

NATIONAL POLICY
ON
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM
— A PRESENTATION

MAY 1986

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COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL POLICY ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Sub. National Systems Unit,
National Bureau of **International**
Film
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17/10/9

May 30, 1986

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO
Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development
Government of India
Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi

Sub : Committee on National Policy on Library
and Information System : Final Report.

Ref : My letter of March 8, 1986, to the
Hon'ble Minister.

Dear Shri Raoji,

In continuation of the letter quoted above I, on behalf of the Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System, have now the pleasure of submitting to you the Final Report, the result of our joint efforts. The Committee has worked largely within the Terms of Reference (Appendix II) laid down in your Office Order No. F.18-14/85-Lib dated October 7, 1985. As desired by the concerned Department of the Union Government, the Committee had been to different places of India (Appendix III), met and discussed the issues before it with the individuals and organisations who are known to have expertise in the related fields of library and information system (Appendix V).

The internal deliberation of the Committee and its exchange with the leading librarians, library scientists and other informed persons and bodies have led it to the conclusion that India must have a National Policy on Library and Information

System. Partly its need is supplementary to that of the New Education Policy. Besides, library and information services are required to provide the basic inputs for planning and modernising different sectors of education, culture and economy. The Committee is pleased to note that the point has been specifically recognised in the New Education Policy document. It is sincerely hoped that the Ministry of Human Resource Development will consider the Report of the Committee with due seriousness and urgency. If the follow-up action are appropriate to the needs underlying the Committee's recommendations, the decision of setting up of the Committee will not only be justified but also its consequences will cater to the needs of the concerned interest groups.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA)
Chairman, Committee on National
Policy on Library & Information System

CC. Shrimati Krishna Shahi
Hon'ble Minister of State
Department of Education & Culture
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

CC. Shri Y. S. Das
Secretary
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CONTENTS

	Pages	
Chapter I	Introductory	1
Chapter II	Objectives of National Policy	3
Chapter III	The Public Library System	5
Chapter IV	The Academic Library System	8
Chapter V	Special Libraries and Information Systems	10
Chapter VI	The National Library System and the Bibliographical Services	12
Chapter VII	Manpower Development and Professional Status	15
Chapter VIII	Modernisation of Library and Information Systems	17
Chapter IX	General Professional Issues	19
Chapter X	Implementing Agencies and Financial Support	21

APPENDICES

I	Composition of the Committee	23
II	Terms of Reference of the Committee	26
III	Itinerary of the members of the Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System	27
IV	Interim report to the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development by the Chairman of the Committee	28
V	List of letters with comments on National Policy on Library and Information System received from organisations, institutions and individuals	34

Introductory

- 1.1 The need for the formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information System has been engaging the attention of the Indian library profession since the 1950s as emphasised particularly in the writings of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and in the recommendations of the Library Advisory Committee Report, 1958. It began to receive the active attention of the Government of India in the early 1970s and it was included as one of the principal objectives of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation established in 1972.
- 1.2 The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) was established in 1977 and as library services in India began to expand rapidly, Professor R. K. Das Gupta, Director, National Library, Calcutta and Chairman, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation urged upon the Government the necessity of enunciating a National Policy for Library and Information Systems.
- 1.3 The Foundation took up the task in 1981 and after careful deliberations submitted a Draft National Policy on Library and Information Systems to the Government in July, 1984.
- 1.4 Meanwhile, in 1979 the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) discussed the topic at its 12th Conference held at Roorkee. The Indian Library Association considered the matter at its 30th Conference at Jaipur in 1984. On behalf of the Indian Library Association a draft policy statement was submitted to the Government of India in early 1985. The need for this policy was also emphasised by the

Planning Commission Working Group in its report 'Modernisation of Library Services and Informatics for the 7th Five-Year Plan 1985-90'.

- 1.5 The Government of India set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor D. P. Chattopadhyaya for the formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information Systems. (Composition and terms of reference at Appendix I & II respectively).
- 1.6 The Committee held its first meeting on December 9, 1985, at Calcutta and visited different parts of the country either as a whole or by members separately. (Itinerary of the Committee and details of work at Appendix III).
- 1.7 Public opinion was ascertained regarding the two documents on National Policy on Library and Information Systems prepared by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and the Indian Library Association in the context of the new education policy then in national debate. The Chairman of the Committee sent some preliminary findings to the Government of India in a letter dated March 8, 1986 (Appendix IV).
- 1.8 The Committee after considering an interim report and one further draft now submits to the Government its final findings. The Committee places on record its gratitude to all those who contributed in one way or another to the formulation of this final policy document and to Shri B. S. Kesavan in particular for the pains he took in sifting innumerable documents received from various quarters and preparing an interim report. The Committee would also like to thank the Directorate and the Secretariat of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation for their ever prompt and positive response to the exacting demands that the work of the Committee placed on them.

