DIRECTOR'S   REPORT

2009-2010

delnet

DEVELOPING LIBRARY NETWORK

JNU Campus, Nelson Mandela Road
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

I   INTRODUCTION

The researchers and general library users around the world are caught in a strange dilemma now, which did not occur earlier since the recording of ideas began in print and other forms. This dilemma is created by the digital deluge. Information is being doubled every six months and it is available mostly through the Web. No quality controls exist except in case of digital resources put up by well-known publishers and editors of prestigious journals. In the print form also, the researchers and the general library users had to take a decision in locating a good book and a good journal. But, in the print form, the choices were limited. Now, the choices are limitless sometimes and often vague, unless the person makes extensive searches and finds something useful. This dilemma is not visualised by all researchers or general users because the access to the digital resources is so rapid and spontaneous that the readers somehow get caught unawares in the web of enormous information. As a result, many among them, do not go to the libraries to do research but complete their assignments on the basis of the resources available through the Web.

DELNET is aware of the drift taking place owing to the influx of the digital deluge. While we network libraries and their resources, libraries have frequently begun to weed out even some of the best books and journals. They create space in their reading rooms for Internet users, which comes in handy for the users who would like to search the Web in any case. The information about books and journals that are weeded out by member-libraries, often do not reach DELNET. In order to locate a book or a journal we do manage because we get several alternative options for most of the titles. But as a practice, there should be a system for deleting a record from the DELNET union catalogues and union lists as there is a system for adding a new record. The information of deleted records should be forwarded by the respective institutions to DELNET as and when the stocktaking is done or an item is deleted from the local source.

DELNET is very concerned about helping users who want to have access to quality information. It is with this concern that DELNET is opening a Knowledge Centre in its building on the JNU Campus. During the last year we have been trying to update ourselves on the latest developments taking place in resource sharing around the world. The membership has increased further and we hope that during the next year also this trend will continue. There has been growth in the number of records in the Union Catalogues and the Union Lists. We continue to provide quality service to users and strive to do so always.

II   MEMBERSHIP

During the year 2009-2010, 281 new institutions joined DELNET. This number is much higher than the figure of 197 for 2008-2009 and 146 for 2007-2008. The types of libraries are also varied. Two hundred and sixty-nine libraries are academic in

nature. One hundred and fifty-four libraries out of 281 belong to Science and Technology disciplines. Increase in membership is reflected in the increase in membership from almost all states. However, the states from where the number has been relatively more during the year include Andhra Pradesh – 35; Haryana – 14; Karnataka – 19; Maharashtra – 27; Rajasthan – 21; Tamil Nadu – 57; and Uttar Pradesh – 28. We notice that Academic and Science & Technology libraries are greater in number in the last year's membership. The detailed breakup of DELNET membership is given in Appendix I.

III   FINANCE

DELNET does not receive any grant from government or other sources to manage its functioning. The income is limited to what we get through membership fee, admission fee and ILL online charges. We feel that our services should attract more libraries to join and gain from DELNET membership. For organising the National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) in 2009 we did get support from various sponsors which include the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation; Balani Infotech Pvt. Ltd. IGroup Publishing Limited; Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO); Central News Agency; Emerald Group of Publishing Ltd.; 3M India Ltd.; Div. II (Software) Computer Society of India and IEEE Computer Society, Madras Chapter. Some small financial inputs were also received from maintenance of software and training.

The auditing of accounts was done by M/s. S. S. Kothari Mehta & Co.

IV   BUILDING

Work on the Hostel Block was started during the year though at a low pace because of paucity of funds. Efforts to make improvements to the Hostel Block will continue during the next year. The work on the maintenance, upkeep and repair work on the Administrative Block also continued from time to time. The permission from PWD to lay pipes across Nelson Mandela Marg was received in March 2010. We still need more permissions to complete this job. The property tax on the building was paid for the year 2009-2010.

V   NETWORK OPERATIONS

The RF Link between DELNET and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been in operation throughout the year. NIC also approved the leased line connection between DELNET and NIC and this is being pursued to be made operational. We continued using both the Reliance and MTNL telephone numbers last year as well. The connectivity through mobile numbers also continued. There is a need to further upgrade the bandwidth of the RF link, as the number of member-libraries increase. The efficiency in accessing DELNET through the RF Link is being watched closely.

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

Inter-Library Loan facilities and Document Delivery Services are the main services that DELNET offers in order to help readers and researchers in libraries to get publications of their interest on loan from libraries situated in distant places in the country. The Interlending and Document Supply is provided both at the national and international levels by DELNET. This is an ongoing activity and is conducted by DELNET on a daily basis. In this connection the following issues are of great concern to us:

i. Many librarians issue books obtained from DELNET to their senior officers. These books are meant to be kept by the borrowing libraries for 15 days. Some senior officers do not return such books back to the library for months. As a result, the lending libraries keep pestering DELNET for the return of books. We feel there is a need for librarians of member-libraries to brief their senior officers that the books received from DELNET are to be returned within a period of 15 days, and they should not be kept for a longer period.

ii. As mentioned above, the libraries weed out books periodically but the intimation about weeded out books is not passed on to DELNET. As a result such records are not removed from the Union Catalogues. We would prefer that the librarians make a serious effort in this regard.

iii. Often readers pass on to their librarians incorrect or incomplete information about the books they need. The librarians passes on such lists direct to DELNET without checking if the bibliographic details are correct or not. We feel that there should be checks made by the librarians each time users pass on requests to librarians.

iv. It frequently happens that the Network Manager receives a request for articles which are nowhere available in the country. In some cases she writes to the authors for help. It is heartening to know that many authors oblige by sending copies of their papers for the use of our researchers.

