

**Published by: Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET)**

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**FROM****PUBLISHER'S DESK**

Dear Friends

As usual in the month of August, the Librarians' Day Seminar on Networking Libraries in Gujarat for Resource Sharing was held. The papers presented raised several issues and also highlighted many important suggestions and solutions.

One major recommendation was to Network the 190 Engineering College Libraries in Gujarat. To begin with a feasibility study needs to be conducted to network about 20 engineering college libraries in Ahmedabad. A questionnaire has been prepared to conduct this study.

This newsletter contains a Report about the Seminar, the need for the LIS Identity Project and a few suggestions to Take the Seminar Ideas Forward.

## **NETWORKING LIBRARIES IN GUJARAT FOR RESOURCE SHARING: A REPORT**

The one day seminar on the theme "**Networking Libraries in Gujarat for Resource Sharing**" was held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 at Ahmedabad Management Association. The following were the sub-themes on which papers were invited.

- Need and Importance of Networking
- Areas of Collaboration : Activities and Services
- Technology Aspects
- Skill and Competencies Required for Networking

for latest

## **Activities/Programmes ADINET**

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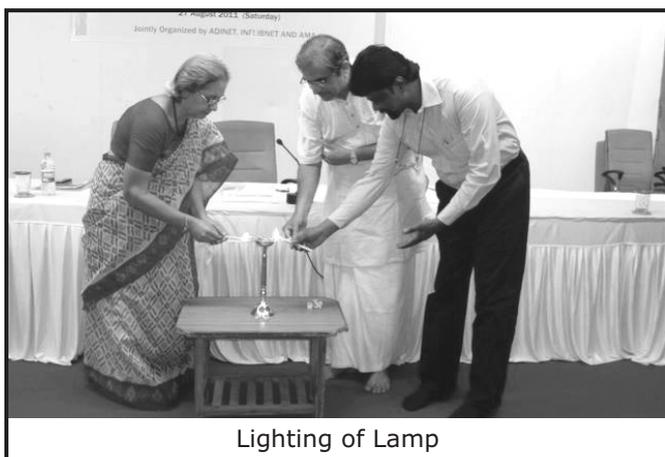
This seminar, like all the previous year's one day seminars, was organized as a part of Librarian's Day celebrations on the occasion of Father of Indian Librarianship Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's birthday, by library professionals in Ahmedabad city. This event was organized jointly by ADINET, INFLIBNET and AMA. Over 250 professionals including students of library science from different parts of Gujarat attended the seminar.

The seminar started with an inaugural session in the great ambiance of AMA by a prayer, recited by Ms. Dharmistha Patel, Head Librarian, SAC-ISRO. This was followed by a welcome address delivered by Ms. Rhoda Bharucha Hon. Director of ADINET. Besides extending a warm welcome to the dignitaries on the dais, participants and invitees, she gave an overview of the seminar and also presented a brief report of the work carried out by ADINET during the last year.

Unfortunately Prof. N.V.Vasani, Chairman ADINET Governing Council & Director-General Nirma University could not be with us. Also the Keynote speaker Shri.V.Thirupugazh, IAS who is the Commissioner of Information, Government of Gujarat, could not attend this function. The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapith by lighting a lamp. In his inaugural speech he narrated a few instances where he appreciated the invaluable help given to him by Librarians. According to him a Good Librarian is one who is thorough with the Collection, that is, the resources of his own library as well as other libraries in the vicinity. Moreover it is the Librarian who has to showcase the available Collection to its users. The Five Laws of Library Science (Books are for use.....Library is a Growing Organism) need to be put in practice and are not merely taught to students for

reproducing them in the examination. Resource-sharing will be possible only if Librarians take up their responsibility seriously and practice what they preach. He strongly recommended, making ADINET a platform to share ideas, which ultimately would benefit the end-users.

Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director of INFLIBNET, could not attend this Seminar, as he was out of town. Shri Manoj Kumar Sr. Scientist INFLIBNET gave an overview of the very important and useful work done at INFLIBNET. The inaugural session ended with thanks to all who sponsored this Seminar, to the dignitaries, and participants by Mr. Satish Deshpande. Ms. Parul Kapadia from Torrent Pharma anchored the program.



Lighting of Lamp

The Seminar topic Networking Libraries was very appropriate as it is the need of the hour in today's Information & Technological scenario. There are several advantages, the main one is of course sharing all the valuable resources available in all the libraries and avoiding duplication. All over the world, libraries are gearing up to share the resources for its users over and above their primary function of preserving and disseminating knowledge.

Out of the ten papers received, nine were presented. Most of these papers focused on networking libraries, mostly engineering college libraries.

