

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2007-2008



delnet

DEVELOPING LIBRARY NETWORK

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I INTRODUCTION

The year has witnessed the expansion of DELNET services in different parts of India. Networking of libraries is now considered necessary for the development of a knowledge society. A number of recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on library and information services in the country, identifying constraints, problems and challenges in this sector and networking of libraries among a host of other recommendations were approved by the Planning Commission. We hope now that DELNET will be associated with the networking of public libraries as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission. We also hope that the Ministry of Culture will bring in a major transformation in public libraries and their services in the country will greatly improve with the implementation of the recommendations. DELNET continues to make its concerted and untiring efforts in providing efficient and effective services to member-libraries.. The number of registered institutional members of DELNET has crossed 1200. The Inter-library Loan Service and Document Delivery Services, which are one of the unique features of DELNET are gaining popularity among the users of member-libraries. DELNET continues to offer training to library and information science professionals in the country and hopes to bring in qualitative changes in this sector.

II MEMBERSHIP

The number of registered member-institutions of DELNET have shown an increase during this year as well. One hundred and seventy-seven institutions joined DELNET in 2007-08 as against 106 during 2006-07. The States from which more institutions joined included Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. One institution joined from Sri Lanka. The breakup of DELNET membership is given in Appendix I. It is quite heartening to note that the number of member-libraries in Delhi and Tamil Nadu are now almost equal. The section on S&T libraries still remains predominant though a number of libraries in Social Sciences and Humanities have also joined DELNET during the last year. The basic principle that DELNET had followed right from the inception in membership was that any type of library specialising in any subject could join DELNET and make use of its services. This principle has indeed been of help in creating diverse resources in union catalogues for research and reference.

III FINANCE

The major source of income for the year has been through membership fee, admission fee, and ILL online charges. DELNET did not receive any grant or financial

support from any outside agency except for NACLIN 2007. Considering that the funds available were very limited, the budget estimates for 2007-2008 were suitably adjusted. The accounts for the year 2006-2007 were audited by M/s S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co.

IV DELNET BUILDING

Owing to lack of finance, further work on the building was temporarily stopped. The Hostel Block, as a result, is yet to be made functional. The work on the parking area was partially completed. The lighting on the road from the main gate to the building was made operational. DELNET applied again to the Delhi Jal Board for a regular water connection. The permission is awaited. The application for the completion certificate will be made only after the necessary formalities are completed.

V NETWORK OPERATIONS

Member-libraries continue to access the Union Catalogues and other databases through the Web servers located at the DELNET site. We notice that the DELNET online databases are accessed day and night. In order to have better interaction with the end users, DELNET has also introduced a help desk on the Yahoo-Messenger. A number of users including students and faculty interact online through this facility. We are also in the process of adding a high speed data server.

The RF connectivity so kindly provided by the National Informatics Centre is working satisfactorily. However, DELNET is awaiting the installation of telephone lines from MTNL so that a leased-line connection between NIC and DELNET can be introduced for the back-up link. We are making efforts regularly to monitor the network traffic for better performance. All computers at DELNET including those in the workshop room are on LAN and are equipped with Internet connectivity.

VI INTER-LIBRARY LOAN (ILL) AND DOCUMENT DELIVERY SERVICES (DDS)

The libraries continue to be challenged by the Internet. Their users refer to the Web resources more often now before they visit a library of their choice for research and reference. The survival of the library in these challenging times is possible only when a library provides more information and service to a user than the user can get directly from the Web. DELNET acts as a major support to the librarians. If a librarian wants documents from DELNET, DELNET makes every effort to get the

documents and send them to the library at the earliest. The ability of the library staff to satisfy the needs of users makes a library more relevant to users. It is the access to quality information which finally matters. On the Web any individual or institution can post whatever material they wish. In case of a library network, the union catalogues comprise documents which have gone through several selection processes at institutional levels. There are fewer possibilities of unwanted material being listed. Although, with the passage of time, some types of publications do lose relevance.

The Inter-Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery Service (DDS) of DELNET continue to remain its popular services. Most of the requests are fulfilled within 48 hours of the receipt of the request. Through ILL and DDS the requests are received online, the service which is operational all the time. Libraries and their users also send requests through E-mail. DELNET makes special efforts for retrieving the documents which are not available on DELNET union catalogues and union lists. There is a need for librarians of each member-library to brief their users on accessing DELNET databases. While we organise orientation programmes in different states periodically, it has been noticed that wherever the faculty and students have been given training or exposure in accessing DELNET, the number of requests from such institutions definitely increase.

While on one hand we want more and more librarians and users to use DELNET's ILL and DDS, yet we need to automate the whole system for increasing our abilities to handle the expanding volume of ILL requests. While at present most of our requests are processed within one day, which includes time needed by lenders, packaging, mailing, etc, yet there remain requests which are for documents either lost in a library, or the library has weeded them out or the documents needed are not listed in the DELNET union catalogues and the users want us to make extra efforts to locate such documents anywhere in India or outside India. Such requests take time and run on a parallel stream.

