Role of INFLIBNET in Indian Library Services

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Introduction

The INFLIBNET programme was conceptualised by the then chairman of UGC Porf. Yash pal. As a result of UGC's efforts to help the university libraries to share their resources and to avoid the duplication of holdings INFLIBNET was established in the year 1988 with objectives set forth as :

- To evolve a national network interconnecting various libraries and information centres in the country and to improve the capability in information handling and service;

- To provide access to document collection of libraries by creating on-line union catalogue of monographs serials, and non-book materials;

- To provide improved access to bibliographic numerical and factorial databases with particular emphasis on those databases created indigenously by the Sectorial information centres of NISSAT and UGC information centres;

- To establish gateways for on-line accessing of information;

- To provide document delivery service by enriching information sources of libraries having rich collection in specific areas;

- To optimize information resource utilization through resource sharing;

- To implement computerization of operations and services in libraries and information centres following uniform standards;

- To facilitate scientific communication among scientists technologists researchers social scientists academics faculties and students through electronic mail bulletin board file transfer computer/audio/video conferencing etc.

- To enable users disbursed all over the country to have access to information regarding books monographs serials and non-book materials by locating the sources where available and to obtain them through the facilities of new technologies and union catalogue of documents;

- To encourage cooperation among libraries documentation centres information centres in the country so that the resources can be pooled for the benefit of weaker resource centres by the stronger ones;

- To develop suitable professional manpower of appropriate quality to establish and manage and sustain the INFLIBNET and;

- To evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques methods procedures hardware and software and services and so on and promote adoption in actual practice by all libraries in order of facilitate exchange of resources towards optimization.

Services of INFLIBNET

INFLIBNET is planned and designed as a multiple function/ service network. It is providing the following services;

i) Catalogue based service

ii) Database service

iii) Document supply service

iv) Collection development (helping different participants inn acquisition and procurement)

v) Communication based services

i) Catalogue Based services: catalogue services comprise of shared cataloguing of monographs serials and non-book materials compilation of union catalogue of books serials and non-book materials provision of on-line access for shared cataloguing and location identification assisting in catalogue production in card book magnetic tape/floppy, etc.

ii) Data Base services: these include searching of databases for current as well as retrospective services provision of computer based SDI and provision of non-bibliographic information such as on-going and completed projects institutions and specialist by compiling maintaining and searching such non-bibliographic databases.

iii)   **Document supply services:** it include inter-library loan service and document delivery service through fax/non-fax and internet etc.

iv)   **Collection Development service:** it is basically intended to help the member libraries in selection acquisition and procurement aspects.

v)   **Communication Based services:** these services include:

- Referral services
- Electronic –mail service
- Bulletin Board –view /update bulletin board
- Academic communication through electronic mail. File transfer computer/audio/video conferencing etc.

N-LIST

The Project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)", being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for i) cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDESTAICTE resources for universities and UGCINFONET resources for technical institutions; and ii) access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. As on 27th January 2014 from all over India 3214 libraries are members. Shodhganga (Shodhganga, 2014) This project is very important for the researcher. Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial. Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. Current status of Shodhganga is 155 universities are participated and 13036 theses are uploaded as on 27th January 2014. Open Journal System "Scholars need the means to launch a new

generation of journals committed to open access, and to help existing journals that elect to make the transition to open access…". Open Journal Systems (OJS) is a journal management and publishing system that has been developed by the Public Knowledge Project through its federally funded efforts to expand and improve access to research. (PKP, 2014) In open journal system 14 open access journals are available for the researchers. (OJAS, 2014) InfoPortal: A Subject Gateway (INFOPORTAL, 2014) The INFLIBNET Centre promotes open access to Indian scholarly content through the InfoPort: A Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources. InfoPort is a well-known subject gateway developed by MIMAS, UK, the InfoPort is designed and developed to serve as a comprehensive gateway to all Indian scholarly content. Only these data is available those eresources are from India. In this gateway total 1735 recourses are available now. E-Pathshala (MHRD, 2014) The MHRD, under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), has assigned work to the UGC for development of e-content in 77 subjects at postgraduate level. 416 modules are available to post graduate students. The content and its quality is the key component of education system. High quality, curriculum-based, interactive content in different subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages is being developed under this initiative named e-PG Pathshala. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium (INFONET, 2014) The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003. In this consortium 419 universities are benefited. More than 7500 full text e recourses are available from 20+ international publishers to member universities and 5+ types of bibliographic database available under the subscription. Conclusion: In the importance of higher education every country library and information

Achievements of INFLIBNET

i) It regularly arrange training programmes for participating universities to train their man power in the field of automation.

ii) It has brought out following publication by now

    a) Compilation of a union catalogue

    b) Databases of thesis/dissertations and

    c) Serials databases

iii) It prepare guidelines for data capturing encouraging library automation activities development of suitable software and implementing at participating libraries.

iv) It has also developed its own library software named SOUL for library automation

v)   It arranges annual conference CALIBER to discuss recent developments in the field of library and information science at a common platform

By now 10 such conferences have been arranged including 2 international ones.

vi)   It also arranges IRTPLA training programmes at local level to train the man power in regional languages at selected spots.

Conclusion

Besides recently it is working as a media agency to implement UGC-INFONET programme of university Grants commission which is started in the December 2003. Through this programme free access of e-journals will be provided to each and every participating university through INTERNET connectivity. In a few universities, this facility has already been provided and they are getting benefits of e-access. Rest of the universities are at developing stage.

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