During the last year the Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Services continued to be popular and member-libraries have been using them well. The librarians, library staff and end-users of the respective libraries have been sending requests to DELNET directly and DELNET has been sending books to the librarians for delivery to users. The delivery of books and photocopies of journal articles to member-libraries outside India has also increased during the year.

VII COORDINATION UNIT, Bangalore

The membership of DELNET in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and

Maharashtra continued to increase this year. The Coordination Units at Bangalore has been assisting DELNET, New Delhi office in serving libraries in these states and the staff of the Unit has been travelling in these states to collect catalogue data and to help libraries to sort out any issues in searching the Union Catalogues and Union Lists of DELNET.

There is a need to increase the number of Coordination Units on a regional basis or on a State Basis. This could happen if the member-libraries of DELNET increase substantially in the states.

VIII   UNION CATALOGUES AND DATABASES

The implementation of standards in preparing catalogues in machine readable form by member-libraries has been propagated by DELNET from the very beginning. DELNET even produced the software for creating MARC 21 catalogue records and made the software available to libraries that needed it. However, we find that many libraries are still creating catalogues using CCF and AACR II. Some libraries use no standards. This is a serious issue.

If cataloque records are created using MARC 21, AACR II and LC subject headings, and other standard thesauri, the records can be used anywhere in the world or exchanged with any best institution in the world. I would like to mention that it would be good for member-institutions to use such standards in libraries. DELNET is prepared to provide training to the library staff and solve any issues they are confronted with. DELNET updates the union catalogues and union lists periodically. The latest statistics of union catalogues and union lists are mentioned in Appendix II. The software developed for uploading the catalogue records into DELNET has been operational for the last three years. We would prefer more and more libraries to make use of such facilities and upload their catalogue records into DELNET union catalogues and union lists.

I would also like to mention that uploading of records provides security to the catalogue records of member-libraries. Often the member-libraries whose catalogue records are corrupted, approach DELNET for obtaining a copy of records supplied by them to DELNET. We offer them the copies of catalogue records which saves them from recataloguing of books and other documents in their libraries. I therefore again reiterate that it would be much safer for libraries to send their catalogue records to DELNET periodically both for security purposes and for use.

IX   NATIONAL INITIATIVES

9.1   National Knowledge Commission

There has not been any news about the implementation of the National Knowledge Commission report on libraries. We hope that the recommendations are implemented in due course of time.

9.2   All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE)

From January 1, 2010 DELNET takes full membership charges for enrolling approved and accredited technical institutions of AICTE as member-libraries of DELNET. The libraries are now requested to pay complete fee to DELNET on their own.

9.3 NAAC

Many institutions especially colleges and universities approved and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) continue joining DELNET and begin using DELNET services. We appreciate the growing interest of colleges in using DELNET services.

X   NATIONAL CONVENTION ON KNOWLEDGE, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORKING (NACLIN)

10.1 NACLIN 2009

The Twelfth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2009) was organised by DELNET in collaboration with A. C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh from September 22-25, 2009. It was inaugurated by Mr. H.K. Dua, Editor-in-Chief, The Tribune Group of Newspapers. Mr. Dua focused on the reliability of information and its fast delivery to users. He felt that there were only 54,000 public libraries serving about 1.3 billion people in India. The number of public libraries should have been much more. While considering that India was economically and politically powerful, yet, he felt the country was inadequately equipped with the delivery mechanisms of information and knowledge. He noted that even after 62 years of independence 30 crore people were illiterate and the country needed a strong education policy to educate the illiterate. He felt that there was a digital divide within the country which was leading to the economic and social divide. Mr Dua advocated that knowledge should be provided free to people and the 30 crore illiterate population should also get access to knowledge. He advised that the library professionals should have the right attitude in providing information to users. Professor S. S. Bari, Registrar, Panjab University, Chandigarh also spoke at the inaugural function. Prof. S. C. Vaidya, Dean University Instruction, Panjab University, Chandigarh delivered the Presidential Address. He stressed the need to share knowledge and felt that the facilitators like library professionals could play major roles in this work. Dr. V. K. Anand, Organising Secretary, NACLIN 2009 and the University Librarian, A.C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh delivered the vote of thanks.

The national convention started with the inauguration of an exhibition of books and tutorials. The one on Koha – an open source Integrated Library System and MARC 21 was conducted by Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager, DELNET. The tutorial on RFID Applications in Libraries was conducted by Mr. Chetanya Vali, National Sales Manager, 3M India Ltd. The tutorial on RFID Applications in Libraries was conducted by RapidRadio Solutions Pvt Ltd, Ahmedabad. Another tutorial on Building Digital Resources was conducted by Dr. P. Venkata Rao, Librarian, Mahatma Gandhi

State Institute of Public Administration, Chandigarh. The tutorials were greatly appreciated as the librarians got ample time to learn new technologies and know-how to use them. The tutorials were held on the first two days and the National Convention was held during the next two days of the convention. During this period talks and discussions were held on various themes including Digital Libraries; Library Consortia; Institutional Repositories; Archiving; Open Source Software for Libraries; Networking Knowledge; Networking of Public Libraries in West Bengal; Copyright and IPR; IPR and Digital Libraries; Public Access to Digital Resources; Information Use Patterns; User Aspirations Needs; Use of Open Access Resources; Introducing Innovation in the Libraries; Disaster Management in Libraries and Information Centres; Need of Information Audit for Effective Collection Building in Libraries; Measuring the Impact of Technology on Quality of Services and Operations; Electronic Journal Access; Archiving and Web 2.0 Technologies, etc. Reputed library professionals delivered talks, presented papers and participated in the discussion.

