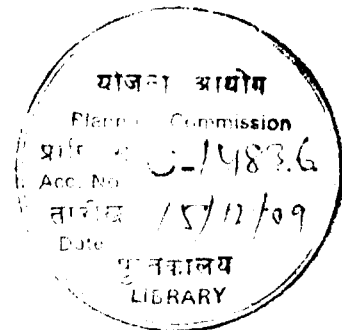


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**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATICS
FOR THE NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN**



MAY 1996

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PREFACE

The changing global and national scenario is bound to make greater demands on communication. Our policy framework and approach to Library and Informatics planning has to be geared to face this demand. The need and importance of information has been felt due to its viable role in the development process. The present status of libraries has to be seen in the light of the need for information in the various sectors of socio-economic development and its actual achievements so far. The development of library system in India has not been even and balanced. Most of the well managed libraries and information centres are located in the major cities and, therefore, dissemination of information to the majority of the population living in the other areas of the country is not as per the felt need.

The functioning of libraries is greatly influenced by the status of publishing in India. On one hand there is a tremendous growth in published information which has led to information explosion and on the other side there is hardly any bibliographic control in the publishing activities so far. The use of International Standard Book Number and International Standard Serial Number is mainly limited to the English language publications. The regional language publishing is still sporadic and diverse. Therefore, acquisition and availability of reading material cannot be comprehensive in nature. Since most libraries in India developed their collections in isolation as per their individual needs, the concept of resource sharing has not seeped into the system. The acquisition of publications from abroad often leads to duplication which ultimately means wastage of resources.

Now that information technology has been introduced in the Indian context in a big way, the connotation of library services should also change gradually. Just as there is a need for rationalisation of acquisition of information, the dissemination of information also should be selective in

nature according to the need of the researcher, and decision makers. In the changing environment, libraries have to function as information centres which will give priority to services rendered to the diverse clientele in all areas of national development.

Modernisation of the libraries has to be done in a rational way because the levels of modernisation are different in different parts of India. Within the modernisation programme, linkages for centralised document processing, publication of Indian National Bibliography in multi-script through the application of information technology, and standardised retrospective conversion of Indian documents in phases are necessary. Information technology can also provide viable alternatives for preservation of documents as most Indian libraries own old and rare documents which cannot be preserved in their original physical format.

Modernisation of the libraries and the information system as a whole will facilitate the creation of a decentralised information base which will help selective dissemination of information at all levels. In the process of modernisation, however, selectivity of the components while developing the infrastructure is advisable to avoid redundancy and incompatibility in the systems.

Non-availability of sufficient funds is the biggest problem faced by the library system as a whole. Given the ever increasing cost of documents and the diversity of collection needed for different types of clientele, the library funding has not been increased to meet the felt needs.

Libraries and Informatics constitute an important sector of both culture and information. The Working Group on Library and Informatics set up by the Planning Commission has had to deal with a large number of complex issues which have emerged in this area. The Working Group has reviewed the status and programmes in the Eighth Plan and has suggested development perspective for the sector in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

In spite of the short period, the members of the Working Group, as

also the experts, who were co-opted for the various Sub-Groups , have made significant contribution commensurate with their wide experience and deep expertise. A series of new proposals emerging out of serious deliberations has been integrated in the report of the Working Group. I wish to put on record my deep appreciation of excellent cooperation received from all the members and other experts.

The 16th May, 1996
Department of Culture
Ministry of Human Resource
Development
New Delhi.

B.P. Singh
Secretary,
Department of Culture and
Chairperson, Working Group on
Libraries and Informatics.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATICS - NINTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the context of preparation of the IX Five Year Plan, 1997-2002 the Planning Commission set up a Working Group of Libraries and Informatics under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development vide their Order No. M.12015/14/95/ edn. dated 30th January, 1996 with the following terms of reference:

1. To review the status of programmes and to provide the focus for the development perspective for this sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan.
2. To suggest the future directions of the programmes including expansion and qualitative upgradation in terms of standards, facilities and attainments with special reference to improving/inculcating reading habits and with particular reference to the underprivileged sections and in those backward areas/rural areas.
3. To suggest measures for networking of libraries at different levels and to harness the computer and communication technologies and other modern innovations to improve access to information and dissemination of knowledge.
4. Examine critically:
 - (i) Resource requirements under different activities/programmes.

the Chairman was held on 20th April 1996. The Convenors of the sub-groups met on 22nd April 1996, 25th April 1996, 29th April 1996 and 1st May 1996 to finalise the draft report of the Working Group in accordance with the discussions held in the meeting held on 20th April 1996 with the Chairman and the Convenor of the Working Group. The draft report was submitted to the Convenor of the Working Group on Libraries and Informatics for the perusal of the Chairman.

3 Introduction to Library and Informatics

3.1 The library and information services are considered vital for the development of different sectors within the national plan of activity. Information has to be made available at the right time in the most precise format to facilitate the decision making process at all levels. The pace of national development can be accelerated by using timely relevant information. The nation's cultural heritage also has to be preserved for posterity by acquiring and processing the relevant material in this regard.

4 Review of VIII Plan Programmes

4.1 While reviewing the actual implementation of the VIII Five Year Plan programmes, it was noted that some of the general recommendations of the Eighth Plan have either not been implemented so far or very little action has been taken in this regard. The general recommendations were as follows:

- *The subject 'Library' should be transferred from the State List to the Concurrent List, as this is essential for an integrated and coordinated development of Libraries and Library Services.*
- *For well directed plan development of Library and Information System, it is necessary to formulate a 'National Policy on Library and Information System' duly approved by the Parliament.*
- *An autonomous body called the National Commission on Libraries and Information Systems should be set up to oversee, coordinate and*

monitor the country's programmes on Library and Information Systems. This should be under the Department of Culture, Government of India.

- *At the Centre, a Bureau of Library and Information System should be set up in the Department of Culture. It should be headed by a Bureau Head of the rank of Joint Secretary. At the State/Union Territory level, separate Directorates of Library and Information Systems should be set up.*

- *Professional Library Associations always play a significant role in the development of the profession and its personnel. At the National level, there are several such Library Associations e.g. ILA, IASLIC, GILA and a few others. Such Library Associations also exist at State/UT and local levels. Most of these Library Associations are hampered in their activities because of paucity of funds and the consequent lack of resources. A scheme should be formulated to give grants to such Library Associations in the country.*

- *The Central and the State/UT Governments and other agencies such as National Book Trust, Central Hindi Directorate, Sahitya Akademi and comparable agencies at the State level should produce suitable books (including translations of classics and other important works), audio-visual materials and other reading materials to meet the different reading needs of the people. These materials should be made available at subsidised rates.*

Regarding the last recommendation, some action has been taken and some documents as per the needs of the people have been prepared by the Literacy Mission and other agencies of the Central Government. Also, the recommendations of the Review Committee regarding pay scales of the Central Government employees have been implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan. During the Eighth Plan one major change which has occurred is in the field of modernisation. The concept of libraries has changed and libraries are no longer gauged on the basis of their collections alone. Services have taken a very important role within the library and

information system during the Eighth Plan. A beginning in the application of information technology has also been made during the Eighth Plan. Most libraries, however, are working in isolation and there is no integrated system in the field of library services and informatics so far.

5 Priorities in the Ninth Plan

The Working Group identified the following main thrust areas in the Ninth Plan for the development of libraries and informatics:

5.1. The subject 'Library' should be transferred from the State List to the Concurrent List, as this is essential for an integrated and coordinated development of libraries and library services.

5.2. Library legislation should be enacted in all the States of India.

5.3. All the different library systems should be modernised to form part of one cohesive integrated system within the country. A national database may be created on the pattern of OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and networks be developed in different cities.

5.4. Application of information technology be promoted to ensure universal access to information. It would facilitate the use of national and international networks and also provide relevant information.

