Report of the

Working Group of the

Planning Commission

on

LIBRARIES AND INFORMATICS

for the

Eighth Five Year Plan

1990 - 95

May 1989

C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTORY

1.1   In the context of preparation of the
Eighth Five-Year Plan, 1990-95, the Planning
Commission has set up a Working Group on
Libraries and Informatics under the Department
of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource
Development vide their Order No.M.12016/1/88.Edn.
dated 16.8.88 with the following terms of
reference:-

1.   To take stock of the position likely to
be reached within the area by the end of 1989-90
both in relation to original programmes of the
Seventh Plan and the new initatives under NPE/
1986/Programme of Action, to identify problems
and suggest effective remedial measures.

2.   To suggest a feasible perspective of
development of the sector up to 2005AD.

3.   To suggest measures for upgrading the
standards, facilities and attainments of back-
ward States/Regions/Districts.

4.   To specify in clear terms the objective
of the programmes in the sector for the Eighth
Plan.

5.   To suggest measures for effective link-
ages between this area and other relevant
sectors including rural development, environment,
health, agriculture, etc.

6. To review the existing position in respect of Information and Documentation Centres like INSDOC/DESIDOC/NASSDOC etc. and Computer Networks such as RINSCA, NIICNET, INDONET etc. and suggest a scheme in which these are integrated functionally so that the whole field of knowledge (Social Sciences, S&T and Humanities) is covered comprehensively.

7. To suggest ways and means of development of books and a nation-wide movement for improving the existing libraries at all levels for easy accessibility for all segments of people including children, students, housewives etc., taking due care of neo-literates under Adult Education Programme.

8. To review the work of existing Central institutions like National Library, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, National Book Trust and other important State level activities in the context of programmes in the Eighth Plan.

9. To review the present position of public library legislation among various States/UTs and suggest ways for implementation of the same for a widespread library movement as a supplement to various educational programmes and for cultural enrichment of the population in general.

10.   To consider such other matters as the Chairman considers relevant for the purpose of formulation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

11.   To formulate proposals for the Eighth Five-Year Plan 1990-95 in the light of the above perspective, indicating priorities, policies and financial costs.

> The composition of the Working Group is at Annexure-I.
>
> Meetings of the Working Group & Sub-Groups

1.2   The Convenor of the Working Group prepared a background note and circulated the same among all the members of the Working Group. The Working Group held one meeting on 26.9.88 followed by a second meeting on 29.4.89. It was decided in the second meeting that the recommendations of the Working Group may be finalised by the Chairman in consultation with the Member-Secretary and the same circulated to all members of the Working Group, even while furnishing the same to the Planning Commission. Members may send their comments and observations, if any, directly to the Planning Commission.

1.3   To facilitate its work, at the beginning, the Working Group constituted the following four Sub-Groups at its first meeting held on 26.9.88:-

(1) Sub-Group I -   Sh.D.R. Kalia   Convenor
    Public Library
    System including
    Panchayat Libraries

(2)	Sub-Group II - Academic and Special Libraries and Archives	Prof.Ravinder Kumar	Convener
(3)	Sub-Group III - National Library System and Bibliography System	Prof.Ashin Das Gupta	- do -
(4)	Sub-Group IV - Organisation, Finance and Information	Dr.N. Seshagiri	- do -

The Compositions of the Sub-Groups are at Annexure-II.

1.4   It was decided that the Convenors of different Sub-Groups should hold the meetings (2-3 times, if necessary) of their respective Sub-Groups, within 5 weeks and finalise its working paper so that the whole Working Group can meet again by the middle of November to complete its report. The Sub-Groups were authorised to coopt one or more members (who will not be members of the Working Group). Subsequently, noting that the activites of the Sub-Groups have spilled over beyond the expected time limit, the members of the Working Group were requested to make available his/her suggestions, in writing, on the terms of the reference of the Working Group so that all the suggestions could be collated and considered in the second meeting of the Working Group.

1.5   The reports submitted by the Sub-Groups, the suggestions of various members of the

Working Group and the decisions of the Empowered
Committee on the National Policy paper on
Library and Information System have all been
taken into consideration while making recommend-
ations under different sub-sectors. The
Working Group recommendations may be considered
as unanimous except that Dr.A.Lahiri, Director,
NISSAT, who is a member of the Working Group,
has written to say that he is not in agreement
with the financial estimates presented in the
report. (A copy of his letter is placed at
Annexure-III) It may, however, be noted that he
has not suggested any alternative estimates, nor
did he speak at the second meeting of the
Working Group when these estimates were being
finalised.

Introduction

1.6   Library and Information sources are vital
for all sectors of national activity and their
development. The availability of information,
expeditiously and precisely, facilitates all
decision making processes at all levels.
Timely use of relevant information helps to
accelarate the pace of national development,
It helps to secure for the people of the country
all the benefits that can accrue from the
acquisition and application of knowledge and to
present and disseminate the nation's cultural

heritage in its multiple form.

Review of VII Plan Programmes

1.7   The Working Group under-took a review
of the position likely to be reached within
the area by the end of 1989-90 vis-a-vis the
original programme of the VII Plan. It noted
that the Govt. of India (Department of Culture)'s
efforts to evolve a national policy on library
and information system is a positive step towards
further development of the area and towards
meeting the challenge of modernising the nation.
The Working Group also welcomed the decision of
the Empowered Committee on the National Policy
paper on Library and Information System for
setting up a National Commission on Libraries
and Information System. The Working Group
further noted with interest the setting up of a
Review Committee on Central Govt. Libraries in
pursuance of the suggestion of the Fourth Pay
Commission in order to rationalise the structure
and functioning of such Libraries. The Review
Committee's report is already with the Govt.

Priorities in the VIIIth Plan

1.8   The Working Group identified that the
main thrusts in the VIIIth Plan for the
development of Library and Information System
in the country would be:

(a) to set up a National Commission on
Libraries and Information System; and

(b) to evolve a National Policy on Library and
Information System.

1.9 The Working Group observed that the
VIIth Plan on Art and Culture could be taken
as a point of reference but not as a model to
determine financial provisions and priorities.

1.10 To begin with, for effective and speedy
implementation of all programmes related to the
development of library and information system in
the country, a separate Bureau of Library, headed
by a separate Lureau Head, as detailed below,
should be set up in the Department of Culture:

Estimated expenditure on staff -- annual:

Post	No. of posts	Scale	Annual salary
1.	2.	3.	4.
Bureau Head (JS/JRA)	1	5900-6700	84,000
DS/DEA	1	3700-5000	72,000
U.S.	2	3000-4500	96,000
Sr.PA	2	2000-3500	84,000
Desk Officer	2	2000-3500 +(Rs.150 Desk Officer allowance)	1,00,000
Assistant/ Desk Attache	4	1400-2600 + Rs.100 Desk Attache allowance	1,20,400
LDC	4	950-1500	96,000
Stenographer Grade-D	4	1200-2040	1,05,600
Peon	4	750-940	72,000

TOTAL: Rs.8,30,000

1.11   The following Chapter(Chapter II)
gives a detailed account of the existing
situation at the end of the Seventh Plan as far
as Libraries and Information Services are
concerned.