Objectives of National Policy

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

2.2 The following will be the main aims of library and information policy :

- (i) To foster, promote and sustain, by all appropriate means, the organisation, availability and use of information, in all sectors of national activity ;
- (ii) To take steps for mobilising and upgrading the existing library and information systems and services and initiating new programmes relevant to our national needs, taking advantage of the latest advances in information technology ;
- (iii) To encourage and initiate, with all possible speed, programmes for the training of library and information personnel, on a scale and of a calibre adequate to provide the library and information services and to recognise their work as an important component of the quality and level of such services;

- (iv) To set up adequate monitoring mechanisms for ensuring a rapid development of library and information facilities and services for meeting the information needs of all sectors and levels of the national economy ;
- (v) To encourage individual initiative for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, and for the discovery of new knowledge in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom ;
- (vi) In general, to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of knowledge ; and
- (vii) To preserve and make known the nation's cultural heritage in its multiple forms.

The Public Library System

- 3.1 The most important task before the Government is to establish, maintain and strengthen the free public libraries in the country and enable them to work as a system.
- 3.2 The main thrust in this area should go to the rural public library. A village or a village cluster with an adequate population should have a community library which will also serve as an information centre. Resources of different agencies engaged in the work of public health, adult education, local self-government and such others may be pooled to build up this composite centre.
- 3.3 An important link should be established between the community library of the village and the village primary school. If the school does not have a library of its own, the community library should provide the children with an adequate book-corner.
- 3.4 The community library should also importantly cater for adult education and make adequate audio-visual aids available to attract the illiterate villagers.
- 3.5 The district library should serve as an apex library for each district with public libraries at city, town and village levels constituting important components in the district library system. In addition to the usual services to be rendered by it, it should also provide for learning facilities and recreation for the handicapped. Wherever possible, district libraries and comparable city public libraries should provide literature in Braille. The district library and branch libraries should also arrange mobile and circulating library services within its area wherever

it is necessary and feasible. Special services should be rendered to hospitals, prisons and the infirm in their homes.

- 3.6 Libraries for special groups should be built in areas of tribal concentration or of minority communities to develop their distinctive cultures. Government will provide all encouragement for such communities to develop their own libraries through voluntary effort.
- 3.7 Each public library should have a section for children and, in addition, separate libraries for children with attractive books and audio-visual supporting materials should be established wherever possible.
- 3.8 The district library will take the leadership in establishing linkages between all other public libraries of the district and work towards resource-sharing within the area.
- 3.9 The key role of public libraries as chief sustaining agencies of distance education should be recognised and they should be adequately equipped with the relevant resources for this purpose.
- 3.10 All the libraries within a State should form part of a network extending from the community library of the village through intermediary levels to the district and to the State Central Library. This State network should eventually connect with the national level.
- 3.11 The role of the State Central Library is crucial in networking and the establishment of uniform library procedures within the State. The State Central Library/ Directorate of Public Libraries has to perform as the co-ordinating agency for public libraries in the State.
- 3.12 To bring about this development of the public libraries

in a State it is vital that each State enacts its own library legislation. The Central Government should revise the Model Public Library Bill, which it has already prepared, in the light of experience gained in recent years and urge upon the States the importance of enacting such legislation. Finances for library development should be found by each State either from its general revenues or from local taxation.

- 3.13 The Central Government should assist the State in the development of public libraries in a larger way than it has done so far. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation as the national agency for co-ordinating and assisting the development of public libraries be suitably strengthened enabling it to discharge its responsibilities effectively.

The Academic Library System

- 4.1 Libraries are central to education and the only way that our education system can be freed from cramming is to build teaching round the library resources of the educational institutions. Children should be introduced to the pleasure and importance of books at an early age. The librarian should be regarded as a full member of the academic community.
- 4.2 No school or college should be established without a library and a properly qualified librarian. Primary schools where such facilities cannot be provided should share the resources of the community library. In areas where the community library does not exist the primary school be so developed as to serve as the base of the village library. But children must know the library and they must be helped by the library even if they are no longer in the stream of formal education.
- 4.3 There should be an agency at the State level for proper development of the school libraries of the State and a national agency for co-ordination at the national level. The national agency should maintain a data-base on Indian school libraries and devise norms for them.
- 4.4 The university and college libraries must be given adequate facilities in staffing, buildings, furniture, books etc. before a university and college can function properly. The University Grants Commission should devise and impose norms for the proper functioning of college and university libraries in the country.
- 4.5 As far as possible, universities, colleges and research institutions, in a particular area, should establish linkages

among themselves and share their resources. In this process, it may also be possible to devise a common acquisition programme which will make books available to the Indian readers not normally imported by the book trade. Such resource-sharing may also reveal the extent of duplication and under-utilisation of resources in academic libraries. Teaching, specially at universities and colleges, should be built as far as possible round the resources of the library which should be well rounded and made known to the users as much as possible.

