

MINUTES OF 7TH COUNCIL MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 20TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2005 AT
UGC HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI



The 7th Council meeting of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC Head Quarters, New Delhi on Tuesday, the 20th of September, 2005. The Meeting commenced at 1100 Hrs. and concluded at 1315 Hrs. The following members were present:

In the Chair

Dr. Arun Nigavekar

*Chairman, UGC &
President of the Council*

Members:

Dr. S Ramani

Chairman, GB, INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. Ved Prakash

Secretary, UGC, New Delhi

Shri Syed Shahid Mahdi, IAS (Retd.)

Ex. Vice Chancellor

*Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
(A Central University)*

Prof. N Bijoy Singh

Vice Chancellor

Manipur University, Imphal

Dr. (Mrs.) M D Baby

University Librarian, CUSAT, Kochi

Prof. (Mrs.) Nupur Prakash

SIT, GGSI, New Delhi

Dr. Sudhendhu Mandal

Director, National Library, Kolkata

Dr. T A V Murthy

Director, INFLIBNET & Member Secretary

Special Invitees:

Dr. P Prakash

Joint Secretary (IUC/MC) UGC, Delhi

Shri Narain Singh

Under Secretary (IUC/MC) UGC, Delhi

Shri D P Negi

Admn. Officer (PA&F)

INFLIBNET Centre

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Welcome

At the outset Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman UGC and President of the Council of INFLIBNET Centre extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished members and greeted them for taking interest in the activities of INFLIBNET Centre and making it convenient to attend the Meeting.

01 *Opening Remarks by the President*

Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, UGC, was greatly appreciated the significant contributions made by INFLIBNET under the leadership of Dr. T A V Murthy, Director of the Centre and his team and complimented them. He remarked that in spite of several constraints, commendable achievements were made by the Centre during the last 4 years.

He further stated that the services under UGC-Infonet-E-Journal Consortium are being effectively used by the academic community and is making a big impact in the Campuses of Indian Universities. He narrated his personal experiences during his interaction with the users and cited specific instances of Dibrugarh University (Assam) and Kuvempu University (Karnataka) where the research scholars have expressed immense happiness in deriving the optimum benefits of the information through e-resources provided under the Consortium and produced impressive results. He also apprised the members about a young scholar's impression which has created the sensitivity in the letter to the Editor in the Mathematica E-Journal thus greatly admiring the benefits made available through these programmes.

While complimenting on the splendid work done by INFLIBNET, he has also touched upon the newer initiatives of UGC and mentioned that the Commission will soon come out with guidelines for E-Thesis Online making it a mandatory submission for digitization and said that it will enhance the Indian thesis

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dissertation system globally. Further, he has informed the Members that since INFLIBNET has already done considerable work on this activity by creating the bibliographic data for its access and retrieval, it will play an active role in this innovative programme. He apprised the members that a lot of ground work has already been done on this activity on the part of Commission. He hoped that INFLIBNET will continue to embark upon contributing towards the quality and excellence to Higher Education for the next (11th) Plan too.

He wished to place on record the commendable work done by Dr. T A V Murthy, Director in executing the prestigious Projects i.e. UGC-Infonet and E-Journal Consortium dedicated to the Nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and President during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of University Grants Commission and also expressed his gratitude to the Governing Board for extending the valued guidance, cooperation and support.

He also commended the presence of SOUL Library Management Software across the country in reaching out to large academic and research institutions and keeping with the technology in strengthening the demand and networking drive.

Before concluding his opening remarks, Dr. Arun Nigavekar informed the members about his relinquishing the charge of the Office of Chairman, UGC on 27th of September, 2005 and solicited members also to express their views on the performance and role of INFLIBNET.

Dr. S Ramani, Chairman-GB & FC, INFLIBNET made a remark that INFLIBNET is doing excellent work and playing a lead role. He informed the members that during the first 10 years of its existence, no significant work was accomplished and the real work and initiative have been taken up now by Dr. Murthy and his team during the last 3-4 years. He expressed his feeling that though INFLIBNET which is his own family should not be praised by him, he could not stop himself in complimenting INFLIBNET for its tangible results and contributions. He was very emphatic in suggesting that INFLIBNET's excellent work should be made more known to the general public and academicians and they should know more

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about the role and activities of INFLIBNET. He suggested that in order to give wide publicity and coverage to the real work done and achievements made by INFLIBNET, advertisements in all leading national newspapers should be inserted by the Centre on regular basis on its activities and programmes. All the members unanimously agreed and apprised the Director to go ahead. It was also advised that the Centre should go to the Campuses and conduct the Awareness/Training programmes on a continuous basis.