A panel discussion was organised on 'Managing Knowledge, Technology and Change in Libraries' on September 25, 2009. The discussion was chaired by Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET. The panelists included Prof. M. B. Konnur, Dr. Jagtar Singh, Prof. I. V. Malhan, Dr. V. K. Anand, Dr. Harish Chandra, Dr. R. Mishra, Dr. Prem Chand and Dr. Vivek Patkar. The chair divided the discussion into three parts, viz. "Managing Knowledge", "Managing Technology" and "Managing Change". On "Managing Knowledge" the panel expressed the view that the gap between tacit knowledge and explicit knowledge should be reduced; knowledge should be taken to the users rather than the users coming to seek knowledge; strategic use of knowledge for development should be done; best practices needed to be inculcated for reducing knowledge gaps; useful tools needed to be used for managing knowledge; libraries needed to act as multi-academic knowledge centres; knowledge resources should be developed considering the requirements of users; knowledge networks should be established to manage knowledge; and Library and Information Science Schools should revise their courses.

On "Managing Technology" the panelists observed that practical education needed to be given by the library schools; College and University libraries should use ICT in libraries; public–private partnership be introduced in making effective use of technology; fear of technology should be removed and we should know which technology is changing and for what purpose; different teaching programmes should be introduced for those who needed to know the latest changes taking place in ICT; techno-stress had to be reduced and man-machine management had to be effectively introduced. On "Managing Change" the panel felt that LIS Schools should produce the best students who can perform well in libraries; there was a need for value creation and value addition to the profession; human resources should be highly skilled to work effectively at the national, organisational and local levels; library authorities should also change; detect the weaknesses in each type of library before introducing change; listen to users and try to satisfy their needs; library staff should be innovative and decision-making should be

participatory; staff be motivated and should be persuaded to use new technology.

The Valedictory Function of NACLIN 2009 started with a welcome address by Dr. Jagtar Singh, Director, NACLIN 2009. Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager, DELNET presented the Rapporteur-General's Report. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Dr. R. C. Sobti, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh followed by a Presidential Address by Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET. Dr. V. K. Anand and Dr. Sangeeta Kaul presented the Vote of Thanks.

10.2 NACLIN 2010

The 13th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2010) will be organised at the BITS Pilani, Goa Campus from June 15-18, 2010. The details have already been posted on the websites of NACLIN, DELNET and BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, Goa.

XI   DELNET ANNUAL LECTURE

The DELNET Annual Lecture for 2009 was delivered by Professor S. V. Raghavan, Network Systems Laboratory, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras, Chennai. He spoke on "Information Dissemination in Next Generation Networks: Opportunities and Challenges" at a function organised on March 5, 2009 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

He defined the characteristics of the New Generation Networks which include extremely high bandwidth and low latency; ability to build virtual private networks; multi-protocol label switching; teraflops and petaflops of computing power; terabytes, petabytes and excabytes of storage; capacity to function on multiple operating systems and the capacity to switch from one system to another at Gigabit speeds. Explaining further the implications of these characteristics, Prof. Raghavan maintained that extremely high speed would eventually mean the annihilation of distance; low latency would help in coalescing events in time. Speaking on teleport applications, Prof. Raghavan said that it involved people, events and observations and they were more important in the spheres of health and education.

Looking at the issue of 'Information Dissemination', Prof. Raghavan noted that it covered resources such as books, manuscripts, theses and electronic resources on one hand and students, faculty, researchers and general interest users on the other. While defining the role of a library and that of a librarian, he felt that collection of resources of literary value in any format was necessary. And for doing so, someone had to make an effort to document such resources. He was of the opinion that this was not the time to have a passive approach to the collection and documenting of resources, but a proactive approach was necessary on the part of librarians in the country in this regard.

Professor Raghavan referred to the expectations of citizens and said that they expected to get the right information at the click of the mouse. There was a need to

present knowledge in a comprehensive form and this could not be done by students, for they were only interested in getting the right kind of information and using it. Comparing the decline of library users with the increase in the information usage Prof. Raghavan affirmed that every Internet user was a potential library user. He added that since they did not get proper help from the libraries, they opted to use the Internet. If users were able to get appropriate information from the libraries, especially in terms of exhaustive and fast responses, the drift towards using the libraries would begin. He felt that the electronic storage required that the users knew what he or she was looking for as there was no browsing facility.

Prof. Raghavan, while describing the characteristics of a modern library mentioned that it combined the traditional as well as electronic modes of collection development and dissemination. He added that in the digital world location was not a barrier, if the information was available in the full text form. Also, the research labs and different libraries could represent holdings virtually.

Prof. Raghavan was not satisfied with the present nomenclature of the designations of librarians. He advocated that the Chief Librarian should be re-designated as Chief Information Scientist and similar changes should be made in other designations. He also advised that there was a need to organise intellectual resources in libraries irrespective of the format in which the resource was available. The indexing would therefore cover all types of documents including audio and video. Comparing the issues concerning Library Science and Technology, Prof. Raghavan emphasised that creative solutions were needed. In this day and age one should not be dependent on annotation alone. Help from technology was necessary as there were multiple solutions available today.

