Chapter - 4

Modernization of University Libraries
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MODERNISATION OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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CHAPTER – 4
MODERNIZATION OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

1 Ancient Period

Our way of life has always attached greatest importance to the development and dissemination of knowledge in all walks of life. The Vedas for instance have been passed from generation to generation through oral tradition, known as 'Shruti' and 'Smruti', i.e. to listen and to retain. Perhaps that is why there were no academic libraries, as we know during the Indus Valley and Aryan civilizations. It has been said that academic libraries formally became part of higher education in 414 AD when Taxila University was founded in the city of Gandhara. Taxila was the first University in the world and had an excellent library.\(^1\)

Similarly, Buddhist monastic institutions at Nalanda, Vallabhi, Vikramashila, and Odanta Puri became important centers of higher learning. All of these institutions had libraries for their students and teachers. Nalanda University, which was located about 55 miles southeast of Patna in Bihar, occupied a unique place and played a dynamic part in the field of ancient Indian education.\(^2\) Jogesh Misra is of the view that “the University was at its peak of reputation and international glory in the ninth century AD.\(^3\)

This University had a splendid library with a collection of invaluable manuscripts.\(^4\) The library was known as 'Dharmaganja' and had three buildings in it known as Ratnasagar, 'Ratnodadhi' and 'Ratnaranjaka'. Ratnodadhi was a nine-story building and specialized in rare sacred work. Nalanda University library was biggest in Asia at that time.\(^5\)

2 Medieval Period:

The medieval time of Indian history was full of battles and wars, which affected the progress of higher education and the development of academic libraries. Later Muslim rulers in India who were book lovers, had their own libraries, and encouraged the establishment of 'Madrasaha'
In Medieval time most of the educational Institutes of higher learning had their own libraries, but it was limited to only few people and scholars.

3 Modern Period - British Period:

The development of higher education in general and academic libraries in particular, continued during the British period but at a slower rate. Many colleges during the early 1800s were without libraries and no proper efforts were made to establish libraries in colleges-with a few exceptions until the 1850s.

3.1 Establishment of Universities and their Libraries

It was only after the Woods Education Dispatch of 1854, which is considered the Magna Carta of English education in India lead to the setting of universities. On the recommendations of the Woods Education Commission, three modern universities were established in the metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in 1857. The main function of these universities was to conduct examination. Hence there was no need of a library.

Time gap between the establishment of Universities and their libraries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the University</th>
<th>Year of establishment</th>
<th>Library established in</th>
<th>Time gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bombay</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>1878</td>
<td>21 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>1873</td>
<td>16 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>1907</td>
<td>50 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These libraries were run by clerks until 1914, as no qualified professional librarians were available for lack of professional training programme in India. In August 1864 the donor, Mr. Premehand Roychand, made a handsome offer towards the library building of Bombay University. He made another offer of 2,00,000 rupees on October 1864, in the name of
his mother. This sum was to be used for the “erection of a tower (Rajabai Tower) with large clock provided with a sound of joy bells”\(^6\).

Similarly, the Calcutta University got donation of Rs. 5000/- for the purchase of books for library in 1869. This money was not used immediately. The University then received collection of books. This collection formed the nucleus of the library. In 1873, a library building was constructed. Unfortunately, no donor came to Madras University. So the Madras University remained without a library for fifty years. It was in 1907, Madras University was able to get its university library through donations.\(^7\)

### 3.2 The Hunter Commission Report

An Indian Education Commission was appointed by the British Indian Government in 1882 to study the progress of education under the new policy adopted in 1854 by the East India Company. The Commission was known as the Hunter Commission after the name of its chairman, Sir William W.Hunter. The Commission reviewed the education thoroughly including the status of academic libraries and was disappointed to see the condition of the libraries and declared them “hardly creditable”\(^8\). The Commission recommended special grants to libraries for improvement purpose.

### 3.3 The Raleigh Commission

In the year 1902 the British Government of India appointed university commission. It was chaired by Sir Thomas Raleigh. The Commission made the following observations.

“Of the present university libraries, there is not much to be said. The library at Madras appears to be entirely neglected: Bombay has a good collection of oriental and other books-Calcutta has a library which is open to fellows and the persons permitted by the syndicate to use it for the purpose of literary research Allahbad University has no library”. This shows the actual conditions of the university libraries in the early 20\(^{th}\) century.

The Commission recommended: “Good reference libraries should be provided in connection both with universities and colleges in order that
students may have an opportunity of forming the habit of independent intelligent reading."9

When the Universities Act was passed in 1904 as a result of the observations and recommendations of the Commission, it contained a specific statutory provision for the Universities to maintain well-equipped libraries. The affiliated colleges were also required, under section 21.1 (e) of the Act, to provide a library as a condition of affiliation.

3.4 The Calcutta University Commission, (1917-19) Report

The Commission considered "the maintenance of an adequate University library kept-up-to data on essential to a first class university". It recommended that the university should have the services of a librarian, who "should have the salary and status of a professor and should be ex-officio member of the Academic Council"10. The University of Madras gave a lead in this direction and appointed S.R. Ranganathan as its librarian in 1924.

3.5 Development of university libraries during 1924-1947

The Universities established in India before the 1920s were not teaching Institutions. Their main responsibilities were to conduct examinations and award degrees to the successful candidates from their affiliated colleges. Most of the new universities established in India after 1920. Were teaching-cum-residential (Unitary) universities.

3.5.1 Madras University Library

Madras University Library was fortunate to have Dr. S.R. Ranganathan as its first professional librarian. The very first act of Dr. Ranganathan was to extend the library hours for the benefit of the readers. Where as the hours had previously been 7 a.m. To 4 p.m., they were now to be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.11 The budget of the University library had been very poor from the beginning and it was difficult to administer the library. Dr. Ranganathan was waiting for the right opportunity to discuss the matter with the authorities. During an educational conference held in Madras in 1926, in his speech, Ranganathan "gave a graphic account of the library
network in Europe and the United States of America and compared it with the poor, appalling facilities existing in India... [He] added that paucity of funds prevented him from developing his library\textsuperscript{12}. Luckily, the Chief Minister of Madras who inaugurated the conference heard Ranganathan's speech and was impressed. He promised to give more state help to the University library. Immediately, 6000 rupees was added to the annual grant from the state, and in addition, 100000 rupees in lump sum was sanctioned by the Madras Government in the same year to buy books and periodicals in pure sciences, humanities, and social sciences\textsuperscript{13}. Provision was made for additional grants to the library, as and when new departments of study and research were established. In the words of Dr. Ranganathan, "this was the first forward financial step in the history of the university libraries in India in the second quarter of the twentieth century"\textsuperscript{14}.

