Design and Development of Bihar and Jharkhand Library Network __MKS.pdf

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DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF BIHAR AND JHARKHAND LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORK (BIJLIBNET)

A PROPOSED MODEL

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ABSTRACT

The present paper describes about the proposal of design and development of a Regional Library and Information Network of Bihar and Jharkhand States (BIJLIBNET) which would cater to the need of accelerating the process of developing Library and Information Network for the States like Bihar and Jharkhand where the development in the area of Library automation and networking is slow. In spite of the fact that INFLIBNET Centre (an Inter-University Centre of UGC has been provided financial assistance to university libraries of Bihar and Jharkhand during IX plan period for infrastructural development and modernization of university libraries but no substantial progress has been made for automation and networking of university libraries and other LICs associated with institutions of higher learning.

The first part of paper highlights the brief account of library networks for resource sharing, aim and objectives, factors responsible for initiation of establishing library and information networks in India, development of networks in India. Whereas the second part of the paper describes about the proposal for design and development of Bihar and Jharkhand Library and Information Network (BIJLIBNET) with various facets for resources sharing in the remote areas of Bihar and Jharkhand in real sense for the over all development of the society. In the age of Open Access, Open Source and Open Libraries, the need of establishing such network at Regional level has been increased. It is the responsibility of the LIS professionals of Bihar and Jharkhand to come forward and discuss various issues from different angles to establish such a network in this remote part of the country.

Key Words: Library and Information Networks, Resource Sharing, Information Sharing, INFLIBNET, BIJLIBNET, National, Regional and Local Networks, Bihar and Jharkhand

1. INTRODUCTION

Considerable progress has been made in the areas of library networking in India. Several local, metropolitan, regional and national level library networks have already been established in India for resource sharing. A number of library and information networks have been established in
India during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Gradually many national, regional and metropolitan /city library and information networks like INFLIBNET, DELNET, ADINET, CALIBNET, MALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BOMNET, PUNENET, CSIRNET, and other general networks for e-governance and higher education are NICNET and ERNET which have started coming up. These networks are playing an important role in collection, organisation of information and their retrievals and dissemination. Due to financial crisis and resource crunch in Government as well as in private sector emphasis was given on the idea of resource sharing among the libraries and information centers.

The main purpose of all these networks is to acquire reading materials collectively, avoid duplication, consortia approach for costly foreign journals and databases, maximum utilization of reading materials available in libraries of a particular locality or region by the users. Since the no steps have been initiated to establish a Regional Network covering entire North Eastern Region of India, in the present paper an attempt has been taken to put forward a proposal for the design and development of North Eastern Library & Information Network (NELIBNET) to look into the sharing of resources and information amongst these eight states in particular and entire country in general for the greater interest of the N E Region of India.

In last two decades the concept of library and information networks in India has been introduced and the LIS (Library and Information Professionals) have started thinking about the resource sharing and consortia approach for acquisition and use of library resources either in print and electronic medium and other resources like manpower and equipments etc. In this direction Govt. of India has established NICNET and NISSAT, and CMC also established INDONET, which have introduced the concept of networking of organisations. Therefore professionals’ bodies like ILA, IASLIC have started promoting the benefits of library networks and concept of consortia approach for collection development and its utilizations by the academic communities.

A number of library and information networks have been established in India during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Gradually many national, regional and metropolitan /city library and information networks like INFLIBNET, DELNET, ADINET, CALIBNET, MALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BOMNET, PUNENET, CSIRNET, and other general networks for e-governance and higher education are NICNET and ERNET which have started coming up. These networks are playing an important role in collection, organisation of information and their retrievals and dissemination. Due to financial crisis and resource crunch in Government as well as in private sector emphasis was given on the idea of resource sharing among the libraries and information centres.

In the present paper an attempt has been taken to give a proposal for developing Regional Library and Information Network of Bihar and Jharkhand for automation and networking of college, university and other technical institutions libraries for resource sharing and optimum utilization of resources available in those libraries.

1.1 Information Infrastructure for Sharing of Information in LICs of Academic, Technical / Special Libraries

Adequate information infrastructure is required in any university/ technical / special institutional libraries for sharing of information at regional, National and International or global level. These library is equipped with the latest Information Communication Technologies gadgets having fully automated/ computerised library housekeeping operations and LIS services for end users; campus wide network, well connected to the Internet either by V-SAT, Lease Line, Radio frequency or by Broad Band Dial-up connection; and also having access to the digital or e-resources like e-journals, On-line Databases, CD-ROM Databases and Online Bibliographic services provided...
by the Library & Information Networks like INFLIBNET, DELNET etc. In such modernised library
and information centres sharing of information among the universities/ institutions is possible across
the country or world may be under consortia agreement or under open access of scholarly
communication in STM and other discipline.

