Role of INFLIBNET in Growth and Development of

Higher Education in India

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Our Indian higher education system is very large in the world. From the ancient period education was there, but after independent its growth and development is very high. Several school, colleges, research institutes and Universities are established by government and also private agencies. All these institutions all over the country to generate and disseminate knowledge coupled with the noble intention of providing easy access to higher education to the common Indian.

The development of a country relies highly on the Education policy followed in that country. The development rate will be high only if quality higher education is given to the people. Education has been seen as the foundation in a person's life. The most important and urgent reform needed in education, is to transform it, to endeavor to relate it to the life, needs and aspirations of the people, and thereby make it a powerful instrument of the social, economic and cultural transformation necessary for the realization of the national goals. Education is the very basic need of the society. Without education, usage, invention and advancements in different fields will not be possible. Higher education plays a vital role in creating a knowledgeable

society. Higher educational institutions and organizations work for a creating knowledgeable society. Progress towards a knowledge-based society and economy will require that universities, as centers of knowledge creation, and their partners in society and government, give Knowledge Management their full attention. Universities teaching a curriculum and syllabus based education "by the book", may not solve the complex questions of the future, but by Knowledge Management. Our aim is to make the Universities perform well in the future, using Knowledge portals. (Anand Kumar & Uma, 2012)

The UGC, however, was formally established only in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Government of India through an Act of Parliament for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education in India. In order to ensure effective region-wise coverage throughout the country, the UGC has decentralized its operations by setting up six regional centers at Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bhopal, Guwahati and Bangalore.

Modern Indian higher education is passing through the phase of Information/Knowledge revolution. In satisfying ever growing information needs of academic community, the Library and Information Networks are playing a great role through resource sharing. In the development of higher education INFLIBNET's role is very important from the post independent period. INFLIBNET centre is a boon of Indian Higher education. (Karn & Das, 2009)

INFLIBNET Centre

Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. It is a major National Programme initiated by the UGC in 1991 with its Head Quarters at Gujarat University Campus, Ahmedabad. Initially started as a project under the IUCAA, it became an independent Inter-

University Centre in 1996. INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connecting them as well as information centers in the country through a nation-wide high speed data network using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilization of information. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India. (INFLIBNET, 2014) In the umbrella of INFLIBNET many services and activities are run for the development of Indian higher education to the each and every people of India.

Services and Activities:

INFLIBNET fulfill the objectives are made beginning of the establishment by the UGC and MHRD. It is good signal of development of higher education of India. Following activities and services fulfill the objectives through the library development programme and support to higher education in India.

Database Management

INFLIBNET started Union catalogue of Books, serials, theses, experts and research projects. Its name is IndCat (Online union catalogue of Indian Universities). In the IndCat books database 157 universities are participated from 2004 and current records of books are 12804667. In Theses database 257 universities are participated and 253312 unique theses records are there. In Serials database 213 universities are participated and unique records are 33184. VIDWAN is the premier database of profiles of scientists / researchers and other faculty members working at leading R & D organization and other Academic Institutions involved in teaching and research in India. In the VIDWAN database 12000+ experts from various subjects and institutions.

Networking and Quality Control

In this activity INFLIBNET created for promoting R & D activities in area of Networking and Quality management. It is to manage, maintain and timely update the campus wide Network and UGC INFONET. In UGC INFONET 200 universities are covered .But this project is closed on 31st March 2012. This activity is working progressively for implementing Total Quality Control (TQC) for in-house developed software. Training /workshop in the area of network management, security design and state-of-the-art technologies for library professionals across the country is being initiated by the group.

Software Research & Development

Software Research & Development is to develop library automation software and its future development of new technology concern to library automation activities in libraries. INFLIBNET develop the SOUL library automation software for the each type of libraries. 2708 libraries are used SOUL software in India as on 31st March 2013. (SOUL, 2014) And also supported utility software are provides to the libraries for the development of library automation process.

Human Resource Development

Human resource development process is very important for the any country for its development of each area. So, INFLIBNET also support to the institutions, colleges, and universities to train their library staff under seminars, workshops, training courses, IRTPLA (INFLIBNET Regional Training Program in Library Automation), CALIBER and PLANNER programme every year. Other many training programs are conducted collaboration of other institutions in India. It's very important to library development programme of libraries.