Dr. Ranganathan established a technical services department in the library and all books were classified and catalogued. An open access system was introduced in 1926. The rules were progressively liberalised for the users and borrowers of books.\textsuperscript{15}

Thus University of Madras library made a good progress under Ranganathan's leadership. In 1930 the library had five well trained reference librarians to help the users and these librarians "Carried the work a high pitch of efficiency" \textsuperscript{16} This was the first time in the history of the development of academic libraries in India, that special reference service was introduced in a university library. Ranganathan introduced his own colon classification in the library in 1933. Reclassify the complete collection and introduced classified catalogue code, with proper cross-references, for its users\textsuperscript{17}. The library collection increased to 93000 volumes in 1935 and on September 3, 1936, the library was shifted to its first new, and permanent, functional building. By 1944, the collection had reached 120000 volumes\textsuperscript{18}. 
3.5.2 University of Bombay Library

The University of Bombay Library received a special grant of 50,000 rupees from the central government in 1939 to strengthen its collection for graduate studies. During 1931-1939, a few more special grants were given to the library for its collection development. A very special grant of 10,000 rupees was given by Kikabhai and Maneklal, sons of the late Premchand Roychand in 1931, to replace the electric clock from the library tower\textsuperscript{19}. The collection, which stood at 4,504 volumes in 1900, rose to 70,000 in 1939\textsuperscript{20} and 73,582 in 1947\textsuperscript{21}.

3.5.3 University of Calcutta Library

The University of Calcutta Library had been facing space problems since the 1920s. It was due to the efforts of the new vice Chancellor, a new library wing was added in 1934 to the Ashutosh Building at a total cost of 120,000 rupees. The postgraduate lending library and the university library were both shifted to this new floor in April 1935. The University had appointed the University librarian in 1937.\textsuperscript{22} He was the first professional librarian. During his first year he introduced the Dewey Decimal classification, Anglo-American code for cataloguing, and the Cutter scheme were used for the first time.

Like the universities of Madras and Calcutta, Banaras Hindu University established in 1916 also had to wait for many years to get its first library building. The construction of this library was made possible by handsome donation of 200,000 rupee in 1926-27 by late Sir Sayaji Rao Gaekwad of Baroda. The library was completed and occupied in 1941.\textsuperscript{23}

3.5.4 Inter-University Board

As per recommendation of the Indian universities conference held in 1924 at Simla, an Inter-University Board of India and Ceylon was created in 1925\textsuperscript{24}. It has solved many university problems and coordinated academic programme including those of university libraries, through skilful negotiation, co-operation, and consultation.
3.5.5 Library training programme

The library education programme has also played an important role in the development of libraries. The first library-training programme started by William A. Borden in 1910, at Baroda, for the people working in libraries in the state of Baroda and to prepare future professional librarian. Then, in 1915 the training programme was introduced by Dickinson at Lahore. It was limited for the Punjab Universities and its affiliated colleges.

The Madras Library Association, formed in 1928, through the efforts of Dr. Ranganathan, took the lead by conducting three months-training programme for college librarians of India, in summer of 1929. It was the first library school of its kind in the country for academic librarian. It was, in fact, the first full-time library education programme in India to train librarians. Ranganathan wanted to start a Master’s degree programme in Library Science at University of Madras in 1936. But the proposal was rejected. Ranganathan started Library Certificate Course of three months duration and a one-year post-Graduate Diploma Course for academic librarians.

In 1946, the University of Delhi established a full-fledged Department of Library Science to offer BA Degree in Library Science. The actual admission process for this course started in 1947. “It was the first department of library science (in India) to be constituted as a teaching department like other teaching departments in a university context”.

3.5.6 The Indian Library Association

Due to efforts of three librarians – Dr. M. O. Thomas, K. M. Asdullah, and Dr. S. R. Ranganathan the Indian Library Association (ILA) was finally formed on September 12, 1933 in Calcutta. It was a landmark and led to study growth of libraries in India. The Association had three main objectives
1) the furtherance of the library movement in India
2) promotion of training of librarians and
3) improvement of the status of librarians.
The second conference of ILA was held at Lucknow from April 19-22, 1935, During the conference, the chairman, Dr. A. C. Woolner, told the delegates about the library system that he would like to see in India. In his speech, "there is the need of a network of greater libraries at universities and provincial capitals with a great National Library for all India of which India may be proud." 30 He also suggested inter-library loan cooperation among libraries to fulfill students and researchers needs. 31 Dr. S. R. Ranganthan was elected president of Association in 1944. During the Ranganthan’s leadership (1944-1953) the Association became “a dynamic force for library movement, and a forum for discussing professional matter.” 32 for academic as well as other types of libraries and librarians. In turn, libraries especially academic libraries, started developing a little faster.

Since 1902, all commission and committees appointed to survey higher education and academic libraries had the same suggestion to make for academic libraries - that the budget of university libraries be increased. Due to World War II there was hardly any activity during the years 1939-1947.

3.5.7 The Sergent Report

In 1944 the Ministry of Education of Government of India requested the Central Advisory Board of Education to survey educational condition, in the country. The Board’s Report is also known as Sargent Report. There were important conclusions for higher education in the Report. One most important recommendation was that, “An India University Grant Committee should be constituted for the purposes of education.” 33 In 1945, University Grants Committee was established under the federal government to advise the government. In summary, it can be said that university libraries did make some progress between 1924-1947 compared to Pre 1924 years. The combination of the force the movement, struggle and the good beginning made during 1924-47, helped the academic libraries to develop fast in the period after independence. Prof. Mangla has written" at the time
of national reconstruction the importance of libraries in teaching received
attention of the central Government after independence.” 34

4 Post-Independence Period

4.1 University Education Commission (1948-49)

Government of India appointed commission or Committees to look
into the condition of higher education in the country. Academic libraries
were also part of their studies. After independent, Government of India
appointed the First University Education Commission in 1948. The
Commission is also known as the Radhakrishnan Commission after its
chairman. The commission enquired into the existing conditions of
university education and made important recommendations to bring it to
the level of universities abroad. The Commission recognized the
importance of university libraries and their services to the university
community and said:

"The library is the heart of all university’s work; directly so, as
regards its educational work, which derives its life from research work.
Scientific research work needs a library as well as its laboratories, while for
humanistic research the library is both library and laboratory in one. Both
for humanistic and scientific studies, a first class library is essential to a
university." 35

The commission recommended that at least 6 ¼ percent of the total
budget of each academic institution should be set-aside for libraries, only
then will the condition of these libraries improve36. It added that if
institutions were not willing to give 6 ¼ percent of their budget to libraries,
they should give Rs. 40=00 per student enrolled in the institutions.37

The Commission was of the view that it is very important to have a
well-qualified staff including the director, in order to provide excellent
service in any library. The director’s qualification must include a Ph.D. in
Library Science and he must have the rank and salary of a professor,
capabilities of organisation and management and should have full powers of an administrate on to run the library effectively. 38

A few university libraries did try to implement some of the recommendations of the commission but were not very successful.