Indian university and institutional libraries are in hybrid stage where both computers based
and manual library and information services are being offered to their clientele. According to a
survey of ICT application of university libraries in India conducted by Sinha, 2004, the actual
implementation of the INFLIBNET programme has been taken into account. This study reveals that
most of the university libraries covered under this programme (142 university Libraries) have
developed adequate information infrastructure for extending computerized library and information
services (Sinha, 2004). Besides this, about 171 university libraries have been covered under UGC-
INFONET E-Journals/ Digital Library Consortium Programme, which is under direct monitoring of
INFLIBNET for access to 4500+ scholarly e-journals and electronic on-line databases for the
academic community for quality research output (Sinha, 2008).

1.2 Library Networks and Resource Sharing
On the basis of sponsoring agencies, following library & information networks can be categorized /
classified (Sinha and Sahay, 2006, Sinha, 2008):

**General Network**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NICNET</td>
<td>National Informatics Centre Network, Planning Commission, Govt. of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDONET</td>
<td>CMC, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COALNET</td>
<td>Coal India Ltd., 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNET</td>
<td>Education and Research Network, Dept. of Electronics, Govt. of India connects Academic Institutions, IISC/IITS, Dept of Electronics, Delhi, National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) Bombay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIRNET</td>
<td>Scientific and Industrial Research Network. Connects Major National Research Laboratories Under CSIR/INSDOC</td>
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**NISSAT Sponsored Library and Information Networks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CALIBNET</td>
<td>Calcutta Library Network, 1998 – INSDOC Regional Centre, Calcutta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUNENET</td>
<td>Poona, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADINET</td>
<td>Ahmedabad Library Network. Ahmedabad, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALINET</td>
<td>Madras Library Network, INSDOC, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BONET</td>
<td>Bombay Library Network, 1992, NCST NISSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALNET</td>
<td>Bangalore Library Network, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYLIBNET</td>
<td>Mysore Library Network</td>
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**UGC - Sponsored Library Network**

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<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>INFLIBNET</td>
<td>Information &amp; Library Network, Ahmedabad, 1988</td>
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</table>
1.3 Factors of Library Networking in India

There has been a spurt in activities on library networks development in the recent past. Some of the factors responsible for the promotion and support of such efforts in India are (Sinha and Satpathy, 2004):

- Growth in awareness of the need for resource sharing;
- All round resource crunch;
- Increase in computer installations, access facilities in library environment and Enhancement of the skills of library professionals;
- Improvement in computer communication facilities within and across geographical regions, and availability of general data networks like NICNET (Planning Commission);
- INDONET (Computer Maintenance Corporation) and more recently the INET (Department of Telecommunications);
- Creation of facilities of Electronic Mail by the ERNET (Department of Electronics), SIRNET (network of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research maintained by INSDOC) and more recently the ICNET, SPRINTMAIL etc. in private sector.

1.4 Development of Library Network in India

The library network development in India has taken the following three broad directions:

- Development of Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN) in cities like Bombay (BONET), Calcutta (CALIBNET), Delhi (DENET), Madras (MALIBNET), Pune (PUNENET) and Ahmedabad (ADINET) and Hyderabad (HYLIBNET).
- Development of countrywide networks like the INFLIBNET (for University libraries), DESINET (for Defense laboratories) and NISSAT (National Information System for Science and Technology).
- Development of sectoral facilities like the BTISNET (Biotechnology Information System Network), and the proposed ones for oil and natural gas, management science and environment.

1.5 Problems of Networking

- Standard for Data Conversion;
- Apprehension of over use of library
- Financial Constraints;
- Library Software issues;
- Manpower Training;
- Problems of Telephone connectivity;
- Lack of job security.
1.6 Need and Purpose of Establishing BIJLIBNET

The main purpose of all these networks is to acquire reading materials collectively, avoid duplication, consortia approach for costly foreign journals and databases, maximum utilization of reading materials available in libraries of a particular locality or region by the users. Since the no steps have been initiated to establish a Regional Network covering entire North Eastern Region of India, in the present paper an attempt has been taken to put forward a proposal for the design and development of Bihar and Jharkhand Library & Information Network (BIJLIBNET) to look into the sharing of resources and information amongst these eight states in particular and entire country in general for the greater interest of the N E Region of India.