5.5. Conservation of the cultural heritage of India be ensured by undertaking programmes such as National Conservation Programme and National Mission on Rare books and Manuscripts, and also by setting up of a Cultural Heritage Information System.

5.6. As recommended by the Working Group on Libraries and Informatics of the VIII Five Year Plan, an autonomous apex body to be set up to review the existing library services, coordinate and monitor the activities of different library systems, oversee modernisation of library operations and services by laying down guidelines and policies for their development, develop a databank of library data, and lay down guidelines

for manpower development and training and undertake accreditation of library and information science departments.

5.7. For effective and speedy implementation of all programmes related to the development of library and information system, a Bureau of Libraries and Information Services be set up in the Department of Culture.

5.8. An All India cadre for Library and Information Services with uniform recruitment rules should be made to ensure systematic staffing pattern and development of human resource to meet the new challenges. This will also help in effective management and development of the National Information Grid.

CHAPTER II

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES: POSITION AT THE END OF EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

1. Introduction

The Libraries in India have been in existence for the last few centuries. Their role has been changing particularly after Independence. They can no longer be considered as appendages or support centres to institutions and store houses of books and other reading materials. Even the old concept that a library provides its readers with the right document at the right time is changing. They have become knowledge bases and information centres where library services are of paramount importance. Information has come to be recognized as an important resource for any developmental activity.

1.2 Some of the problems which have affected the functions, growth and development of libraries are:

- (i) Exponential growth in published information which has led to information explosion. Due to this the choice of what reading material is to be kept, even in a highly limited field, is becoming harder than before. On the other hand the selection of relevant and precise information for a specialist user has also become much more difficult;
- (ii) The information to be handled by libraries is becoming multimedia in the scope. In addition to texts, images, and videos, even animation and simulation programmes etc. have to be handled;

- (iii) The multimedia information is increasingly becoming interconnected;
- (iv) The cost of reading materials particularly the periodicals in science and technology has been increasing at about 8-10% every year; and
- (v) The financial constraints with the funding agencies are growing.

1.3 The Government of India has been concerned with the growth and development of the libraries, and during 8th Five Year Plan it decided to evolve a National Policy on Library and Information System. But much needs to be done in this regard.

1.4 The solution to some of the problems mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs can be seen in the transformation of the contents of a library to a digitized electronic form thus having 'digital libraries', which are viewed as electronic collections covering records, images, video, slides, books, etc. The global networking has further prompted a wide scale digitization of information. There are innumerable technical issues which need a thorough discussion before establishing such libraries. Some of them are: Optical Storage, Users' Interface, Size of Databases, Resource Discovery, Copyright, and Security etc. However, a beginning in this direction should be made as digital libraries would also help in providing a universal access to information with the help of multimedia and networking.

1.5 The Eighth Five Year Plan as well the Seventh Five Year Plan Working Groups had given priority to the setting up of an autonomous apex body to coordinate and monitor the activities of libraries in general and academic libraries in particular but the same has not yet been done.

1.6. Brief details of the scenario as have emerged during the 8th Five Year Plan for different types of library systems have been given in the subsequent sections.

2. Public Libraries

2.1 Public Library is an institution which is governed by government, local bodies and even voluntary organisations. It caters to the needs of the public at large. Since the sources of funding of the voluntary organisations have already dried up, they are no longer in a position to maintain Public Libraries. The existing Public Library system in the country is mostly government funded and consists of State Central Library, District Central Libraries, Panchayat Libraries and Village Libraries. So far 10 States have enacted Library Legislation with a view to establish a network of libraries in the State. The libraries, in the States where legislation has been enacted, provide services in rural areas as well. Among the states without a library legislation, Delhi has a large public library system run by the Delhi Library Board. The Delhi Public Library has 191 libraries within its fold. This has developed into a metropolitan public library system with 4 zonal libraries, branch libraries, deposit stations, libraries in resettlement colonies and a network of mobile libraries.

2.2 According to the available data it has been estimated that there were 54, 845 public libraries in India and the total expenditure during the 7th Five Year Plan was estimated to be Rs. 205 Crores. The planned expenditure was Rs. 250 crores by the end of 8th Five Year Plan. The contribution of the Central Govt. on Public Libraries is estimated to be about 20% of the total allocation.

2.3 Most of the libraries concentrate on Lending Services and provide Reading Room facilities. Some of them provide extension services. Other services such as Reference Service, Bibliographical Services, etc., with the exception of a few State Central Libraries, are non-existent. The State Central Libraries have not yet evolved any policy for collection development. They should aim at having multilingual collection to serve different linguistic groups. These libraries have yet to be automated and modernised. However, it is felt that the best maintained public libraries are those which are covered by library legislation and are run by raising funds through Library Cess and supplemented by State grants.

2.4 An important development relating to Public Libraries is the 73rd and 74th Amendment to the Indian Constitution during 1992. The Panchayat Samitis and the Zila Parishads are the new authorities created under the aforesaid amendments. The Panchayats are now to offer Public Library Services in collaboration with the Samitis and Zila Parishads in which the District Central Libraries will have no role to play at the apex of the District Library Sub-system. Similarly the Urban Local Govt. such as Corporations, Municipalities, and Town Committees have been made responsible for the cultural activities including the public libraries under the 74th Amendment to the Constitution. In view of these developments, the structure of the public libraries needs to be reviewed before further library legislation is taken up by the States.

2.5 All public libraries should have separate children's sections as well as special facilities for the handicapped. Braille collections have to be developed for the visually handicapped and special care has to be taken to give appropriate library service to tribal groups.

2.6 The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, which is an autonomous body under the Department of Culture, has been engaged in promoting public library service through its various schemes of providing matching and non-matching assistance for development of Public libraries. For strengthening national integration, the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation should ensure that Indian language books are well distributed within the system. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation should act as the coordinating agency for development of networks within the Public Library System. This may be feasible if sufficient funding is provided to fructify this as a special scheme of RRRLF during the 9th Five Year Plan.

3. Academic Library System

3.1 The academic library system in India consists of School Libraries, College Libraries, University Libraries and Libraries of other University level institutions. The user groups of these libraries comprises students,

the university budget to be spent on the library books and periodicals. Another norm recommended for this purpose by the Kothari Commission was Rs.25/- per student and Rs.300/- per teacher. This norm needs revision in view of the inflation and escalating cost of reading materials during the last few years. The Raj Committee for the Karnataka Universities had suggested that 20 per cent of the university budget be spent on libraries. In view of the the increasing cost of reading materials, at least 10 per cent of the Universities' budget should be allocated to book budget (i.e. for books and periodicals).

3.8 The role of university and college libraries has been changing over the years. These libraries need to be on 'Information Super High Way' which would connect the entire world for dissemination and exchange of information in not too distant a future. The pre-requisite for the same is computerisation and modernization. In India a beginning in this direction has been made by the university and college libraries. While appreciating the efforts of the UGC which of late has been giving substantial financial assistance to Central Universities and State Universities to the tune of 2 crores of rupees and 50 lakh respectively during the Eighth Five Year Plan for computerisation of library operations and services, it has been observed that no substantial progress has yet been achieved in this direction. Some of the reasons for the slow progress are: (i) Lack of standard input formats as well as data entry in the automated system; (ii) The libraries have large stocks of documents with varying cataloguing practices in different institutions as well as non-standard formats; and (iii) Absence of a central agency of the librarians and information specialists to guide, coordinate and monitor the computerisation work of the libraries with a view to utilise the funds for the intended purpose. The whole system needs a fresh look.

3.9 The data entry in standard format is possible for the entire collection and, therefore, it would be desirable to standardise the same by using a standard format which will also enable exchange of information. However, the data entry work must start with the current acquisitions by university and college libraries. The retrospective conversion of the much used existing document collection could be taken up as projects.

teachers and educational administrators in addition to external users in very few cases.