4.2 University Grants Commission

On December 28, 1953, a University Grants Commission was established in India, on the model of the University Grant Committee of Great Britain. The main functions of the Commission were to look after the educational interests of the country and to oversee the development and financing of all academic institutions, including their libraries.

Since its birth the UGC has given top priority to the development of facilities of academic libraries in the country. The first chairman of the UGC, Dr. C.D.C. Deshmukh was an excellent administrator, a scholar, Rover of books and "had the vision to sense the vital role of library services" 39 in higher education. These main reasons led for the rapid development of academic libraries.

4.3 Ranganathan Committee (1957)40

The University Grants Commission attached great importance to the strengthening of library facilities in the universities and colleges and their efficient administration. The Commission desired that libraries should be of real help to research work and advanced studies, and should play a vital role in education in universities. It therefore, appointed in 1957 a Committee under the Chairmanship of the distinguished librarian scholar, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, to advise the UGC about the development of libraries and their organisation.

In was perhaps the first attempt by any library committee in India to systematically survey the academic libraries on a national basis, and it was also the first time that the government of India had decided to seek advice from a professional librarian regarding university and college libraries. The committee was to advise on the standards of libraries, building, pay scales, and library training. After the survey the Library Committee invited all
academic librarians to a seminar on “Work flow in university and college libraries”, at Delhi from March 4 to 7, 1959 to keep them informed about progress the committee had made surveying the academic libraries.

Chief Recommendations of Ranganathan Committee

Ranganathan committee has made significant recommendations regarding UGC grant, library fund, book selection and book purchase, promotion of reading habit, weeding out and loss of books, documentation, library staff, library building, fittings and furniture etc. All the recommendations have played very important role in the development of university and college libraries. Since 1960s. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan committee’s recommendation (195) are condisered as 'Bible' and played significant role in the development of university and college libraries.

UGC accepted these recommendations as a norm of working of libraries and accepted schemes for reorganization put up in accordance with these norms. This cleared a great obstacle in the way of library development. It now became easier for those university libraries whose authorities were reluctant to initiata a programme of reforms and development to adopt norms accepted by the UGC and also their willingness to help. In the words of Dr.C.D.Deshmukh, the Report of the Library Committee of the UGC is "A classic in that particular field. The contents of that report (as also a supplementary one to the proceedings of the Seminar for the University Librarians will...guide the development of University Libraries for at least a generation to come."

4.4 Education Commission (1964-66)


The Commission in its final report wrote, "Nothing can be more damaging than to ignore its library and to give it a low priority. No new
college, university or department should be opened unless adequate number of books in the library are provided."

The Commission laid emphasis on the importance of the need for libraries in all academic institutions. It recommended that every college and university should have, a well balanced and well-equipped library, a long-range plan for library development, encouraged documentation service, appointed documentalist, provide indexing and abstracting services and library-oriented lectures.

Monetary guidelines were also suggested by the commission. "As a norm, a university should spend each year about Rs. 25-00 for each student registered and Rs. 300-00 per teacher [or] from 6.5 percent to 10 percent [of the total budget] depend on the stage of development of each university library"  

4.5 The Sidhanta Committee

This committee had submitted its report to the UGC in 1965. It was on "the standards of University Education". This committee also recognized the importance of libraries in higher education. The committee did" nothing else but to repeat the same plea with the 1882 commission had expressed differently".

According to Ravindra Nath Sharma, "It can be said that the state Government in India have not co-operated with the central Government in releasing much needed money for the development of academic libraries. They have also failed to implement the majority of recommendations of various Education commissions to keep the progress of libraries up-to-date and bring about many other reforms."  

Thus the role of Indian Universities has changed greatly since independence.

4.6 Gajendra gadkar Committee

In June 1969, the University Grants Commission appointed a committee to consider the structures, functions, responsibilities, and conditions of service of staff, student’s participation and other allied matters
committee under the chairmanship of Professor D.P. Chattopadhyaya for the formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information Systems.

5.1 Libraries, Information and National Development

Libraries are now universally recognized as important social institutions for diffusion of knowledge and information. No community, institution or organisation is considered complete without the support of a library and its effective services. The gradual spread of the concept of democracy, extension of education, intensification of research activity, rapid industrialisation, continuous increase in production of recorded knowledge both in print and non-print form, and advancement in information, computer and communication technologies have all contributed to the growth of libraries and information centres as well as to the development of user-oriented services.

India as a nation has been aware that information infrastructure and modernization of the library system are essential to aim at scientific, technological and economic progress and to attain eminence. The Government of India realised that the investments in library systems and their modernization are worth the effort for evolving an information oriented society. Unless the widening gap between developed and developing countries in utilisation of information and knowledge is reduced, there is a danger of continued information dominance of the developed countries over the rest. In other words, information poor countries will continue to lag behind information rich countries.

The Government of India, in its various national policy and planning documents, has stressed upon the importance of information in national development. A national policy on library and Information system was recommended the committee created by Pro. D. P. Chattopadhyay, oct. 1985.48

As a follow-up action, the Department of Culture set up an Empowered Committee in November 1986 again under the chairmanship of Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya. The committee completed its work in March
1988. It addressed itself to the needs of (I) Public Library System, (II) Academic Library System, (III) Special Library and Information System and (IV) National Library and Bibliography Services, in terms of bringing India's library movement and services closer to the needs of (a) National Policy on Education (b) Library movement, and (c) Preservation of our cultural heritage. The Committee formulated the objectives of the National Policy on Library and Information System as follows:

Library and information services are vital for all sectors of national activity. The availability of information expeditiously and pin-pointedly supports decision-making processes at all levels. Relevant information accelerates the pace of national development. An informed citizen is an asset to a democratic system of government and proper utilization of information can improve the quality of citizens. The Government of India, therefore, realizes the value of co-ordination and upgrading the existing library and information systems and services and initiating of new programmes relevant to our national needs, taking advantage of the latest advances in information technology.