The Network Manager makes every effort to make the process of ILL and DDS more transparent. The concerned library is informed about the status of the document. And in fact, there is a need on the part of the librarians to look at their E-mails regularly so that replies or messages from DELNET are received by their library staff immediately. This E-culture needs to be cultivated fast.

VII COORDINATION UNIT

We have noticed over the years that the staff of some of the member-institutions need hand-holding with DELNET staff for a diverse activities like the methodology for accessing DELNET resources / union catalogues; proper use of the software; export of

machine readable records from the individual library to DELNET for merging into its union-catalogues; handling of ILL queries, etc. For all these activities we generally send DELNET staff to visit libraries. As libraries are located in different parts of India and as the number of staff available at DELNET is limited, we need to expand the number of staff for this purpose. This would lead to the setting up of coordination units in different parts of the country so that all such activities can be undertaken. The DELNET Coordination Unit at Bangalore is working efficiently to support ILL/DDS activities in southern India.

VIII UNION CATALOGUES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

Accessing collections of member-libraries is best achieved by preparing union catalogues and making them available through the DELNET online system so that the information therein is accessed by the staff and users of member-libraries. Union catalogues have remained the best tools for accessing information on documents available with several libraries in the network. The union catalogues also serve as reference tools, cataloguing sources and best tools for inter-library loan. DELNET has prepared the following union catalogues and union lists:

1. Union Catalogue of Books
2. Union Catalogue of Periodicals
3. Union List of Periodicals
4. Articles' Database
5. Union List of CD-ROM's
6. Union List of Video-Recordings
7. Union List of Sound-Recordings
8. Theses and Dissertations Database

All the above union catalogues / union lists are accessible by DELNET's member-libraries. While they are the best sources for reference and inter-library loan, we do not find them the best sources for MARC cataloguing. While we have requested member-libraries to follow MARC 21 cataloguing, all libraries have not been following it for various reasons. Some of them are listed below:

1. Some librarians are not conversant with the international formats and international bibliographic standards. Though many of them received training given by institutions like DELNET, yet we don't find them adopting the standards.

2. Some institutions have created their own library software packages, which were developed in-house without adopting international standards. The institutions did so because they or their staff were not conversant with MARC 21 or ISO standards and they found commercial packages either not up to the mark or highly expensive.
3. Some libraries used CDS/ISIS which was compatible with CCF and to them changing CCF records to MARC records was a major effort.
4. Some of the Departments of Library and Information Science in the Universities did not give practical training in creating MARC 21 records or in using ISO standards in cataloguing.

We therefore find that proper MARC cataloguing is not common in India and there is a greater need on the part of member-libraries of DELNET to introduce MARC cataloguing as soon as possible. To get the present union catalogues edited and upgraded is not possible at the DELNET end because the original documents are with the libraries and the corrections will have to be made at the level of libraries.

The size of the union catalogues has been increasing regularly. We have recently introduced an automated system for libraries for uploading of their catalogue and other records on to the DELNET server. This facility will undoubtedly increase the frequency of uploading of catalogue records and we hope more libraries will contribute their records to DELNET. Besides the actual records in each union catalogue and union list the holdings data will also increase as a result. The latest statistics of records available in the union catalogues and union lists is given in Appendix II.

IX DELNET Survey

In early 2008 a questionnaire was circulated among member-libraries to obtain suggestions from them on various issues regarding automation and networking and the services DELNET has been offering to them. While we are still awaiting the receipt of the replies, the replies received so far reveal that there has been all-round appreciation of the services being rendered by DELNET. The suggestions have also been received. They include the following:

- i. Training/orientation programmes be organised in the member-institutions which are located in different parts of India;
- ii. To develop digital and visual media sections in academic libraries;
- iii. DELNET services are very useful for faculty and research scholars;

- iv. Agriculture-related documents may be increased;
- v. ILL/DDS be executed electronically;
- vi. Help the Indian universities to get accredited by the American Library Association, as when library professionals apply for jobs outside India, they ask for ALA accreditation.
- vii. Free online E-resources be made accessible to member-libraries through DELNET;
- viii. Regional centres be established by DELNET;
- ix. DELNET is an excellent service centre for all categories of research libraries.

We hope to receive more replies and will, in due course of time compile a detailed summary of the recommendations. We would definitely begin to work on the suggestions which fall within the scope of DELNET activities.

X National Initiatives

10.1 National Knowledge Commission

We understand that some of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on Libraries have received the approval of the Planning Commission. It is likely that the Ministry of Culture will soon initiate action on the report. DELNET hopes to play a role in the networking of public libraries as per the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. The networking of Public Libraries by DELNET is one of the major recommendations of the Working Group on Libraries of the National Knowledge Commission

10.2 All India Council of Technical Education

DELNET signed an MOU with the All India Council for Technical Education in 2002 for modernising and networking of the libraries of technical institutions. A number of libraries use this facility.