- 4.6 Distance education is the most dynamically growing segment of the Indian education system. There is, however, no provision for supporting resources for students enrolled in this programme. Apart from public libraries, college and university libraries will have the obligation to cater to students in the stream of distance education and should be provided with the necessary means to render this service.
- 4.7 With the increase in the number of teaching departments, faculties and also because of the possibilities to establish multi-campus universities, there is a need to develop library system on the university campuses. The department and faculty libraries should be closely linked with the Central Library for acquisition of documents and services.
- 4.8 In addition to the usual lending services, the university and college libraries should lay more and more emphasis on reference and bibliographical services including SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information) and CAS (Current Awareness Service).

Special Libraries and Information Systems

- 5.1 In the organisation of special libraries and information centres in a national network the Committee recommends that the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) scheme of providing for different levels such as national, regional, sectoral and local should be further strengthened and expanded.
- 5.2 Special libraries in social sciences, humanities and in language areas should be organised in similar systems and databanks should be developed in the various subject areas.
- 5.3 A larger number of existing, planned and projected information systems such as Health Science Information System, Environmental Information System, Biotechnology Information System, Agricultural System, Non-Conventional Energy Information System, etc. should receive due attention for development.
- 5.4 A special library functions as an integral part of its parent institution in supporting its programmes and activities. It is, therefore, essential that the parent institution should have a strong commitment to provide it the required support and infrastructural facilities.
- 5.5 A special library must have a strong document collection at least in the core area, properly qualified staff and the required physical facilities and equipment. The need for larger investments in the development of special libraries is called for in view of the specialized nature of clientele and collection, the service being more often information contained in the documents rather than the documents themselves.

- 5.6 In collection development among the special libraries, the existing strengths and weaknesses should be identified in order to aim at improving the national collection of uniquely held titles.
- 5.7 The special libraries, in addition to conventional library services, should offer various information services such as repackaging of information, Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), Current Awareness Service (CAS), referral and others.
- 5.8 In the matter of services relating to foreign literature/ information, more particularly in acquisition of and offering current and retrospective services from commercial bibliographical database, special libraries and information centres should share responsibilities among themselves in a cooperative manner.

The National Library System and the Bibliographical Services

6.1 The National Library of India should discharge the following functions :

- (i) To collect and preserve the production of the nation in print and in non-print form and all that is printed about the nation,
- (ii) To render to the nation and to the world bibliographical and other services to meet the requirements of different user groups,
- (iii) To interface between the national systems and international systems wherever feasible, and
- (iv) To play a role of leadership in the country in the task of expanding and improving the library and information services.

6.2 The National Library, based in Calcutta, historically India's pre-eminent library, needs to be strengthened and supported in a manner which will enable it to discharge, in close co-operation with other national level libraries, the fourfold functions enumerated above.

6.3 To meet the library needs at the national level there should be a system of National Libraries (NLS) consisting of the National Library, Calcutta, as the National Library of India, National Depository Libraries in different regions of the country, National Subject Libraries and such other libraries of national importance. These National Libraries should form parts of one integrated system so that there is no unnecessary replication of

functions within the system and the different parts form a coherent and functional whole. Each constituent of the National Library System (NLS) should be so planned and developed that it can assume a truly national character. The position of National Library, Calcutta, in the fully developed form of NLS, shall be that of prime among the equals.

- 6.4 The National Depository Libraries should in the different regions concentrate intensively upon the collection and preservation of Indian culture in the languages of the region concerned, supplementing and complementing the efforts of the Indian National Library.
- 6.5 Information needs of the users in the country should be met by the establishment, maintenance and development of national subject libraries and national documentation/information centres.
- 6.6 Dormitory libraries should be established in regions having an important cluster of libraries and these dormitory libraries should take care of the less used documents of different service libraries.
- 6.7 Manuscripts are important treasures of cultural heritage and indispensable documents for Indological research. An effective programme should be adopted for the conservation, documentation and exploitation of these valuable resources. There is a strong and urgent need for building up a national database of manuscripts. The National Libraries should assist in this work. Efforts should be made to assure access to all significant Indian documents at home or abroad to Indian researchers.
- 6.8 Government should take steps to create a national awareness of the urgent necessity to preserve the nation's cultural heritage. National Libraries should carry

the responsibility of this preservation and national preservation facilities should be created at the National Libraries as also apart from the National Libraries to undertake this national task. Linkages should be established between libraries, archives and museums for the purpose of national preservation.

- 6.9 The Indian National Bibliography should have a comprehensive coverage about the national output of documents and should be brought out in an updated form on regular basis. This responsibility should be vested in the National Library of India as one of its essential functions.
- 6.10 The Delivery of Books Act, 1954, along with the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1987, and the Copyright Act, 1957, should be reviewed and amended suitably so as to ensure effective supply of publications to the National Libraries. In view of the pressure upon the publishing industry the Government may consider reducing the number of copies to be deposited and removing postal charges. At the same time, the Government should remove any legal lacuna for penalising default in the deposit of publications by the publishers.
- 6.11 The National Library of India should establish effective linkages with all other National Libraries through a National Library Board.
- 6.12 It is also desired that the State Central Libraries of the States will preserve all publications in the local language(s).