5.2 Seventh five year plan

The Government of India, in its Seventh Five Year Plan, has given due recognition and emphasis on the provision of library and information services and to the introduction of information technology. The Report of the Steering Group on Science and Technology and Environment for the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990) has recommended that the present library community be exposed to the concept of computers and their usage and that during the Seventh Plan, the goal should be to computerise most major library operations.49

It had laid down the main aim and objectives of the National policy on Library and Information systems and also regarding acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, discovery of new knowledge, to take steps for mobilising and upgrading the existing library and information systems and services, etc.
It has also made important recommendations for the development of all types of libraries including academic library systems, manpower development and professional status, modernisation of library and information systems. It also discussed general professional issues, implementing agencies and financial support. It has also suggested the detailed policy on library services and information systems at the level of higher education, and to provide necessary library services at school, college and research levels.

6 UGC Programme

6.1 Infrastructural Development

Since its inception the UGC has paid attention to inadequate building facilities available in university libraries and considerable grants were provided to construct new library buildings or to renovate or to expand existing facilities during five year plan developments. Because the “Building form an integral part of development as effective utilisation of grants for additional staff, equipment, books and journals can not be ensured unless these are linked with the minimum building requirements”. The grants were provided in development programmes on a sharing basis, which was utilised by a good number of libraries. As reported in the UGC annual report during Second and Third Plan period Rs. 2.67 crore grants were paid. Similarly, on the recommendations of Fourth Plan Visiting Committee Rs. 78.88 Lakh were allotted. Under India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programmes of United States of America, a grant of Rs. 54,30,000 was provided for expansion of five libraries. Up to March 1973 UGC sanctioned Rs. 3,83,75,289 for library buildings. About two-third share was from the UGC. 50

6.2 Academic Staff Colleges (ASC)51

In pursuance of the National Policy on Education (1986), the UGC formulated a scheme of Academic Staff Colleges (ASCs) drawing on the beneficial experiences of different countries with ‘Staff Development
Programmes' for improving the quality of higher education. While most of the other faculty improvement programmes of the UGC aim at promoting quality research, this scheme aims mainly at improvement in the quality of teaching (UGC Report, 1993-94). Refresher courses for libraries and teacher of library science were wanted.

6.3 Science Information Centre

The University Grants Commission accepted the proposal made by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for the establishment of National Science Information Centre in 1983. The centre would create current awareness in the scientists working in universities/colleges by providing an authentic and up-to-date abstracting service in the areas of physics, biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics, earth sciences and engineering. The centre provides to the users, on request, full length photocopies of current papers and educates them in generating queries for their needs for an optimal utilisation of the information services.

6.4 Information Centres for Humanities and Social Sciences

The University Grants Commission has set up two Information Centre in the field of humanities and social sciences at the S.N.D.T. Women’s University, Bombay and the other at the MS University, Baroda. The S.N.D.T. Centre covers disciplines like Sociology, Gujarati, and Women’s Studies. Home Science, Library Science and Special Education while the Centre at the MS University of Baroda covers Economics, Political Science, Education and Psychology.

The objectives of the Centres are to improve information access to teachers and students and to provide for bibliographic support and also to make available the latest documentation available in the respective disciplines.

6.5 Library Modernization and Networking Programme 1989

The concept of library networking to aid information resource sharing and support activities in libraries has become a real necessity. Resource-sharing signifies a symbol of good-will, an intent to share resources,
knowledge, bibliographical data, facilities and other fruits of modern technology, man's ingenuity, and the results of accumulated wealth of knowledge (Khanna, 1996). For this the UGC drew up library modernization programme in 1989. This lead to the establishment of INFLIBNET centre in Ahmedabad.

7 Development after 1992

7.1 Punnayya Committee (1992-93)\textsuperscript{55}

The University Grants Commission (UGC) appointed the committee under the Chairmanship Justice Dr. K Punnayya (known as Punnayya Committee) on funding Institutions of Higher Education. The committee examined present financial situation in regard to central universities, deemed universities, Delhi college and technical institutions funded by the Government of India and to make recommendations about their financial needs and systems for the future.

Some of the important recommendations of Punnayya committee.

1. While universities should be encouraged to augment their resources for covering a larger proportion of costs of education than what prevails how, the increased burden must be borne mainly by those who can afford.

2. State of Government funding must continue to be an essential and mandatory requirement for support to higher education. The Government/State must continue to accept the major responsibility for funding the essential maintenance and development requirements of the universities.

3. Research funds may be provided in the development grant as special inputs for strengthening the university's research infrastructure.

4. UGC should have special provision of funds in the plan for which all universities may compete to organise new courses of study and undertake research in identified areas. UGC may identify areas
for such courses of study and research. Selection of institutions for funding must be clearly identified parameters.

5. The Vice-Chancellors may be provided with specified discretionary fund to be used for promoting excellence in teaching and research without incurring any recurring liability.

6. The University must have an efficient system for dissemination of information regarding deployment of resources and implementation of academic and non-academic plan programmes.

7. The universities and UGC must improve its organisation of an efficient reliable and prompt information system of storage, retrieval and analysis of the same.

8. UGC must develop a system of presenting annually a set of selected information on academic, administrative and financial parameters of the institutions, particularly, which are fully funded by it. This information should be utilised in decision-making processes.


- The UGC later constituted Second National Review Committee (1996) under the Chairmanship of Prof. M K R Naidu, Ex-University Librarian report, SNDT University, Bombay. The committee is developing status based on questionnaire responses received from universities and colleges. It has also visited various universities and colleges to observe situations.

8 INFLIBNET Programme

8.1 Genesis

The UGC, taking into consideration the twin phenomena of information explosion and price rise, which has created a situation of inadequate resources even in frontline and established university libraries, decided to take a quantum jump into a new era, by setting up an "Inter-Agency Working Group for Development of an Information and Library Network", popularly known as INFLIBNET. The agency has recommended that to keep pace with the costly information resources, the libraries in the
higher education sector, whether they are university libraries or research and development Institute Libraries should be reorganized and linked via modern means of communication giving the genesis of INFLIBNET centre in the words of Prof. Yash Pal, Chairman, UGC: "It should be possible through such a system to search for a book no matter where it exists in the country and ask for an inter-library loan irrespective of whether you belong to a newly set-up university or laboratory and irrespective of your location. Whether you are in an isolated institution in the foot-hills of Himalayas, middle of a forest, sparsely populated regions of the North-East, western edges of the Rajashtan desert, island in the sea, or in a large metro pollution city, you should be able to search and get copies of the abstracts of the latest papers published in any major journal through the INFLIBNET facsimile service. Similarly, you should be able to get synopses of any of the ten thousand Ph. D. Theses written in the country every year. You should be able to reach and get information from specialised data banks put together by different agencies, including NISSAT, UGC and the Planning Commission. It one makes specific arrangements, it should also be possible to reach foreign data banks from anywhere in the country."57

This obviously means a complete reorientation in library services, and in the education and training of library and information science professionals. The working group of INFLIBNET has been aware of these problems and has tried to look into each of these aspects separately. This was a revolutionary and landmark effort in the academic library sectors in India.