1.12.   Chapter III gives all the recommendations
according to the various sub-sectors, as out-
lined below:

       A. Libraries
          1. General recommendations.
          2. Public Libraries including
             Panchayat Libraries.
          3. Academic Libraries.
          4. Special Libraries/Information
             Centres.
          5. National Library System and
             Bibliographical services.
          6. Manpower development.

       B. Informatics.

1.13   The relevant details of financial
requirement for the whole sector of Libraries
and Informatics are given at the end of
Chapter III.

CHAPTER II

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES -

POSITION AT THE END OF SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

1.   India has been the cradle of one of the
earliest civilizations of the world. Libraries
of today have been developed with the introduc-
tion of printing technology and with the advent
of European education system in India in 19th
century. In the post-Independence era, a major
concern of the Central and State Governments has
been to give increasing attention to education
as a factor vital to the national progress and
security. Libraries have always been recognis-
ed as necessary appendages of learning. It has
been the concern of the Government of India
that a radical programme of developing library
and information system would be essential for
economic and cultural growth of the country.
The availability of information expeitiously
and pinpointedly supports all decision-making
processes at all levels. Relevant information
helps accelerate the pace of national develop-
ment and therefore, proper utilization of
information can improve the quality and life-
style of a citizen. The Government of India
thus realizes the value of co-ordinating and

upgrading the existing library and information
system and services and initiating new programm
relevant to our national needs taking advantage
of the latest advances in information technology

2.   A resume is given below so as to provide
an overall view about the developments which
have taken place till date in different sectors
of libraries and informatics in the country.

3.   PUBLIC LIBRARIES: All the States and
Union Territories in the country except Sikkim,
Lakshadweep and Nagaland, have set up State
Central Libraries. More than 360 districts out
of a total of about 400 have District Libraries.
It is estimated that nearly 40% of the blocks
(of a total of 5023) have block libraries and
nearly 10% of the villages (of a total of
5,75,937) have village libraries. In addition,
over 50% of the towns and urban areas have
libraries which come under Public Library System
During the Seventh Five Year Plan period, two
more states, viz., Kerala and Manipur besides
the five states Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh,
Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal, have
enacted Public Libraries legislation with the
objective of establishing a network of public
library services within the States and Union

Territories. Delhi has since developed a
metropolitan public library system(Delhi
Public Library)which has expanded consideraly
during the last five years in having a
Central Library, a Zonal Library at Sarojini
Nagar, a Rural Zonal Library at Bawana, 29
branches and sub-branches, a Braille depart-
ment and a network of mobile service stations
serving 66 areas and 19 deposit stations
spread all over the Union Territory of Delhi.
In addition, 2 sports libraries were establish-
ed recently in collaboration with the Sports
Authority of India.

(RRRLF),

4. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation/
engaged in the promotion of public library
services in the country, has also expanded by
implementing 9 various schemes of matching
and non-matching assistance in order to
improve countrywide public library services.
The volume of assistance during 1987-88
amounted to Rs.1.89 crores, assisting about
6000 libraries at different levels as compar-
ed to Rs.51.28 lakhs in 1984-85 (last year of
the Sixth Five Year Plan). The total allo-
cation during the Sixth Five Year Plan was
Rs.2.10 crores.

5.   It is estimated that during the last five years, an annual average expenditure of Rs.20.00 crores has been incurred. In other words, 75 paise per literate person or Rs.0.05 has been spent on each library on per-capita basis. There are about 6 crores   volumes for 30 crores reader population; or, one book for every five persons, stored in the public libraries, which figure is apparently lower than what it used to be at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan, being one book for every four persons. This may be due to a high increase in the cost of printing materials without a corresponding increase in the budgetary allocations.

6.   CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES: Most of the public libraries do provide library services to children and maintain a stock of collections to meet the needs of this category of readers. Recent Reports viz., National Policy on Library and Information System and National Book Policy emphasised strongly the need for increasing and improving library services for children by allocating 25% of their stock and fund for this purpose. The National Book Trust and similar such organizations have undertaken

∠ (NAPLIS)

several developmental projects in bringing out
quality literature for children in all languages
in larger volumes.

7.   Various bodies and the above Reports as
also the new Education Policy give due attention
to the urgent need of providing adequate audio-
visual material in the public school and other
libraries for the benefit of the majority
population consisting of illiterates and neo-
literates. RRRLF, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan and
a few others have taken steps to provide AV
equipments to some libraries.

8.   ACADEMIC LIBRARIES: There are 179
University level institutions and over 5500
colleges with over 2,25,000 faculty staff and
over 40 lakh students (inclusive of 40,000
research scholars and 3.5 lakh postgraduate
students). Teaching and research in Universities
centre around their libraries. But these
libraries are not uniform in their level of
development. College libraries functioning
under the jurisdiction of Universities do not
get much support from the parent body nor is
there any standard pattern of co-ordination
in sharing the resources of the cluster of
these libraries. Also, most University
libraries do not extend their services to a
wider section of community down to the

village level, the Karnataka University librar
proving to be an exception in this case. Toda
majority of the University libraries have a
fair and sizeable document collection and good
physical facilities in terms of building,
furniture and equipments. Some of the factors
which have helped in their growth are:

* Larger UGC support for books, buildings, etc.
* Improved status and salaries of library staff
* UGC-sponsored back-up services, such as,
  Information Centres in Humanities and Social
  Sciences (SNDT University, Bombay; and M.S.
  University, Baroda) and University Centre for
  Science Information (IISC, Bangalore) etc.;

9.   However, an enormous increase in the
number of publications and, at the same time,
a rapid escalation in the cost of books and
journals have forced a large number of librari
to acquire lesser and lesser number of items
every year, thereby unable to keep their collec
tions uptodate.

10.   The minimum expenditure of Rs.25.- and
Rs.300.- for each student and teacher respective
(being a norm established in the fifties and th
needs revision) is not being provided for in th
book budget of University libraries. More than

50% of the total number of Universities receive less than Rs.10 lakhs and 25% receive Rs.10-20 lakhs and the remaining 25% libraries receive well over Rs.25 lakhs. In a recent analysis, it was found that only 5 Universities spend about 5% of their annual budget for books and periodicals and that the rest of the institutions are spending less than 2%, the recommended standard being 6%-10%. By and large, University libraries mostly offer lending services.

11.   School library in India is a badly neg-lected area. The new Education Policy, there-fore,   has strongly urged to develop school libraries. Operation Blackboard is one of its recommendations under which there will be a small book collection of 200 titles in every primary school of the country. This job is now in progress.