Manpower Development and Professional Status

- 7.1 In view of the rapidly expanding library and information services and the fast changing character of library and information science, the development of manpower in a planned manner becomes essential. The Indian librarian and information scientist in particular will face the difficult task of carrying the literacy drive on the one hand and dealing with the technological revolution on the other.
- 7.2 The library and information science courses run by the universities and comparable institutions at the post-graduate level should continue to maintain the high standards that have been reached and improve their quality, in particular by the incorporation of advancing information technology.
- 7.3 Para-professional training courses may be undertaken by other appropriate agencies, but care must be taken to ensure uniformity and quality of such training all over the country.
- 7.4 In view of the challenging and dynamic situation in the profession, the Indian library and information professional must be given every facility to refresh his/her expertise, so as to keep abreast of advancing knowledge by a planned development of continuing education programmes in the field.
- 7.5 Considering the fact that library and information science courses tend to proliferate, introducing on occasions a dilution of standards, there should be an accreditation agency to ensure the standard and the quality of the training imparted.

- 7.6 The national need of furthering higher education and research in library and information science may be undertaken by a National Centre to be established for the purpose.
- 7.7 Library and Information Science professionals should be given the status and pay scales as well as academic facilities commensurate with their responsibilities with due regard to the fact that every library is an academic/ research centre and has to function as such.
- 7.8 The Government of India should recognise the need for the creation of an All India Library Service and implement the plan when feasible. The creation of such a service will strengthen the national network of library and information systems.

Modernisation of Library and Information Systems

- 8.1 Modernisation of library operations and services, in the context of advances in information technology, will be the country's primary concern in increasing productivity and efficiency, improving speed of delivery of service, optimum utilisation of available resources and facilities and overall cost effectiveness.
- 8.2 To keep pace with advancing electronics, computer technology, tele-communication and reprography and micrography technology, all of which is needed for future library work, new systems compatible with Indian conditions must be developed.
- 8.3 Use of main-frame, mini and micro computers with large memory capabilities, in major libraries in the country, should be encouraged and supported to improve access and availability of information. Care is to be taken to ensure compatibility in hardware and software specifications, so as to facilitate linkages among themselves and to national computer networks.
- 8.4 Priority should be given to development of application software packages for library and information activities for use in indigenously manufactured computer systems.
- 8.5 Use of communication facilities for developing inexpensive local library and information networks has to be supported for practising resource-sharing. These local library and information networks can be utilised for evolving national library and information network. Such developments will enable library and information centres to have local, regional and national inter-library co-operation, optimum utilisation of present resources

and facilities and resource-sharing. Any user should have ready access to documents/information wherever he/she is located. This will also contribute to overall cost effectiveness, as development of resources and facilities in individual libraries and information centres beyond a threshold limit will be attempted rationally.

- 8.6 Low-cost copying services through provision of reprography and micrography facilities, should be available in major libraries so that document back-up could be provided.
- 8.7 Compaction of library and information material, by increasingly resorting to acquisition of microform media, magnetic tapes, video discs, etc. wherever possible, should be encouraged, in the context of saving storage space.
- 8.8 Development of application software packages for provision of information services in Indian languages should be taken up. Computer translation services in Indian languages should be attempted.
- 8.9 Provision at district level should be made for mobile audio-visual information services in Indian languages for rural areas to serve neo-literates, post-literates, students of open universities etc. as a supplement to national TV network.
- 8.10 On-line facilities, through national data communication networks, should be evolved in order to provide for interactive use of locally generated data bases as well as to have access to international information network.
- 8.11 New technologies like videotext and teletext provide ample opportunities for disseminating information quickly and effectively. Such systems should be experimented, with a view to study their impact on the society and on the mechanism of their introduction.

General Professional Issues

- 9.1 Isolation is the common and abiding factor as far as Indian libraries are concerned. To break this isolation the nation requires a national network within which will be accommodated libraries of different kinds and at different levels from the rural society to the modern city, from the schools to the research organisations.
- 9.2 The establishment of such a network is therefore the Committee's principal recommendation to the Government.
- 9.3 In order that libraries and information centres should develop in their resources in a well-planned and co-ordinated manner, they should develop various programmes of mutual co-operation and resource-sharing. In this manner they should be in a better position not only to make the best utilisation of their finances and other resources, but would also meet the varied and complicated information needs of their users in a more effective manner. For this purpose, tools such as Union Catalogues of Materials and other bibliographical tools would have to be compiled.
- 9.4 The nation should make every effort to make its people aware of the significance and importance of its libraries. Librarians, on the other hand and the educational programmes at every level should be involved in discovering the needs of the people which the libraries can satisfy. It will be the task of the librarian and the information scientist to plan for an expansion of library services taking note not only of the actual users but the potential users of the system to be expected in years to come.
- 9.5 The library should be linked with its community and this linkage can only become effective when the user is educated through regularly arranged programmes in the

various kinds of services to be expected from the library. Such linkages should also assist the library in continuously increasing the utilisation of its resources.