Comparing the Next Generation Networks with the National Knowledge Network, he cited several advantages of using networked technology which include annihilation of distance, simplification of complex functions including technology; low costs and phenomenal benefits in the new era. These benefits would also include sharing online of databases; availability of common country-wide classrooms and increased interaction with peer-groups.

Highlighting the scenario of life at 10 Gbps, Prof. Raghavan stressed that the network would help education, research, health care, governance, farm care and weather modelling. Referring to the National Knowledge Network, Prof. Raghavan observed that the objective was to build a scalable network which could expand both in reach and speed, and when needed. It was therefore necessary to set up a common network backbone like a national highway which would support the work of diverse users. He elaborated further the features of NKN and said that it included high capacity with a scalable backbone; wide geographical coverage, common standard platform; high bandwidth; test beds for various implementations. Prof. Raghavan advised that NKN's reach should expand so as to reach every educational institution; introduce search engines

that would mimic the librarian's role; offer educational backbone for citizens and introduce new creators of aggregated content.

XII   SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

DELNET continued to provide DELPLUS, the library management software developed by DELNET to libraries free of charge. DELNET also developed a customised version of Koha, the open source library management software. Regional training programmes on Koha were being organised by DELNET.

DELNET has been working on offering an online training portal on Koha. It is almost ready and will be launched soon.

XIII   DELNET CONSORTIUM

The accreditation authorities in India, like AICTE, want the libraries of accredited and approved institutions to subscribe to a sufficient number of key journals in print/ electronic formats so that students and teachers in those institutions get access to the latest information and knowledge resources on the subjects of their interest. By modernising libraries and subscribing to the necessary and sufficient number of journals in print/electronic forms, the institutions get additional weightage in the accreditation processes. There has been a long-term demand of member-libraries that DELNET should start a consortium so that access to E-journals and E-books could be arranged at a lower price. Keeping these suggestions in mind, we entered into an arrangement with Balani Infotech Pvt. Ltd. to provide the following E-journals and E-books at a much lower charge:

1.   ebrary Business Package (E-books) – 7100+ titles

2.   H.W. Wilson Business Package (E-journals) – 498+ journals

3.   ebrary Engineering & IT Package (E-books) – 3500+ titles

4.   ebrary Computer & IT Package (E-books) – 3300+ titles

5.   H.W. Wilson Applied Science (E-journals) – 211+ journals

6.   ebrary Humanities Package (e-books) – 1800+ titles

7.   H.W. Wilson Humanities Package (E-journals) – 292+ journals

XIV   WORKSHOPS, ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES and LECTURES

14.1   Workshops

National Workshop on "Koha : An Open Source Integrated Library System" was organised from May 18-20, 2009 in collaboration with the Amrita School of Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham at ASE, Bengaluru.

Another workshop on "Modernisation of College Libraries in Jammu and Kashmir State" was organised in collobration with the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar from July 27-29, 2009 at the University of Kashmir, Sringar.

14.2   Orientation Programmes

A one-day orientation programme in collaboration with the Amrita School of Engineering, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Bengaluru was organised on May 21, 2009.

It was followed by another one-day orientation programme organised in collaboration with SRM University, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu on May 23, 2009.

A one-day orientation programme was also organised on June 5, 2009 in collaboration with Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal.

An orientation programme on DELNET and a session on KOHA was organised for library professionals working in Delhi Public School Libraries in India and outside on February 4, 2010.

14.3   Lectures

14.3.1   DELNET organised a lecture by Dr. Caroline M. Stern of Ferris State University, U.S.A. on 'Information Literacy Competencies: New Directions' on August 6, 2009 at the India International Centre. Prof. Stern was looking at teaching institutions as international bodies and hoped that they certified students to be competent only when the students had gained specific and stated skills and were conversant with the knowledge bases in their disciplines besides having general information on education. Dr. Stern noted that competency in information literacy would include the accreditation of institutions as well as ranking of students, both at entry level and exit level. Referring to the quality of students, Dr. Stern said there is a need to assess what the students already knew or should know and what knowledge base they would need to succeed. As expense was involved in acquiring education, there should be a justification to support it. In view of this, Dr. Stern advised that each institution should devise direct teaching strategies, students be organised in learning groups and proper teaching resources be identified. She referred to the standards and indicators that were identified by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in the United States. Among the standards ACRL should stress are recognising the need of information, identification of potential sources of information, development of effective search strategies and the evaluation of information critically. Dr. Stern mentioned that in doing so there were indicators which needed to be kept in mind which would include effective use of information and understanding of the ethical, legal and social guidelines in doing so. Dr. Stern affirmed that one should think beyond cognitive skills and take into account Bloom's taxonomy of cognitive skills which included Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation.

Dr. Stern affirmed to three-point trait ranks comprising Emergent; Satisfactory and Proficient on the scale and four-point scale comprising Unacceptable; Developing; Acceptable and Proficient. Dr. Stern gave an example of the University of Maryland where evaluation of research skills and skills to use Internet resources is done.

Keeping the developments in mind, Dr. Stern advised that the librarians should also use the classrooms and not just the libraries. She felt that the librarians should collaborate with the faculty in undertaking research, assess information literacy (IL) skills of students; integrate IL skills into the curriculum and make them part of the writing or speech projects. Dr. Stern referred to case studies; IL assignments; editing of Web pages and concluded by saying that sharing of information could make us all better teachers.