12.   SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES:

Special libraries are known to be better developed as compared to the other types of libraries. Over the years, since Independence, the establishment of a number of R&D organisat-ions, centres for advanced learning, research societies and institutions in all branches of knowledge, together with an increase in the

growth of large industrial and commercial
organisations have helped special libraries to
grow both in number and in size. It is estimat-
ed that there are nearly-2000-2500 special
libraries that now exist in the country. In the
present stage of development of special libraries
the need for networking and resource-sharing
seems to be permanent. Towards this end,
computer application is a better way. Science
and technology libraries are far more developed
than the others. An average science and
technology library may have a stock of 30000-
35000 volumes, add about 400-500 volumes per
year and receive 250-300 current periodicals.
Its average annual book budget is Rs.5 lakhs
(based on 1987-88 figures) and almost 70% of the
same is spent on periodical subscription. There
are about 633 medical libraries and 100 libraries
of different sizes with varying scope in the
field of agriculture in the country. Most of
the medical libraries provide with conventional
lending and reference services whereas agricultur
al libraries are highly active in maintaining
large bibliographical database on cards as well
as in producing current awareness lists, etc.

13.   The origin and growth of special libraries
in social sciences are closely linked with the

development of teaching and research organizati...
as seen from the beginning of the 19th century.
In the absence of accurate statistics, the number
of these libraries have been estimated to be
around 500. Total budget of 92 social science
libraries works out to Rs.150 lakhs*. About
Rs.1.6 lakhs is spent annually by these libraries
on reading material. Expenditure incurred on a
library by a parent institution varies from 1 to
15 percent of its annual allocation. Services
provided by these libraries are generally con-
ventional in nature.

14. INFORMATION CENTRES: Some special lib-
raries have also assumed the functions of infor-
mation centres. In addition, there are a few
major bibliographical and information centres
covering various subjects, such as, Indian
National Scientific Information Centre, Defence
Scientific Information and Documentation Centre,
Universities Centre for Science Information,
BARC Library and Information Services, National
Documentation Centre for Health and Family Lor
Welfare, Small Enterprises National Documentation
Centre (SENDOC), NISSAT Sectoral Centres, Tata
Energy Research Centre, Information Centre for
Aeronautics (ICA at National Aeronautical
Laboratory), ICMR- NIC Bio-medical Information

Centre, National Social Science Documentation
Centre, Centre for Rural Documentation,
National Documentation Centre in Mass Communi-
cation. Information Centres primarily play a
promotional and co-ordinating role. At the
same time, these are operational units actually
generating secondary bibliographical information
packages and rendering similar other services.
Majority of these information centres had been
developed as national/sectoral centres during
the Fifth and the Sixth Five-Year Plan periods.
During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period, these
centres have been aiming at consolidating their
activities and have started using computer
technology to provide with fast and effective
services. During the next decade, these infor-
mation centres would be linked up on network
concept and would share the resources and
services with major libraries and R&D organi-
zations.

15.   NATIONAL LIBRARIES: The National Library,
Calcutta, is yet to take up the leading role
as the apex of the library system of our country.
Nonetheless, its objectives and major operations
do indicate to place it as the National Library
of India. Both the NAPLIS and Empowered
Committee recommended it to play the leading

role and to co-ordinate the library service
programme of the country. One of the major
problems this Library has been facing over the
last two decades is the acute shortage of space,
which in turn, has seriously affected its
services. It is hoped that within the 8th Five-
Year Plan period, the National Library will get
its new building, the foundation stone of which
was recently laid by the Prime Minister. More-
over, this Library has also taken a few more
steps in modernizing its activities which would
mean improving its services considerably. The
Central Reference Library. with its main responsi-
bility of producing Indian National Bibliography,
is to be merged with the National Library. Steps
have been already taken to make this Bibliography
more regular and uptodate. During the 8th Five-
Year Plan period, the whole Library process shall
be fully automated. NAPLIS and Empowered
Committee Reports have strongly recommended to
amend the National Library Act and the Delhi
Public Library Act, so that the National Library
can play the leading role and share the responsi-
bilities of preservation of cultural heritage
in printed works and provide with effective
service with the other three regional recipient

Centre, National Social Science Documentation Centre, Centre for Rural Documentation, National Documentation Centre in Mass Communication. Information Centres primarily play a promotional and co-ordinating role. At the same time, these are operational units actually generating secondary bibliographical information packages and rendering similar other services. Majority of these information centres had been developed as national/sectoral centres during the Fifth and the Sixth Five-Year Plan periods. During the Seventh Five-Year Plan period, these centres have been aiming at consolidating their activities and have started using computer technology to provide with fast and effective services. During the next decade, these information centres would be linked up on network concept and would share the resources and services with major libraries and R&D organizations.

15. NATIONAL LIBRARIES: The National Library Calcutta, is yet to take up the leading role as the apex of the library system of our country Nonetheless, its objectives and major operations do indicate to place it as the National Library of India. Both the NAPLIS and Empowered Committee recommended it to play the leading

role and to co-ordinate the library [illegible]
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libraries in Bombay, Delhi and Madras. Librari
of National Importance and other subject
National Libraries (eg. Asiatic Society,
Calcutta; M.S. Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjavu:
Rampur Raza Library; National Medical Library)
need to be developed and managed on modern
approaches.

16.   MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT: In recent years,
there has been a spurt in starting B.Lib.Sc and
M.Lib.Inf.Sc. courses in the Universities.   In
the beginning of the 7th Five-Year Plan, 48
Universities were conducting a one-year course
at the postgraduate level.   In addition, DRTC
and INSDOC run their one-year programme at the

/ training

postgraduate level leading to Associateship.
By the end of 1988, more than 70 Universities
were known to be conducting one-year full-time
library science course at the postgraduate level
Moreover, there are quite a number of State
library associations and institutions running
various certificate/diploma courses on the
subject.   Recently, some Universities and open
Universities have started library science
courses through correspondence.   It is estimated
that every year, over 5000 prospective librarian
arrive in the job market.   However, the level
and quality of training(including the training

ability of the organization) differ considerably
from each other. Also, there is no accrediting
body to safeguard the professional abilities of
the manpower thus developed. A question also
arises whether we need to have such a huge number
of trained persons in India; and, what are the
jobs in a library where this kind of training
would likely be beneficial. The Empowered
Committee has recommended **that the All India
Council for Technical Education shall** be the
accrediting body to make decisions on the man-
power development of library and information
science under the guidance of the proposed
National Commission for Libraries and Informatics.
It may also be recorded here that in no other
country in the world is there a postgraduate
degree in Library and information science
essential to serve in a library.

17.   INFORMATICS: At present, there are two
national networks NICNET and INDONET which trans-
mit bibliographical information, in addition to
other kinds of data, across the country. NICNET
Phase III of the NIC is to be implemented during
the 8th Five-Year Plan with an estimated
expenditure of Rs.370 crores. NICNET caters
to government information systems at all levels
-- Centre, States, Districts and Block Levels.

Other than these two, Department of Telecommunications has set up VIKRAM/PDN.