2. BIHAR AND JHARKHAND LIBRARY AND INFORMATION NETWORK (BIJLIBNET): A PROPOSAL

Although Bihar is one of the oldest State where Library Science Course was introduced at Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur and at Sinha Library, Patna (Now Bihar has been divided into two States viz., Bihar and Jharkhand). But the development of library science profession and library system is very poor. If we look at the states of South India (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala), West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab and other States of North East (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram) where Library Act has been enacted and considerable progress has been made in the area of development of library profession and library services in the states. At the professional level no active library association has been established, if it is established, it is not working.

Library Act was not introduced in the state of Bihar and Jharkhand till 2007. Recently in 2008, Bihar Library Legislation has been enacted and steps are being taken by the LIS professionals of Jharkhand state for enactment of Library Legislation.

The Government of Bihar and Jharkhand have to think over the deplorable condition of library profession, public and academic library systems and in view of the considerable progress made in other states, Jharkhand State should enact Library Legislation. The library and Information Professionals of few states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnatakta, Maharastra, Delhi, West Bengal etc and with cooperation of the respective State Government and assistance from NISSAT (DSIR) have done excellent effort to establish the local library networks like ADINET, MALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BONET, DELNET, CALIBNET etc for resource sharing among the member libraries and for full utilization of library resources without any duplication in efforts.

On the pattern of national, regional and local library network like INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET etc. there is a proposal for design and development of the Library and Information Network for the electronically backward state of Bihar and Jharkhand. The proposed network may be named as Bihar and Jharkhand Library and Information Network. The acronym would be BIJLIBNET, which may be a registered society and would be a joint venture of Bihar and Jharkhand. Therefore there is a need for taking initiatives both from the library science professionals working within the state or out side the state and both the State Government for establishing regional library network of two States Bihar and Jharkhand under the proposed name of BILIBNET.

From a study on ICT application in university libraries of India which was carried out by Sinha 2004, it has been observed that the status of computerisation of library and information activities of the academic and technical libraries located in these two states is very poor and no initiatives has been taken from the two state govt. in this regard. INFLIBNET has identified four universities in Bihar and one university and one institution in Jharkhand under its automation and
networking programme. But till the end of IX five-year plan no concrete initiatives have been taken from these universities and institutions for infrastructure development and computerisation & networking of library activities. Therefore the progress and implementation of INFLIBNET programme has not taken place as per the MoU signed by these universities. The non-implementation of INFLIBNET Programme might be due to various factors, which are as follows:

- Lack of proper policy and decision making at the authority level;
- Lack of awareness of IT application in Libraries;
- Lack of IT exposed or trained manpower;
- Lack of confidence among the senior library and information professionals;
- Poor interest of library professionals and other staff for computerisation;
- Poor information infrastructural facilities;
- Lack of proper supervision and coordination of library manager with the authority;
- Negative attitude of library and university authority.
- Due to non-implementation of automation and networking of library under INFLIBNET programme, another universities might have not included for financial assistance;
- Lack of such initiative among the library professionals for resource sharing and consortia approach at regional level; and
- No initiatives for Library legislation from the professional as well as Govt. side, thereby library profession is neglected in these two states.

2.1 Need for Establishing Regional Library and Information Network

The information infrastructure available in the university/institutional libraries of Bihar and Jharkhand states is very poor and except few institutions computerisation has not started in most of the university/ institutional libraries. There is a lack of confidence and commitment among the library and information professionals working in the state of Bihar and Jharkhand. Therefore the library and information professionals working in Bihar and Jharkhand and the library and information professionals who are the native of Bihar and Jharkhand and working out side the state or belongs to the university/institutions of Bihar and Jharkhand have to come forward and join the hand of local professionals to establish regional library and information network which will take care of resource sharing of documents, manpower and infrastructure for computerisation of library activities of libraries located in these two state of Bihar and Jharkhand.

On the basis of the other national, regional, metropolitan, local library network the BIJLIBNET can be established and the financial assistance may be sought from the NISSAT, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India, and the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Science and Technology of respective State Govt. The professional assistance for manpower training may be had from the existing various library and information networks, library professional organisations like ILA, IASLIC, MALAI, SIS etc. for providing basic training to the library professionals on the application of Information and Communication Technology in library activities and services.