10.3 NAAC

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore has stipulated that the libraries of its accredited and approved institutions should be modernised and networked so that they can have access to a wide range of resources for their teachers and students. DELNET has been considered as a network whose services

could be availed of by the institutions. The institutions have started joining DELNET and making use of its resources and services.

10.4 Knowledge Centres

There is a major need in the country to convert public libraries into knowledge centres. This could happen preferably when the public libraries were first networked. DELNET has been providing consultancy to the Gujarat Council of Science City, Ahmedabad for establishing a Knowledge Centre and hopes to assist the government, if required, in modernising public libraries as knowledge centres.

XI National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking

11.1 NACLIN 2007

The Tenth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2007) was organised by DELNET at the India International Centre, New Delhi from November 20-23, 2007. The convention was inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh, MP and President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi. The inaugural function was presided over by Prof. M.G.K. Menon, President, India International Centre. Dr. S. Varadarajan, President DELNET gave the special address on the impact of technology on libraries in the country. Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET introduced networking issues in the country with special reference to DELNET. Ms. Sangeeta Kaul, the Organising Secretary, NACLIN 2007 welcomed the delegates. She also read the messages received from the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India.

Prof. M. G. K. Menon delivered the presidential address. He spoke on the development and importance of library networks and referred to the role being played by the Internet and the digital libraries. He emphasised the efficacy of library networks and ICT in libraries and said that the use of ICT skills by library professionals was essential. He also referred to the important digital library projects such as the Universal Digital Library and Million Books Project. He mentioned how traditional knowledge was important in the present context and added that the digital libraries could generate indigenous knowledge using various tools and techniques.

Dr. H.K. Kaul, Director, DELNET stressed the importance of NACLIN and provided a brief outline of the growth of DELNET. He referred to the initial objectives of DELNET and highlighted the importance of information technology in making knowledge accessible to people in the knowledge society. Dr. Kaul talked

about the future of librarianship and said that librarians should become knowledge workers. He specifically pointed out that librarians should be proactive in the specialised areas of their respective institutions. He felt that was how libraries could become knowledge centres. He highlighted that there was the need for having one-point access to all resources available on a subject and gave examples to this effect. He said that the knowledge disparity between the poor and rich people, especially in the remote areas in India was wide. Based on the participation and paper submissions to NACLIN 2007 he felt that the growth in participation was steady. He added that we received 276 papers for NACLIN 2007 but only 56 papers were selected for the presentation and publication in the convention volume.

Dr. Karan Singh released the NACLIN 2007 pre conference volume of papers and Prof. M. G. K. Menon released the NACLIN Souvenir. Dr. Karan Singh in his inaugural speech observed that books were to stay though they had also become available in the digital form. He hoped that the librarians would become modernised and make good use of digital resources. He said that multiple revolutions including the revolution in IT had made remarkable changes in the information field. He felt that the old tradition of libraries should remain. He referred to libraries like the Nalanda Library and Alexandria Library among others and said that the old manuscripts and books should be well preserved for posterity. He added that the World Wide Web had created the tsunami of information. From this ocean of information we had to collect knowledge and from knowledge we have to acquire wisdom. He said that ultimately knowledge liberated man from all kinds of imperfections and negativities. He advised that the librarians should not lose sight of the ultimate purpose of knowledge. He regretted that most of our libraries were not up to the standard expected and that the reading habits in public were also declining. He felt that there was a need to develop a meaningful interface between libraries and community. He hoped that the librarians would advise users about what knowledge to access, and how best to use the IT tools. He hoped that the librarians will expand the frontiers of their minds. He concluded by saying that the language libraries should grow and the skills of the librarians should improve. He felt that there was a mismatch between the individual consciousness and the growing technology. There was a need to build the bridges between the two.

Dr. S. Vardarajan, President, DELNET applauded the achievements of DELNET and its team members. He said that the modernisation was becoming important every day and the government should take immediate steps to modernise libraries. He felt that in order to develop a knowledge society, libraries had a major role to play. Ms. Sangeeta Kaul presented a vote of thanks. She thanked the supporters of the Convention, especially ICCR, DIAT, ICSSR, Air Ports Authority of India, Div II on Software of Computer Society of India and IEEE Computer Society, Madras. She

thanked the sponsors Pressmart, the Platinum sponsor, Sun Microsystems for Gold sponsorship and Google and Emerald Publishers for Silver sponsorships. She also thanked the foreign delegates who attended NACLIN 2007 from Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Oman and USA.