3.2 There are 223 Universities including Institutions of National Importance, 37 Deemed to be Universities under the UGC Act, 34 Agricultural Universities and 7 Open Universities. The number of Colleges is about 8,000 and few of them are autonomous colleges. Faculty strength is around 4.5 lakh and the total enrolment is over 55 lakh students including around 50,000 research scholars and 4 lakh post-graduate students.

3.3 The University Libraries have been supporting teaching, research and extension activities of the parent institutions. The libraries of these institutions, at present, are at different levels of development. None of them can be considered to be fully automated or modernised. The college libraries function under the guidance of the universities. However, they seldom get any support or advice from the university library authorities and they even lack in sharing of resources with the university library and also with other college libraries under the jurisdiction of the same university.

3.4 Most of the university libraries have been providing traditional library services like lending, and reading room facilities. While Aligarh Muslim University Library is open round the clock, most libraries are open for about 8-12 hours a day or little longer.

3.5 The UGC till the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan had been monitoring the development of university and college libraries with the help of a Standing Library Committee. It may be noted that despite a specific recommendation to this effect by the 8th Five Year Plan Working Group on Libraries and Informatics, the UGC did not have any Committee for the purpose.

3.7 A random study of the provisions for library budget in the total budget of the university reveals that the university libraries are not even spending 4 percent of their budget on libraries. The Kothari Commission and the Radhakrishnan Commission had recommended 6-10 per cent of

3.10 The school libraries, barring a few have to go a long way to be able to support school education system. Most of the schools do not have libraries and those which have, they have been kept in a bad state. They follow closed access system and face problems of paucity of reading material as well as stacking space. They also lack in professionally trained and qualified manpower, and necessary funds. With the result the curriculum related study suffers and the reading habits are not developed at the school stage. This situation really needs to be taken up on a priority basis.

3.11 Resource sharing and networking are absolutely essential. Universities have not yet established their Local Area Networks (LAN) but are becoming members of the City or Metropolitan Networks such as DELNET, CALIBNET, MALIBNET, PUNENET, etc. The INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Programme of the UGC, and the Information Centres at Baroda, Bangalore and Bombay are not yet fully operational. During the Plan-Period, 54 Universities have been funded by the UGC- INFLIBNET till March 1995. About 20 Universities are likely to be funded during 1996-97. The remaining Universities are yet to be covered. The INFLIBNET has been conducting training programmes for the professional staff of the university and college libraries. A thorough review of the INFLIBNET programme is needed.

4. Special Libraries and Information Systems

The Special Libraries support research and development (R&D) as well as scholarship. These are attached either to scientific organisations like CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), or Social Science research institutions, or institutions specialising in Arts and the Humanities, Government Departments, Museum Libraries, Industries and Business Houses in private and public sector. These Libraries have specialised collections in their discipline(s) and cater to the information needs of researchers, subject specialists etc. in these disciplines.

4.1 Science and Technology Libraries

4.1.1 It is estimated that there are more than 1200 libraries attached to scientific organisations and institutions such as CSIR, ICAR, DRDO, ICMR, ISRO, etc. In addition to institutions of higher learning there are industrial Houses (as a part of R&D activity) both in the private and public sector. The collection size, and subscription to journals in these libraries vary considerably. However, it is estimated that on an average the stock of books, reports, patents, standards etc. varies between 20,000 to 50,000 and libraries subscribe to about 200-300 journals, with the exception of a few large libraries and university level institutions. The annual rate of addition of books and subscriptions list has been considerably reduced during the Eighth Five Year Plan due to financial constraints. In these libraries the strength of professional staff ranges from 1 to 20, and the clientele ranges between 50-500 persons.

4.1.2 The Science and Technology libraries are considered to be better developed, modernised and service oriented. The services include; in addition to traditional lending, and reading room facilities, bibliographical and current awareness services. Some of them offer Selective Dissemination of Information abstracting and digest services. Xeroxing facility is a common feature.

4.1.3 Some of the major libraries are fully automated but lack in on-line facilities and networking amongst themselves. They, however, are not yet marketing information products and services and are also not collaborating with Industrial and Business Houses in private as well as public sectors.

4.1.4 National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) has come to be recognised at the national as well as international levels. However, it needs to expand its scope to other sectors and to have connectivity with other Information Systems and Networks at the local and national level.

4.2 Social Science Libraries

4.2.1 Disciplines within the spectrum of Social Sciences have made steady progress since Independence because of their vital role in economic development and social change. They have received some recognition, support, and encouragement from the Government and from other public and private organisations during the recent past. No comprehensive study about the number of positions in the Departments and institutions of higher learning, doctoral students, number of research institutions, publication activities and social science departments in the universities has been undertaken. It is, however, estimated that annual enrolment for doctoral work is about 10,000 students. In addition to the universities and colleges, there are about 1,000 institutions engaged in social science research and 450 of these can be considered to be actively involved in research, training and counselling in social sciences. The number of teachers and researchers in the university departments is around 30,000 and in colleges it is about 8,000. It is estimated that more than 1,000 journals are being published in different social science disciplines, and the number of books, survey reports, seminar publications, etc. all of which are of research value is quite large.

4.2.2 With regard to the libraries of these 450 active research institutions, it is estimated that on an average each of the library has a collection of about 10,000 documents and gets between 50-250 periodicals. The institutional budget is about Rs.25 lakhs whereas the library budget was about Rs. 1 lakh i.e. less than 4% till the end of 1995-96. Almost all of them have been able to get e-mail facility and around 3% i.e. 12-15 of them could be considered to be modernised. All of them provide usual lending and reading room facilities and no specialised services are provided to the scholars, in spite of the fact that users depend heavily on libraries in social sciences including those in natural and physical sciences.

4.2.3 A document delivery system is non-existent and needs to be

developed to avoid unnecessary duplication of the documentary resources. A National Information System in social sciences (NISS) has not yet taken off and should be developed on a priority basis by the ICSSR.

4.3 Government Libraries

4.3.1 The growth and the development of the Government libraries actually started after Independence in the country. There were very few libraries worth the name before 1947. At present there are about 800 government department libraries which are at different stages of development and primarily cater to the needs of the Government departments. With the increase in the governmental activities, these libraries have now to collect, organise, disseminate literature on economic activities, social welfare, art and culture, etc. The importance of Government libraries is being recognised greatly now. The different ministries of the Government of India make financial provisions for their libraries.

4.3.2 A survey of about 70 government libraries in Delhi reveals that the size of the document collection in each of them varies considerably. The lowest collection is in the Prime Minister's Office library which is around 15 thousand and the maximum in the Central Secretariat Library (CSL) which is about 8 Lakhs approximately. Shortage of stacking space and reading space is a problem being faced by all the libraries. Most of these libraries have yet to use Information Technology (IT) for their activities. They provide traditional lending and reading room facilities and many of them follow obsolete issue system.

The funding of these libraries is also at variance. About 25% of these 70 libraries spend between Rs.50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh and another 25% between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs with the exception of Central Secretariat Library. All the other libraries are spending less than Rs. 50,000 on books and periodicals. There are no norms for this purpose and the same need to be developed.

4.4 Arts, Culture and Humanities

4.4.1 There are about 500 libraries at varying levels of development specializing in the arts, culture and humanities and some of these are attached to museums. Some of the most important ones are located in Metropolitan towns like Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Bangalore. In Delhi alone there are little over 20 such libraries.

4.4.2 These libraries are acquiring collections, processing them, organising them as well as serving the user community. These libraries possess very valuable, non-print material in the form of manuscripts on palm leaf, birch bark, handmade paper, etc. as well as artifacts and sculptures. All these are very unique components of art and culture information carriers, dating back to several centuries and pose unique issues and problems for automation. A uniform standard is to be developed and fragmented material is to be brought together and profiles are to be reconstituted. There is very little work done in this direction. These have to be brought together on a common compatible platform for resource sharing. All such libraries including MSS libraries have not yet been linked through networks. Standardization of the processing and other systems, needs to be undertaken before linkages are established. Some of the libraries are functioning as appendage to important museums.

