a network linking all the said centres.

### CONCLUSION

Resource mobilisation can be achieved by the creation of a complete database in a standard form so that it can be exchanged at any of the Railway Information Centres in India. All the libraries of Indian Railways can be linked together as a well-knit unified system, to form a Railway network. It can help in resource mobilisation by sharing Railway Information both at national and international level.

At Railway Staff College, Vadodara we have created a database on Management and Railways in CDS/ISIS. A specimen copy is enclosed in the Appendix-B. With the resources available in the Railway Staff College discussed earlier, the RSC library can function as a repository of Railway Information for other organisations and undertaking of Railways not only in India but also at international level.

Since internet facility is available at Railway Staff College, the Railway database can be put on Internet. And this Railway Information becomes a marketable product. A Railway Information Network System (RINS) would eliminate duplication of documents which would help in saving money.

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### REFERENCES

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- 2 Prasad, Nigam., "Feasibility Study for Establishing an Information Centre at Railway Staff College, Vadodara": A Dissertation, The M.S University of Baroda, Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Arts, 1993, p.110.
- 3 Prasad, H.S.S. (1991), "Computer Facilities and Applications at RSC", *Journal of Railway Staff College*, 3 (3), 55-63.
- 4 Railway Board, *Indian Railways Year Book - 1993-94*, New Delhi: Ministry of Railways, 1995.
- 5 Saxena, R.N., "Four Decades of Indian Rail-

ways:1950-1990", Delhi: Academic Foundation, 1993.

## APPENDIX - A

TABLE 1 MAJOR INDIAN RAILWAY LIBRARIES

(VOLUMES ROUNDED TO 000's)

Name of Library	Total No. of volumes	No. of Journals Subscribed	Total Staff	Classification Scheme
Railway Board Library New Delhi	55,000	66	7	DDC
R.D.S.O. Library Lucknow.	1,70,000	110	18	UDC
Railway Staff College Library, Vadodara.	80,000	115	11	UDC
Indian Railways Instt. of Civil Engg, Pune.	32,000	70	6	DDC
Indian Railways Instt. of Signal Engg & Telecomm. Secunderabad.	25,000	130	9	UDC
Indian Railways Instt. of Electrical Engg., Nasik.	12,000	32	4	DDC
Indian Railways Instt. of Mechanical & Electrical Engg., Jamalpur.	23,000	76	5	DDC
North Eastern Railway Gorakhpur.	70,000	—	26	CC

## APPENDIX-A

TABLE 2 LIST OF OTHER RAILWAY LIBRARIES

(ROUNDED TO NEAREST 000's)

Sr.No.	Name of Library	Total No. of Volumes	Classification Scheme
1.	Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi	2,000	
2.	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan	3,000	
3.	Integral Coach Factory, Madras	—	
4.	Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore	—	
5.	System Technical School, Ajmer	2,800	DDC
6.	System Technical School, Bangalore	1,800	
7.	System Technical School, Muzafarpur	5,00	
8.	Zonal Training School, Bhusawal	2,800	
9.	Zonal Training School, Udaipur	4,600	
10.	Eastern Railway, Calcutta	5,000	DDC
11.	Northern Railway, New Delhi	5,000	DDC
12.	South Eastern Railway, Calcutta	2,000	UDC
13.	Western Railway, Bombay	26,000	
14.	Central Railway, Bombay	11,000	
15.	South Central Railway, Secunderabad	20,000	

## APPENDIX - B

RAILWAY STAFF COLLEGE LIBRARY, VADODARA

DOCUMENTATION (SAMPLE LISTING)

### MANAGEMENT

Ayyar, R.S. The management of Research, Development and Education in Construction Engineering as an Integrated Part of Nation Building Activity. Udyog Pragati. Bombay, NITIE, July-Dec-1992. p. 20-23.

**KEYWORDS:**

civil engineering; management; research and development; education.

The paper identifies a few major decisive factors like discipline homogeneity, institutional uniformity, standard of research and patterns of financing all of which are of prime importance in ensuring such interaction. (158)

Sadri, S. Dastoor, D. Personnel Management in India (A Critical Appraisal and Reformulation). Udyog Pragati (July-Dec 1992). Bombay, NITIE, 1992. p. 33-38, illus.

**KEYWORDS:**

management; personnel management; industrial relations.

The paper subsumes personnel management within a larger and holistic study of industrial relations, which in turn, lies within the overall context of capitalist economic development. (161)

Sharma, P.K. Save Foreign Exchange by an Efficient Spareparts Management Udyog Pragati. Bombay, NITIE, 1992. p. 39-42., illus.

**KEYWORDS:**

management; material management; economy. This paper highlighted preventive maintenance along with development of management culture at various levels in the organisation leads to save foreign exchange by an efficient spareparts management. (162)

Nadharni, R.P. Effective management for preventing industrial sickness. Udyog Pragati (Jan-June) 1992. Bombay, NITIE, 1992. p. 24-27.

**KEYWORDS:**

management; industrial sickness. This article is a worthwhile exercise in self introspection by industrial managers. A series of searching questions are to be asked and their answer to be found by them. (165)

RAILWAY STAFF COLLEGE LIBRARY, VADODARA

DOCUMENTATION (SAMPLE LISTING)

RAILWAYS

Avatharam, V.K. Gauge conversion on south central railway.

Journal of the Railway Staff College. Vol.5. No.3. Vadodara, RSC, July-Sept-1993. p. 19-29.

KEYWORDS:gauge conversion; railways. (181)

Kumar, A.J. Computerised passenger reservation system on Indian Railways-A public utility service.

Rail International (5) 1993.Brussels, IRCA, May-1993. p. 42-46.

KEYWORDS:railways-Indian; PRS; passenger reservation system. (191)

Feve, M. The SNCF and its subsidiaries: A response to growing logistics demand.

Rail International (4) 1993. Brussels, IRCA, April-1993. p. 52-56.

KEYWORDS:Railways; SNCF; France.

Subsidiaries are subject to the normal interplay of market forces and are gaining an international dimension. In tomorrow's world, they will act as a spring-board for SNCF activities across Europe.... (192)

Kumar, A.J. Computerised passenger reservation system on Indian railways: A public utility service.

Rail International (5) 1993. Brussels, IRCA, May-1993. p. 42-46.

KEYWORDS:Indian railways; PRS.

The passenger reservation system on Indian Railways has now come to stay and has become an invaluable support for passenger trains running on the railways.... (195)

Saxena, R.N. Indian railways management with particular reference to financial management.

Rail International. Brussels, IRCA, June-July-1993. p. 27-31.

KEYWORDS:Indian railways; financial management.

Indian railway system is one of the rare examples which has been showing surpluses from year to year and has continued to prosper. (199)

Prasad, H.S.S. Applications of information technology in management of freight traffic.

Rail international (3) 1993. Brussels, IRCA, March-1993. p. 61-66.

KEYWORDS:Railways; Indian; transportation; freight; information Technology.

Indian railways are carrying more bulk traffic but fewer wagon-load consignments. In the interest of national economy, it would be desirable to transport freight by rail, as it is more fuel efficient. The strategy for achieving this goal is described and depends to a large extent on the use of information tech. (200)

Holtgreffe, G. Optimising supply and demand for railway telecommunications services.

Rail International (3) 1993. Brussels, IRCA, March-1993. p. 67-75.

KEYWORDS:railways; Netherlands; telecommunications.

Railway companies are both users and suppliers of telecommunications services. The first step required to determine future demands for such services is to analyse the information needs of a company, based on its corporate strategy. An example of this type of analysis for Netherlands Railways is described .. (201)