Two tutorials were organised on the first two days of NACLIN 2007. The first day was devoted to a workshop on KOHA, an open source integrated library system and the second day was devoted to a workshop on the RFID technology. On KOHA the presentations were made by Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager, DELNET and Mr. Basavaraj T. of Delhi Public Library. As an open source library management software has been recommended by the National Knowledge Commission to be used by libraries in India, it was found that KOHA fulfilled all the necessary requirements as outlined by the NKC Working Group on Libraries. Comparing KOHA with other commercial software revealed that KOHA was a free-of-cost software and had most of the features that existed in some of the best commercial software packages. The tutorial on RFID Technology was presented by Mr. Senthil Kumar, Asia Technologies Ltd, Chennai and Dr. Harish Chandra, Librarian, IIT, Madras. Mr. Kumar presented various RFID applications including their use in libraries. Dr. Harish Chandra shared his experiences right from conceiving RFID plans to the successful implementation of this technology at IIT Madras Library. He described the challenges faced and motivation gained by adopting the RFID technology. He talked about the advantages of RFID and referred to the effective transactions, matchless speed, integrated digital library, operational excellences, high level user satisfaction, theft control, autonomy to users, zero repetitive work, quick stocktaking etc. He also emphasised identifying various items to be implemented like RF Tags, Counter Stations, Self-Check Stations and Book Drop Station. He also described major problems faced by him during the implementation of the RFID project at IITM Library.

The national convention was held on November 22-23, 2007. The first Technical Section was on “Knowledge and Society”. It was chaired by Mr. Lov Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director DELNET on “Knowledge and Society: The Growing Interoperable Dimensions”. He talked about the importance of a knowledge society. He explained the objective and subjective knowledge and emphasised that it was ultimately the technical knowledge which was most important in society for development purposes. He also stressed the importance of social knowledge and the key factors in it such as social data, social communication, social knowledge and social wisdom. He said that in order to get ultimately social wisdom, our information system should get strengthened in various dimensions such as ethical, economic and social. The second

keynote paper was presented by Dr. Vivek Patkar on “Transforming Library to Cope with the New Web Technology and Social Challenges”. He referred to the emerging challenges and suggested the ways for transforming a library. He noted that a new trend for information organisation was emerging and thus referred to various technologies used in this regard. He explained the relevance of Folksonomy and Social Tagging; Wiki Sites; Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 and gave a conceptual model for library transformation. He alluded to various problems such as ‘uncertainties of collaborative and regulated knowledge’; ‘copyright violations and plagiarism’; ‘critical evaluation of the promises of democratising influence of Web 2.0 and Library 2.0’; ‘relevance of cosmopedia’ among other issues. Based on these observations, he mentioned nine points for library professionals to follow for development of libraries in the digital era. The community participation in the development of public libraries in Manipur was also highlighted in the session. Answering questions, Mr. Lov Verma affirmed that the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) for libraries and for the promotion of a knowledge society were going to be implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

The second technical session on “Knowledge Delivery and Access Mechanisms” was chaired by Dr. Harish Chandra, Librarian IIT, Madras. In the presentations made in this session it was highlighted that quality-oriented services were important for end users. It was noted that DELNET played a marvellous role for the engineering colleges in Haryana. It was suggested that DELNET should also offer full-text PDF or HTML documents for important documents that are in demand. It was felt that in many of the libraries the Internet facilities needed to be improved; training in accessing Internet required to be given and offering of full-text facilities needed to be improved in the colleges. While discussing the use of electronic journals by the research scholars of the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering, AMU, Aligarh, it was revealed that 88.24 per cent scholars were aware of E-journals and a majority of students used E-journals.

The technical session on “Knowledge Tools/Technology” was chaired by H. R. Mohan. The presentations in this session highlighted the role of gateways for digital preservation; the selection of documents for preservation; the technological issues including refreshing, migrating, emulating, standards, guidelines and trusted framework. Discussion on several inexpensive backup options and the strategies for taking foolproof backups were also explained. Also discussed in the session were the relevance of knowledge portals and their components such as E-mail; real-time messaging; discussion forums; knowledge catalogue; repository; database tools and software. The point of view that knowledge portals provided different services through single windows was also highlighted. In addition to the tutorial on RFID, its applications in several libraries were also discussed. One of the useful case studies presented was on the integration

of online thesaurus with Open Index Initiative (OIA). The case studies of digitisation of libraries were also presented. They covered the use of necessary tools, technological issues, selection of material, scanning, making of image files; image and batch processing; OCR, etc.

The fourth technical session on “Content Creation and Digital Resources” was chaired by Josephine Moesi, Dr. Krishan Gopal and Navjit Brar. The keynote paper was presented by P. Ramanujan on “Creation of Content in Local Languages: The Case of Sanskrit”. Mr. Ramanujan described the case study of a project related to the Mahabharata and the Vedas. He explained Web-based applications of these projects and the use of Garuda Grid. The importance of computer-based manuscript editor, formatting, inputting, editing, creation of a database, searching, etc. were highlighted. In a keynote paper, Dr. Harish Chandra explained the features of the knowledge-value chain and the types of digital knowledge resources available. He felt that a proper framework for undertaking the digitisation work was necessary. In a case study by Navjit Brar it was highlighted how the recent information, communication and computing technologies created new opportunities for university librarians in knowledge creation. While explaining the essentials of participatory design, philosophy and practice, she observed that the participatory co-design reflected the fundamental shift in higher education with the focus on learning. In this session the other important issues that were discussed included the use of open source software packages in developing digital repositories; the processes of selecting E-journals; the knowledge delivery mechanisms; and the impact of the consortium on the academic community. It was found that in a network environment the monitoring of usage and performance of E-journals was a complex process but a number of projects were being undertaken to find a proper solution for this issue. It was felt that the quality information available through open access journals in LIS in India would enhance the skills of LIS professionals.