4.4.3 The libraries in the domain of Humanities with particular reference to Art, have not yet been brought into the mainstream of information storage and dissemination. Marketing and transferring information through modern I T applications has yet to be taken up. Most of these libraries are not using automation except a few such as IGNCA.

5. National Libraries

5.1 The main thrust of National Library System is to develop, upgrade and modernise the level of National Library System in India to be at par with the international level and also to ensure universal access to information at the national level.

5.2 All the components of the National Library System which comprise the National Library, Calcutta, the Depository Libraries in New Delhi, Bombay and Madras, National Subject Libraries such as National Science Library, National Medical Library, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Library, National Documentation Centres and libraries of national importance have developed in isolation so far. The system, has been ineffective in the context of developing into a National Information System. These components, therefore, should form part of one cohesive integrated system.

5.3 The National Subject Libraries and the National Documentation Centres have all been working as national institutions in their respective fields of activity, but there has been no statutory recognition to declare these organisations as national institutions. All these institutions work under other major organisations/ministries and are twice removed from the decision making authorities in their respective set ups. Therefore there has been no uniform development of the system as a whole. Unless these libraries and documentation centres are given proper statutory recognition and uniform status, the development of the National Library System is not possible. Also the activities and funding of these components in the system are adversely affected due to lack of status within the National Library System as a whole.

5.4 Prerequisites for rationalised growth of the components are: Space, Funding, staff training and staffing pattern as per the felt need.

5.5 In the National Library System, there is a need for rationalisation of acquisition and development of a balanced collection so that resource sharing can be facilitated using modern information technology. Review of the Delivery of Books Act is called for to ensure proper collection development of Indian published material.

5.6 Library automation in these libraries and documentation centres with the exception of those in science and medicine is still at different stages of development. Modernisation of all the components of the National

Library System is also necessary to facilitate uniform growth and development.

5.7 The National Library, and the other components of the system have programmes which, if implemented in full, will bring about cohesiveness between the libraries, documentation centres, publishing industry and the users at the national level.

5.8 The Indian National Bibliography (INB) being brought out by the Central Reference Library (CRL) is irregular and has a time lag in the publication schedule. To ensure bibliographic control of materials published 'in India' and those published 'on India' anywhere in the world, the INB should be computerised and made on-line and the National Library should act as the centralised coordinating agency for preparation of databases within the system.

5.9 Most libraries attached to the national institutions of importance and the National Library, Calcutta have rich and rare collections which should be conserved for posterity. A national conservation programme is the felt need which should be initiated for physical conservation of rare documents as well as conservation through information technology.

5.10 The components of the National Library System should be funded to initiate research projects and impart training in the modern methods of conservation and preservation at the national level for future modernisation of the library system as a whole.

5.11 To give greater thrust to the proper functioning of the system as a whole a National Reference Library may be set up at Delhi under the Department of Culture, Government of India, in the Central Vista, to coordinate with all the National Libraries, networks and important institutions and libraries in India and abroad in order to provide reference service to users. A National Document Delivery Centre, with automated facilities for publications in English, and Regional Document Delivery Centres be established for publications in each recognized Indian language at the institutions rich in the publications in those languages, with proper linkages

with the National Reference Library.

6. Informatics

Information is considered to be a vital resource for any developmental activity and informatics relates to processes, methods, storage, retrieval and dissemination, rules and regulations concerned with information. The present scenario reveals that a large segment of libraries have not yet been able to use informatics fully because of various reasons. An important reason being the inadequate knowledge of the concepts and application of the technology. The education and training programming for this purpose should lay emphasis on information handling, organisation usage and all aspects of computer applications. Library software packages promoted and developed by agencies like NISSAT, NIC, INSDOC, DESIDOC, etc. should become available to a large number of libraries and information centres. The NICNET Phase IV should establish communications links within the country and abroad with all libraries, institutions networks, etc. as this would help to utilize the national information resource and make use of infrastructural resources.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan period considerable effort has been put in by some libraries to computerise their operations and services. However, these are still at initial stages of library automation. Various metropolitan networks have been planned and some of them such as DELNET have shown substantial progress.

7. Manpower Development

7.1 At present there are about 80 universities imparting education and training at the Bachelor's degree level (BLISc) and 35 of these offer courses at Master's degree (MLISc) level, 4 of them have provision for M. Phil and about 15 for Ph.D. in Library and Information Science. Two institutions award Associateship in Information Science and Documentation. The content and quality of professional education imparted by these institutions is at variance. The UGC during the 8th Five Year Plan brought out a CDC

Report which has been found to be unsatisfactory, and has, therefore, not been adopted by most of the Universities. In view of the technological developments and the need for their application in Libraries and Information Centres the curricula need an urgent fresh look. These should lay emphasis on use and application of Information Technology and modern management theories.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The responsibility of developing a public library system lies with the State Government for better dissemination of information to all levels of citizens. Library legislation should act as a support for a proper and systematic development of public library system in the State. At present, only ten States have enacted the library legislation for public libraries. Therefore, all the States should enact necessary legislation for supporting a well organised of a public library system.

2 Under the existing State Library Systems, District Central Libraries are placed at the apex of the District Library Systems. This structure now needs to be reviewed in view of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Indian Constitution.

3. India being a multilingual nation, the State Central Libraries should have multilingual collections to serve the different linguistic groups residing in the State concerned. Efforts made in this direction during the previous Plan should be continued.

4. Model libraries may be set up with a view to promote access to library resources and reposing trust and confidence in the users of the libraries. It is recommended that all checks in issue and return of books (except rare books, periodicals, and reference and information sources) be removed in one of the leading university libraries and a college library in each region after these have been fully computerised, on experimental basis. It is felt that this practice will help in character building among the youth and help in developing proper value system. The experiment should be carefully monitored and loss of reading material, etc. should be written

off by the authorities concerned. The model if found successful be tried in other libraries in a phased manner.

5. The technological developments and their application in academic libraries have necessitated the reformulation of norms and standards for buildings, furniture, size and type of the document collection and staffing, etc. by the UGC and other concerned agencies such as Bureau of Indian Standards.

6. The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) has come to be recognised at the national as well as international levels. However, it needs to expand the scope to other sectors and have connectivity with other information systems and networks at the local and national level such as INFLIBNET.

7. In order to achieve resource sharing on local, regional and national levels, development of local area networks and wide area networks of libraries be promoted.

8. The government libraries should be modernised and a union catalogue of all the government official documents and monographs available in Government Departmental Libraries be compiled. Also as there are no norms for funding of Government of India libraries, it is recommended that such norms be formulated.

9. All libraries should be linked through networks. Special efforts should be made in the domain of Humanities with particular reference to Arts including MSS libraries. As a prerequisite to setting up such networks, standardisation of the processing and other related activities should be ensured.

10. An autonomous Apex Body to review the existing library services, coordinate and monitor the activities of different library systems, oversee modernisation of library operations and services by laying down guidelines and policies for their development, develop a databank of library data, and supervise manpower training and accreditation of library and information

science departments be set up, under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

11. All the components of the national library system have developed in isolation so far, thereby contributing to its ineffectiveness. It is recommended that there should be a National Library System (NLS) comprising the National Library (NL), Calcutta as the national library of India, National Depository libraries in Delhi, Bombay and Madras, National Subject Libraries such as National Science Library, National Medical Library, etc. and National Documentation Centres such as Defence Scientific Information And Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), National Social Sciences Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), etc., and such other libraries of national importance. These should form part of one cohesive integrated system.

12. Development of balanced collections within the systems be promoted by rationalisation of acquisition of reading materials. It will facilitate resource sharing using Information Technology. In this process, the Press and Registration Act and the Delivery of Books Act may be reviewed for fruitful implementation.

13. National Library, Calcutta and Central Reference Library should correlate their activities regarding computerisation of Indian National Bibliography (INB), thus making INB not only a standard book selection tool but also the mainstay of bibliographical control of the country's published heritage.