The Planning Commission set up a Working Group on Modernization of Library Services and Information for the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) under the chairmanship of Dr. N. Seshagiri, Additional Secretary, Department of Electronics. The Working Group submitted a report entitled
"Report of the Planning Commission Working Group on Modernization of Library Services and Informatics for the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990)". The report was an attempt to draw an integrated plan balancing the modernization and the conventional imperatives. The report recognized library as the richest and the most economical source of information required for economic and social development and felt that it is one of the least co-ordinates and poorly planned sectors at the national level. The report noticed that if properly used, the investment effectiveness of library services through indirect benefit can be very high and suggested that indirect benefit can be very high and suggested that adequate, timely and efficient library services could be best provided through appropriate modernization using the sophistication of computer networking, computer output micro-filming, computer aided reprography, facsimile transmission, opto-electronic video discs and such other advancements in information technology and by balancing the modernization and the conventional requirements of library services such as expanding and enriching the existing collections in the libraries, providing adequate documentation services and efficient management of libraries.

The report dealt with the requirement of library services in the Seventh Plan with respect to academic, public and special libraries, the manpower requirements for expansion and improved performance, the informatics developmental activities in the library systems and specific proposals for implementation in various libraries. Finally, it proposed development of a computer network interlining all special libraries in India by 2000 AD.

The Project on Information and Library Networking (INFLIBNET) of the U.G.C. aims at the establishment of a national network of libraries and information centres in universities, colleges, research and development organizations, etc., in India. The Working Group on INFLIBNET has taken due note of (a) Scientific Policy Resolution and Technology Policy Statement, (b) National Policy on Education and (c) proposed National
Policy on Library and Information System. It has also recognized the various efforts already made and being planned in the country for modernization of libraries and information centres and the developmental programmes of NISSAT, NIC, DESINET, ERNET, CALNET, DELNET, and the CSIRNET.

The INFLIBNET aims at providing a framework to for modernization the existing libraries and planned efforts in networking of libraries and lays emphasis on interconnecting university and academic libraries which have been most neglected ones so far.

8.3 Objectives of INFLIBNET

INFLIBNET is to be a computer-communication network for linking libraries and information centres in universities, deemed universities, institutions of national importance, UGC information centres, R & D institutions and colleges. The main objectives of INFLIBNET are:

(a) to evolve a national network, interconnecting various libraries and information centres in the country and to improve capability in information handling and service;

(b) to provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating online union catalogue of monographs, serials and non-book materials (manuscripts, audio-visuals, computer media, etc.) in various libraries in India;

(c) to provide better access to worthwhile bibliographic information sources, with citations, and abstracts, such as periodical articles, conference papers, preprints, technical reports, standards and specifications, patents, monographs, etc. through indigenously created databases of the Sectional Information Centres of NISSAT and UGC Information Centres and such others and by establishing gateways for online accessing of international databases held by international information networks and centers;

(d) to provide document delivery service by establishing resource centres around libraries having a rich collection of documents;
(e) to optimise information resource utilization through shared cataloguing, inter-library loan service, catalogue production, collection development and avoiding duplication in acquisition to the extent possible;

(f) to implement computerisation of operations and services in the libraries and information centres of the country, following a uniform standard;

(g) to facilitate scientific communication amongst scientists, engineers, researchers, social scientists, academics, faculties and students through electronic mail, bulletin board, file transfer, computer/audio/video conferencing, etc;

(h) to enable the users disbursed all over the country, irrespective of location and distance, to have access to information regarding books, monographs, serials and non-book materials by locating the sources where form available and to obtain it through the facilities of new communication technologies and union catalogue of documents;

(i) to create database of projects, institutions and specialists for providing online information service;

(j) to encourage co-operation among libraries, documentation centres and information centres in the country, so that the resources can be pooled for the benefit of helping the weaker resource centres by stronger ones;

(k) to develop suitable professional manpower of appropriate quality to establish, manage and sustain the INFLIBNET; and

(l) to evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods, procedures, hardware and software, services and so on and promote adoption in actual practice by all libraries, in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchanging resources and facilities towards optimisation.

8.4 Activities

The benefits that can accrue from a library network get maximised as the number of services on the network increases. From cost-benefit point of view, a multiple function/service network is more justified than a single function/service network. Further, the cost will decline progressively as the number of participants in the network increases.
INFLIBNET will be a multiple function/service network and included many types of libraries in academic section R & S and special library at national level. It will provide following services:

8.4.1 Library Automation

Realising the importance of this basic necessity, INFLIBNET Centre through University Grants Commission has been providing grants (initial and recurring) to the universities identified under the programme. Till date universities have been provided with this grant. Non-recurring grant enables the university libraries to purchase computers, modem, telephone, printer, air-conditioner, software’s (OS) etc. these are also provided with recurring grant for the first five years after the installation of systems.

8.4.2 Software Development

To facilitate automation functions of the participating libraries SOUL Software has been developed. This software works in Client / Server mode in Windows environment using MS-SQL server as back end tool. It also supports the multilingual database creation and web access. It is already installed at 30 university libraries and many more installations are in the pipeline.

8.4.3 Human Resource Development

Skilled human resources to handle the automation and networking activity at each university is an essential requirement. This being one of the major objectives of INFLIBNET, was taken on top priority. Following training programmes have been initiated:

8.4.3.1 Computer Application to Library and Information Services (CALIS)
8.4.3.2 Workshop on Automation and Networking of University Libraries under INFLIBNET Programme (WANULIP)
8.4.3.3 Onsite Training
8.4.3.4 ILMS Training
8.4.3.5 Internet and Social Science Information (ICSSR training Workshop)
8.4.4 Development of Union Database

The Centre is currently engaged in creating following databases, which can be accessed on-line using INTERNET through INFLIBNET web page at URL http://www.inflibnet.ernet.in. These are mounted on SYBASE Servers.

8.4.4.1 Books Database
8.4.4.2 Theses
8.4.4.3 Serials Holdings Database
8.4.4.4 Current Serials Database
8.4.4.5 Experts Database
8.4.4.6 Research Projects
8.4.4.7 Secondary serials and CD-ROM

All the above mentioned databases are updated on regular basis.

8.4.5 Network Facilities

8.4.5.1 Existing: Currently libraries covered under the programme are advised to subscribe to one of the following networks to start with ERNET, VANL (GIAS), INET, NICNET. This enables the libraries to get connected to each other providing a channel for speedy communication.

8.4.5.2 VSAT Network: Existing network facilities could not meet the requirement of universities. Therefore, it was felt that INLIBNET Centre should have its own network connecting all the institutions and provide complete solution to needs of universities. Hence, a captive network covering 170 universities/institutions is being planned. With this not only the libraries, but every individual faculty member and student will have means to communicate across the world.