The last technical session on “LIS Education, Skills and Competency Development” was chaired by Prof. A.C. Tikekar and co-chaired by H. Kalilur Rahaman. In the keynote presentation made by Prof. Pravakar Rath, he enumerated the issues confronted by LIS educators. He looked at the trends shaping the knowledge society from the LIS perspective which included the need of LIS professionals to become knowledge professionals; the need for transforming traditional libraries into digital libraries; the relevance of resource sharing library networks; the importance of content management and the importance of learning through the Web. He emphasised that there was a need for introducing LIS education and skills through ICT applications. He felt that as most of the activities in the knowledge world were Web-centric its use by LIS professionals was necessary. He recommended the need for the national information policy; the

national digital library policy; information literacy; national accreditation in LIS education in India, among other issues. He concluded by saying that the Indian LIS education should meet the global challenges. In the keynote presentation by H. Kalilur Rahaman he stressed the importance of ICT for LIS professionals, which included computer education, network knowledge, content development and ability of LIS professionals to interact with computer professionals in the designing and development of information services for the patrons. He highlighted several roles of librarians as collection developers, information providers, trainers and knowledge managers. He felt that knowledge empowerment was the ideal way to overcome all new challenges.

The other papers in this session highlighted the use of ICT by library professionals; overall review of LIS education in Kerala, and the introduction of training which acquainted students with various aspects of information, knowledge and communication technologies. A separate paper on “DELNET and Distance Education” recommended that DELNET should provide library services to users who were located in distant places; undertake various activities including updating of holdings of members more frequently; creation of a national union catalogue, etc. The presentation by Syed N Imam on “Quality, Leadership and Top Management: The Essence of LIS” was well received. His recommendations included how quality management could make a difference in providing information services to top management. He presented the principles of quality and explained how good quality could be maintained. He referred to Juran’s Trilogy which brought out basic quality-related processes, namely planning, control and improvement. He introduced six new skills for library and information science officers and mentioned quality guidelines for top managements.

The other issues discussed included a subject analysis of research topics in LIS in India, in which 27.96 per cent topics fell under research on management of LIS systems. It was considered necessary to improve quality research in the LIS field in India as it was found that most of the theses submitted in LIS education lacked practical relevance.

The last technical session on “Networking Knowledge” was chaired by Dr. H.K. Kaul and co-chaired by Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam. Among the issues discussed were the business model of the Granthagar project from the identification of books to the database level and the use of personal collections by faculty members for study and research. Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam referred to the work done at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. He explained how they established information centres in the villages with need-based requirements of the people. He observed that forecasting the condition of the waves of the sea and crop prices was made through the information

service the Foundation provided to the farmers in the villages. He emphasised that there was a need for a Hub Model and Spoke Model in the dissemination of information to the villagers. He maintained that this model should successfully be implemented all over India.

This was followed by a panel discussion on “Libraries Without Boundaries : Reaching the Unreachable in the Knowledge Era”. Mrs. Kalpana Dasgupta (Chair), Dr. R. K. Chadha (Co-Chair), Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam and Dr. P. R. Goswami participated.

NACLIN 2007 ended with a Valedictory address by Shri M. Moni, DDG, NIC. Prof. Syed Shahid Mahdi, former VC, Jamia Islamia presided over the function. Mr. Regis Dutremee, Head, Digital Library Division, Bibliotheque Publique d’Information(BPI), Paris was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Subhash Deshmukh, Rapporteur-General, NACLIN 2007 presented the report.

A DVD containing the full audio and video coverage of four-day event of NACLIN 2007 with presentation files has been produced for the first time. It is available for purchase. It gives an in-depth account of the proceedings of NACLIN 2007.

11.2 NACLIN 2008

The Eleventh National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (2008) will be organised from November 4-7, 2008 at Karunya University, Coimbatore. The theme of the National Convention is “Digital Futures: Strategies for Developing World Class Libraries”.