While offering his candid opinion, Dr. Ramani suggested that in view of the popularity of SOUL Library Management Software across the country, serious thought may be given to make it as an "Open Source" in public domain and instead of earning revenue, we may earn respectability and credibility from all over the world. At this juncture, most of the members were of the opinion that since the SOUL Software was developed and pressed into service to boost the library automation activities, before considering such suggestion, its merits and demerits need to be considered and other related issues like; after sales and service are required to be examined carefully.

While concluding his remarks, Dr. Ramani made an expression that the role of Dr. Arun Nigavekar was supportive rather than controlling from the UGC and it was always felt a healthy sign. He was highly appreciative of the working style of Dr. Nigavekar.

The Members observed that the present meeting was taking place after a lapse of over two years and suggested that hence forth irrespective of any constraints, the meeting be conducted annually on regular basis.

Shri Syed Shahid Mahdi, IAS (Retd.) while offering his remarks, complimented INFLIBNET for the extra ordinary role played by it under the leadership of Dr. Murthy in achieving several milestones and reaching out to the Universities in a big way. He also brought to the notice of the members that the 2nd International Caliber (2004) organized by INFLIBNET under Dr. Murthy's leadership at Jamia Millia Islamia, when he was the Vice-Chancellor of that University, and said that it

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was a grand success and provided greater awareness and interested to the academics from the country and abroad in adopting the new technologies. Further, he informed the members that he had the occasion of visiting INFLIBNET personally during few months ago when he was in a mission to Gujarat Vidyapith and during his visit, he felt extremely happy to see the superior state of the art technology, IT infrastructure in the Centre. During his visit he interacted with Scientists and others in knowing the different activities that are being carried out and was highly satisfied with the rapid progress made by the Centre. He expressed serious concern about the acute shortage of manpower faced by the Centre and earnestly requested the Commission to resolve the issue of manpower shortage on top priority basis.

Prof. Nupur Prakash, at the outset, complimented the initiatives taken and adequate publicity made by the Centre through its variety of conventions, training programmes, workshops, seminars etc. across the country and stated that while participating in some of the activities, she gathered very positive impression and feedback about the services and of closeness to the academic community. She further commended the lead role played by the Centre in the UGC-Infonet & E-Journal Consortium besides SOUL package which is even becoming popular outside India. She was indicated during her visit to Mauritius University, she was told that there is a demand of SOUL. She emphatically mentioned that very soon the Centre will earn more respect in the international level as SOUL be reaching out to all the SAARC countries and also Mauritius, which is in the Indian Ocean and also Member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Dr. Baby while greatly appreciating the newer programmes of INFLIBNET said that the Centre has created a "professional human wave" across the country in awakening the library professionals and the benefits of its activities have started reaching the nook and corner of the country and in her own state (Kerala) as well. Further, she informed the members that there is a great demand for the E-Resources at the College level and said that as a matter of fact a large number of Colleges have started approaching her for availing the INFLIBNET's services.

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which are optimally being utilized in her own university. She also mentioned that INFLIBNET has already created about 1 crore databases and bibliographic data of thesis to the tune of 1,60,000 which is a commendable collection.

At the end, Prof. Bijoy Singh appreciated the activities and outstanding achievements of INFLIBNET and apprised the Members that INFLIBNET has extended effective support and services to the North-Eastern States. He appreciated the pain taken by Dr. Murthy. He further mentioned that during the last few years INFLIBNET has made a remarkable presence in the academic circle in particular North-East and the people have started getting the benefits of its activities like; UGC-Infonet, E-Resources, Training/Awareness Programmes etc. which are the difficult tasks for anyone to execute from Ahmedabad. He made special mention about a series of Regional conventions (PLANNER) organized by INFLIBNET for creating IT awareness, strengthening Library Automation and Networking and exposure to the technological advancement for the benefit of the professional in North-Eastern Region. He said that it is a positive indication of excellent professional growth played by INFLIBNET in awakening the people in that part of the country and the pioneering efforts made by Dr. Murthy to bring this region into the mainstream are praiseworthy.

02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 6th Council Meeting held on 10th March, 2003 at the UGC Headquarters were circulated. Since no comments were received, the minutes were treated as confirmed.

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03 *Presentation of the Status Report*

The President requested Dr. Murthy to give a brief summary of the major activities of the Centre. Dr. Murthy enumerated about the achievements made by each Division as highlighted in the Agenda. However, the observations/suggestions made by the members and the clarifications given by the Director on the activities are summarized below:

Database Management

All the members were very much delighted to know the steady progress of the Data and suggested that it is the right time to enter into an agreement with OCLC so that academics in India can get benefit out of the WorldCat. Dr. Murthy informed that the initiative has already been taken after due consultations with Dr. Ramani and other members and adequate provision has been made in the budget estimates for deputing 2 Scientists from the Centre to OCLC, Ohio, Columbus (USA) and also invite one or two experts from OCLC to the Centre to interact and study the data of both the organizations to facilitate working out a formal arrangement.