8.4.5.3 Campus LAN: Connecting end users is more important, if the network has to be effectively utilised. Therefore, it is advisable to establish LAN in each university campus.
8.4.5.4 Remote Access Services: It is planned to connect colleges affiliated to each university in the coming years to effectively utilise VSAT based network.

8.4.6 Bibliographic Standards

To maintain consistency and quality in databases created by the participating libraries, INFLIBNET had constituted a Task Force of experts in this area. This task force brought out a 150 page document entitled "INFLIBNET Standards and Guidelines for Data Capturing".

Anglo American and recommended that the following be used:
- Cataloguing Rules – Revised 2
- Library of Congress Subject Headings

8.4.7 University Information System

There is greater demand for academic information from all quarters. To meet this need, INFLIBNET is engaged in creating web pages for universities. These web pages cover most of the information relating the courses conducted, eligibility, fee structures, facilities available etc. More than 100 universities have responded and about 45 universities information is already processed. Web pages of 28 universities are already mounted on the INFLIBNET Web server. It is expected that by mid of 2000, web pages of nearly 100 universities will be available for on-line access. With this, up-to-date information about each university could be searched using one's own desktop. To search the web page of universities, you may use the URL http://www.inflibnet.ernet.in

8.4.8 CALIBER – A National Convention

For the effective implementation of this giant network, involving large number of universities, spread all over the country, frequent interaction among all those involved in the process is required at least once in a year. To provide a platform for such an interaction, CALIBER spell out was introduced in 1994. This brings together, university library staff, computer professionals and others interested in library automation and networking. This even has been very successful and has become popular amongst...
professionals. So far, following conventions have been held in collaboration with different universities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Library Automation</td>
<td>INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Access through Networks</td>
<td>University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Database Management</td>
<td>M.S. University, Baroda</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<td>IT Application in Academic Libraries in India</td>
<td>Thapar Instt. Of Engineering and Technology, Patiala</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Management in Academic and Research Libraries</td>
<td>Utkal University, Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>Academic Libraries in INTERNET Era</td>
<td>Nagpur University Library, Nagpur</td>
<td>1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Services in Networked Environment in India</td>
<td>University of Madras, Chennai Being held during February 16-18, 2000</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation and management of Digital resources</td>
<td>University of Pune</td>
<td>2001</td>
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8.4.9 Publications

- INLIBNET, A Quarterly newsletter entitled 'INLIBNET Newsletter' is being published since 1995.
- CALIBER Proceedings is a priced publication of INLIBNET brought out every year covering the proceedings of the CALIBER held annually.
- Union catalogue of secondary serials was published during 1999.

8.5 Services

One of the major objectives of INLIBNET is to facilitate free flow of information to the end users and develop interaction among academia. This is being done to promote quality education, research etc. at the
university level. With this in mind, INFLIBNET has initiate following Information Services.

8.5.1 Access to Union Databases

All the seven databases developed at the centre have been mounted on different servers. These are in RDBMS (SYBASE) and suitable interfaces have been developed to transfer the data from ISO format. These databases can be accessed using any of the GUI based web browsers at INFLIBNET web site at URL: http://www.inflibnet.ernet.in. User friendly Search Engines have been developed to access and retrieve the data. Any one who has the INTERNET connection could search these databases. This opens up a new chapter in the history of INFLIBNET by providing access to holding information of large number of universities from a single point.

8.5.2 Bibliographical Information Services

One of the objectives of this network is to provide bibliographical information services based on internal and external source (databases). This will help to fill the gap in the information available in the country and keep academics abreast of development in their respective areas. With this in View, various information services are introduced.

8.5.2.1 Based on CD-ROM databases

8.5.2.2 COPSAT

8.5.2.3 INTERNET Based Service

8.5.3 First search service From OCLC

OCLC—the world known network of libraries, provides access too more than 70 bibliographical database at reasonable cost. This service is being subscribed to supplement existing bibliographical information service. It is open to all the universities covered under the programme. To being with it is available free of cost to the faculty members of universities. Searches will be done at INFLIBNET. The request need to be sent separately specifying the subject areas.
8.6 Major Projects Initiated

8.6.1 VSAT Network

INFLIBNET proposes to establish a satellite based VSAT network in the country linking 170 universities and other institutions.

8.6.2 Retrospective Conversion of Major Library Catalogues

8.6.3 Document Delivery Service

8.7 Organisation of Information of Management in INFLIBNET

After considering the pros and cons of the four methods of information organisation, hierarchical organisation of information was proposed for INFLIBNET.

In the hierarchical organisation, there has to be a National Centre at the apex. This apex centre will be responsible for managing, monitoring and coordinating the activities and services of the network. No database will be held at the National Centre.

At the next lower level (level 2), two types of centres – Regional Centres (RCs) and Sectoral Information Centres (SICs) will be functioning. The Regional Centre will be responsible for maintaining the union catalogue of monographs, serials and non-book materials held in the libraries of the region. There will be four regional centres to be located in four geographical regions of the country – north, south, each and west. The four regional centres will be inter–connected through communication links. Each regional centre will maintain the union catalogues of other regions, so that union catalogue relating to the entire country’s holdings can be handled at the regional centre itself, thereby reducing the traffic between the regional centre. As mentioned earlier, there will be a system of perpetual updating of the holding information in the four regional union catalogue databases. The regional centres are also expected to develop and maintain database or projects, institutions and specialists in the region concerned.

The Sectoral Information Centres will have the responsibility of maintaining retrospective bibliographic database (s) of discipline (s) of its
scope and interest. They include UGC Information Centres for science, social sciences, humanities, etc, NISSAT Sectoral Centres – present and proposed, DESIDOC, NSL/INSDOC, IARI Library, National Medical Library and many other subject specialised information centres having responsibility for offering national level services to all the users in the country, irrespective of their affiliation. The National Centre will have administrative jurisdiction over the regional centres and the UGC information centres. Other sectoral information centres will establish cooperative/voluntary links with the network by means of institutional agreement.

Besides difference in nature of services provided by the regional centres (catalogue based services) from the sectoral information centres (database services), there will be a difference in their jurisdiction for providing services. The services of the regional centres are limited largely to the users belonging to their geographical region, whereas the sectoral information centres provide services at a national level. However, wherever an integration would be possible, the responsibility of UGC information centre being taken over by a regional centre may be considered.

At level 2, necessary gateways will be provided for linkages with other national networks like ENVIS, BTIS, NASSDOC and international networks like Timnet, Telnet and Bitnet.