XII DELNET Annual Lecture

The DELNET Annual Lecture was delivered on “Quality of Library and Information Services in HEIs: User’s Perspective” by Prof. V. S. Prasad, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore at the India International Centre, New Delhi on August 3, 2007. Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET presided over the lecture. Dr. Prasad appreciated the work DELNET was doing. He referred to the report of the Working Group on Libraries of the National Knowledge Commission and applauded its scope and comprehensiveness but felt that the problem of quality was not given the importance it deserved in the report. Prof. Prasad said that one of the fundamental duties of a citizen was to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity. He emphasised that it was our constitutional duty, social responsibility and a professional obligation to promote quality in every sphere of

our activity. Prof. Prasad said that there was a paradigm shift in the role a library could play in the modern world. He added that all of us know that any higher educational institution has four goals. One was generation of knowledge, the second was preservation of knowledge, the third was dissemination of knowledge and the fourth one was application of knowledge. He added that a library played two major functions in an institution. One was to help in the dissemination of knowledge and the other was to facilitate creation of new knowledge. He noted that broadly there were two approaches to look at the quality. One was the management approach or the approach of the administration, and the other was the user's perspective. He said that he had identified four areas of concern from the point of view of the user. One was the quality of library collection. And the second was the quality of access facilities to sources of knowledge. He added that knowledge about the sources helped in collecting resources fast for the users. He said that this was what DELNET was doing by networking libraries. He remarked that the quality of a physical ambience and the quality of human services were equally important. Dr. Prasad added four more attributes to the quality of library service. He observed that there were four important players responsible for quality of library services in an institution. And they were, i. university or college administration; ii the academic staff of the institution, particularly in the academic libraries who were talking about the quality of library services, iii. the students; and iv. library management or the library staff. For the quality of collection in a library, he said that the academic staff were responsible. On the issue of books being torn in libraries, Prof. Prasad said that it was because sound values were not inculcated among the students. He felt that the quality of library services was affected by the integrity of the staff of an institution, the quality was affected by the value-pattern of the students, the value-pattern of the staff and the value-pattern of everybody associated. He added that non-teaching staff also played a crucial role in the quality of library services. Prof. Prasad referred to the importance of the development of standards, performance indicators or quality benchmarks. He noted that there were two criteria to measure the quality in all higher educational institutions. One criteria was the measuring of right things. Prof. Prasad said that the second question was about the measuring of things rightly.

XIII Software Development

DELNET has been providing DELPLUS software free of charge to member-libraries. We provide technical support to them. Considering the recommendations of the Working Group on Libraries of the National Knowledge Commission that libraries should use open source library management software, DELNET has selected KOHA after a good deal of experimentation and advice from experts in the field. The Network Manager and the Software Programmer attended the workshop at Burdwan University to evaluate the efficacy of KOHA. As a result of the efforts, DELNET organised a

national workshop on KOHA from March 10-13, 2008. About thirty participants from different parts of India and Sri Lanka participated in this national workshop.

XIV Workshops, Lectures and Orientation Programmes

14.1 Workshops

1. A Workshop on Building Digital Libraries: Application of DSpace. September 3-5, 2007 at DELNET.
2. A Workshop on New Trends in Library and Information Services September 27-29, 2007 at DELNET.
3. An Interactive Workshop on KOHA: An Open Source Integrated Library System. March 10-13, 2008 at DELNET.

14.2 Orientation Programmes

One-day Orientation Programmes were organised at the following institutions:

1. Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. April 16, 2007.
2. Haryana College of Technology & Management, Kaithal. April 30, 2007 at Kaithal.
3. NRI Institute of Technology and Management, Gwalior. February 18, 2008.
4. Kumaon University, Almora. March 27, 2008.

14.3 Lectures

1. Knowledge Management : The Indian Context by Prof. Robert Newton, Associate Dean (Research), Aberdeen Business School, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. November 1, 2007 at DELNET. Prof. P. B. Mangla, Former Head, Deptt. of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi presided over the lecture.

XV Staff Contributions

15.1 Membership of Panels / Committees

Director, DELNET has been enrolled member of the following panels/committees:

1. Member, Panel of Experts, 2007-2009, Library and Information Science, NISCAIR, National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, CSIR, New Delhi
2. Member, Rampur Raza Library Board, Ministry of Culture, Government of India from July 2007.
3. Chairman, PRSG for Digital Library Project – “Development of National Data Bank on Indian Art and Culture”, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India. From August 2007.
4. Member, High-level Committee for the Modernisation of Libraries. Ministry of Culture, Government of India. April 2007 –
5. Member, Advisory Committee on ‘E-Granthalaya’, National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, New Delhi. 2007—
6. Member, Working Group on Digital Libraries, Department of Information Technology, Government of India. March 2007 –2009.
7. Member, Advisory Council for Computer, Library and Information System, Dr. D. Swaminathan Research Foundation; Mahatma Gandhi National Institute of Research and Social Action and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies, Hyderabad, 2007-.

15.2 Participation in Conferences/Workshops

The Director and Network Manager participated in the following conferences/Workshops:

1. February 6, 2008. The Director participated in the Panel Discussion on Business and Management Librarianship: The Decade Ahead. MANLIBNET Ninth Annual National Conventiion, New Delhi.
2. February 8, 2008. The Director chaired the session on Library Networking at the International Conference on Building Knowledge Repositories: Cross-Cultural Collaborations. National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi.
3. March 13-14, 2008. The Director participated in “Libraries on the Agenda”: An International Seminar on Library Advocacy at Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi.

