

Comparative Study on Indian Library Networks

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Abstract

Libraries play a vital role in the present social environment and providing various services to the user community with the advent of new modern technology. One of the main services of any library to satisfy their users by providing resources at the right time even from the other libraries by resource sharing. The library networks play a major role for effective resource sharing. In India there are nine major metropolitan library networks. This study focused on the comparative study of the nine Library networks on the basis of the sponsorship, objectives, services, functions etc.

Keywords: Library Network , Objective , Membership

I. INTRODUCTION

The emerging technologies of ICT also had an influence on Library and Information professionals to enter in to the concept of Resource sharing and networking of Libraries. Resource sharing is a powerful instrument in the distributed environment, It is also collaborative, co- ordinate and co operative concept of extending resources and services to the participating libraries and information centers. The most impartment objective of the Library networking is to maximize the use of available resources and services at a minimum cost. In India the major library networks are DELNET, INFLIBNET, MALIBNET, CALIBNET, ADINET, BALNET, MYLIBNET,BONET AND PUNENET. Among the Indian Library Networks, DELNET and INFLIBNET are stand in a first level and rendering the services at National and International level. In this context, this study made an attempt to identify their functional modalities in terms of comparison.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following Objectives are framed for this study

- To compare each criterion of Indian library works like year of establishment, objectives and Services etc,
- To study their functional status along with their nature of services
- To study their membership pattern and offer suggestions to improve the Indian Library network environment

III.METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive one and as such the documentary sources published by these networks and their website information are taken into account for data collection and subsequent analysis and interpretations.

Table No -1 Name of the Indian Library Networks and their year of establishment

S.NO	Acronym	Name of the Indian Library networks	Year of establishment
1	ADINET	Ahmadabad Library Network	1994
2	BALNET	Bangalore Library Network	1992
3	BONET	Bombay Library Network	1994
4	CALIBNET	Calcutta Library Network	1992
5	DELNET	Developing Library Network	1988

6	INFLIBNET	Information Library Network	1992
7	MALIBNET	Madras Library Network	1993
8	MYLIBNET	Mysore Library network	1994
9	PUNENET	Pune Library Network	1992

From the table No – 1 it is observed that DELNET started in 1988, all other networks have been started between 1992 and 1994. Even though DELNET was started in 1988, it was registered in 1992 only. Although all the networks were established in 1992-1994, only INFLIBNET and DELNET are well established and functioning at International level. Actually CALIBNET was the first library Network visualized and started by NISSAT in 1986. It is observed that except DELNET and INFLIBNET all other Networks are named in their own cities name, like Ahmadabad, Kolkotta, Chennai, Mysore, Pune etc. Initially DELNET was also named as Delhi Library Network and it was changed into Developing Library Network. INFLIBNET is named as Information Library Network as it is providing Information to its member libraries and others which are mostly academic and Research and Development Institutions.

Table-No 2 Place of the Networks and their functional status

S.No.	Name of the Networks	Place of Networks	State of the art
1	Ahmadabad Library Network	Ahmadabad	Functional
2	Bangalore Library Network	Bangalore	Functional
3	Bombay Library Network	Bombay	Non-functional
4	Calcutta Library Network	Calcutta	Functional
5	Developing Library Network	Delhi	Functional
6	Information Library Network	Ahmadabad	Functional
7	Madras Library Network	Madras	Functional
8	Mysore Library network	Mysore	Functional
9	Pune Library Network	Pune	Non-functional

From the table No -2 it is observed that all the Networks are named after their own Metropolitan cities like Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkatta, Chennai Mumbai etc., INFLIBNET is located at Ahmedabad. Except BONET and PUNENET all other Networks are in functional state. The reasons for non functional of these networks are unknown.

Table No -3 Nature of services of the Networks

Name of the Network	Services to Academic Libraries	Services to the Public Libraries	Services to Special Libraries
ADINET	√	√	√
BALNET	√	√	√
BONET	√	√	√
CALIBNET	√	√	√
DELNET	√	√	√
INFLIBNET	√		
MALIBNET	√	√	√
MYLIBNET	√	√	√
PUNENET	√	√	√

From the above table it is observed that all the Library Networks except INFLIBNET are serving to all types of Libraries including Academic, Public and special Libraries. But the Libraries in their metropolitan cities are unwilling to participate in the network services to share their resources.