14. A National Conservation Programme needs to be formulated and implemented. This important programme may be initiated in two parts:

- (i) Physical conservation of rare documents; and
- (ii) Conservation through reprography/micrographics and electronic imaging.

15. Keeping in view the deteriorating conditions of Indian manuscripts

and rare books in public and private collections, a National Mission on MSS and Rare documents under the Department of Culture be established to look into the related issues and to convert such rare materials into CD-ROMs with proper indexing facilities. In addition, the Mission should provide assistance to the libraries for preservation and publication of the rare MSS and documents. Important manuscripts whether in private or public holdings may be identified and efforts be made to publish them.

16. The modernisation of libraries using information technology should result in the creation of standard bibliographic databases. Necessary and adequate assistance be given to institutions for the purpose in accordance with their performance with a view to avoiding duplication of costly documentary resources in the libraries and optimizing their use and availability to scholars, researchers and public. It is recommended that resource sharing through networks be undertaken.

17. NICNET established by National Informatics Centre (NIC) should establish communication links within the country and abroad with all libraries, information centres, institutions, networks, etc.

18. Professional Library Associations always play a significant role in the development of the profession and its personnel. At the national level, there are several such Library Associations e.g. ILA, IASLIC, GILA and a few others. Such Library Associations also exist at State/UT and local levels. Most of these Library Associations are hampered in their activities because of paucity of funds and the consequent lack of resources. A scheme should be formulated to give grants to such Library Associations in the country.

B. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

L. Public Library System

1. Children's Libraries: All public libraries should have separate sections for children and, depending on the area of location of the library, the children's literature in the language of the area as well as in some other

languages should be available.

2. Services to the Neo-literates: The public libraries should have a special section for neo-literates and the libraries should work in tandem with Literacy Missions of both Central and State Governments in providing proper reading materials for neo-literates which should be made available to the said clientele.

3. Services to the Handicapped:

a: Facilities for handicapped library users should be made available in the Public Libraries.

b: Public library service should be provided to the visually handicapped persons by establishing Braille sections in close cooperation with the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

4. Audio-Visual Aids: Non-book materials have been one of the major agents of dissemination of information. All public libraries specially those attached to the community centres should use audio-visuals which have been prepared in collaboration with Central and State Government agencies.

5. Libraries for Tribal Groups: While opening new public libraries the importance of opening such centers in areas inhabited by the tribal groups may be favourably considered. Special care should be taken to establish and develop libraries which will make reading materials available in tribal languages for preservation of their culture.

II. Academic and Special Libraries

6. The UGC till the end of the 7th Five Year Plan had been monitoring the development of the university and college libraries with the help of a standing library committee. Since the beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan,

despite specific recommendation to this effect by the working group the UGC did not have any Committee for the purpose. It is recommended that the UGC may constitute a committee, on priority basis, to oversee, monitor and lay down policies and guidelines for the development of the university and college libraries.

7. The data for library budget and total budget of a university reveal that the university libraries are spending less than 4% of their budget on libraries. In view of the increasing cost of reading materials, it is recommended that atleast 10 per cent of the universities' budget be allocated to book budget (i.e., for books and periodicals).

8. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the UGC has given substantial financial assistance to Central Universities and State Universities to the tune of Rs. 2 Crores and Rs. 50 Lakhs respectively for computerization of library operations and services. The Working Group while appreciating the efforts of the UGC in this regard recommends continuation and strengthening of the programmes and is of the view that adequate provision be made for such grants to the Central and State Universities respectively in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

9. The automation and modernization of university and college libraries should be speeded up. The databases in these libraries should be created using international standards.

10. The UGC should provide sufficient financial assistance to the universities and college libraries for creation of database of retrospective collections. In the first phase, priority may be given to the much used collection.

11. Each university should establish Local Area Network (LAN) and provide terminals in each Teaching Department for quick access to the resources of the Library.

12. The facilities provided by Information Centres set up by UGC/AICTE at Bangalore, Baroda and Bombay need to be further

augmented. Similar Information Centres should be established in other regions which should have linkages with other library and information networks in the country.

13. INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) should be made fully operational.

14. The escalation in the costs of publications, equipments, and professional manpower on one hand and constraints of funding the libraries from governmental sources on the other, have necessitated generation of resources. With a view to generating financial resources the University and College Libraries should make a beginning and experiment with some of the methods of marketing of information products and services. Some of these are:

- i) Libraries could generate resources by providing paid precision oriented services such as bibliographical services, Current Awareness Service (CAS) and Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) to the researchers and faculty members;
- ii) Libraries may also market the services and products and provide facilities to use the libraries to outside scholars, academics and others i.e., who are not bonafide members of the libraries and need information;
- iii) Collaborate with industries and other R&D establishments for supply of information and consultancy services;
- iv) Allow use of libraries to the beneficiaries of the distance education programme against payment by the authorities; and
- v) Increase membership fees periodically keeping in view the costing of library operations and services.

15. While starting a new course or even establishing a college or a

university, the library facilities should be planned properly and provided for with adequate financial resources both for physical infrastructure and equipment as well as document collection. No college or a university should be established and even no new course should be started without adequate library support.

16. A school library- elementary, middle, secondary or senior secondary must be administered by a professionally qualified librarian. Besides supporting the academic activities, the librarian should assist in developing reading habits amongst the school children.

17. The professionally qualified staff in academic libraries should be regarded as members of the academic community and accorded academic status for all intents and purposes.

18. Realising the cost of serving information, the science-technology libraries should experiment with marketing of information services and products to generate some external cash flow as this experiment carried out by a few major institutions has been found to be successful. It is recommended that Science and Technology libraries should collaborate with industries and provide information against necessary payment.

19. A National Information System in Social Sciences (NISS) should be developed on priority basis. The conservation and preservation of social science journals, reports, and theses in documentary and in other electronic forms be taken up at the earliest. All the social science research libraries be modernised in a phased manner during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

20. In Social Sciences and Humanities, identification of libraries for developing national databases on specific subjects be done and assistance given to them.

21. The secondary sources of information in Social Sciences and Humanities being produced in India and abroad should be acquired in digital format for better resource sharing.

22. There is no Union Catalogue of Government documents available in government libraries. The Central Secretariat Library may be assigned the work of compilation of on-line union catalogue of holdings of documents available in Government Libraries.

23. It is recommended that important Government documents be stored in microforms and CD-ROMs as one of the major activities in the modernization process.

24. The funding of Government libraries is at variance. About 25% of these libraries spend between Rs.50,000 to and Rs.2 lakhs and about 15% spend little more than Rs.2 lakhs with the exception of Central Secretariat Library. All the other libraries are spending less than Rs.50,000 on books and periodicals. It is recommended that norms be formulated for the funding of Government libraries.

25. The libraries in the domain of Humanities with particular reference to Arts are not properly developed. These are to be brought into the mainstream of information storage and dissemination. Marketing and transferring of information through information technology applications should be the thrust area among the Art libraries.

26. A uniform standard be developed for the Art and Humanities collections and fragmented materials be brought together and document profiles be reconstituted. It has been observed that in certain cases the libraries are appendages to important museums and archives. This hampers the development of libraries. It is recommended that these libraries should be developed as independent libraries.

27. With a view to preserving and disseminating the cultural heritage of India, it is desirable that the Cultural Heritage Information System be developed linking all the libraries, archives, museums, institutions and other centres across the country for free flow of information and material to serve the community. In this context, it will be essential to develop libraries of national importance in different disciplines and other libraries in Arts and Humanities. In view of the strong collection and modernization of

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), it is recommended IGNCA be entrusted with the responsibility to act as an Information Clearing House for the purpose.

III. National Library System

28. The National Library, Calcutta and the Central Reference Library, Calcutta should correlate their activities regarding the computerisation of Indian National Bibliography (INB), thus making INB not only the standard book selection tool, but also the mainstay in bibliographical control of the India's published heritage. Indian National Bibliography should be published without delay and made available on-line, incorporating books, documents, government documents, CD-ROMs etc. in all Indian languages.