4. March 31-April 1, 2008. The Director participated in the workshop on Curriculum Reforms in LIS Education. The workshop was organized by IGNOU on evolving a framework for BLIS curricula and also suggest areas for short-term courses.
5. October 17, 2007. The Network Manager gave a presentation on DELNET services at NIHFV, New Delhi.

XVI Publications

The following publications were produced during the period :

1. Kaul, H. K. and Kaul, Sangeeta. Knowledge Library and Information Networking: NACLIN 2007: Papers of the Tenth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking NACLIN 2007 held at the India International Centre, New Delhi from November 20-23, 2007. New Delhi: DELNET – Developing Library Network, 2007. xxxviii,648p.
2. Kaul, H. K. Knowledge and Society: The Growing Interoperable Dimensions. In Kaul, H. K. and Kaul, Sangeeta. Knowledge Library and Information Networking : NACLIN 2007: Papers of the Tenth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking NACLIN 2007 held at the India International Centre, New Delhi from November 20-23, 2007. New Delhi: DELNET – Developing Library Network, 2007. pp. 3-22.
3. Kaul, H. K. Bridging the Digital Divide. In Lahkar, Narendra. Changing Library Scenario in the Digital Era.: Festschrift Volume in Honour of Prof. Alka Buragohain. Guwahati. 2008.
4. Kaul, Sangeeta. Reaching the Unreachable in India: Effective Information Delivery Service Model of DELNET and the Challenges Ahead. Paper presented at “Libraries Without Walls 7: Exploring ‘Anytime, Anywhere’ Delivery of Library Services.: An international conference organised by CERLIM – The Centre for Research in Library and Information Management, UK September 14-17, 2007, Molyvos, Aegean Island of Lesvos, Greece.

XVII Election Committee

The biennial elections were initiated in January 2008. The Board constituted the election committee for the biennial elections of DELNET for 2008-2009 and 2009-

2010 comprising President, Director and Dr. Krishan Gopal, University Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

XVIII Acknowledgements

DELNET activities are so diverse that without cooperation and help from member-libraries, experts and organisations in various fields it is difficult to achieve the desired goals. I would like to thank Mr. Abhijit Sengupta, Secretary; Mr. Lov Verma, Joint Secretary and Mrs. Alka Jha, Director, Ministry of Culture, Government of India for cooperation and help.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Yashpal, Chancellor, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. Avais Ahmad, Registrar and Professor Rajendra Prasad, Rector, JNU for their support and assistance. We also greatly appreciate the help and cooperation extended by Dr. Krishan Gopal to DELNET from time to time and thank him for the same.

Thanks are due to Dr. B. K. Gairola, Director-General, National Informatics Centre for providing technical support to DELNET, especially the RF connectivity. Thanks are also due to other senior officials of NIC Mr. H. Madhava Reddy, Mr. R. S. Mani, Mr. V. K. Gupta, Ms Seema Khanna, Ms Neeta Verma and Mr. Surinder Gaba.

I am personally grateful to the management of the India International Centre for allowing me to work at DELNET from January 7, 1988 to June 30, 2007 in addition to my duties as Chief Librarian of the Centre. Special thanks are due to Prof. M. G. K. Menon, President, Mr. P. C. Sen, Director, Cmde (Retd.) K. N. Venugopal, Secretary, Ms P. Ghose, Chief Programme Division for their advice and help.

Thanks are also due to our auditors M/s S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co. especially Mr. Arun Tulsian for his efforts in auditing the accounts.

Members of the Governing Board of DELNET have always been supportive to me. I am grateful to Dr. S. Varadarajan, President, DELNET for his guidance and help. I am also grateful to Mr. P. C. Sen, Vice-President, Dr. S. S. Murthy, former Treasurer, Dr. P.R. Goswami, the new Treasurer and the members of the Governing Board of DELNET and of the Research Advisory Committee for their support and guidance.

I would also like to thank M/s C. P. Kukreja Associates Pvt Ltd for overseeing

the construction work at DELNET from its inception to 2007. Shri C. P. Kukreja has been forthcoming in helping DELNET in spite of the limitation of the necessary financial resources for the construction of the building.

The cooperation that we receive from the Heads of the member-institutions and their Librarians and Heads of Libraries and library staff makes DELNET promote resource sharing effectively. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of them.

DELNET staff has worked well with dedication and commitment. I would like to thank all of them. Special thanks are due to the Network Manager, Ms Sangeeta Kaul who continues to work with great dedication and efficiency. Thanks are also due to Mr O. N. Safapuri, Consultant, DELNET Coordination Unit, Bangalore for carrying out the work.