Table No .4 Sponsor's of Indian Library Networks.

S.No.	Name of the Network	Sponsors
1	ADINET	NISSAT, DSIR & INFLIBNET
2	BALNET	JRD, TATA memorial Library
3	BONET	NISSAT&NCST
4	CALIBNET	CSIR(Commissioned Agency-NCST, Bombay
5	DELNET	Initially by NISSAT, DSIR now NIC
6	INFLIBNET	UGC
7	MALIBNET	NISCAIR & NISSAT
8	MYLIBNET	NISSAT & DSIR
9	PUNENET	NISSAT & DSIR

It is interesting to note that BALNET has been sponsor by JRD/ TATA memorial library and CALIBNET is sponsored by CSIR. And all the other library networks are sponsored by NISSAT and DSIR

Table No -5-Types of Memberships of Indian Library Networks

S.No	Name of the Networks	No of Member Libraries
1	ADINET	Libraries and Information centers in and around Ahmadabad
2	BALNET	100 libraries of Karnataka State
3	BONET	Libraries in and around Mumbai
4	CALIBNET	Libraries of Kolkata
5	DELNET	4926 Libraries of which 246 in Delhi, 4656 outside Delhi in 33 states and 24 overseas.
6	INFLIBNET	419 institutions in 35 states in India
7	MALIBNET	37 Major educational & research Institutions in and around Chennai
8	MYLIBNET	116 Institutions of in and around in Mysore.
9	PUNENET	Libraries in Pune City

From the above table, it is observed that except DELNET and INFLIBNET all other networks are having members in and around their respective cities. DELNET, other than libraries from Delhi city, the libraries of outside Delhi and libraries from overseas are also members of the DELNET .As on 19/8/2014 DELNET is having the members of 4926 of which 4656 members from India. Out of all states, 718 members from Tamil Nadu state and 541 members from Uttar Pradesh. Next to Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, Telengana stand in the 3rd place by having 464 members. In outside India, 24 members from various countries are members of DELNET. When compared to all Library networks. DELNET is having large number of members.

The types of Library members of DELNET are mostly academic including Universities, colleges, Institutes, departments, centers and schools . From this it is observed that only Academic libraries are also more participated in DELNET services.

The membership of INFLIBNET are 419 Institutions in 35 states of India. The members are from Universities and Educational Institutions. MALIBNET members are 50 Libraries in Chennai city and 37 Major educational and research institutions. MYLIBNET is having 116 Institutions as members.

Table No -6 An overview of Objectives of Library Networks

S.No	Name of the Network	Objectives of the Library Networks
1	ADINET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote sharing of resources - Disseminate information among Member libraries networking them and creating a centralized union catalogue of their holdings
2	BALNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of resources and services of member libraries - Build a union catalogue of conventional and as well as digital resources.
3	BONET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting co operation between libraries in Bombay. - Promote Inter library activities
4	CALIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host a library Information science portal - Developing a community of Library professionals - Facilities of networking /sharing of resources - Create India centric/specialized database
5	DELNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote sharing of resources among the member Libraries - To offer guidance to the member libraries on Cataloguing database services, circulation, isition ,serial