29. National Subject Libraries, four recipient libraries under DB Act and libraries of national importance should merge their data in a common database following uniform standards, uniform/compatible softwares and computer systems on the pattern of OCLC. This will help in ensuring quick and exhaustive access to information and also save duplication in processing of material by other libraries in the country. The database may include books, periodicals, non-book material, reports, standards etc. and also non-print material in electronic form. In this database the complete catalogue of the National Library, Calcutta in all languages should become available on-line using standard international format. The National Library will act as the centralised coordinating agency for such a database within the National Library System (NLS).

30. All the participating libraries in the NLS should be networked for which necessary infrastructure should be developed and standardisation/compatibility of computer system (hardware and software) must be ensured. National Informatics Centre may act as the agency for ensuring development of proper facilities within the system.

31. Existing conservation programmes should be strengthened so that the National Library and libraries of national importance are able to play

the role of repository of the cultural heritage of India. The NLS should provide access to publications generated in India and those published on India and by Indians in any part of the world in any language. The National Library should develop phase-wise INDIA MEMORY in multimedia format using state of the art technology i.e., CD Publishing. Existing conservation facilities in the NLS should be evaluated and strengthened. A nodal agency may be set up for coordinating conservation activities.

32. A National Reference Library should be established in New Delhi in the Central Vista which will coordinate the activities of the different types of libraries, networks and important institutions and libraries in India and abroad to act as the National Referral Centre and the contact point for international organisations and foreign governments. It will also have within its fold a National Document Delivery Centre with automated facilities for publications in English and Hindi, and Regional Document Delivery Centres for publications in each recognised Indian languages. It will establish work-standards for the profession, plan publications, research, surveys, and librametric studies of national/international importance. It will help in the accreditation of professional qualifications and their equivalence for research and recruitment. The National Reference Library will not in any way overlap the functions of the National Library, Calcutta and the Central Reference Library, Calcutta.

33. At present, it is difficult to get statistical and other data on all types of libraries in India. A database should be developed for this purpose by the National Reference Library which will be established in Delhi.

IV. Modernization

34. Public libraries need to be modernized. Special assistance be given to Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and to the depository libraries, i.e. National Library, Calcutta; Connemara Public Library, Madras; Central Library, Bombay; and Delhi Public Library, Delhi for their modernization activities.

35. Promotion and creation of bibliographic databases should be done

in all recognized Indian languages. Expertise developed by various agencies in this regard may be utilized.

36. The libraries attached to museums and archives be modernized and sufficient assistance be given to them.

37. Retrospective conversion of old documents in libraries in machine readable form be undertaken without duplication of efforts. Assistance should be given for retro-conversion work on the basis of the subject specialisation. The services of the existing library networks may be utilized in this regard.

38. All secondary sources of information in all subject areas may be converted into digital format for better information access.

39. In order to achieve resource sharing on local, regional and national levels, development of local area networks and wide area networks of libraries be promoted.

40. National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Planning Commission be suitably financed to support the infrastructure requirements of national, regional and local networks. The NIC may devise ways for interlinking networks to achieve better access to resources. It will also oversee the implementation of INTERNET facilities and application of new information technologies emerging from time to time and devise ways for adopting them by the libraries and information centres.

41. Among the different city networks, it has been found that DELNET has emerged as an operational library network in India with 60 libraries in Delhi and 6 states as its members. It has developed on-line union catalogue of books and periodicals. It is recommended that DELNET be supported to create National database and develop on OCLC pattern covering all subjects. It is also recommended that other city networks viz. CALIBNET, MALIBNET, etc. be financially supported to undertake creation of databases at state and city levels.

42. INFLIBNET should coordinate with the existing networks and institution so that duplication in various categories may be avoided.

43. All government libraries including research and official libraries, documentation centres and information centres, public libraries etc. should be encouraged to join a library network and follow the prescribed standards for database creation, information retrieval etc.

44. National Information System for Science and Technology should strengthen and expand its role in science and technology, and industrial sectors.

V. Manpower Development

45. The content and quality of the professional education imparted by different universities are at variance. The UGC Panel on Library and Information Science has been entrusted with the education and training of librarians. The UGC during the 8th Five Year Plan brought out a Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) report which, by and large, has not been adopted by the universities. The present courses do not provide for education and training in preservation and conservation of reading materials and a provision of such specialised courses at the Master's degree level is needed. Further, the technological developments, growing importance of networks at national and international level, growth of machine-readable databases, the demand for manpower having specialised knowledge in use and application of the information technology to various activities and services being rendered by libraries as well as the quality in library services has also necessitated a fresh look at the curricula to incorporate new and fast developing areas in the education and training programmes of Departments of Library and Information Science. It is recommended that training of working library professionals in information science and information technology be undertaken on a regular basis.

46. Conventional curricula followed by some of the Departments of Library and Information Science in the Universities should be redesigned by introducing the component of information science. Sufficient financial

support for upgradation of these courses should be provided. It should be mandatory for the Departments of Library and Information Science to organise training facilities in information technology. Till such time, they should use information technology training facilities available at other institutions. Existing teaching faculty and library professionals working in libraries should get suitably trained in relation to the modernization requirements of a library so that they can render proper service.

47. The output of the professional manpower needs to be correlated with the manpower requirements of the various libraries and information centres in the country. At present there are about 80 universities and 2 institutes imparting education in and training at the Bachelor's degree (BLISc) level and 50 of these offer courses at the Master's degree (MLISc) level, 4 of them have provisions for MPhil course and about 30 for PhD programme in Library and Information Science. Two institutions award Associateship in Information Science and Documentation. The whole programme has, therefore, to be linked up with the professional manpower requirements of library and information centres. An expert committee be appointed to assess the manpower requirements for the next 10-15 years.

48. With a view to bring in quality in professional education and research and make use of the technological and other developments in library operations and services, a National Institute of Library and Information Science be established in Delhi. The Institute should be a centre of excellence and be responsible for professional manpower development at different levels keeping in view the changing requirements.

49. Library Networks and institutions with requisite information technology facilities be recognized and assisted to provide short term training courses to the staff working in the libraries. Mobility of trained staff between units be encouraged.

50. In view of networking of libraries and use of information technology, new staffing norms for different types of jobs in libraries be finalised and adopted.

51. An All India cadre for Library and Information Services with uniform recruitment rules should be made to ensure systematic staffing pattern and development of human resource to meet the new challenges. This will also help in effective management and development of the National Library and Information Grid.

VI. Informatics

52. Development of Information Highway should be given priority so that the institutions including the libraries and information centres and individuals scattered in the country are interlinked for teleconferencing, surfing through INTERNET etc.

53. About 30 high end sites at the libraries of national and regional status and 600 local libraries (low end sites) may be networked by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

54. A National Centre on Informatics and Libraries be set up for coordination of networks at the National level.

55. Telecom infrastructure should be made broad and multidimensional so that acquisition, processing, and dissemination of information is possible on a large scale in different centres in the country and support should be given for establishment of digital libraries.

56. Innovations in information technology should be incorporated within a time frame. Library software packages promoted and developed by organizations such as NIC should be made available to maximum number of libraries in the country.

57. As the redundancy of hardware and software is of high proportion in information technology, a common agenda should be adopted for deploying them at suitable sites to make best use of equipment and services.

C. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES (LIBRARIES AND INFORMATICS) - NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Financial Estimates of the whole sector of Libraries and Informatics for the Ninth Five Year Plan are as under:

| <u>Sl.No.</u> | <u>Category</u> | <u>Requirement (Rs. in Crores)</u> |
|---------------|---|--|
| I. | <u>PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM</u> | |
| 1. | Public Libraries | 250 |
| 2. | Panchayat Libraries | 125 |
| 3. | Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation | 25 |
| | Total: | <u>400</u> |
| II. | <u>ACADEMIC LIBRARIES</u> | |
| 1. | University and Higher Education | 300 |
| 2. | Secondary/Higher Secondary Education | 100 |
| 3. | Elementary Education | 100 |
| 4. | Technical Education | 200 |
| | Total | <u>700</u> |
| III. | <u>SPECIAL LIBRARIES</u> | |
| 1. | Science & Technology Libraries/Information Centres | 250 |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 2. | Government Ministries/ Department Libraries | 50 |
| 3. | Arts, Culture & Humanities Libraries | 100 |
| | Total | <u>400</u> |
| IV. | <u>NATIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM</u> | |
| 1. | National Library, Calcutta, including CRL | 75 |
| 2. | National Science Library and IARI | 75 |
| 3. | National Medical Library System | 100 |
| 4. | National Social Science Library | 25 |
| 5. | National Reference Library, New Delhi | 100 |
| 5.1 | National Document Delivery Centre | 50 |
| 5.2 | Regional Document Delivery Centres in Indian Languages | 100 |
| | Total | <u>525</u> |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| V. | <u>INFORMATICS</u> | |
| 1. | National Information System for Science & Technology (NISSAT) | 10 |
| 2. | NICNET: Application for libraries and National Centre on Informatics and Libraries | 50 |
| 3. | INFLIBNET: Computer-communication network of Libraries and Bibliographical Information Centres | 50 |
| 4. | DELNET and National databases | 50 |
| 5. | City Networks | 50 |
| 6. | National Mission on Rare Books and Manuscripts | 100 |
| | Total | <u>310</u> |
| VI. | <u>APEX BODY ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS</u> | <u>5</u> |

| | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|
| VII. | <u>MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT</u> | |
| 1. | Manpower Development and R & D | 50 |
| 2. | National Institute of Library and Information Science | 2 |
| | Total | <u>52</u> |
| VIII. | <u>OTHER ACTIVITIES</u> | |
| 1. | Establishment/ strengthening of Library Directorates/ Departments (including the Library Bureau of the Department of Culture, Government of India) | 20 |
| 2. | Grants to Library Associations | 2 |
| 3. | Publication/Production of printed and audio- visual materials in English and Regional languages | 30 |
| | Total | <u>52</u> |
| | Grand Total: | <u>2444</u> |

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Knowledge, more than ever before, is power. A country ahead in information could have the potential to become more powerful than others. The ability to convert information into knowledge demands ability to integrate complex information systems. The importance of technology, education and institutional strength, including its flexibility, are very important. Information revolution clearly is in its formative stages, but one can foresee that the next step will involve the convergence of key technologies such as digitization, computer, telephone, television, and library networking. But to capture the growing capabilities, particularly the interaction among them, is difficult.

2. There has been an explosion of information. At the same time some kinds of information are not easily accessible as several of the developed countries are not willing to part with information and/or technology that they consider vital to their supremacy or leadership. Nonetheless it is widely believed that printed information in books and manuscripts are really about 80% of total information.

3. The libraries will have to play an important role, both as repository of information and also as centres where people can interact with each other to enhance their capabilities in different fields of life.

4. Keeping these facts in mind, it is felt that the major plan schemes under the Eighth Five Year Plan should be continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan. New emphasis has to be given to the following recommendations which should have been taken up as schemes during the Eighth Plan:-

- a) To ensure a well directed and planned development of the Library and Information System, it is necessary to formulate a 'National Policy on Library and Information System', duly approved by the Parliament.
 - b) An autonomous Apex Body which may be called the National Commission on Libraries and Information Systems should be set up to oversee, coordinate and monitor the country's programmes on Library and Information Systems. This should be under the Department of Culture, Government of India.
 - c) At the Centre, a Bureau of Library and Information System should be set up in the Department of Culture. It should be headed by a Bureau Head of the rank of Joint Secretary. At the State/Union Territory level, separate Directorates of Library and Information Systems should be set up.
 - d) The Central and the State/UT Governments and other agencies such as National Book Trust, Central Hindi Directorate, Sahitya Akademi and comparable agencies at the State level should produce suitable books (including translations of classics and other important works), audio-visual materials and other reading materials to meet the different reading needs of the people. These materials should be made available at subsidised rates.
5. In addition to these, the following schemes under the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation should be implemented to the maximum during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Matching Schemes

- a) Assistance towards building up of adequate stock of books and reading material.
- b) Assistance towards development of rural book deposit centres and mobile library services.

- c) Assistance towards organisation of seminars, workshops, training courses orientation/refresher and books exhibitions.
- d) Assistance towards storage and display of books.
- e) Assistance to public libraries below district level for increasing accommodation.
- f) Assistance to State Central Libraries and District Libraries to acquire TV-cum-VCR sets for educational purposes.

Non-Matching Schemes

- g) Assistance to voluntary organisations providing public library services.
 - h) Assistance to children libraries or children's sections of general public libraries.
 - i) Assistance to public libraries towards centenary celebrations.
 - j) Assistance towards organisation of seminar/conference by National Level Library Organisation.
6. The important schemes proposed by the National Library which have been approved in principle are as follows:
- i) Setting up of a Monitoring Cell for National Book Production mainly to fructify the Delivery of Books Act;
 - ii) Modernisation of the National Library, Calcutta;
 - iii) Setting up of a Microform Library to act as a nodal agency for microforms of Indian regional languages documents published in India during the British period and after independence; and

- iv) Preparation of the National Union Catalogue should be continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

7. Development schemes of the Delhi Public Library to give proper direction to library service within Delhi and its neighbourhood need augmentation during the Ninth Plan Period.

However, the emphasis of the Ninth Plan being mainly service orientation, these schemes which have been partially implemented or not implemented at all, must now become part of one cohesive system with proper linkages. Such an integrated system of action will ensure resource sharing at all levels for better library services in all parts of India.

8. To fulfil the need for information and to ensure balanced socio-economic development at the national and state levels the Ninth Plan must emphasise the implementation of the following:-

- a) The Public Library system will have to be systematically developed through library legislations and state enterprises to cover village and municipal areas, keeping in view the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Indian Constitution. The Public Library system will have to develop collections to serve the multi-lingual information needs at all levels.
- b) The national library system has to develop into a cohesive integrated system taking into consideration the recommendations of the Empowered Committee on the National Policy on Library and Information System and those of the Highpowered Committee on the National Library, Calcutta.
- c) There has to be linkages between the Ministry of Human Resource Development and other agencies which are directly responsible for the development of academic libraries, special libraries, information/documentation centre, networks etc., such as the UGC, CSIR, ICAR, DST, NIC and other concerned ministries.

- d) An overall change in the infrastructure of libraries of different categories will be needed for the development of networks with the help of information technology. There has to be networks at the national, regional, local and city levels which will ultimately help in formulation of the National Library and Information Grid.
 - e) An ancient civilization like India cannot overlook the necessity of conservation of its cultural heritage. A national programme for conservation of rare documents through traditional and modern methods is the felt need.
9. There is need to have an All India Cadre for Library and Information Services with uniform recruitment rules, to ensure systematic staff pattern and development of human resource to meet the new challenges of the 21st century.
10. Though there are many recommendations to set up various institutions within this field of activity, it is felt that it will be more feasible to set up the following institutions during the IX Five Year Plan:
- a) To give emphasis to a cohesive reference service and document delivery system for resource sharing at the National and International levels, and to activate the use of informatics at all levels of library services, there is need to set up a National Reference Library in Delhi, with document delivery centres under its control.
 - b) With a view to bring in quality in professional education and research and to make use of the technological and other developments in library operations and services, a National Training Institute of Library and Information Science be established in Delhi. The institute should be a centre of excellence and be responsible for professional manpower development at different levels keeping in view the changing requirements.
 - c) To oversee the vast gamut of functions in the field of libraries and

informatics, there is need to set up an autonomous Apex Body under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development to review existing library services, coordinate and monitor the activities of different library systems, oversee modernisation of library operations and services by laying down guidelines and policies for their development, develop a databank of library data, and supervise manpower training and accreditation of Library and Information Science departments.