- 9.6 The user should be allowed as free and unrestricted access to library resources as possible and in doing so losses of documents may occur. Such losses should be guarded against as best a library can. But ultimately the librarian should not be held responsible for the losses which could not be avoided.
- 9.7 Library associations at the national level and the State level play important roles in promoting and strengthening library movement in the country. They may be given necessary patronage and encouragement for their effective functioning.
- 9.8 The Committee recognises the need for formulating standards for different areas such as staffing pattern, building and equipment, tools, techniques, hardware and software etc. and for that purpose recommends that necessary steps should be taken to formulate guidelines for different types of libraries and information centres.
- 9.9 Government should take steps for the removal of barriers in communication and flow of information such as high postal tariffs, delays in postal communications, telecommunication bottlenecks, foreign exchange regulations, customs restrictions etc.
- 9.10 The Committee is concerned about the production of relevant and attractive reading material as well as audio-visual packages for the different kinds of users. It recommends, in particular, that relevant agencies be selected and assigned such tasks by the Union and the relevant State Governments. Such publications should be available at reasonable prices, if necessary at subsidised rates. Particular emphasis should be placed upon the production of materials for the neo-literates, the children and the physically handicapped.

Implementing Agencies and Financial Support

- 10.1 A National Commission for Libraries and Information Systems should be constituted by the Government of India to oversee the implementation of the National Policy. The Commission will have the responsibility of monitoring the progress and the development of Indian library and information systems and report periodically to the Government of India.
- 10.2 The Union Government and State Governments should establish separate divisions in the relevant Ministries and Departments for promoting the development of library and information systems in their respective areas. In the States such divisions may function as coordinating agencies for the improvement of the State libraries.
- 10.3 The proposed National Library Board should establish effective linkages among library and information centres at the national level.
- 10.4 The coordinating, monitoring and developing of the Indian library and information systems may be entrusted at the national level to agencies such as (a) The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation for public libraries and (b) the University Grants Commission for university and college libraries as well as other institutions of higher education.
- 10.5 The Government of India should designate appropriate agencies for the coordination of school libraries and special libraries respectively.
- 10.6 Adequate financial support for the development of libraries and information systems will be made available

by the Government of India and the State Government. The national as well as State governments should provide for an expenditure of 6-10% of their education budgets for the libraries. All educational institutions should similarly provide for their own libraries 6-10% of their total budget. Institutional and departmental libraries should be adequately provided for by their parent organisations. Public libraries, especially at the rural level, should draw resources from all official agencies working at the level (e.g. national adult education programme, agricultural extension programme etc.) including those concerned with distance education. Industrial organisations should be obliged to provide finances for adequate library services to their own employees. Such organisations should also extend this service to the community concerned. Finance from private organisations and philanthropic concerns should be encouraged in the library field especially in developing libraries for the use of children, handicapped persons and backward communities.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Professor D. P. Chattopadhyaya Chairman
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9. **Professor P. N. Kaula**
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11. **Shri S. C. Biswas**
Director
Central Secretariat Library
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi.

12. **Professor V. Rajaraman**
Chairman
Computer Centre
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 560 012

13. **Joint Secretary to the**
Government of India
Department of Culture
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi.

14. Dr. B. P. Barua
Director, RRRLF
Calcutta.

Member-Secretary

Co-opted Members

1. Dr. B. D. Nag Chowdhury
43A, Biren Roy Road (East)
Calcutta-700 008
2. Professor Ravinder Kumar
Director
Nehru Memorial Museum & Library
Teen Murti House
New Delhi 110 011

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

- (a) To consider the document 'National Policy on Library and Information System' prepared by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation in the context of an expanding library movement, disseminating information of neo-literates, illiterates, children and backward communities. The Committee may also consider a document on National Policy prepared by the Indian Library Association.
- (b) To circulate these documents to relevant experts and institutions all over the country and determine their reaction.
- (c) To arrange a public discussion on the policy statement by way of holding seminars or by conducting interviews of selected people.
- (d) On the basis of its own discussions of the documents and on the basis of public reactions as determined through (b) and (c), the Committee should prepare a final document for the consideration of Government.

**ITINERARY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
POLICY ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Full Committee :

I.	CALCUTTA	Seminar	9—10 2—3	December March	1985 1986
II.	BOMBAY	Meetings and Seminar	4—5	January	1986
III.	MADRAS	Meetings	7—8	January	1986
IV.	GUWAHATI	Meetings and Seminar	3—4	February	1986
V.	SHILLONG	Meetings	5	February	1986
IV.	NEW DELHI	Seminar	14—15	February	1986

Individual Members :

I.	BANGALORE	Shri S.C. Biswas	26—29	December	1985
II.	BHOPAL	Shri Girja Kumar	17—18	January	1986
III.	LUCKNOW	Shri Girja Kumar Prof. P.N. Kaula	24—25	January	1986
IV.	JAIPUR	Shri T.S. Rajagopalan Prof. P.B. Mangla Prof. P.N. Kaula	31 1	January February	1986 1986
V.	TRIVANDRUM	Prof. K.A. Isaac	5	February	1986

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

March 8, 1986

Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao
Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi.