18. During the last five years, there has been constant efforts in computer application in libraries. According to an estimate, there are more than 200 libraries that are making use of computer at various stages of library automation. With the introduction of new, powerful with large memory size PC range, the hardware configuration has become within the reach of every library. A few software packages for handling library automation and bibliographical data processing have also been recently developed. NISSAT (DSIR) and a few other organisations are supporting training programme on a wide scale, of library personnel in computer application. NISSAT has also commissioned through CMC, a feasibility report on online access to international databases (May 1986). Recently, CMC has submitted a feasibility report commissioned by NISSAT on CALIBNET (1988) to help in linking initially 28 major libraries in Calcutta. On a similar format, CMC has been asked by NISSAT to prepare a feasibility report on proposed DELNET. INFLIBNET is a project for the development of information and library network. The

detailed project report has been prepared by
an inter-agency working group commissioned by
UGC and submitted to the Planning Commission
for consideration. Objectives and approach of
INFLIBNET are to evolve a national network
inter-connecting various libraries and informa-
tion centres in the country to **improve capability
in information handling and services.** It should
also provide document delivery service by
establishing resource centres through advanced
information technology and also to optimise
information resource utilization through shared
cataloguing, centralized processing and avoid
duplication in acquisition to the extent
possible.

/ some

19.   There has been/experimentation in a few
libraries and information centres on larger
international databases available on CD-ROM.
Some of them have also been undertaking direct
online search of international databases through
satellite communication system. Department of
Telecommunications has also undertaken a project
of developing optical disks and relevant software
packages. Progress made in both development of
information technology and its adaptability
within the library and information system during
the Seventh Five-Year Plan period has been
considerable. 24/-

CHAPTER III - RECOMMENDATIONS

A. LIBRARIES

1. General recommendations

1.1   The subject "Library" should be trans-
ferred from the State List to the Concurrent
List, as this is essential for an integrated and
coordinated development of Libraries and Library
Services.

1.2   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.

1.3   A National Commission on Libraries and
Information System should be set up to oversee,
coordinate and monitor the country's programmes
on Library and Information Systems. The
Commission should be an autonomous organisation
under the Department of Culture, Government of
India.

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

1.5   Professional Library Associations always

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.

1.6   The Central and the State/UT Governments
and other agencies such as NBT, 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 material and other reading material to
meet the different reading needs of the people.
These materials should be made available at
subsidised rates.

2. Public Libraries including Panchayat Libraries

2.1   The most important task is to establish, maintain and strengthen public libraries in the country and enable them to work as a system. Responsibility of mobilisation of resources could be shared by the State and the Central Governments, public sector undertakings and voluntary organisations. The State Government should set apart 1% of its education plus culture budget for library development. The Libraries may charge Rs. 1 to Rs.10 as nominal membership fee. Voluntary organisations should raise funds through donations, endowments etc, Public sector undertakings should also contribute suitably for library development.

2.2   The main thrust should go to Rural Public Library. Rural library service should be made available in each village under the "Minimum Needs Programme" by 2001 AD. Central and State Government agencies such as Department of Culture, Department of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting etc. and programmes like the National Literacy Mission, Distt. Institute of Education & Training etc. should closely coordinate and

2.3 The Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken a plan of building up one Community Centre in every one of about 1,00,000 Panchayats in the country during the Eighth Plan. In each of these Panchayat Community Centres, Library-cum-reading rooms should be established and atleast 50% of the reading material in the form of books, translations and audio visual material may be supplied by the Central Government.

2.4 An important link should be established between the Panchayat Community Centre Library and Primary Schools in the region. If the schools do not have libraries of their own, the Community Centre Library should provide the school children with adequate library service. The Community Centre Library should be developed as a Community Information Centre and should be adequately equipped to serve the interest of children, housewives and the youth. It should also be specially equipped to play an important role in the Adult Education Programme as also in the Non-formal Education system. It should specially cater to neo-literates in retaining their literacy.

2.5 As regards the employment of staff for the Panchayat Community Centre Library, advantage may be taken of the funds available under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna.

2.6   Public sector undertakings and voluntary organisations may be encouraged to develop and manage Rural Libraries. Each such organisation may adopt a rural library, nourish and manage it as a Model Library.

2.7   Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to develop libraries and should be given token or matching grants for the purpose. They should take advantage of already existing buildings for setting up libraries in collaboration with organisations like Dairy Cooperatives, Balwadis, Mahila Mandals, etc. at the village level which already have buildings of their own.

2.8   A District Library should serve as an Appex Library for each District with Public Library at city, town and village level, constituting the District Library System. It should take leadership in establishing linkages between all the Public Libraries in the District. The District Board of Education should be responsible for overall planning and administration of all educational programmes and should work in close collaboration with the District Library System.

2.9   The District Library System should have mobile and circulating library services

to cater to special groups, including the physically handicapped. In particular, hospitals, prisons and infirmaries are to be covered under these services.

2.10   Libraries for special groups should be built in areas of tribal concentration and minority communities to help in sustaining and developing their distinctive cultures. The Government should encourage such communities to develop their own library through voluntary efforts.

2.11   The key role of public library as the chief sustaining agency for distance education is to be recognised and they should be adequately equipped with relevant resources, such as publications covering vocational education courses and the Open University.

2.12   All public libraries within a State should form part of a network extending from village library through Panchayat Community Centre Libary, District Library and State Central Library. This State network should be linked up with the National Information Network. NICNET and any other Information Data bases such as INFLIBNT should be available at the Distt. Library/Distt. Resource Unit.

2.13   At present only seven States viz.
Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,
Maharashtra, West Bengal, Manipur and Kerala
have enacted Public Library laws. Vigourous
efforts should be made to pursuade the other
States to enact Public Library laws at the
earliest.

2.14   The Central Government in collaboration
with the State Government should establish at-
least one multilingual library in each State.

2.15   Suitable legislation may be enacted so
that all new urban development projects
compulsorily provide for libraries with reading
rooms and bookstores.

2.16   The Raja Rammohun Roy Library
Foundation, Calcutta, should be the nodal
agency for implementing all public library
development programmes initiated by the Central
Government and in this the Foundation will
collaborate directly with the State/UT
Governments.

3. Academic Libraries

3.1   The UGC may constitute a Committee of senior librarians from the University system as well as from outside it to review the course structures in teaching Departments of Library Science and suggest their improvements.

3.2   The UGC/AICTE should devise and lay down norms for Academic Libraries in the country Senior staff members of the Library should be regarded as full members of the academic community and the library should be considered as an Academic Unit. The Library budget should be 10 to 15 per cent of the total University/ college budget, depending upon the stage of development of the Library.

3.3   The University/college library should be adequately equipped before a University/ college can start their proper functioning.

3.4   Universities and institutions of higher education in one State/region should establish linkages and share resources. Such resource - sharing will save avoidable duplication. It should be possible to devise a common acquisition programme.

3.5 The local university/college libraries should extend all facilities to the students of distance education. These libraries should be provided with necessary measures to extend this service.

3.6 The UGC/AICTE has set up three regional Centres at Bangalore, Bombay and Baroda to back up the university library system covering Science & Technology, Social Science & Technolo Social Sciences and Humanities respectively. There should be more similar Centres in other parts of the country interlinked with one another and the National Network.

3.7 The UGC/AICTE should provide assistance to organise refresher/orientation courses for university/college libraries. The NCERT/State Institutes of Educational Technology should support similar programmes for school libraries

3.8 Every school and college should have a library and qualified/trained librarian. Elementary schools where such facilities are no available should share the resources of the local Panchayat Community Centre Library.