11. The financial estimates have been increased by more than fifty per cent in comparison to the Eight Five Year Plan proposals. The justification for the increase lies in aspects such as increase in the price index and fluctuation in foreign currency rates, the need to modernise library facilities and improve services through modern technology; establishment of infrastructure for specialised activities e.g., conservation, development of human resources, networking of reference services and document delivery systems.

12. Some people advocate that library movement in India could better be left to non-governmental organisations. These organisations can do much to disseminate information and to encourage public to inculcate reading habits. It may, however, be realised that leaving things solely to market forces in the realm of library movement will not be possible as in different parts of India library movement itself is at various stages of development. The government sponsorship of the library movement is an absolute must. What, however, could be done is to avoid duplication of efforts at a particular place where we have major public or private sector undertakings. In these places, large organisations could be encouraged to contribute substantially in augmenting resources of public library and public library in turn could provide earmarked wings to meet specialised requirements of these organisations. This would mean stoppage of duplication of efforts and full utilization of available resources and synergy.

ANNEXURE - I

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
LIBRARIES AND INFORMATICS FOR THE NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN**

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|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Shri B.P. Singh Secretary, Department of Culture Ministry of HRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110 001. | Chairperson |
| 2. | Dr. P.K. Jayaswal Director Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation Salt lake, Sector No. 1 Block DD 34 Calcutta - 700 084. | Member |
| 3. | Dr. Chandan Roychaudhuri General Secretary Asiatic Society 1 Park Street Calcutta - 700 016. | -do- |
| 4. | Dr. W.H. Siddiqui OSD Rampur Raza Library Fort, Rampur - 244 001 (UP). | -do- |
| 5. | Mr. Habibur Rahman Chighani Director Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library Patna - 600 004. | -do- |
| 6. | Director Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology and Other Buddhist Studies Gangtok - 787 101. | -do- |

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|-----|---|--------|
| 7. | Smt. Kalpana Dasgupta Director Delhi Public Library S.P. Mukherjee Road Delhi - 110 008. | Member |
| 8. | Shri S.P. Rastogi Representative of Special Secretary & Director General National Informatics Centre CGO, Lodhi Road New Delhi. | -do- |
| 9. | Shri K. Vijayan Director Oriental Research Institute & Manuscripts Library Kariavattam Thiruvananthapuram - 695 581. | -do- |
| 10. | Shri H.K. Kaul Director Delhi Library Network (DELNET) C/o India International Centre 40 - Lodhi Estate New Delhi -110 003. | -do- |
| 11. | Shri M.R. Balakrishnan Head Library and Information Services Division Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Trombay Bombay- 400 085. | -do- |
| 12. | Prof. J.L. Sardana Deptt. of Library & Information Science Delhi University Delhi - 110 007. | -do- |
| 13. | Ms. Radhika Sabhawala General Manager Marg Publishers Army & Navy Building, 3rd Floor 148, Mahatma Gandhi Road Bombay - 400 023. | -do- |

14. Prof. T. Viswanathan
Director
INSDOC
Satsang Vihar Marg
Institutional Area
New Mehrauli Road
New Delhi. Member
15. Shri N. Gopaldaswami
Advisor (Education)
Planning commission
Yojana Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 001. -do-
16. Smt. P.V. Vatsala G. Kutty
Director
Book Promotion and Copyright
Department of Education
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 001. -do-
17. Shri Ashok Vajpeyi
Joint Secretary
Department of Culture
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110 001. Convenor

ANNEXURE - II

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-GROUPS

I. **Public Library System**

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|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Dr. D.N. Banerjee Director National Library Calcutta | Convenor |
| 2. | Dr. P.K. Jayaswal Director Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation Calcutta. | Member |
| 3. | Smt. Kalpana Dasgupta Director Central Secretariat Library & Delhi Public Library Delhi. | -do- |
| 4. | Mr. D.R. Kalia Ex-Director, CSL New Delhi. | -do- |

II. Academic and Special Libraries

A: Academic Libraries

1. Prof. J.L. Sardana
Deptt. of Library and
Information Science
University of Delhi
Delhi
Convenor
2. Shri M.K. Jain
Former Director
Planning commission
New Delhi
-do-
3. Shri Sutinder Singh
Joint Secretary
Association of Indian
Universities
New Delhi.
-do-
4. Prof. A.P. Srivastava
Librarian
University of Delhi
Delhi.
-do-
5. Prof. V.B. Nanda
Former Librarian
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi.
-do-
6. Pro. Nurul Hassan Khan
Librarian
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh.
-do-
7. Shri Prem Singh
Librarian
CCS Haryana Agricultural
University
Hissar.
-do-
8. Prof. K.L. Luthra
Librarian
National Council of Educational
Research & Training
New Delhi.
-do-

B: Special Libraries

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|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Prof. J.L. Sardana Deptt. of Library & Information Science University of Delhi Delhi. | Convenor |
| 2. | Dr. K.G. Tyagi Director National Social Science Documentation Centre ICSSR New Delhi. | Member |
| 3. | Dr. T.A.V. Murthy Librarian Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts New Delhi. | -do- |
| 4. | Shri M.K. Jain Former Director Planning Commission New Delhi. | -do- |

III. National Library System

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|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Smt. Kalpana Dasgupta Director Central Secretariat Library New Delhi - 110 001. | Convenor |
| 2. | Dr D.N. Banerjee Director National Library Calcutta. | Member |
| 3. | Prof T. Vishwanathan Director INSDOC and National Science Library New Delhi. | -do- |
| 4. | Dr. C.K. Ramaiah Scientist Nominee of Dr. S.S. Murthy Director DESIDOC New Delhi. | -do- |
| 5. | Mr. Chhote Lal Head, Library Services IARI Library New Delhi. | -do- |
| 6. | Mr Rameshwar Das Mehla Deputy Director (Libraries) National Medical Library New Delhi. | -do- |
| 7. | Dr. K.G. Tyagi Director National Social Science Documentation Centre ICSSR New Delhi. | -do- |

8. Dr. T.A.V. Murthy Member
Librarian
IGNCA Library
New Delhi.
9. Dr. R.K. Chaddha -do-
Joint Director
Nominee of Mr. John Joseph
Director
Parliament Library
New Delhi.

IV. Modernization, Manpower Development,
Informatics, and Finance

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Shri H.K. Kaul Director Delhi Library Network New Delhi. | Convenor |
| 2. | Prof. T. Vishwnathan Director INSDOC New Delhi. | Member |
| 3. | Dr. T.A.V. Murthy Librarian Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts New Delhi. | -do- |
| 4. | Dr. K.G. Tyagi Director NASSDOC New Delhi. | -do- |
| 5. | Dr. S.S. Murthy Director DESIDOC Delhi | -do- |
| 6. | Dr. Bhushan Lal Librarian IIT Kanpur | -do- |
| 7. | Dr. P.K. Jayaswal Director Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation Calcutta. | -do- |
| 8. | Dr. M.V.V.S. Reddy Principal System Analyst, National Informatics Centre New Delhi. | -do- |

ANNEXURE III

MEETINGS OF THE SUB-GROUPS

- 1) The members of the Sub-Group on Public Library System met on 15th and 16th April 1996.
- 2) The members of the Sub-Group on Academic Libraries met on 16th and 17th April 1996. Members of the Sub-Group on Special Libraries met on 23rd April 1996.

Prof. A.P. Srivastava, Shri Prem Singh, and Prof. K.L. Luthra could not attend the meetings of the Sub-Groups.
- 3) The members of the Sub-Group on the National Library System met on 8.4.1996 and 17.4.1996.

Prof. T. Vishwanathan, Director, INSDOC, could not attend the meetings.
- 4) The members of the Sub-Group on Modernization, Manpower Development, Informatics, and Finance met on 8.4.96 and 19.4.96.