		<p><i>acquisition control and online services etc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To co ordinate the efforts for suitable collection development and reduce duplication wherever possible.</i> - <i>To establish a referral center to monitor and facilitate catalogue search and maintain a central online union catalogue of books, serials, non book materials of all participating Libraries.</i> - <i>To facilitate and promote delivery of documents manually and mechanically.</i> - <i>To develop bibliographic database of books, serials and non book materials</i> - <i>To develop a database of projects, specialists and Institutions.</i> - <i>To posses and maintain electronic and Mechanical equipment for fast communication of information and delivery of electronic mail.</i> - <i>To co ordinate with other regional, National and International networks for exchange of Information and documents.</i> - <i>To facilitate for the publication of newsletters/Journals devoted to networking and sharing of resources.</i>
6	INFLIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Linking of all Universities, colleges, research and development laboratories and Institutes of National importance in India through their libraries by computer networks.</i> - <i>To make all the available resources in the country accessible and usable to any user from any place in the country .Through a co operative venture it tries avoid unnecessary duplication of costly documents.</i> - <i>To promote and implement computerization of operations and services in the libraries and Information centers of the country following a uniform standard.</i> - <i>To evolve standards and uniform guidelines in technique, methods, procedures, computer hardware and software services and promote their adaption in actual practice by all libraries in order to facilitate pooling sharing and exchange of Information towards optional use of resources and facilities.</i> - <i>To evolve a National network interconnecting various libraries and Information centers in the country and to improve capability in Information handling and service.</i> - <i>To provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating on line union catalogue of serials, theses/dissertations books, monographs and non book materials (manuscripts, audiovisuals, computer data multimedia etc) in various libraries in India.</i> - <i>To train and develop human resources in the field of computerized library operations and networking to establish manage and sustain INFLIBNET.</i> - <i>To facilitate academic communication amongst scientist, engineers, social scientists, academics, faculties, researchers, and students through electronic mail file transfer computer/audio/video conferencing etc.</i> - <i>To undertake system design and studies in the field of communications, computer networking information handling and data management.</i> - <i>To establish appropriate control and monitoring system for the communication network and organize maintenance.</i> - <i>To collaborate with institutions, libraries/ information centres and other organization in India and abroad in the field relevant to the objectives of the centers.</i> - <i>To promote R&D and develop necessary facilities and create technical positions for realizing the objectives of the center.</i> - <i>To generate revenue by providing consultancies and Information services.</i>
7	MALIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To encourage co- operation among libraries, documentation centers, Institutions, and Information centers in Chennai to share their users from one to other.</i> - <i>To evolve a network, interconnecting various libraries and Information centers to improve capability in information handling and services.</i> - <i>To provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating a union catalogue of library holdings and housing it in a centralized host system of the network.</i> - <i>To optimize information resource utilization through shared cataloguing and inter library loan and avoiding duplication in acquisition to the extent possible.</i> - <i>To centrally acquire information specially the contents abstracts from all the journals and then disseminate information as and when required, thus avoiding duplication in journal acquisition and reducing the expenditure of individual libraries.</i> - <i>To undertake scientific research in the field of library and information science.</i> - <i>To organize conferences, seminars, lectures, workshops etc</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To facilitate resource sharing & information dissemination through networks.
8	MYLIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prepare a catalogue of periodicals - To facilitate document delivery services. - To promote Inter Library loan - To create Centralized database etc.,
9	PUNENET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To inter connect all the libraries in the Pune city through a computer communication network. - To facilitate active information exchange and enable users to keep themselves up to date as to the availability of books and journals at various libraries of Pune city. - To help in increasing co operation amongst the participating libraries and co ordinate the activities so as to serve the user community efficiently and - To provide various information services to all the participant libraries and their users to using various information sources, CD ROMS and web based databases.

From the above table it is noted that the main objective of all Library Networks are sharing of resources including materials, manpower etc between the libraries in and around their own metropolitan cities. Prepare a centralized union catalogue of their holdings of their libraries and disseminate information through networks. Since the service Inter library loan is the first step of resource sharing and Network, almost all the library Networks are rendering this service by sharing their resources. All the Library Networks are facilitating the document delivery service.

When compared to all Library Networks, the objectives of DELNET and INFLIBNET are having more number of objectives. Other than the basic objectives, DELNET's objectives are to offer guidance to the member libraries in all the services like cataloguing database constructions, circulation acquisition and online services etc. To co ordinate the member libraries for their suitable collection development and reduce duplication wherever possible is one of the objective of DELNET.