14.3.2 Janice R. Lachance delivered a lecture on 'Advocating for the Value of Information Professionals in the Workplace' on October 7, 2009. It was organised in collaboration with the Asian Chapter – Special Libraries Association (SLA). Dr. Lechance began her talk by introducing the functions of SLA and said that the Special Libraries Association (SLA) was basically an association of libraries and a network of people, professionals and organisations. She observed that the members of SLA were the ones who were at the intersection of information and effective decision-making. They took information and turned it into knowledge that was actionable by decision makers, colleagues, students, faculty and whoever our customers are.

Dr. Lechance maintained that the digital revolution had changed just about everything. But it posed a challenge to find out how to sift through such large amounts of information and how to find what was relevant, useful, and important to users. She added that the newest subject matter division at SLA was devoted exclusively to taxonomy and developments in that field. She stressed the need for technical skills to exploit information. Dr. Lrechance was of the opinion that networking of libraries was important: Connectivity among librarians was essential in finding the right information for solving problems and highlighting the value special librarians bring to the workplace.

Dr. Lechance referred to the alignment project of SLA which came out with five major findings of the project. These findings were First: Librarians and information professionals should do more than just connecting. They should provide context and analysis that turned information into knowledge and ultimately to results; Second: The corporate executives valued good information to resonate the critical audience of the top boss. Information professionals must make the connection between their product and their company's strategic goals; Third: Information professionals should promote rather than defend value-driven benefits. Heads of institutions want to know and learn about the additional tools you have mastered that would enrich and expand upon their findings and the professional network that is available to you as a librarian that you can tap into. This increases the credibility of librarians and information professionals; Fourth: In the US there was a major controversy over the word 'Librarian'. The study revealed

that the word 'Librarian' conveyed a mixed message. Fifth: Information professionals must focus on in-value results, accountability, and leadership in service. They should not forget that they could save people's time, people's money and they could help them to be successful.

While concluding, Dr. Lechance affirmed that organisations like DELNET and SLA were working hard to enhance the profiles of libraries and professionals. She added that in today's world of information explosion what you say and how you say it was more important. No matter where we lived or where we worked, it was fair to say that all of us want to be in a world where decisions made are based on knowledge, where information is shared freely and efficiently and where professionals who work every day to organise information and make it available to people who need it are valued and appreciated.

XV   STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

15.1   Visits Abroad

15.1.1   I participated in the Rethinking Resource Sharing Conference in Dublin, Ohio from May 13-14, 2009. The conference was held at OCLC in Dublin. The following main issues emerged out of the deliberations that interest us:

In a library network, the products created and the services offered should result in the gain for actual users, librarians, managements and the concerned governments that are interested in providing necessary and sufficient information resources to users. DELNET is precisely working on this model. However, there is a need to identify the types of member-libraries and make an analysis of their needs and wants, and the services DELNET can offer. In this task the librarians of member-libraries have to join hands with DELNET. We have to identify the real demands and then find the way services should be offered periodically.

I noticed also that there was the need to look ahead and evolve system designs. These system designs should recognise variations. Seek robust methods that work well under a wide variety of circumstances. Also, understand the need to adopt new technologies and methods in order to change. Most of the time the users of member-libraries do not know how documents-they-need reach them, though DELNET responds fast to the needs of users of member-libraries and serves them through libraries. We are making every effort to serve users better and we hope that the librarians appreciate this. One of the issues that emerged at the conference repeatedly was to identify the most common issues and the most painful issues in resource sharing. In solving them the consensus was that in addition to the librarians the involvement of the heads of institutions was necessary. We would prefer to adopt a model in which the librarians are associated in resource sharing work. Finally, the proactive librarians who help in resource sharing under all types of circumstances matter immensely.

In communicating with librarians and in communications among librarians they should all use the language and terminology that is comprehensible to users. There is a need to have operational definitions of all measurements/activities in each process. The language we use may differ from the users' language. Also, the measurement in each process focuses attention on various aspects of each process. Identify the lacunae in each process and solve them.

It was noticed that the use of technologies was commendable but whenever good opportunities came they were found to cost little but gave much in return. This meant support from proactive librarians and pro-active heads of institutions needed to be respected and appreciated. It was possible to improve the measurement at the expense of the process. When improvement in the measurement was observed, ask "What was done?" Therefore, it was not necessary to wait for outcomes to force one to change the systems. Outcomes came too late and were too expensive to change. At times it was therefore necessary to move upstream to make improvements.

It was also observed that in a library network, one should avoid benchmarking services and goals without a plan and completion between units (people). Human capital was the most important part in DELNET infrastructure. We need to look into the training of DELNET staff, librarians and users of member-libraries on a regular basis.

One of the issues that is being considered was the adoption of the 'Home-Delivery-Service" Model for users of member-libraries provided:

a.   the library of which the user is a member wants you to provide this service;

b.   the publishers/booksellers/distributors cooperate with DELNET in providing books to users of member-libraries at a special low rate for sale or return basis;

c.   the catalogue of such new titles is made available to users through a special union catalogue; and

d.   the user or some other agency is prepared to pay courier charges.

This model seems to be lofty at this stage. We have to look out to the future and see how member-libraries benefit and how do they serve their users well.

I had a meeting with the senior officers of OCLC at Kilgour Centre on May 15, 2009. I gave an overview of the work done by DELNET, plans for the future and library scenario in India.

I also had a meeting with Mr. Jim Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asian Collection; Mr. Samip Malick; Assistant Bibliographer for Southern Asia and Mr. James Simon, Director of International Resources of the University of Chicago.