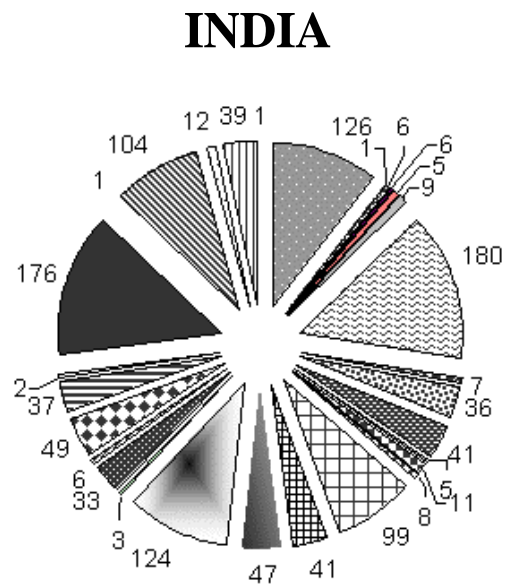
March 31, 2008

H. K. Kaul
Director

DELNET Members as on March 31, 2008: 1231

1. India	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Andhra Pradesh	126
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	6
Bihar	6
Chandigarh	5
Chhattisgarh	9
Delhi	180
Goa	7
Gujarat	36
Haryana	41
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jammu & Kashmir	11
Jharkand	8
Karnataka	99
Kerala	41
Madhya Pradesh	47
Maharashtra	124
Manipur	3
Orissa	33
Puducherry	6
Punjab	49
Rajasthan	37
Sikkim	2
Tamil Nadu	176
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	104
Uttaranchal	12
West Bengal	39
Total	1215

Geographical Distribution



2. Other SAARC Countries

Nepal	2
Sri Lanka	5
Total	7

3. Outside SAARC

Oman	2
Philippines	1
United Arab Emirates	2
United States	4
Total	9
Grand Total	1231

Subject-Wise Breakup



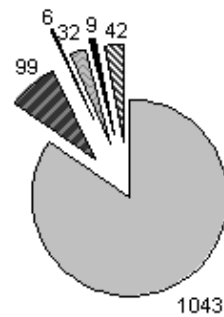
Subject -wise Breakup

General	195
Science and Technology	866
Social Sciences	141
Humanities	29
Total	1231

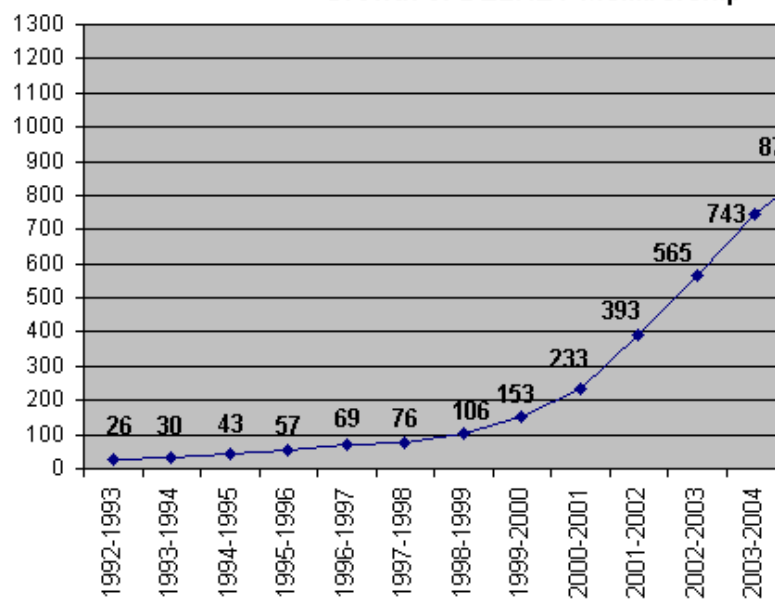
Types of Libraries

Academic	1043
Research/Special	99
Public Libraries	6
Government Libraries	32
Libraries of Diplomatic Missions/UN Agencies	9
Miscellaneous including Trusts	42
Total	1231

Type-Wise Breakup



Growth of DELNET Membership



Appendix II

Union Catalogues, Union Lists and Databases Provided by DELNET as on March 31, 2008

1. Union Catalogue of Books	62,36,888
2. Union Catalogue of Periodicals	20,235
3. Union List of Current Periodicals	31,358
4. Articles Database	8,88,342
5. CD-ROM Database	2,281
6. Union List of Video Recordings	5,000
7. Union List of Sound Recordings	748
8. Database of Theses and Dissertations	44,304
9. Specialists' Database	2,000
10. Urdu Manuscripts	210
11. DEVINSA	20,000
Total	72,51,366

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2007-2008



delnet

DEVELOPING LIBRARY NETWORK

JNU Campus, Nelson Mandela Road

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Office-bearers

Dr. S. Varadarajan	President
Mr. P. C. Sen	Vice-President
Dr. H. K. Kaul	Director
Dr. P. R. Goswami	Treasurer

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3. Mr. Lov Verma
4. Dr. Krishan Gopal
5. Mr. H. Madhava Reddy
6. Mr. P. Jayarajan
7. Prof. R. Satyanarayana
8. Dr. H. K.Kaul