3.9 School teachers responsible for librari should go through short training courses in Library Science.

3.10   Teachers and Librarians should guide
and motivate students to use library. There
should be provision for a Library period in the
time table of all schools at the Primary and
Secondary levels.

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4. Special Libraries/Information Centres

4.1   Special attention should be paid to the
allocation of responsibility to specialised
libraries through a centralised command system
in order to prevent duplication of tasks.
The proposed National Commission on Libraries
and Information System can undertake this task

4.2   It is necessary to devise appropriate
staffing norms for different categories of
specialised libraries in terms of their specific
needs and requirements.

4.3   There has been a phenomenal growth in
research and developmental activities in the
country since Independence. As a result many
special libraries were established. However,
there exists a significant gap in areas of
Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humaniti
DST, INSDOC, ICSSR and the National Library
should undertake projects of survey, preservat
and establishment of National data bases in
these areas.

4.4   DST, UGC, AICTE and the National Libra
may constitute a High-Powered Committee for
identifying institutions and disciplines which
should be brought under the National Network o
Library service, in consultation with the
Department of Electronics, Department of

Telecommunications and the Ministry of Human
Resource Development.

4.5   Specialised Libraries attached to service
or defence organisations should enter into mutual
beneficial exchanges with libraries within the
University system.

4.6   The Libraries of the various Ministries/
Departments of the Government of India as also
the Parliament Library should maintain close links
with one another in order to ensure optimum
utilisation of resources.

5. National Library System and Bibliographical Services

5.1   The four Recipient Libraries viz. National Library, Calcutta; Delhi Public Library, Delhi; Central Library, Bombay; and Connemara Public Library, Madras should be declared as Institutions of National Importance and adequate funds should be provided to them for development of collections and preservation of Indian culture in the printed form. The Delivery of Books Act 1954 should be reviewed, ensuring strict follow-up action by the Recipient Libraries.

5.2   The P&T Department should consider as to whether the publishers can be permitted to send books to the Recipient Libraries free of postal charges under the Delivery of Books Act 1954.

5.3   The status of National Library, Calcutta should be changed from that of a Subordinate Office to an Attached Office. This would help the National Library in discharging its responsibilities in a more effective manner.

5.4   To meet the library needs at the National level, there should be a National Library System consisting of the four Recipient Libraries, National Subject Libraries and such

other Libraries of national importance (e.g.
Memorial Museum and Library, ICSSR Library).
These libraries may consider forming an Associa-
tion of Libraries under the Societies
Registration Act with the scope and objective
as those of the Association of Indian universi-
ties. Till such an Association is formed, the
National Library, Calcutta may constitute a
National Library Board of which the Minister-in-
Charge in the Department of Culture should be
the Chairman and the Director, National Library,
the Member Secretary. Other Members of the
Board would be ex-officio representatives, one
each of the Department of Culture, Department

/ DESIDOC,

of Education, DST, UGC, AICTE and Ministry of
Finance, besides eminent academics and librarians.

5.5   The information needs of the users in the
country should be met by the establishment,
maintenance and modernisation of National Subject
Libraries and National Documentation/Information
Centres, such as National Medical Library, INSDOC
etc.

5.6   Considering the importance of classical
language manuscripts for indological research,
a suitable manuscript preservation and catalogu-
ing policy needs to be urgently devised. The
question of setting up a National Library of

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Manuscripts may be considered in this context

5.7   Considering the fact that there is a

significant gap in all areas of Social Scienc

the question of setting up a National Social

Science Library may also be considered.

5.8   The existing libraries at the Nationa

level need to modernise their management and

provide various types of bibliographical and

other services to the users. They should deve

data-bases of Indian Literature, on-line serv

and others.

5.9   The timely publication of the Nationa

bibliography is the minimum a country should

ensure. The Indian National Bibliography

currently being produced by the Central Refer

Library should have a comprehensive coverage

about the Nation's output of document and it

should be brought out regularly without fail.

The Central Reference Library now functioning

independantly should be merged completely with

the National Library, Calcutta.

6. Manpower Development

6.1   In view of rapid expansion of Library
and Information Science and the fast-changing
character of this service, there is an urgent
need for introducing a planned manpower
development programme, both on short-term and
on long-term bases. Otherwise, the Indian
librarians will face difficulties in carrying
out the literacy drive on the one hand and deal-
ing with technological changes on the other.
The UGC and the AICTE should consider undertak-
ing a survey in this regard with the help of
the Manpower Research Institute and by associat-
ing a few specialists and professional organi-
sations.

6.2   Library and Information Science courses
run by the Universities and comparable institut-
ions at the post-graduate level should stress
more on Information Technology, Modern
Management methods and preservation & conser-
vation. To meet the minimum needs, the UGC/
AICTE should hold a number of short term train-
ing/orientation courses in these areas through
a few selected institutions.

6.3   There is a strong need of having a
National Research and Development Centre for

Library and Information Science. The propose|
National Commission on Libraries and Informat,
System, when set up, should consider this pro-
posal for implementation.

6.4   The Government should take suitable
steps for the creation of a cadre of All-India
and Information Service, which will strengther
the system, save stagnation and improve the
quality of service. The Fourth Pay Commission
has also suggested the setting up of such an
All-India cadre.

B. INFORMATICS

7.1 NICNET Phase - III - During the 7th Five Year Plan NICNET Phase-II was implemented with a total investment of Rs.165 crores. The objectives of NICNET Phase-II were:

(a) Integrated and interactive Management Information Systems for decision support in the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories and District Administrations.

(b) Online monitoring of important projects and programmes for reducing cost and time over-runs.

(c) Online link with other public organisations which are feeders of information to the Government organisations.

The above objectives have been achieved during the 7th Plan. The objectives of NICNET Phase-III are the following:-

(a) To expand NICNET upto the Development Block level.

(b) In association with ISRO, develop and get launched the Data-com Satellite, NICSAT for connecting upto 10,000 Micro earth stations.

(c)   Increase the online monitoring of Plan
      Projects and Programmes for reducing
      cost and time over-runs with NICNET
      encompassing all the Plan Projects of
      the 7th and 8th Five-Year Plans.

(d)   Online link with all important public
      organisations which are feeders of
      information to decision making in
      Government.

The total project cost of NICNET Phase-III is
estimated at Rs.370 crores. As NICNET caters
to Government Informatics at all levels, i.e.
Central, State, District and Block levels,
the remaining informatics requirement of the
country is being met by two other large projects
viz. (i) INDONET of the CMC Ltd. under the
Department of Electronics; and (ii) VIKRAM/
PDN under the Department of Telecommunications.
The investments for these networks have been
projected in the 8th Five-Year Plans of the
Department of Electronics and the Department
of Telecommunications respectively.

7.2   INFLIBNET — This is a comprehensive
project proposal for the establishment and
development of an Information and Library
Network in the country during the 8th Five-Year
Plan at an estimated cost of Rs.150 crores.

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The details of the proposal are given at
Annexure IV.