The first **technical session** was chaired by Dr. T. S. Kumbar, Librarian, DA-IICT. The first paper entitled **GLN Online: Automated ILL, Document Delivery Services** was presented by Ms. Sheetal D. Tank. Librarian Atmiya Institute of Technology and Science in Rajkot. She presented a simple Web Application- GLN online (Gujarat Libraries Network Online) which has been designed using FOSS like PHP and PostgreSQL which simply asks the user to upload or send their records in simple excel sheet with minimum metadata which is usually maintained by big or small libraries. Most importantly this application will help one library to send a request directly to the lending library instead of going through the Network Administrator and the transactions will be traced and reports will be generated automatically in just a few steps.

The second paper was on **Networking Libraries for Resource Sharing: Problems & Prospects** by Dr. Sanghamitra Pradhan, Lecturer, Department of

Library & Information Science, The M.S. University of Baroda. She stated that it was time to integrate libraries, of all types and sizes, through proper networking facility and enable all to have increased access to resources at their disposal to serve users. Although a lot has been achieved in this regard with the establishment of several networks at different levels for resource sharing still many libraries are deprived of the benefits derived from this venture as they are yet to deal with many challenges faced in the way to participate in a network. This paper explored the problems and prospects in networking of libraries for resource sharing. Many academic and public libraries lack IT infrastructure, requisite skill to develop databases, funds, co-operation among themselves and standardized facilities which are key determinants of successful networking.

The next presentation was on **Rethinking Library Resource Sharing and Networking** by Mr. Mukesh Kumar Mishra, Mr. Satender Negi and Ms. D.R. Patel from the Library and Documentation Division, Space Application Center, (ISRO). Mr. Negi presented this paper. He focused on the thought process required and mental exercises needed in idea plane for a



Dr Sudarshan Iyengar giving the Inaugural Speech

successful resource sharing endeavor. A brief account of authors' experience with RS activities at their parent institution and with other local libraries was also presented to highlight the fact that there is ample potential and feasibility of establishing Resource Sharing mechanism in Gujarat. It makes sense to collaborate, to enhance and strengthen what we do for our users by working together, to reduce unnecessary duplication, to capitalize on the synergy of collaboration by learning from one another.

The fourth paper was on **Networking Libraries in Gujarat for Resource Sharing** by Mr. Virendrakumar S. Goswami and Mr. Sandipkumar S. Patel from The Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University. This paper dealt with various aspects of library resource sharing in changing context. It discussed needs and importance of Resource Sharing to establish a library resource sharing network in Gujarat and to ascertain some essential characteristics of the resource sharing system from user's point of view. Also discussed were areas of Resource Sharing and some of the emerging

areas in which the present and future LIS professionals need to develop their skill and competencies because the concept of libraries in physical boundaries is going to be part of history.

The last paper in this session was **A Study of Commercial Database Subscribers in Gujarat** by Dr. Shailesh Yagnik, Head Library & Information Services, Mudra Institute of Communications. This paper focused on commercial databases subscribed by government funded and private funded academic and research institutional libraries situated in Gujarat. The purpose was to help ADINET in faster and effective resource sharing. It discussed the unique vs. multiple subscribers and the difference between Government funded & private funded libraries in context to commercial database subscriptions. The frequency distributions of the commercial databases were discussed between these two types of institutions followed by ranking of commercial databases and their subscribers. Lastly, the commercial databases have been classified by subject to know the core areas.



Engrossed Audience

The post lunch session was chaired by Ms. Dharmishtha Patel, Head, Library & Documentation Division, SAC, (ISRO). Four papers were presented in this session. The first paper was on **Seamless Scholarly Communication for the Universities of Gujarat** by Dr.N.D.Oza, Asst.Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar. Dr. Oza covered the need & importance of the Open Access environments and its applications through the web based database of scholarly communication generated by the PG faculties of the Universities of Gujarat. He examined the academic environment and the research output of the Universities of Gujarat, Publications of their Faculty Members, Importance of an Institutional Repository as per their perception, those interested in using institutional repository and Concerns for the submission to an institutional repository. The outcome of the study was discussed in context of the 'Centralized Model for Institutional Repository' to bring together the scattered knowledge available in all the Universities. The policy, implementation and technical level issues and the outline of hardware and software required for this Model were also discussed.

The next presentation was on **Resource Sharing Networking of College Libraries affiliated to Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar – A feasibility Study** by Mr. Laxman M. Katara, Librarian, V.P. & R.P.T.P. Science College, Vallabh Vidyanagar. This paper discussed the pivotal role of college libraries & the field of resources sharing and networking, scope, methodology etc. It analysed the collected data and mentioned the availability of infrastructure facilities for computer and networking. Finding provides reality of the college libraries. It suggested need of infrastructure for resources and networking.

The third paper in this session was on **Resource Sharing of Engineering Colleges of Gujarat** by Ms. Rajeshri Patel, Asst. Librarian, INDUS Institute of Technology & Science & Ms. Renuka Dave, Librarian, Shri Chimanbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Computer Application. This paper emphasized that Networking and Resource sharing have always been important factors in library services. It provided an idea to motivate the GTU affiliated Engineering Colleges for implementing resource sharing. The paper discussed objectives / need of resource sharing, areas of resource sharing, services & problems of resource sharing.