Level 3, below the regional and sectoral information centres, will constitute several university libraries in the country. The university library will have responsibility of maintaining the union catalogues of holding of the university system which includes university central library, departmental libraries and libraries of affiliated/constituent colleges. Post-graduate centres and multi-campus libraries, which may have their own departmental libraries will operate at level 3 but also have lateral linkage with their parent university.

Level 3 will also include libraries and information centres of R & D institutions. They will establish cooperative/voluntary linkages with the
regional centre in their jurisdiction by means of appropriate institutional agreement.

At level 4, below each university library, there will be libraries of departments and colleges associated with the university. These units will have the basic responsibility of maintaining their own library catalogue of monographs, serials and non-book materials. They will feed in a systematic manner, catalogue information of existing holdings as well as of new documents added, to higher levels namely university library and regional centre. The catalogue information to be provided to higher levels will be in machine-readable format as and when it becomes possible and till then in worksheets.

Attention is invited here on Network Architecture, where in the concept of Local Area Network has been proposed for linking the libraries of departments and colleges with their parent university library. The Local Area Network is proposed even for linking other libraries in a city with the university system.

Within the INFLIBNET, a few university libraries, sectoral information centres and libraries of R & D institutions will be designated as Document Resource Centre, depending upon the strength of their document collection, for purpose of document delivery service and inter-library loan service.

From the structure of the INFLIBNET, Planate is as follows: as detailed above, it is evident that there will be more than one database for the National Union Catalogue for each of monographs, serials and non-book materials. The total union catalogue data of the country will be distributed over the four regional union catalogue databases, each reflecting the holdings of libraries in their respective region. However, as explained earlier, each regional centre will maintain copies of union catalogues of other regions which will be periodically updated in a routine manner, in order that multiple access required in a distributed structure of the proposed type, is reduced.
To summarise, information organisation in the INFLIBNET will be in the following manner:

1. Catalogue information of books, serials and non-book materials will be aggregated bottom-upwards, i.e., from college/department to university to regional level. The regional catalogue, reflecting the holdings of libraries will be maintained in the respective regional centre. There will be four regional centres in the country, which are to be inter-connected in a mesh form. Each regional centre will also maintain copy of union catalogue of other regions, with a view to provide a quick response to catalogue search/downloading operations.

2. Secondary information services in the form of machine-readable databases will be available selectively in core subjects at a few UGC information centres and sectoral information centres of NISSAT and others.

3. A few universities, sectoral information centres and R & D institutional libraries will be designated as Document Resource Centres, depending upon the strength of their collections, for undertaking document delivery service through fax and non-fax.

4. There will be a National Centre for coordination and management of the network activities and services. UGC Information Centres and other Sectoral Information Centres will continue to operate from their existing locations.

INFLIBNET nodes for university, R & D institutions and colleges, which are to be provided with computer/communication systems and associated staff, will be located in the libraries of the respective institutions.

8.8 Need for Standards

Standards are essential to ensure compatibility for interconnection of libraries and information centres in the INFLIBNET. Standards promote economy of human effort, cost and time, facilitate interchangeability of information across units of a network, improve the quality of information
services and reduce the economic and technical barriers in information flow. Adoption of a good set of standards by the constituents of a network is a pre-requisite to aim at a certain level of quality consistency. It contributes to optimization in utilisation of resources and facilities of the total network.

8.8.1 Areas of Standardization

In the INFLIBNET, standardization is needed in the following three broad areas:

- Information handling
- Communication
- Software and Hardware

8.8.1.1 Information Handling

The specific sub-areas in information handling, where standardization is required, are:

- Classification
- Subject headings
- Cataloguing of monographs, serials and non-book materials
- Forms of headings in catalogue – personal, corporate
- Bibliographic description – essential/optional data elements
- Standard identification numbers, codes and abbreviations
- Transliteration
- Abstracting and indexing
- Physical formats for catalogue, bibliography and abstracting and indexing service production
- Interchange of bibliographic data
- Search command language to use catalogue/bibliographic database.

8.8.1.2 Application Software at Network and Local Levels

A clear distinction is made between the application software requirements for services at network level as a whole, such as union
catalogue compilation and database maintenance and for individual library automation at local level, such as circulation and serials control operations. The INFLIBNET can be effective to offer the various planned services, if only computerisation of cataloguing sub-system in each participating library is implemented. The other functions in individual libraries such as circulation, serials control and acquisition may be computerised at convenience, as they do not matter much for the networking requirements of INFLIBNET.

The specific requirements of application software in the INFLIBNET depend upon type of services and type of nodes, such as national, regional, sectoral, R & D, university, college and departmental libraries.

8.8.1.3 Communication - A Crucial Component of INFLIBNET

The proposed INFLIBNET envisages a wider accessibility of its resources, facilities and services to information users disbursed all over the country by inter-connecting various college libraries, university libraries, libraries of R & D institution and Sectoral Information Centres. A user, irrespective of his distance and location, can access information available from anywhere in the network. In the network, physical availability of information at a place is not a consideration, because the user can draw upon the entire resources of the network sitting at a terminal in his own place.

Network implies inter-connection between components. Interconnection is brought about through communication link. Communication is the most crucial aspect of the network. Though network concept has been talked about for long, this has not been some how implemented. Advances in computer and communication technologies have now brought about a new change and global distances are no longer a barrier in data communication. Together with computer, communication has made data transmission and reception a common utility in daily life.
8.8.1.3.1 Network Requirements

The INFLIBNET is expected to perform multiple functions of library and information service, management of network operations and maintenance, at national, regional, sectoral and unit levels. Many of them require interface with the communication system. The library and information service functions which are to be supported with communication facilities are:

i. Catalogue search
ii. Bibliographic database search and access
iii. Union catalogue of books, serials and non-book materials
iv. Database of projects, institutions and specialists
v. Referral service
vi. Document delivery through facsimile and non-facsimile
vii. Electronic mail
viii. Inter library loan request (ILL)
ix. Computer conferencing
x. Bulletin board
xi. Audio conferencing
xii. Video teleconferencing

The list is not exhaustive and more could be added.

8.8.1.3.2 Features of Communication System

The essential features of the communication system of the INFLIBNET are:

a) System hierarchy
b) Connectivity requirements
c) Traffic characteristics
d) Management of the network

8.8.1.3.3 Proposed Network Architecture

A hybrid of satellite and terrestrial networking was proposed for the INFLIBNET. The numbers of terminals in the network that should be connected through satellite are:

- 150 Universities libraries (UL)
• 50 PG Centres/Autonomous College (PGC)
• 200 libraries of R & D institutions/Centre of National importance outside university system (R&DC).