7.3   The National Information System for
Science and Technology(NISSAT) needs to be
further strengthened and linked up with UGC/
AICTE's proposed programme of networking the
University Library System and also the proposed
National Information Network.

7.4   A National Information System in Social
Sciences(NISS) should be developed on the same
lines as NISSAT.

7.5   There is a need for establishing an
Indian Institute of Information Science at the
National level for providing long term and short
term training courses as also for carrying out
research and development work in the field of
Informatics.

7.6   The present Library community should be
exposed to the concept of computer and its usage.
For this, specific library oriented programmes
on the computer should be conducted.

7.7   Library training courses should be
enlarged to include computer application aspects.
Emphasis should be more on information handling,
organisation and usage.

7.8   The goal should be to computerise most
of the major libraries during the 8th Plan.
This should be carried out in a systematic
manner so that information exchange is possibl
Certain standards in respect of hardware and
software have to be evolved. A group has to k
set up at the apex to work out the plan for
computerisation. This group should consist of
computer specialists, library scientists and
educational experts. The group should also be
made responsible for monitoring and evaluating
the computerisation programme.

7.9   In developing computer application,
first importance should be given for developin
a union catalogue and a national bibliography.

7.10   A plan for interlinking the library
systems should be worked out. It should give
the details of action for developing the
library network.

8. The financial estimates of the whole sector of Libraries and Informatics for the 8th Five Year Plan are as under:

A. LIBRARIES

I. Public Library System including Panchayat Libraries

S.No.	Category	Optimum requirement (Rupees in Crores)
1.	Public Libraries	250
2.	Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation	100
3.	Panchayat Libraries	100
	Total:	450

II. Academic Libraries

1.	University and Higher Education	150
2.	Secondary/Higher Secondary Education	100
3.	Elementary Education	30
4.	Technical Education	80
	Total:	360

III. Special Libraries

1.	Science & Technology Libraries/Information Centres	200
2.	Government Ministries/ Departments Libraries	30
3.	Social Science & Humanities Libraries	50
	Total:	280

IV. National Library and Bibliography Systems

S.No.	Category	Ordinum requirement (Rupees in Crores)
1.	National Library, Calcutta	60
2.	National Science Library, IARI Library, Parliament Library, etc.	40
3.	National Medical Library System	150
4.	National Library of Manuscripts, National Social Science Library, Central Reference Library and Indian National Bibliography	20
	Total:	270

V. National Commission on Libraries and Information System

5

VI. Miscellaneous

1.	Establishment/Strengthening of Library Directorates/Departments(including the Library Bureau of the Department of Culture, Government of India)	16
2.	Grants to Library Associations	1
3.	Publication/production of printed and audio-visual materials in English and regional languages	25
	Total:	41

Grand Total (A) 1407

B. INFORMATICS

S.No.	Category	Optimum requirement
1.	National Information System on Science & Technology(NISSAT)	5
2.	National Information System in Social Sciences (NISS)	5
3.	NICNET Phase-III	370
4.	Computer-Communication Network of Libraries and Bibliographical Information Centres - INFLIBNET	150
5.	Indian Institute of Information Science	5

Total:(B)	535

GRAND TOTAL (A+B) 1942

N.B. The Working Group was not in a position to make any cut on the above estimates so as to indicate the minimum requirements as desired by the Planning Commission, because of the fact that different Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India as also the State Governments were involved and that the time was too short to hold consultations with all concerned.

However, in case the Planning Commission decides to make a cut on the above estimates, the same can only be on prorata basis. The Working Group would agree to a 20% prorata cut at the most.

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DO.No.N1/99/999/89

May 4, 1989

Dear Shri Biswas,

    This has reference to the discussions on
working paper and the meeting of the working group
on Library and Informatics held on 29 April, 1989.
This is to record that we are totally in disagreement
with the estimates presented under para-3 entitled
'Finance' page 16-17 of the working paper. If an
amend is not possible kindly note our dissent.

        With warm regards,

                            Yours sincerely,

                                Sd/-

                            (A. Lahiri)

Shri S.P. Biswas
Under Secretary
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Shastri Bhavan
NEW DELHI — 110 001.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY NETWORK

-INFLIBNET-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY NETWORK IN SHORT, CALLED AS INFLIBNET, IN THE COUNTRY DURING THE EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1990-1995) PERIOD.

- INFLIBNET IS A COMPUTER - COMMUNICATION NETWORK OF LIBRARIES AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION CENTRES.

- IT IS A MAJOR NATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE CAPABILITY IN INFORMATION TRANSFER AND ACCESS, THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SCHOLARSHIP, LEARNING, RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PURSUITS.

- INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING COVERING ALL DISCIPLINES, R&D INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS LIKE CSIR, ICAR, DRDO, ICMR, ICSSR, ICHR, AICTE, DAE, DOT, DOE, INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARTS, ETC., PARTICIPATE IN THE INFLIBNET.

WHAT IS INFLIBNET

- INFLIBNET IS A COOPERATIVE NETWORK AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO POOLING, SHARING AND OPTIMISATION OF RESOURCES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AS WELL AS IN THE R&D COMPLEXES

- IT IS A MAJOR PROGRAMME TOWARDS MODERNISATION OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY, WITH APPLICATION OF COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.

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- INFLIBNET IS A MULTIPLE FUNCTION/SERVICE NETWORK. IT WILL OFFER CATALOGUE BASED SERVICES, DATABASE SERVICES, DOCUMENT SUPPLY SERVICES, COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION BASED SERVICES.

WHY INFLIBNET?

- APPROXIMATELY A TOTAL SUM OF RS. 150 CRORES/ANNUM IS SPENT TOWARDS BOOKS AND JOURNALS BY ALL THE LIBRARIES CONCERNED WITH HIGHER EDUCATION.

- STILL A RESEARCHER/FACULTY IN ANY INSTITUTION IS HANDICAPPED DUE TO PAUCITY OF RESOURCES AND SERVICES OFFERED BY HIS LIBRARY. IT IS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR FEASIBLE TO FUND ALL THE LIBRARIES IN THE COUNTRY SO AS TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN MEETING FULLY THE NEEDS OF THEIR USERS.

- INSTEAD, IF USERS ARE ENABLED TO HAVE ACCESS TO HOLDINGS OF EACH OTHER LIBRARY, THE TOTAL NATIONAL RESOURCES COULD BE UTILISED OPTIMALLY BY EVERYONE. THIS WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE LIBRARIES AVOID, TO A GREAT EXTENT, DUPLICATION IN PROCURING COSTLY BOOKS/JOURNALS AND AIM AT DEVELOPING MORE UNIQUE COLLECTION.

- OVERALL ECONOMY AND IMPROVEMENT OF EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS MINIMISING THE INCIDENCE OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS FACED AT THE LEVEL OF INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES ARE EXPECTED TO ACCRUE FROM THE NETWORK. APART FROM THIS, THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES COULD, THROUGH THE NETWORK, ESTABLISH INSTANT CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY FOR ACADEMIC CONVERSATION.