Sub : Committee on National Policy on Library and
Information System & New Education Policy

Dear Raoji,

As per Office Order No. F. 18-14/85-Lib. dated October 7, 1985, a Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System was set up under the Chairmanship of the undersigned. A copy of the said order is enclosed. Among its terms of reference are, (a) to suggest ways and means of bringing library services and Informations System close to the needs of the proposed New Education Policy of the Union Government, and, (b) to suggest ways and means for networking, strengthening and modernising our national library and information system, comprising different types of libraries. As desired by the Government, the Committee started its work on the basis of a document prepared by Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and another document prepared by Indian Library Association, visited different parts of the country, and listened to the views of different groups of users of library and information services, librarians, library scientists and academics. The details of our work would be given in the Final Report to be submitted at an early date. Meanwhile, I am writing this letter under-

lining the points which in the opinion of the Committee, are very relevant to the New Education Policy. The virtual omission of any reference to the role of library in the policy document has elicited understandable criticism everywhere the Committee had been to. I hope, the interim suggestions given below will be duly considered by Government of India for incorporation in its Education Policy Document.

- I. The aim of universalisation of elementary education can hardly be realised without providing necessary library facilities to the children. As most of our elementary schools have only one teacher and no library in it, the question deserves serious and sympathetic consideration. Interest in and love for books have to be instilled in the impressionable minds of the children. Library services, rightly planned and catered, can efficiently supplement the work of teacher.

- II. School libraries in general and those located in rural areas in particular need be so reorganised that they should be able to cater to the needs not only of the concerned students but also of the general public of the area. During the working hours of the schools it would be exclusively used by the students. At other times, its facilities should be made available to other groups of users, viz., literates, neo-literates, illiterates and the general public. Besides books, some other aides and instruments, such as maps, charts, and, audio-visual tapes, must also be kept there. The needs of Adult Education Programmes are to be kept in view while planning the school libraries. In brief, school libraries should be given the character of Community Resource Centre. It would be called upon to serve the twin purposes of school-going children and other users' groups, actual as well as potential. Given this new character of school library, the students, even after they leave school, may be informally in touch with the

process of education through library. Library may effectively prevent the possible slippage of literates and neo-literates into illiteracy. School library as Community Resource Centre will be a confluence of formal and non-formal education. Since approximately 15% of our school-going children are in some way or other physically or mentally handicapped, at the time of planning our libraries, their needs must be borne in mind. The special needs of women students and learners have also to be taken care of. The Committee, in this context, endorses the innovative suggestion put to it that school libraries at the panchayat level should be expanded to accommodate several different interests and agencies at work, like local self-government, public health and adult education. The Committee is of the opinion that pooling of resources at the village level should transform a school library into a library of the community, and this library may well use audio-visual packages to bring information to the villagers about India and of such kind as to be of direct relevance to their life. This will expand the very conception of a library and turn it into an information centre.

- III. Model schools, which are being set up now in different parts of the country, may provide the lead in planning and setting up model libraries catering to the needs of students, other groups of users as mentioned above and the public in general. Model school libraries must have in them, besides books, audio-visual aides and records of oral tradition. The services of the public libraries and those of the model school libraries have to be so imaginatively planned that, given computer facilities of tomorrow, these may be easily networked and functionally linked together. The planners of libraries will be well-advised to remember the needs of the environment of the library—rural, urban and tribal etc.

IV. At the level of higher education—college and research—library services should be catered in such a manner as to intellectually stimulate the students and motivate them to take maximum possible advantage from the same. The acquisition policy of the libraries of the advanced research centres must be non-replicative and mutually complementary. Wherever several libraries of higher education and research centres/offices are located within a reasonably limited area, care should be taken to ensure that the highly priced books and documents are preserved in fewest possible number, preferably one or two, and that their utilisation level proves commensurate with their money-value. The overall budgetary constraints of the funding agencies and of the Government must be always borne in mind. Avoidance of replication and duplication in acquisition would ultimately benefit each individual library and its users in the same vicinity. In the case of libraries of higher education, the need of efficient computerised linkage is imperative. It would improve both the retrieval and delivery system of information. The Committee recommends that libraries at the college level and the level of universities be made accessible to students pursuing courses in distance education and these libraries be suitably strengthened towards that end. It recommends at the same time that public libraries be adequately supported wherever necessary to care for students of this category in their neighbourhood.