The last paper was on the **Need and Importance of Networking of Engineering College Libraries of Gujarat: A Proposal** by Mr. Tejas H. Shah, Librarian, V.V.P. Engineering College, Rajkot. This paper revealed the importance of networking, sharing resources and standards of various engineering college libraries of Gujarat. Definition and strategies for resource sharing and networking in engineering college libraries of Gujarat were covered. The author felt that it would be useful if GTU could undertake this initiative.

Dr.Shishir H.Mandalia University Librarian (I/C) Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar could not present his paper on **Proposed Model for Networking of Government Engineering College Libraries in Gujarat**.

Besides all these technical paper presentations, representatives of the following four companies made brief presentations spread over in both the sessions. These were mainly focused on their products and services.

- **SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd.**
- **Elsevier e-books**
- **3M**
- **Swets**

#### **Suggested Recommendations**

- ADINET should become a nodal point for Resource Sharing initiatives.
- Establish a standard model for networking libraries in Gujarat.
- Conduct training programs for Librarians.
- Identify and recommend IT infrastructure needs.
- Maintain database of databases available in libraries in Gujarat.
- Prepare a proposal for networking engineering college libraries in Gujarat.

# LIS IDENTITY PROJECT

In the recent issues of the ADINET Newsletter, articles have been published emphasizing the fact that Librarians are Masters of the INFO Universe, Changing Face of Libraries & the Time for Libraries is Now.

In this information rich age, we not only have a flood of electronic material, the internet but also information and communication technology. This makes the role of librarians not only very important, but really critical and crucial. Our role pervades all sectors and also all fields. Even in the field of education, be it the primary, secondary and higher education, e-learning programs are making a big impact. Private tuitions are being replaced by e-tutorials. Librarians are both information experts and interdisciplinary experts, hence are best suited to classify, catalogue and retrieve the thousands of e-learning programs.

While the benefits of information are truly substantial, they are difficult to quantify, hence the value of information and also the providers of information goes unrecognized.

Librarians have been working in the background and have been mostly providing free services. We need to convey the importance of our role in this changing information environment by presenting a proper picture of our professional value to our clients and thereby make known to them the value of our expertise and contributions.

ADINET had conducted a Panel Discussion on the LIS Identity Project and has also prepared a Book Mark for this project. We really need to become proactive to take this message forward:

CHANGE Thinking.....  
CHANGE Attitude.....  
.....Things WILL CHANGE

**LIS IDENTITY PROJECT**

**CHANGE Thinking**  
**CHANGE Attitude**  
**Things WILL CHANGE**

**COLLABORATIVE PROJECT**

- ❖ **PROMOTE Importance of Information**
- ❖ **PROVIDE Better Services**
- ❖ **PROJECT Your Library & its Services**

**JOIN together**  
**with one thought and intent to**  
**CREATE a healthy identity**

Ahmedabad Library Network

# TAKING IT FORWARD .. FIRST STEP

## NETWORKING LIBRARIES IN GUJARAT FOR RESOURCE SHARING

ADINET is a network of librarians (and libraries). We need to retrospect and continuously contribute to strengthen this platform. Ideas pour in but actions are delayed for good number of reasons. Let's take the Seminar ideas forward and start putting some of them in practice...

Networking of libraries requires a few fundamental actions from librarians' side :

Organizing Resources in structured manner (Subject-wise shelf-arrangement is recommended - Classified Collection - following DDC, CC, UDC or Special);

Creating bibliographic records of all the items (adopt Cataloguing structure based on User-needs - i.e. selection of data elements from MARC-21. Follow either AACR or CCC for standardization of data-inputs, select subject terms from Standard Lists like Sears List of Subject Headings, LCSH or may be a subject thesaurus);

Grouping collections according to its material type (Print, Audio, Videos, Digital, Online) and one may have to divide it further into Reference, Lending, Special, Archives etc. Assign Collection Code to each division, to standardize the operation;

Data input in Library Management Software and if not at least in a spreadsheet format.

Most of the above are the basic standard practices followed by all types of Libraries. The following suggestions could help Libraries to increase Resource Sharing or Inter-Library Co-operation, using available technology of emails, word/excel:-

Send the List of Additions arranged **Subject-wise** (avoid title/author order) regularly to all the Libraries in your subject areas (recommended frequency once a month)

Send the List of Subject Journals/Periodicals subscribed by your Library to all the Libraries in your subject areas (recommended frequency once a year)

Send the Contact Staff details (with Tel.No./email-id) to all the Libraries in your subject areas (at least once a year)

One may say when Web-OPACs are available what is the need ? The reason can be - all libraries yet do not have Web-OPACs and getting a regular communication will help build relationship among the Librarians and Libraries. This explicit communication will certainly increase Resource utilization. The receiving Library may even think of circulating the Lists among its users or may put it up on its Notice board.

This might be just a first step towards Networking Libraries for Resource Sharing.