To establish a referral center to monitor and facilitate catalogue search and maintain a central online union catalogue of books, serials non book materials of all participating libraries. To co-ordinate with other regional, National and International networks for exchange of information and documents. To undertake facilitate and provide for the publication of Newsletters and Journals devoted to networking and sharing of resources. To possess and maintain electronic and mechanical equipments for fast communication of information

INFLIBNET has the same objectives like building a collection development and reduce the duplication of member libraries, To maintain a uniform standards by creating union catalogue of books, serials, non book materials. Other than these objectives, INFLIBNET also has the few objectives viz linking of all Universities, colleges, Research and development laboratories and Institutions of National importance in India through their libraries by computer networks. To train and develop human resources in the field of computerized library operations and networking is one of the objective of INFLIBNET, But the other Library Networks are not having this objective. To facilitate academic communication amongst scientists, engineers, faculties and students through electronic mail, file transfer, computer/audio/videoconferencing etc, To promote R&D and develop necessary facilities and create technical positions, to generate revenue by providing consultancies and information services are some of the major objectives of INFLIBNET.

MALIBNET has general objectives like, to encourage co operation among the libraries/ documentation centers, Institutions and Information centers in Chennai to share their resources from one to the other, to evolve a network by interconnecting these centers, Interlibrary loan and avoiding duplication in acquisition, to facilitate resource sharing and information dissemination through networks. The other objectives are to centrally acquire information specially the contents abstracts from all the journals and then disseminate information as and when required thus avoiding duplication in journal acquisition and reducing the expenditure of Individual libraries, to undertake scientific research in the field of library and information science, to organize conferences, seminars, lectures workshops etc, From the review of the objectives of all Indian library networks revealed that the DELNET and INFLIBNET have an extensive and comprehensive objectives than the other Indian library networks.

Table-No 7- Activities and Services of the Indian Library Networks

S.No	Name of the Network	Activities and Services of Indian library Networks
1	ADINET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter library loan - Database of current periodicals - CUCOLIS (Current Content for Library and Information Science) supply of photocopie from journals - JOLI (Job opportunities for Librarians) - Special Internet training to fresh qualified librarians - Study center and meetings. - Celebration of Dr Ranganathan's birthday

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free listing of qualified librarians in ADINET Website. - ADINET Newsletter is published by ADINET regularly.
2	BALNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of subject portals, peer to peer networked services, - Institutional repository service etc
3	BONET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online catalogue of periodicals, books, preprints /reprints etc. - Online document delivery of items such as technical reports made available by participating libraries in machine readable form. - IRS Inter library loan and Dissemination of information
4	CALIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking through its own application software MAITRAYEE - On-line CD ROM based global Information search and retrieval services, - Database services , - Full-text document delivery services, - Confile service
5	DELNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Union catalogue of Books - Union catalogue of current Journals - Union catalogue of Journals - Databases of Journal articles - Database of non print materials - Database of thesis and dissertations - Directory of member Libraries - Online Inter library loan (ILL) - Document delivery services,(DDS) - DEL-LISTSERV(current awareness service), - DELSIS –networking software support to member Libraries/ - DELSEARCH service, - Retro conversion, reference services, professional training etc
6	INFLIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Union catalogue service, - Development of Software SOUL and automation of member libraries - UGC INFONET Internet connectivity programme - UGC INFONET Digital Library consortium - Human Resource development - Database Development and management, - Document supply services, - e-mail BBS, - SOUL training Programme, - Conducting annual convention CALIBER, - Audio visual conferencing etc - Shoduganga Project
7	MALIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to list of current serials ie. full Journal holdings of member libraries from 1993 - Door delivery system for document copies, - Access to International database through INSDOC, - CAP service, - Library automation - Training courses

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultancy services in Networking and Computerization - MALIBNET card service
8	MYLIBNET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MYLIB Union catalogue of Database, - E-Journals, - CFTRI Library Bulletin, - Public services - Food patents etc
9	PUNENET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internet connectivity, - CD-ROM database services, - Online Search facility, - CAS, Photocopying service - ,Access to Databases available on NICNET eg MEDLANDS, - Access to AIDS Database and US Patent database

From the above table, the services and activities of all the Library Networks are presented. It is observed that all the library networks inter library loan and document delivery service. But, ADINET created a CUCOLIS (Current Content for Library and Information Science) and supply of photocopies from Journals. And ADINET rendering the JOLI service i.e Job opportunities for Librarians. It seems from the record Dr Ranganathan's (Father of Library science) birthday is celebrated every year by ADINET and publishes News letter regularly.