I   gave an overview of the DELNET resources and services and the officers explained the type of work they were involved with. It was noticed that they were interested in receiving digital copies of articles that have been published in language journals in the country. There has not been progress on this issue because of the copyright issued involved.

15.1.2 Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager participated in the IFLA's 11th Interlending and Document Supply Conference entitled "Strategic Alliances and Partnerships in Interlending and Document Supply" from October 20-22, 2009 at Hannover, Germany and presented her paper at the conference. The Conference was organised by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Goportis. It was hosted by Goportis, the network of the German National Libraries - German National Library of Science & Technology (TIB), The German National Library of Medicine (ZBMED) and the National Library of Economics (ZBW). The issues discussed at the conference which concern us included IFLA's Document Delivery and Resource Sharing programmes.

From the report received from the Network Manager the conference focused on the gap between the expectations of the users, availability of resources and the capabilities of libraries that widened with each passing day. There was a need to restructure the library services enhancing the speed, quality and productivity of the library services and to redefine the information supply for the future R& D environment. The need for subject librarians and information analysis librarians was highlighted. Cooperation in document supply and inter-lending was considered to be important even at the international level. Prof. Mike McGrath, Editor of Inter-lending & Document Supply, Leeds said that 40 – 70 per cent of electronic titles were unused. It was reported that the book loans were increasing worldwide though the DDS was declining. It was considered that much of science was not googleable. The deep Web which contained scientific information remained untapped. It was reported that the National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague had in its collection the heaviest book weighing 70 kgs and the oldest print "Gotenberg Bible" of 1454. Dr. Sangeeta Kaul gave a presentation on "DELNET-The Functional Resource Sharing Library Network : A Success Story from India". The conference deliberated on a range of issues including copyright issues and clearing rights for out-of-print and orphan works in order to facilitate Digital Document Delivery services.

15.2 Membership of Panels /Committees

A. Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET was associated with the following Committees/Boards/Groups:

1.   Chairman, Committee on Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) Project, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi

2.   Chairman, Recruitment and Assessment Boards, DRDO, 2010.

3.   Chairman, PRSG for "Setting up Repository of Digitised Data under the Digital Library Initiative" being implemented by ERNET, India. Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology, Government of India. August 2009. 2009

4.   Chairman, PRSG for "Development of Web Portal and Digitisation of Manuscripts, Journals, Books and Documents Pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi" by CDAC-Noida.", Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology, Government of India. From July 2009

5.   Chairman, PRSG for "Digital Library Mega Centre: Content Creation in Tibetan, Sanskrit and English", Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology, Government of India. From July 2009.

6.   Expert member, CSIR Assessment Committee for Scientific and Technical Staff.

7.   Member, Advisory Board, National Library, Calcutta 2009.

8.   Member, Governing Council, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkim.

9.   Member, Kala Nidhi Reference Library Advisory Committee, and Programme Advisory Committee, IGNCA.

15.3   Lectures Delivered

A.   Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET chaired /delivered talks at the following meetings:

1.   Chaired the   session at the National Conference on Public Libraries which was organised from April 1-3, 2009 by Librarians' Cultural Forum at the India International Centre, New Delhi

2.   Delivered lectures on the following topics at the Manipur University on July 20-21, 2009

        (i)   Networking Knowledge: The Role of Libraries

        (ii)   Networking of Digital Resources in India

        (iii)   Library Networking in the New Millennium

3.   Delivered keynote lectures on the following topics at the Department of Library and Information Science and the

Administrative Staff College, University of Kashmir on July 27-28, 2009

    (i)   Library Networking : Emerging Trends

    (ii)   Networking Knowledge in the New Millennium

4.   Chaired the ILA Panel Discussion on "Paradigm Shift in Library Services: An Assessment" September 5, 2009. Exhibition Grounds, New Delhi

5.   Delivered the inaugural address at the IFLA/FAIFE Workshop on Libraries as Transparency Institutions at the Punjabi University, Patiala on November 17, 2009.

6.   Delivered the following lectures at the National Library and Archives of Bhutan on November 23, 2009

    (i)   Networking Knowledge in the New Millennium

    (ii)   Networking Knowledge: The Role of a National Library

B.   Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager completed her Ph. D. from the University of Pune this year. Warmest congratulations to her. She also delivered the following lectures:

1.   Lecture delivered on Koha software during DELNET Workshop on Koha organised at Amrita School of Engineering, Bangalore from May 18-20, 2009.

2.   Lecture delivered on DELNET during DELNET One Day Orientation Programme organised at Amrita School of Engineering, Bangalore on May 21, 2009.

3.   Lecture delivered on DELNET during DELNET One Day Orientation Programme at SRM University, Kuttankulathur, Kancheepuram District on May 23, 2009.

4.   Lectures delivered on Koha software during DELNET workshop on Koha for the RRRLF staff members held at RRRLF, Kolkata from June 1-3, 2009.

5.   Lectures delivered on DELNET and Koha software during DELNET One Day Orientation Programme held at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal on June 5, 2009.

6.   Lectures delivered on MARC 21 and Koha on July 20-21, 2009 during a UGC sponsored Refresher Course in Library and

Information Science organised by UGC-ASC, Manipal University, at Manipur University, Imphal.

7. Delivered Lectures on MARC 21 and Koha from July 27-29, 2009 during the DELNET workshop on "Modernisation and Networking of College Libraries in the State of J&K" held at Dept of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, Kashmir.

8. Conducted a tutorial on Koha on September 22, 2009 during NACLIN 2009 at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

9. A lecture delivered on "DELNET Services" on November 10, 2009 during a training course on " IT application for Information Management in Medical Libraries' organised by NIHFW, New Delhi.