V. At higher stages of the learning process the Committee has carefully noted the growing importance of distance education in different forms, especially that fostered by the setting up of open universities. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee by distinguished academics that no supporting library structure exists for this kind of education and it is impossible to develop distance education without supporting libraries. In the

context of emergence of distance education at different levels the needs of computers and computer based linkages between different libraries are bound to increase. The computerised library services have to be efficiently networked. One major limitation of machine-imparted education and information, i.e. passive reception of the contents or lack of interaction between the informer/educator and the recipient, should be kept in view so that its ill-effects may be minimised. At the level of higher learning, particularly for the purpose of research, the computerised informations available within the country has to be increasingly linked up with the relevant informations stored and spread over the whole world.

- VI. Finally, in order to provide necessary library services at school, college and research levels, adequate funds must be made available. In term of percentage it should not be less than 6, preferably 10, depending upon the nature and extent of verified needs. The single most important constraint in the way of establishing and promoting library facilities for education is resource constraint. The Committee's suggestions outlined above are quite sensitive to this factor and have been formulated accordingly, i.e. having in view how to avoid all possible wastages. Even then, it is strongly felt, unless both the Union and the State Governments allot more funds for library services and for those who man the same, i.e. librarians and their supporting staff, it may be difficult to make optimal benefits of libraries available to the cause of education and to the needs of the learner as well as the teacher. It has been repeatedly urged upon the Committee that the central role of academic libraries can only be discharged when librarians are recognised fully as academics themselves. The Committee recommends that this should be done at every level of the learning process from school to

the university, and apart from equalising payscale for people with similar qualification, librarians should be given every academic facility, like leave to pursue their researches and professional interests, fellowships and arrangements for refresher courses, so that they can establish themselves equally with the academics in their chosen profession and add to its quality.

It is hoped that in the proposed New Education Policy Document to be placed before the Parliament, the role of library shall be appropriately recognised. This letter of mine is based on the consensus arrived at by the Committee having heard the views of a wide cross-section of the concerned interest groups. It is partly based also on an Interim Report on the National Policy on Library and Information System in India which I prepared in close collaboration with Mr. B. S. Kesavan and Dr. Ashin Dasgupta, Director, National Library of India and for internal use of the Committee. The New Policy must be closely integrated with the emerging Book Policy and Library Information Policy.

The final and fuller Report of the Committee will be made available to the Government within May 31, 1986, if not earlier. We are at the moment closely processing voluminous reports, representations and important proceedings of several seminars held in different parts of India. Under the circumstances, the tenure of the Committee may please be extended till that date. But our earnest efforts will be to finalise the document as early as possible.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(D. P. Chattopadhyaya)

Chairman
Committee on the National Policy on
Library and Information System

**LIST OF LETTERS WITH COMMENTS ON NATIONAL POLICY ON
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM RECEIVED FROM
ORGANISATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS**

I. Organisations

1. Authors Guild of India
Madras
2. Bengal Library Association
P 134, CIT Scheme No. 52
Calcutta 700 014
3. Council of Tamil Nadu Librarians and Library Association
59, IV Main Road
Gandhinagar, Adyar
Madras 600 020
4. Federation of Indian Publishers
18/1-C, Institutional Area (Near J.N.U.)
New Delhi
5. Indian Public Library Association
5-1-544, Jam Bagh
Hyderabad 500 195
6. Indian Library Association
A/40-41, Flat No. 201, Ansal Buildings
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi 110 009
7. Indian Association of Special Libraries
and Information Centres
P 291 CIT Scheme No. 6M
Kankurgachi
Calcutta 700 054

8. Madras Library Association
16, Karpagambal Nagar
Mylapore
Madras 600 004
9. Maharashtra Rajya Granthalaya Sangh
Sarvajanik Wachanalaya
Tilak Path
Nasik 422 001
10. Nasik District Library Association
Subhas Sarvajanik Wachanalaya
Subhas Path
Nasik 422 001
11. National Library Staff Association
Belvedere
Calcutta 700 027
12. Punjab Library Association
1359, Sector 15-B
Chandigarh 160 016
13. Tamil Nadu College Librarians' Academy
5/46, Murugan Illam
1st Street
Bharathipuram
Trichi 620 014
14. West Bengal College Librarians' Association
24B, Bechu Chatterjee Street
Calcutta 700 009

II. Institutions

15. Indian Institute of Technology
Madras

16. Librarian, Central Library
Indian Institute of Technology
Madras 600 036
17. Perintalmanna Branch Library
Development Committee
(Palghat Local Library Authority),
Perintalmanna
(Malappuram District)
Kerala 679 322
18. Rajasthan University Library
Jaipur 302 004
19. Siddharth Free Reading Room and Library
New Modikhana
Pune 411 001
20. University Employment Information and
Guidance Bureau
University of Kerala
Students' Centre
P.G.M. Junction
Trivandrum 695 033

III. Individuals

21. Ananda Ram
Librarian
Central Reference Library
Belvedere
Calcutta 700 027
22. Bandyopadhyay, A. K.
INSDOC Regional Centre
Calcutta