BALNET and BONET are rendering services as per the objectives like Interlibrary loan, document delivery , development of online union database and peer to peer Networked services and BALNET is rendering Institutional depository service. CALIBNET created a software called MAITRAYEE through which networking of member libraries. DELNET developed some of the databases and updated regularly. When compared to other Library networks, DELNET compiles 1,81,51,784 Union catalogue of books in English script available with various member libraries in and outside of the country. These databases can be accessed by any of the desired fields like author, title, subject along with Boolean search. The database is increasing day by day by updating from member libraries. DELNET developed its own modules on Basisplus software .The member Libraries can be accessed through ILL (Inter library loan facility) as DELNET evolved a very successful functional mode of Inter Library loan and document delivery services.

Regarding the union catalogue of current periodicals of DELNET, more than 36,940 records are available from member libraries as well as non member libraries of DELNET .and updating continuously. DELNET is maintaining an online union list of current periodicals available in the field of Science and Technology , social Sciences and Humanities The photocopies of the Journal articles are arranged and supplied to the requesting libraries. DELNET is also having 20,235 Union catalogue of periodicals containing bibliographic information available in member libraries. When compared to other library networks, DELNET is having a good resource by having this database of old periodicals dating back to late 19th century and early 20th century. DELNET alone has the database of Journal articles of 9,22,042 records DELNET also maintains the databases of CD ROM, Video recordings and sound recordings available in the member libraries. DELNET has 22, 234 CD ROM databases, 6,000 union list of Video Recordings and 1,025 Union list of Sound recordings . The non print materials are not loaned, but as a special case, the video recordings and sound recordings are being issued for shorter period of time. This service is a unique service of DELNET when compared to other Library Networks.

INFLIBNET developed a software called SOUL for the automation of all member libraries . One of the major service of UGC INFONET is e- journal Consortium. By this consortia service, collectively procuring electronic information resources and facilitate wide access among its members. When compared to all the Library networks, INFLIBNET only conduct an annual convention CALIBER for the professionals regularly. Through shodhganga project, the INFLIBNET is having the collection of electronic thesis and dissertations of various educational institutions and provide a platform for the researchers to make available their work in open access. As on 31/7/2014, 19,997 Thesis are uploaded form 40 top Universities in India.

When compared to DELNET and INFLIBNET , MALIBNET is having list of current serials i.e. journal holdings of member libraries and rendering card services to the member libraries. MYLIBNET and PUNENET are rendering services to their regional library members. There are no records and website are available to know about these network databases and services.

IV. MAJOR SUGGESTIONS

Out of the nine Indian library networks taken into account for this study, seven library networks are still in primitive stage and rendering poor services to the member libraries. A time has to come to revamp these networks to serve better on the following lines

- There is an urgent need to create a separate wing under UGC INFLIBNET to integrate all these networks in one umbrella with the available technological developments. Separate fund provision and new goals are provided with an administrative wing to monitor, control and enhance these networks.
- Formal communications shall be sent to all the member libraries of these networks to participate in the development of union catalogue of documents like Books, Journals, Thesis reports and e-resources available in their libraries.
- The proposed centralized agency should develop a software that would be used to interlink networks for fruitful use.
- The websites of these networks are primitive in nature and non interactive. So there is an urgent need to revamp these websites in line with latest technical developments, so as to integrate social networked services You tube, twitter and so on.

V. CONCLUSION

From this study it implies that out of nine library networks, only DELNET and INFLIBNET are well established and providing various services at the National and International level. Since the library networks are play a vital role in the present environment, it is essential to take necessary steps to improve these networks by providing fund and infrastructure with latest ICT technology and Internet connectivity. Then only they can create a union databases of books, Journals and other records to serve the user community of the member libraries. And also educational Institutions available in their respective metropolitan areas are having membership in these Library networks and give financial support and moral support to these library networks to render their services to the member libraries effectively.

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