On the basis of experience from other library networks the proposed library network ‘BIJLIBNET’ can be established which might be a part of national library network like INFLIBNET Centre or Regional Library Network of INFLIBNET. The network can better look after the computerised library and information activities of libraries located in Bihar and Jharkhand. This network may also work under the guidance and financial assistance from the INFLIBNET and NISSAT. Although very recently INFLIBNET has established SOUL Coordinator on regional basis which has been extending support for data creation using SOUL software but this will be applicable
to those libraries which have started developing necessary ICT infrastructure and creating databases of book, serials, theses and reports.

2.2 General Aims and Objectives of Other Library Networks

- Library and information network aims at resource sharing which may include sharing documents, information, manpower and cost;
- Bibliographic control through shared distributive acquisition, storage, retrieval and distribution of information sources or documents (Kaul, 1995);
- To strengthen bibliographic control of the region or concerned state’s own technological output and to established computer based bibliographic databases in subject areas of interest to the region;
- To stimulate and promote the creation of non-bibliographic database in science technology and socio economic areas;
- To develop and promote the technical and organisational structure and capabilities for exchange of data;
- To develop Specialised Networks in high priority areas; and
- To improve the Regional /Local information infrastructure.

2.3 Aims of BIJLIBNET

- To promote and establish communication facilities to improve capability in information transfer and access, that provide support to scholarship, learning, research and academic pursuit through cooperation and involvement of agencies concerned;
- To establish Library Network “BIJLIBNET ” a computer communication network for linking academic public and technical/specialised libraries/ library and information centres associated with universities, technical institutions deemed to be universities, colleges, etc. for avoiding duplication of efforts.

2.4 Objectives of BIJLIBNET

- To evolve a regional network, interconnecting various academic, public and technical/specialised libraries/institutional libraries and information centres associated with universities, deemed to be universities, institutions of national, regional importance and R & D institutions etc. in these two states for efficient sharing of information resources available with them and to improve capability of information handling and services;
- To provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating online union catalogues of monographs, serials, and non-book materials (manuscripts, audio-visuals, computer media etc.) in various libraries Bihar and Jharkhand;
- To provide better access to worldwide bibliographic information sources with citations and abstracts, such as periodical articles, conference papers, preprints, technical reports, standards
and specifications, patents, monographs etc. through indigenously created databases and by establishing gateways for online accessing of international databases held by international information networks and centres.

- To provide document delivery service by establishing resource centres in the libraries having rich collection of documents;
- To optimize information resource utilization through shared cataloguing, inter-library loan service, catalogue production, collection development and avoiding duplication in acquisition to the extent possible;
- To implement computerization of library operations of participating libraries following a uniform standards for data capturing;
- To enable users to have access to information regarding books monographs, serials, theses, projects and experts by using new information and communication technologies.
- To encourage co-operation among libraries, documentation centres and information centres in these two states or throughout the country with other networks, so that the resources can be pooled for the benefit of helping the weaker resource centres by well resourceful libraries.
- To train and develop human resources in the field of computerized library operations and networking to participate in BIJLIBNET programme.
- To evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods and procedures, hardware and software services in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchanging resources and facilities towards optimizations.

3.5 **Headquarter of BIJLIBNET Centre**

BIJLIBNET will be established as a Registered Society with its Governing Body Committee. Its headquarter can be established at Patna or Ranchi

3.6 **Membership of BIJLIBNET**

Followings are the list of universities and institutions located in Bihar and Jharkhand for membership of BIJLIBNET.

3.61 **State of Bihar**

1. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur (1952)
2. Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura (1993)
4. Lalit Narayan Mithila University, Darbangha (1961)
5. K.S. Darbangha Sanskrit University, Darbangha (1961)
6. Magadh University, Bodh Gaya (1962)
8. Patna University, Patna (1917)
9. Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (1970)
10. Tilak Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur (1960)
11. Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah (1994)
12. Central University of Bihar (established in 2008)

3.62 State of Jharkhand

1. Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi (1986)
2. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (1980)
3. Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad (1968)
4. Ranchi University, Ranchi (1960)
5. Siddhu Kanhu University, Dumka (1992)
6. Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh (1993)
8. Xavier Institute of Social Science
9. Central University of Jharkhand (established in 2008)