There will be around 400 unique nodes connected in the network through satellite. Among these nodes, will be provide at

• Regional Centres
• Sectoral Information Centres
• Document Resource Centres
• User from universities, colleges and departments
• In the network will get
• One node, located at the Central Hub or UGC’s

8.8.1.3.4 Network Configuration

The cost is an important criterion for planning the communication architecture and its growth.

In a Star configuration, all the nodes communicate with each other through a Central Hub Station. In this configuration a small antenna of 2.5 M. with G/T of 14.2 dB/k of the terminal for C Band can be considered for the university type of nodes. The lower EIRP and G/T of these remote terminals is compensated by a much higher G/T 31.7 dB/k and EIRP of 11 meter terminal which can be used as Central Hub. For INFLIBNET, in which 400 unique terminals are planned, the star configuration is more cost effective. Addition of further terminals will require only a small incremental cost. In a star configuration there is a two-hop delay of total 540m. seconds. This delay will not be much, compared to the overall response of the network.

There is scope to employ at certain places Local Area network (LAN). By connecting libraries of various departments in a university campus and the colleges located at a close distance in the same city through LAN and to a single satellite node, a more cost effective solution is conceived. In some cities, there are more than one university and many R & D institutions. They can be connected through LAN to a single satellite
In Figure-10, the location of various universities in the country is given. In four cities, namely, Hyderabad, Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta, there are 22-university level institutions altogether. Five cities have at least 3 universities. In twenty cities, there are two universities. In these cities, LAN can be effectively used for interconnecting the university libraries to a single computer system and then to an earth station. With this assumption, against a total requirement of 179, only 150 ground nodes (for satellite communication) of university libraries are to be planned for the INFLIBNET. Likewise, R & D and other institutions outside the university system, which are located in the same city, can be conceived under LAN and then connected to a satellite node.

8.8.1.3.5 Data Preparation

The data preparation activity has two important aspects:

(i) data preparation of documents currently received (after a specified cut off date)

(ii) data preparation of documents in retrospective collection (back log).

The former is an ongoing and continuous activity, whereas the latter is a one time activity.

The data has to be prepared for computer processing. It may be worthwhile to utilise commercial vendors for undertaking data entry jobs. This may help in maintaining the time bound targets set in this regard.

It is advocated that in the hardware acquired, software used, and data prepared and communicated, there should be standardization, interchangeability, inter-connectivity and compatibility, because the aim of all tasks in the INFLIBNET is resource sharing, communication, accessibility and dissemination of information among the researchers and the academic and scientific community in the country.

There are two procedures to prepare the data pertaining to document collections of all the university libraries.
8.8.1.3.5.1 Procedure-I

Downloading the bibliographic information from MARC tapes of the Library of Congress (USA), OCLC, WLN, etc. for the document held/added to library.

8.8.1.3.5.2 Procedure-II

Preparing the bibliographic information from the shelf list of library; Downloading from External Catalogue/Databases

Together with the above two approaches, conversion of records of the retrospective collections of libraries to a standard format can be completed in about two and half years.

8.9 Need for Specialised Manpower

Manpower constitutes an important factor in the efficient functioning of any library and information network. The library automation functions, on-line services, conversion of bibliographic records, use of telecommunication and satellite communication facilities, etc., in the INFLIBNET would need personnel in appropriate quality and quantity. The performance of the staff deployed for various tasks in the network would determine the efficiency level of the network and in the provision of information services to the users. The INFLIBNET is planned as a major mission in the country in library networking, involving application of new technologies and implementing a time-bound action programme. The personnel have to be provided at various levels and for library, computer, communication and management related activities. In other words, personnel drawn from different specialisations have to be deployed in the INFLIBNET.

8.9.1 Redevelopment of Trained Personnel

It is proposed to offer, in the next four to five years, training to a maximum number of persons from the existing professional staff in the university and college libraries in the use of computer for library and information services. Subsequently, they will be deployed for library automation programme in their respective libraries. This may result in
rendering surplus 10 to 20 per cent of professional library staff at the university libraries. It is proposed to absorb this surplus personnel in the future demand of additional staff in INFLIBNET and university libraries. Further, they can be involved in special user-oriented services such as user education programmes and reader's advisory services.

8.10 Funds

The sources of funds of the Society are as follows:

(A) Plan and Non-Plan grants made by the Government of India, through the UGC or other channel;  
(B) Fees and other revenues received by the Centres; and  
(C) Amount received by way of grants, donations and contributions made by participation institutions.

8.11 SOUL: Software for University Libraries

A total solution for library automation and Management:

To carry out various operations in university library effectively there is need for specialised software. INFLIBNET produced this in 1999. Computer and communication brought change have revolutions in all fields of society library is also one of them. So in each activities of library like acquisition, processing, storage retrieval & dissemination. This is window based, client-server architecture, multiple access to single database, various levels security back up & restore facilities. It has MS-SQL server 6.5 RDBMS & user friendly comprising following modules. Acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, OPAC, serial control & multiple libraries of the same university.

8.12 SEWAD:

Off line/E-mail access to union databases at INFLIBNET through network it covers: current serials, serials holdings, Theses, books, research projects, secondary serials, etc.

- To have a ready made software, foreign were very costly hardly any Indian software available
- LIBSYS
However late the ILMS was developed keeping in mind for R & D institutions needs. To make it suitable for use in university library, were 1000's of readers served & heavy acquisition etc. the use of ILMS software in old version was not found suitable extension revision was found necessary. The DESIDOC also found this software in-adequate and started work for its revision the new version of ILMS INFLIBNET there for decided to work on its own for development of library integrated software for use in university libraries with the help of its staff. After many experimentation and consultations, a new software for university library was developed and presented at CALIBER Conference, 2000, held at Chennai in Feb.2000.

As pointed out earlier INFLIBNET is to be a computer communication network for Academic Library. Especially it covers University and college libraries. It was plan to be a major programe towards modernization of libraries and Information Centres with application of computer and communication technology and to be a multiple functions/services network. It was to be completed in two phases in 8th five Year (1990-95).

But due to various reasons neither its time schedule nor its proposed services could take place even till the date.

Establishment of INFLIBNET Centre in Ahmedabad, started in 1991, within short period of time under took following functions

- input—output of data
- prepared manual for creating databases
- training programme for library professionals
- funding of purchase of hardware etc.
- installation of input–output software
- training proof of use of software
- holding seminars (caliber) since 1999
- annual convention to discuss library and its development
- development of SOUL
- competition of Union Catalogue of database of university libraries.

However, it will be seen no systematic plan for computerization of university library and guidelines for modernization and infrastructure and services have been drawn by INFLIBNET. Therefore it is possible for all the university libraries to undertake modernization programme in a systematic manner and on the time schedule.

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