HOW INFLIBNET WILL FUNCTION ?

- INFLIBNET IS A VERSATILE, INTEGRATED LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM; YET, IT OPERATES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS-NATIONAL, REGIONAL SECTORAL AND LOCAL.

- THE CATALOGUE OF LIBRARIES WILL BE AGGREGATED BOTTOM-UPWARDS i.e., FROM COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT TO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND TO REGIONAL CENTRE. SECONDARY INFORMATION/DATABASE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY SECTORAL INFORMATION CENTRE.

- END USERS WILL BE SERVED MAINLY AT LOCAL LEVEL SUCH AS COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY AND R&D INSTITUTION. ABOUT 400 NODES ARE PLANNED INITIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

- THERE WILL BE A NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MANAGING, OVERSEEING AND COORDINATING THE AFFAIRS OF THE NETWORK AND FOUR REGIONAL CENTRES (NORTH, EAST, WEST AND SOUTH) WHICH WILL MAINTAIN UNION CATALOGUE OF HOLDINGS OF LIBRARIES IN THE REGIONS AND DATABASE OF PROJECTS, INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIALISTS.

- AT THE SECTORAL LEVEL, UGC INFORMATION CENTES-PRESENT (3) AND PROPOSED, NISSAT SECTORAL INFORMATION CENTRES AND OTHER CENTRES WHICH PERFORM NATIONAL LEVEL FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES IN SPECIFIC SUBJECTS/DISCIPLINES/MISSIONS ARE INCLUDED.

- THE SECTORAL CENTRES WILL ACQUIRE, CREATE AND ACCESS RETROS-PECTIVE AND CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES AND OFFER A VARIETY OF MODERN INFORMATION SERVICES.

- AS MANY AS 100 UNIVERSITY AND R&D INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES WILL BE DESIGNATED AND EQUIPPED TO SERVE AS DOCUMENT RESOURCE CENTRES FOR PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT DELIVERY SERVICE.

STANDARDISATION IN OPERATION AND SERVICE

- UNIFORMITY IN TECHNIQUES, PROCEDURES AND METHODS AMONG

    PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES IS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR NETWORKING.

- STANDARDISATION IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PRACTICES IS,

    THEREFORE, STRESSED UPON.

- THE INFLIBNET WILL HAVE ITS OWN STANDARDS BASED ON EXISTING

    NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES, FOR UNIFORM ADOPTION

    THROUGH OUT THE NETWORK. THESE RELATE TO AREAS LIKE

    CLASSIFICATION, SUBJECT HEADING, CATALOGUING, INPUT FORMAT,

    EXCHANGE FORMAT, PHYSICAL FORMAT AND INFORMATION PROCESSING.

APPLICATION SOFTWARE REQUIREMENT

- WHILE EXPHASISING UPON SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY AS A MAJOR

    FACTOR IN THE COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME OF THE INFLIBNET,

    PROSPECTS AND POTENTIALS FOR DEVELOPING APPLICATION SOFTWARES

    FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SERVICES AND FOR DIFFERENT NODES HAVE

    BEEN DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT.

- A STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING APPLICATION SOFTWARE PACKAGES FOR

    THE OVERALL REQUIREMENTS OF INFLIBNET AS WELL AS FOR

    AUTOMATION AT INDIVIDUAL LIBRARY LEVEL HAS BEEN INDICATED IN

    THE REPORT.

INFLIBNET SERVICES/FUNCTIONS

FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE NETWORK SERVICES/FUNCTIONS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

NETWORK SERVICES/FUNCTIONS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

Services/Functions	NC	RC	SIC	UL	CL/UDL	CDL	R&D
Services							
- Cataloguing		Y		Y	Y		
- Catalogue Production		Y		Y	Y		
- Catalogue Search		Y		Y	Y	Y	
- Collection Development				Y	Y		
- Book Processing				Y	Y		
- Inter-Library Loan				Y	Y	Y	Y
- Document Delivery	-		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Referral	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Electronic Mail	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Bulletin Board	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Bibliographic Database Search	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Database of Projects, Specialists, Institutions		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
- Union Catalogue	-	Y					
- Retrospective Bibliographic Databases Search	-		Y				
- Selection Dissemination of Information	-	-	Y				Y
- Current Awareness Service	-	-	Y				Y
Functions							
- Library Automation Circulation						Y	Y
- Management	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Standardisation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
- Library Automation- all sub-systems				Y	Y		Y
- Administration	Y			Y			
	Y	Y	Y	Y			

....

Services/Functions	NC	RC	SIC	UL	CL/UDL	CDL	R&DC
- Training System/Service	Y	Y	Y	Y			
- Development Support	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
- Technical Services	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
-Consulting	Y	Y	Y				
- Communication	Y						
- Switching	Y						
Maintenance	Y						
- Marketing	Y						
- Publicity	Y						

Note : Services and Functions are not listed according to priorities.

Explanation: NC : National Centre

RC : Regional Centre

SIC: Sectoral Information Centre including UGC Information Centres

UL : University Library, and

CL/ : Library of College/Department of University
UDL

CDL :   Centralised Department (University) Library

R&DC: Research & Development Centre Library

Y   :   Yes

HARDWARE SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

- IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL THE PARTICIPATING NODES OF THE INFLIBNET HAVE A SUITABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM.

- KEEPING IN VIEW THE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES AS WELL AS FEATURES CHARACTERISTIC OF DIFFERENT LEVELS, TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COMPUTER HARDWARE SYSTEM AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE THEREOF FOR REGIONAL CENTRE, SECTORAL INFORMATION CENTRE, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (BIG, MEDIUM, SMALL) COLLEGE LIBRARY AND R&D INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY HAVE BEEN DRAWN.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

- TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION PARAMETERS SUCH AS MULTIPLE
  FUNCTIONS, MULTI-TIER ORGANISATION, SYSTEM HIERARCHY,
  CONNECTIVITY REQUIREMENTS, TRAFFIC CHARACTERISTICS AND VOLUME
  OF TRAFFIC FLOW, A SUITABLE COMMUNICATION ARCHITECTURE FOR THE
  INFLIBNET HAS BEEN PROPOSED.

- A HYBRID VERSION OF SATELLITE AND TERESTRIAL NETWORKING IS
  RECOMMENDED.

- THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WILL HAVE A CENTRAL HUB AND 400
  GROUND TERMINALS AT 150 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, 50 AUTONOMOUS
  COLLEGES/PG CENTRES AND 200 OTHERS COMPRISING R&D INSTITU-
  TIONS, DOCUMENT RESOURCE CENTRES AND SECTIRAL INFORMATION
  CENTRES, TO BE INTER-CONNECTED VIA SATELLITE LINK.

- FOR INTER-CONNECTING THE NODES IN A CITY, WHEN THEY ARE MANY,
  LOCAL AREA NETWORK IS ADVOCATED.

- IN VIEW OF RANDOM TRAFFIC PATTERN, THE SLOTTED ALOHA SCHEME
  FOR UPLINKING FROM SMALL TERMINALS AND THE TDM SCHEME FOR
  UPLINKING FROM THE CENTRAL HUB HAVE BEEN SELECTED.

RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF RECORDS

- FOR CATALOGUE BASED ACTIVITIES LIKE SHARED CATALOGING AND
  UNION CATALOGUE, ABOUT 9 MILLION UNIQUE CATALOGUE RECORDS OF
  RETROSPECTIVE COLLECTIONS OF 179 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES HAVE TO
  BE CONVERTED/UNIFIED INTO A COMMON CATALOGUE DATABASE BY A
  PRESCRIBED STANDARD PRACTICE.

- A PART OF THE WORK WILL BE ATTEMPTED BY MATCHING THE CATALOGUE
  RECORDS WITH THOSE AVAILABLE FROM DOWN-LOADED IMPORTED TAPES/
  CATALOGUES SUCH AS LC-MARC, OCLC AND WLN OF USA.

- A PLAN OF ACTION TO COMPLETE THE WORK IN A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS
  WITH STUDENTS' ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DRAWN.

- A MECHANISM HAS BEEN SUGGESTED FOR INPUTING AND PROCESSING
  ONGOING CATALOGUE DATA IN A MACHINE READABLE FORM.

- THE ULTIMATE AIM IS THAT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES WILL HAVE A
  UNIFIED CATALOGUE IN A MACHINE READABLE FORM.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- THE INFLIBNET WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN ADEQUATE COMPLEMENT OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO MAN THE NETWORK AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE USERS.
- THE PERSONNEL REQUIREMENT FOR UNITS, LEVELS AND NETWORK AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN PROJECTED.
- TOWARDS STAFF DEVELOPMENT, MORE PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF INTRODUCING COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES, LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM AS WELL AS REGULAR AND CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMMES, TO BE CARRIED OUT AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES, HAVE BEEN PLANNED.

MANAGEMENT MECHANISM

- THE MANAGEMENT MECHANISM OF INFLIBNET PROVIDES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INFLIBNET AS A REGISTERED SOCIETY WITH THE OFFICE LOCATED IN NEW DELHI.
- INFLIBNET WILL HAVE A POLICY MAKING GOVERNING COUNCIL, A GOVERNING BODY FOR TAKING EXECUTIVE DECISIONS AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES LIKE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
- THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE INFLIBNET.
- BEING A NATIONAL MISSION AND A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL PROJECT, UGC, SCIENCE AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS INTERESTED IN LIBRARY, INFORMATION, COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION AREAS ARE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED IN THE MANAGEMENT MACHINERY.

PRE-PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- BEFORE THE INFLIBNET IS IMPLEMENTED THERE IS A NEED TO PREPARE DETAILED GUIDELINES IN VITAL AREAS LIKE NETWORK DESIGN, COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE, LIBRARY AUTOMATION, DEVELOPMENT OF UNION CATALOGUE, RETROSPECTIVE DATA CONVERSION AND DATABASE SERVICES.
- WITH THE HELP OF EXPERT TASK GROUPS CONSTITUTED FO THE PURPOSE, THE ABOVE MENTIONED GUIDELINES ARE PROPOSED TO BE WORKED OUT.

- THESE TECHNICAL DETAILS WILL CONSTITUTE THE GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INFLIBNET AT ALL LEVELS.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- ACTIVITES LEADING TO THE FULFILMENT OF THE TARGETS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN FOUR YEARS AND IN TWO PHASES OF TWO YEARS EACH, STARTING FROM APRIL 1990 i.e., FIRST YEAR OF THE EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN.

THE TARGETS TO BE AIMED AT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION ARE:

(i)   ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CENTRE AND FOUR REGIONAL CENTRES.

(ii) CONTINUING THE EXISTING THREE UGC INFORMATION CENTRES.

(iii) LINKING NISSAT AND OTHER SECTORAL/NATIONAL LEVEL CENTRES.

(iv) LINKING ATLEAST 200 R&D INSTITUTIONS AS NETWORK PARTICIPANTS.

(v)   SUPPORTING AND INTRODUCING AUTOMATION IN 170 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND 500 COLLEGE LIBRARIES.

(vi) AUGMENTING FACILITIES IN 100 LIBRARIES (OF UNIVERSITY AND R&D INSTITUTIONS) TO SERVE AS DOCUMENT RESOURCE CENTRES.

(vii) ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CONSISTING OF A CENTRAL HUB AND 400 GROUND TERMINALS AT 150 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, 50 PG CENTRES/AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES AND 200 R&D INSTITUTIONS.

COST IMPLICATIONS

-   THE COST INCIDENCE OF THE PROJECT RELATES TO:

(i)   CREATION OF NATIONAL CENTRE AND FOUR REGIONAL CENTRES

(ii) SUPPORT TO 170 UNIVERSITY 500 COLLEGE LIBRARIES FOR LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND 200 R&D INSTITUTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE INFLIBNET.

(iii) UPGRADING FACILITIES OF 100 DOCUMENT RESOURCE CENTRES.

(iv) COMMUNICATION LINKAGES WITH ABOUT 40 SECTORAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL CENTRES.

(v)   RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF CATALOGUE RECORDS AND

(vi) SETTING UP OF THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

- THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE INFLIBNET SOCIETY TO ESTABLISH AND RUN THE NETWORK.

- THE TOTAL COST OF IMPLEMENTING THE INFLIBNET IN THE FIRST FOUR YEARS COMES TO RS. 15,068.45 LAKHS, COMPRISING RS. 10,300.82 LAKHS FOR NON-RECURRING AND RS.4,767.63 LAKHS FOR RECURRING.

THE MAJOR HEADS OF EXPENDITURE ARE: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (RS.2,939.00 LAKHS), PROVISION OF COMPUTER SYSTEM (RS.4,640.00 LAKHS), INFRASTRUCTURE (RS. 1.780.00 LAKHS) DATA CAPTURING (RS. 442.82 LAKHS), BUILDING (RS. 178.00 LAKHS) PERSONNEL (RS.1,966.13 LAKHS), MAINTENANCE (RS. 1,809.00 LAKHS) AND DOCUMENT COLLECTION, CONTINGENCIES, ETC., (RS. 1,313.50 LAKHS).

IN THE I PHASE (APRIL 1990 - MARCH 1992) A SUM OF RS. 5,516.45 LAKHS AND IN THE II PHASE (APRIL -1992 - MARCH 1994) A sum of RS. 9,552 LAKHS ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SOME MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS TAKING ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ARE LISTED IN THE REPORT.

CONCLUSION

- THE PROGRESS TO BE AIMED AT IN IMPLEMENTING THE IMFLIBNET IN THE FIRST FOUR YEARS WILL SET THE PACE FOR TRANSFORMING THE LIBRARY SCENARIO OF THE COUNTRY TOWARDS MODERNISATION, INVOLVING APPLICATION OF COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES.

- IN THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY AT MACRO LEVEL, INFLIBNET, WHEN FULLY ESTABLISHED, WILL BE A COST BENEFIT ACTION PROGRAMME.