Besides that all General and Professional Colleges, falling under these universities and private professional colleges lie Management Institute, Information Technology Institute, Social Sciences Institute etc (both Bihar and Jharkhand) may also be included under this library network

3. FORMATION OF HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT THE PROSPECT AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ‘BIJLIBNET’

A high level committee should be established by the Government of Bihar and Jharkhand comprising of eminent library and information professionals not only from these two states of Bihar and Jharkhand rather than also from the other parts of the country, members from the other library networking agencies, NISSAT, NISCAIR, INFLIBNET, and UGC, member from Higher Education Department of these two States, Librarians of the participating universities to make a draft proposal for feasibility study.

3.1 Feasibility Study and Report

The high Level Committee will make proposal for Feasibility Study and after going in details covering all aspects, the report will be submitted to the Government of Bihar and Jharkhand for its implementation

3.2 Source of Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance can be made available from the Department of Higher Education of both the state, MHRD/UGC/INFLIBNET, NISSAT (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, DSIR), from public enterprises, donation from the professionals and library science students.

3.3 Proposed Activities of BIJLIBNET

The High Level Committee will submit the proposed activities of BIJLIBNET, which would be like other library networks. Followings would be the proposed Activities of BIJLIBNET

- Information Infrastructural Development of Member Libraries
- Development of Databases of Member Libraries
- Resource Sharing and Inter-Library Loan
Union catalogue of different types of documents like

- Books
- Serials
- Theses and Dissertations
- Non-Book Materials
- Specialised Databases of Bihar and Jharkhand
- Expert Databases

- Awareness Training for Information Technology Application in Libraries

- Professional Development / Human Resource Development/Manpower Development by organising workshop, training, conference, seminar and lecture

### 3.4 Proposed Services of BIJLIBNET

BIJLIBNET should offer following Services

- Union Catalogue based Bibliographic Services
- Database Services,
- Provision of Access of Internet Services.
- Promotion of computerisation of Library Services

### 4. Implementation of the Programme of BIJLIBNET

BIJLIBNET should be a Registered Society and the Act of Bihar and Jharkhand States should create this Library Networking Agency. There may be two Headquarter, one at Patna or Bhagalpur and another at Ranchi or Dhanbad or Jamshedpur.

### 5. Participation and Motivation of Library and Information Professionals

For successful implementation of the BIJLIBNET Programme, library and information professionals of the these states should come forward and take initiatives for creation of this library networking agency and also they should try for enactment of Library Legislation.

### 6. Suggestions and Recommendations

- This should be the joint initiatives of Govt. Of Bihar and Jharkhand ;
- The LIS Professionals both at senior and junior level should be consulted and their feedback should be taken into consideration;
- The financial support from many Corporate houses like Tata and Birla Groups and many other industries should be sought for the establishment of BIJLIBNET;
- This Network Should be established on the line of National Networks like INFLIBNET and DELNET and their expert opinion should be taken;
- All Libraries like school, colleges, university, public special and technical libraries should be included in this programme;
Financial Support from the Ministry of HRD, Information Technology, Culture and Tourism and Ministry of Education of both the states should be taken;

Senior Experienced and qualified LIS Professionals who are having enough background of ICT implementation in Academic/ Technical Libraries should be included in core and supporting staff of BIJLIBNET.

Many Open Source Software are available which should be customized and used for implementation of the BIJLIBNET Project; and

Appeal all the LIS professionals of Bihar and Jharkhand to come together and extend all support for the successful implementation of the Programme.

7. CONCLUSIONS

From the study, it has been observed that there is dire need of establishing the Regional Library Network ‘BIJLIBNET’ for the implementation of computerisation of library operations and services. This proposal is at its nascent stage, which should get support from the library professionals of Bihar and Jharkhand and also from other parts of the country.

The same plan for Regional Library Network can be applicable for other state, which is lagging behind in the areas of computerisation of library activities and services. Because, the country like India, it would be difficult for any single agency to look after the computerisation of library services of entire country.

Therefore the national network should open its Regional Network or help establishing local or regional networks for smooth computerisation and networking of library for resource sharing and optimum utilization of the available resources both printed and electronic by the academic community of both the states. The author expects positive and quick action from the various stakeholders like the LIS professionals, Library organisations, industrialist and the Government from both the states for early implementation of the proposal. A copy of the suggested model may be sent to State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand for necessary action at appropriate level.

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