23. Bera, Chhaya (Smt.)
Minister of State in-Charge
(Non-Formal Education and Library Science)
Education Department
Government of West Bengal
Writers' Buildings
Calcutta.
24. Bhattacharyya, Asit
Village : Natunpara
P. O. : Baruipur
Dist. : 24 Parganas.
25. Bhonsle, Suresh
Santa-Cruz
Goa.
26. Chahandhe, M. S.
Director of Libraries
Town Hall
Bombay.
27. Chakraborty, D.
Senior Librarian
Birchandra State Central Library
Agartala, Tripura.
28. Chandrasekharan Nair, C. N.
Librarian (Scientist/Engr SD)
Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
Government of India
Trivandrum 695 022
29. Chandrasekhar, S
103, Main Road, Laggeri Village
Peenya Industrial Area P.O.
Bangalore 560 058

30. Govi, K. M.
Central Reference Library
Calcutta 700 027
31. Janaki Ram, P.
Librarian
Anthropological Survey of India (S.R.)
2963, Gokulam Road
V. V. Mohalla
Mysore 570 002
32. Kanagaraj, J. C.
Advocate
Plot No. 742
95 Street
15 Sector
Madras 600 078
33. Kelkar, P. S.
129, Faithfull Ganj
Kanpur 208 004
34. Khan, H. A.
Reader, Deptt. of Post Graduate Studies and
Research in Library and Information Science
University of Mysore
Manasa Gangotri
Mysore 570 006
35. Kulkarni, D. N.
Saudi Arabian Standards Organisation
Information Centre.
36. Kurian, C. T. (Dr.)
Director
Madras Institute of Development Studies
Madras.

37. Lianzama, C.
Librarian
State Library
Mizoram
Aizawl
38. Mohan Chandran, V. P.
Office Secretary
Perintalmanna Branch Local Authority
Development Committee
ILA Library
Pattambi Road
Perintalmanna 679 322
39. Mohd. Khan, Q. H.
H. No. 18-2-257, Jangam Meth
P.O. Falak Numa
Hyderabad 500 253 (A.P)
40. Padmanabhan, T.
Deputy Director
Documentation and Library Service
Tamil University
Thanjavur
41. Pandiarajan, M.
Idayankulam
Duraismiapuram P.O.
Sivagiri Taluk
Tirunelveli Dist.
Tamil Nadu 627 757
42. Pandit, S. K.
Ramnath Pandit Centre for Fundamental
Research in Marathi Stage
Bubble Chamber Group, T.I.F.R.
Bombay 400 005

43. Patkar, N. N.
Operations Research Specialist
Bombay Metropolitan Region Development Authority
Griha Nirman Bhavan, 5th Floor, Bandra (E)
Bombay 400 051
44. Perumalsamy, N.
Accountant (Senior Clerk)
Local Library Authority
Dharmapuri 636 701
45. Ray, Swapna (Smt.)
Librarian
Calcutta Metropolitan Library
P-12, Darga Road
Calcutta 700 017
46. Sarkar, Subhas Chandra
C 28/244, Gandhi Nagar
Road No. 3, Bandra East
Bombay 400 051
47. Sathyamurthy, R.
Library Director
United States Information Service
7, Jawaharlal Nehru Road
Calcutta 700 013
48. Sen, J. P.
Assit. Director (Lib)
M. P. Council of Science and Technology
Bhopal
49. Shetye, Indu (Smt.)
103, Navyuganagar
Forjett Hill Road
Bombay 400 036

50. Siddiqui, Asiya (Dr.)
Department of History
University of Bombay
Vidyanagari
Bombay 400 098
51. Sivapragasam, P. L.
Bank of Madura
7, Egmore High Road
Madras 600 008
52. Sonde, Ashok (Dr.)
529, Shree Pant Niketan
33rd Road, Khar
Bombay 400 052
53. Sridhar, C. R. (Dr.)
National Institute of Information Management
402, Cumbaila Crest
42, Peddar Road
Bombay 400 026
54. Surya Prakash, V.
Director, Department of Public Libraries
Government of Karnataka
Visveswaraiah Centre, 4th Floor
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bangalore.
55. Thiagaraj, Henry
Hon. Director
The Facilitation Centre
Dalit Awareness Education, Guidance and
Training Project
161, T. T. K. Salai (Nowbrays Road)
Alwarpet
Madras 600 018

56. Tiwari, Bhaskar Nath
Librarian
Central State Library, U. P.
Allahabad.
57. Tripathi, S. M. (Dr.)
University Librarian and Head
School of Studies in Library and Information Science
Jiwaji University
Gwalior. (M.P.)
58. Upadhyaya, H. J.
Curator of Libraries
Gujarat State
Gandhinagar 382 017
59. Vatsala, B. (Smt.)
'Aadithya'
Ferhill (P.O.)
The Nilgiris
Tamil Nadu.
60. Wairagade, R. K.
Nagpur Granthalaya Mandal
2/13, Pachpaoli Colony
Nagpur 17
61. And Others.

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