10. A lecture delivered on "DELNET Services" on February 4, 2010 for Delhi Public School Librarians, organised at DELNET, New Delhi.

11. A lecture delivered on "DELNET Services" on February 10, 2010 at NIHFW during a training programme.

XVI   PUBLICATIONS

1   Kaul, H. K. The Growing Universe of Knowledge: Networking Scenarios. In Kaul, H. K. and Anand, V. K. Knowledge, Library and Information Networking: NACLIN 2009. Papers of the Twelfth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2009) held at Panjab University, Chandigarh. New Delhi: DELNET – Developing Library Network, 2009. pp. 95-108.

2. Kaul, H. K. and Anand, V. K. Knowledge, Library and Information Networking: NACLIN 2009. Papers of the Twelfth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2009) held at Panjab University, Chandigarh. New Delhi: DELNET – Developing Library Network, 20010. xxviii, 443p.

3. Kaul, H.K. National Library and Archives of Bhutan: Modernisation and Networking of Libraries: the Report. New Delhi: DELNET, 2010. 57 p.

4. Kaul, Sangeeta. NACLIN 2009: A Report. In Kaul, H. K. and Anand, V. K. Knowledge, Library and Information Networking: NACLIN 2009. Papers of the Twelfth National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN 2009) held at Panjab University, Chandigarh. New Delhi: DELNET – Developing Library Network, 2009. pp. 430-440.

5.   Kaul, Sangeeta. DELNET-The Functional Resource Sharing Library Network : A Success Story from India. Paper presented at IFLA's 11th Interlending and Document Supply Conference held from October 20-22, 2009 at Hannover, Germany.

6.   Kaul, Sangeeta. DELNET-The Functional Resource Sharing Library Network : A Success Story from India. Interlending and Document Supply. Vol 38(2), 2010.

7.   Kaul, Sangeeta. NACLIN 2009 : A Report. DELNET Newsletter. Vol 16(1&2), December 2009. pp 1-7.

8.   Kaul, Sangeeta. ILDS 2009. DELNET Newsletter. Vol 16(1&2), December 2009. pp 14-16.

XVII   BIENNIAL ELECTIONS

DELNET has been holding its biennial elections regularly. The election process has already started. We hope that by May 2010 the process will be completed.

XVIII ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am also obliged to the Heads of member-institutions who collaborated with DELNET in organising Workshops and Orientation Programmes. Also I am thankful to the Librarians - Mr. K.K. Suresh, Librarian, Amrita School of Engineering, Bengaluru; Dr. P. Rajendran, Librarian, SRM University, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Subodh Gopal Nandi, Librarian, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan who acted as local coordinators for the programmes. Also I am thankful to their administration.

I am grateful to the India International Centre, especially the Director Dr. Kavita Sharma, Chief Programme Division Ms. P. Ghose, Programme Officer Ms. Lalswmliai Tochhawng, and Librarian Mrs. Sushma Zutshi for their help in organising joint programmes.

The efforts made by Dr. V. K. Anand, the Organising Secretary, NACLIN 2009 in managing the National Convention operations at Panjab University, Chandigarh were painstaking. I am grateful to him and his staff for their work and interest in NACLIN.

DELNET staff contribute to the growth of DELNET. They perform with dedication and hard work. I also greatly appreciate their contributions in making ILL and DDS popular and am obliged to all of them. My thanks are also due to the Network Manager Dr. Sangeeta Kaul who looks after day-to-day operations with great care and efficiency. I would also like to thank Mr. O. N. Safapuri, Consultant, DELNET Coordination Unit in Bangalore for his genuine efforts in managing ILL and Document Delivery services and the staff members at the Bangalore Unit.
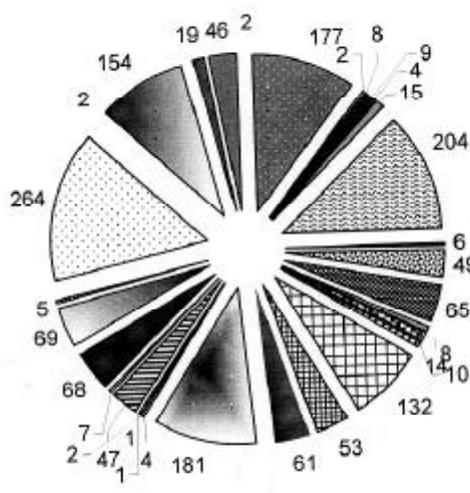
<div align="right">

H.K. Kaul
Director

</div>

March 31, 2010

**DELNET Members as on March 31, 2010 - 1709**

1. India	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
Andhra Pradesh	177
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	8
Bihar	9
Chandigarh	4
Chhattisgarh	15
Delhi	204
Goa	6
Gujarat	49
Haryana	65
Himachal Pradesh	8
Jammu & Kashmir	14
Jharkand	10
Karnataka	132
Kerala	53
Madhya Pradesh	61
Maharashtra	181
Manipur	4
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	2
Nagaland	1
Orissa	47
Puducherry	7
Punjab	68
Rajasthan	69
Sikkim	5
Tamil Nadu	264
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	154
Uttarakhand	19
West Bengal	46