Manpower is critical factor for library effectiveness. It is necessary to equip library manpower with all the knowledge, skills, and capabilities needed to handle library operations in the new digital environment. (Devi & Singh, 2006)

Open Source Software

Open source software are computer programs in which the source code is made available to the general public for use and /or modification from its original design free of charge, i.e. open. There no. of open source software are made available in the world. Centre worked on open source software concern with the library and information science. Centre also support to develop Institutional Repository. INFLIBNET centre also create electronic theses and dissertations database for the researchers. It is fully open to the readers all over the world.

N-LIST (NLIST, 2014)

The Project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content (N-LIST)", being jointly executed by the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INFLIBNET Centre and the INDEST-AICTE Consortium, IIT Delhi provides for i) cross-subscription to e-resources subscribed by the two Consortia, i.e. subscription to INDEST-AICTE resources for universities and UGCINFONET resources for technical institutions; and ii) access to selected e-resources to colleges. The N-LIST project provides access to e-resources to students, researchers and faculty from colleges and other beneficiary institutions through server(s) installed at the INFLIBNET Centre. The authorized users from colleges can now access e-resources and download articles required by them directly from the publisher's website once they are duly authenticated as authorized users through servers deployed at the INFLIBNET Centre. As on 27th January 2014 from all over India 3214 libraries are members.

Shodhganga (Shodhganga, 2014)

This project is very important for the researcher. Theses and dissertations are known to be the rich and unique source of information, often the only source of research work that does not find its way into various publication channels. Theses and dissertations remain an un-tapped and under-utilized asset, leading to unnecessary duplication and repetition that, in effect, is the anti-theses of research and wastage of huge resources, both human and financial. Shodhganga stands for the reservoir of Indian intellectual output stored in a repository hosted and maintained by the INFLIBNET Centre. Current status of Shodhganga is 155 universities are participated and 13036 theses are uploaded as on 27th January 2014.

Open Journal System

"Scholars need the means to launch a new generation of journals committed to open access, and to help existing journals that elect to make the transition to open access…". Open Journal Systems (OJS) is a journal management and publishing system that has been developed by the Public Knowledge Project through its federally funded efforts to expand and improve access to research. (PKP, 2014) In open journal system 14 open access journals are available for the researchers. (OJAS, 2014)

InfoPortal: A Subject Gateway (INFOPORTAL, 2014)

The INFLIBNET Centre promotes open access to Indian scholarly content through the InfoPort: A Subject Gateway for Indian Electronic-Resources. InfoPort is a well-known subject gateway developed by MIMAS, UK, the InfoPort is designed and developed to serve as a comprehensive gateway to all Indian scholarly content. Only these data is available those e-resources are from India. In this gateway total 1735 recourses are available now.

E-Pathshala (MHRD, 2014)

The MHRD, under its National Mission on Education through ICT (NME-ICT), has assigned work to the UGC for development of e-content in 77 subjects at postgraduate level. 416 modules are available to post graduate students. The content and its quality is the key component of education system. High quality, curriculum-based, interactive content in different subjects across all disciplines of social sciences, arts, fine arts & humanities, natural & mathematical sciences, linguistics and languages is being developed under this initiative named e-PG Pathshala.

UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium (INFONET, 2014)

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003. In this consortium 419 universities are benefited. More than 7500 full text e recourses are available from 20+ international publishers to member universities and 5+ types of bibliographic database available under the subscription.

Conclusion:

In the importance of higher education every country library and information centre's role is very important. Because without library and information resources cannot be implementing, develop and grow the education system and policy. So, Indian Govt. decides the setup the INFLIBNET centre in Ahmedabad in 1991. And its objectives are to promote and establish communication facilities to improve capability in information transfer and access, which provide support to scholarship, learning, research and academic pursuit through cooperation and involvement of agencies concerned. Information and Library Network a computer communication network for linking libraries and information centers in universities, deemed to

be universities, colleges, UGC information centers, institutions of national importance and R & D institutions, etc. avoiding duplication of efforts. And many more objectives are keeping in front of supporting the higher education of India. All services, activities and sources of INFLIBNET to help the education.

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