2. Outside India	
Nepal	2
Oman	3
Pakistan	1
Philippines	1
Sri Lanka	6
United Arab Emirates	3
USA	4
Total	**1709**

Geographical Distribution

INDIA
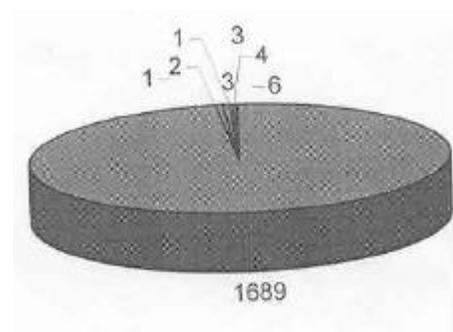
Subject-wise Breakup

General	359
Science and Technology	1138
Social Sciences	183
Humanities	29
Total	**1709**

Subject-Wise Breakuup
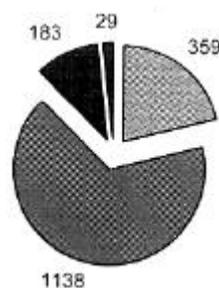
Types of Libraries

Academic		1494
Universities	106	
Colleges	731	
Institutes	564	
Departments	17	
Centres	53	
Schools	23	
Research/Special		121
Public Libraries		7
Government Libraries		36
Libraries of Diplomatic Missions/UN Agencies		8
Miscellaneous including Trusts		43
Total		**1709**
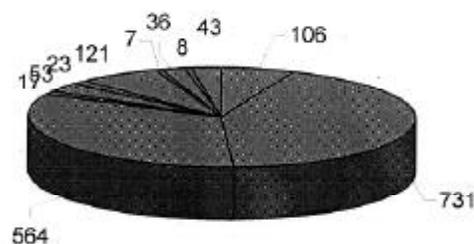
Growth of DELNET Membership

23
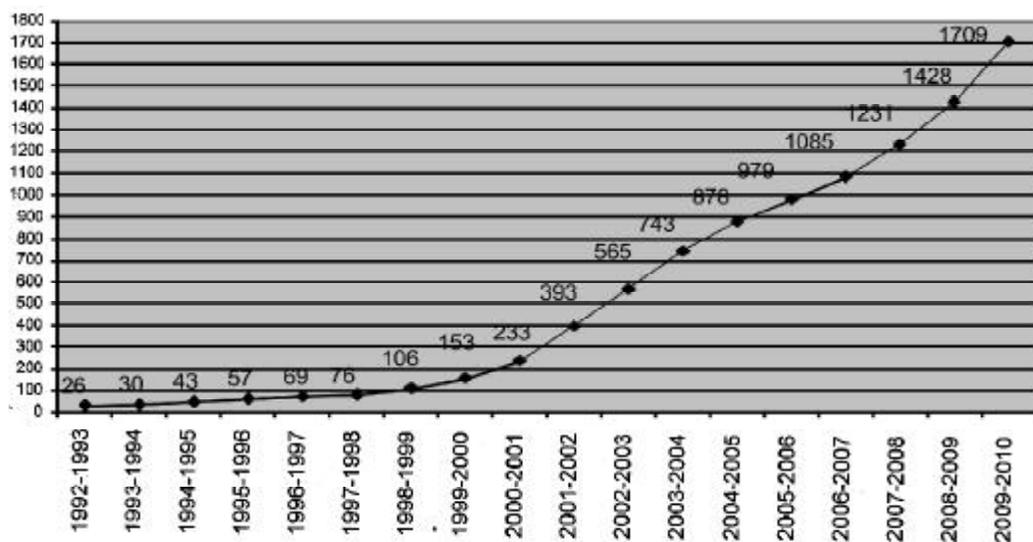
List of Databases currently provided by DELNET as on March 31, 2010

DELNET Databases

The current status of the records available in the union catalogues, union lists and other databases being compiled by DELNET as follows:

1.	Union Catalogue of Books	83,69,299
2.	Union Catalogue of Periodicals	20,235
3.	Union List of Current Periodicals	33,510
4.	Articles database	9,12,042
5.	E-books database	1,613
6.	CD-ROM Database	11,715
7.	Union List of Video Recordings	5,000
8.	Union List of Sound Recordings	748
9.	Database of Theses and Dissertations	48,621
	Total:	**94,02,783**

DIRECTOR'S   REPORT

2009-2010

delnet

DEVELOPING LIBRARY NETWORK

JNU Campus, Nelson Mandela Road
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

Office-bearers

1. Dr. S. Varadarajan   President
2. Dr. S. S. Murthy   Vice-President
3. Dr. H. K. Kaul   Director
4. Dr. Harish Chandra   Hon. Treasurer

Members of the DELNET Governing Board

1. Dr. S. Varadarajan   *President*

2. Dr. S. S. Murthy   *Vice-President*

3. Dr. H. K. Kaul   *Director*

4. Dr. Harish Chandra, Librarian, IIT Madras   *Hon. Treasurer*

5. Mr. N. Ravi Shanker, Joint Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India.

6. Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

7. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi

8. Director-General, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi

9. Dr. G. H. S. Naidu, Librarian, Central Library, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

10. Director, NASSDOC, New Delhi

Research Advisory Committee

1. Dr. S. Varadarajan   Chairman
2. Dr. Uma Kanjilal
3. Mr. Steven Kerchoff
4. Dr. A. L. Moorthy
5. Mr. H. Madhava Reddy
6. Dr. H. K. Kaul

Research Advisory Committee

1. Dr. S. Varadarajan   Chairman
2. Dr. Uma Kanjilal
3. Mr. Steven Kerchoff
4. Dr. A. L. Moorthy
5. Mr. H. Madhava Reddy
6. Dr. H. K. Kaul