This was unanimously agreed by all the Members and they requested Dr. Murthy to go ahead in the matter.

R & D Activities

With regard to R & D activities: Dr. Nupur Prakash and Dr. Ramani advised that the development of SOUL Software should incorporate Multilingual, International Standards, keeping in view the state-of-the art technology and the Centre should bring out the latest version at the earliest of Open Source and also Multilingual and bring out the latest version at the earliest. The Director apprised

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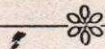
the Members that the development work on the new version has reached the advanced stage and the same will be launched soon incorporating a variety of new features like; MARC-21, Effective Storage, Multilingual etc. and the same will be provided will be provided to the existing users as well as new indenters. The members were very happy to learn about the rapid growth and record number of installations done across the country and conveyed their appreciation to the Director for the great initiatives in this direction.

The President was of the opinion that in view of its technological achievements and popularity of SOUL, INFLIBNET may consider following the MICROSOFT model of outsourcing of operation of SOUL and may place the matter to its GB at an appropriate time. At this point of time, Shri Mahdi and Dr. Nupur Prakash advised that since this is a very high professional task, it should be done with utmost care taking into account all relevant factors.

While briefing the Members, the Director shared the happy feeling of executing on war-footing basis about the training on Operation and Installation of SOUL, Automation and Networking of Libraries and the SOUL Software provided by the Centre to all the Colleges in the States of NORTH-EAST and J&K under the special drive of the Prime Minister. He informed that several of such programmes were meticulously planned and conducted successfully over the period of time and all the Colleges in the above states will become the user of SOUL package.

He further mentioned that this challenging task was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for North-East Shri Kyndiah who greatly appreciated the services of INFLIBNET moving into the North-Eastern States. The Members highly appreciated the role of INFLIBNET in launching this initiative in the difficult situation.

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E-Journal Consortia

The Members were very much pleased to see the excellent progress made by INFLIBNET through this initiative in reaching out to larger population in the country. Dr. Murthy further informed that beginning September 2005 onwards efforts are being made to reach out to Colleges of Potential Excellence. He apprised the Members about the recent special request received from the Government of Kerala for extending E-Resources to the Colleges.

The Director also informed about the pains taken sustained hard works put in by him and his team by working day and night for execution of this programme by making the same a reality in a record time. He stated that the positive results of this programme are now visible and the usage has been analyzed' university-wise, department-wise, subject-wise, and publisher-wise. This has enabled the academics to improve their academic pursuits and reach the greater heights. He mentioned that the E-Journal Consortium Programme involved enormous amount of travel, training programmes, interaction with academics, students, publishers, aggregators etc. across the country. He further mentioned that besides Awareness programmes initiated at a massive scale, the users groups in all the regions of the country have been formed for optimum usage of E-Resources.

The members unanimously appreciated the great efforts and untiring efforts in this direction and suggested to Dr. Murthy that he should form cluster groups of the Universities by region wise and spread vigorously the campaign of e-journals usage.

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Human Resource Development

Dr. Murthy informed the members that a new milestone has been achieved under this activity by covering about 8500 professionals enveloped in various programmes initiated for training, skill formation, hands-on training etc. which has helped a great deal in creating IT culture in the universities and colleges.

Networking

The Director briefed the Members about the co-ordination done with other agencies and Universities and the support provided by the Centre in a commendable manner in implementing the UGC-Infonet. He also informed that the Centre has coordinated a large number of training courses conducted in collaboration with ERNET, and also conducted special programmes in Hindi in the Centre besides devising Security policies, Measures of the Utilization and up gradation of Bandwidth, under this programmes.

While debating on E-Learning, the Members suggested that since CEC is already taking up this activity on full fledged basis, INFLIBNET may collaborate with them rather than taking up its own. While participating in the discussion, Dr. Ramani made an observation that the role of INFLIBNET may be confined to dissemination of contents whereas the content creation should be responsibility of CEC.

While concluding his briefing on the status report, the Director intimated that next PLANNER and CALIBER are scheduled to be held in Collaboration with Assam Universtiy, Silchar and Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka during November, 2005 and Feb 2006 respectively.

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04 BRIEFING ON PROCEEDINGS OF
13TH & 14TH MEETINGS OF GB:

The Director made a brief presentation on the deliberations taken place and decisions arrived in the 13th & 14th Meetings of the Governing Board of the Centre. Prof. Bijoy Singh made a candid observation of the hardship experienced by INFLIBNET due to inadequate technically trained skilled manpower in spite of repeated recommendations by the Governing Board to the Commission. At this juncture, all the Members unanimously expressed the same feeling. Dr. Bijoy Singh suggested that the Council may accord clearance for filling up of all the vacant posts of the Centre. At this juncture, Dr. Niagavekar mentioned that a One man Committee has already been appointed to look into the actual manpower requirement to enable the Commission to accord approval for filling up of the vacant posts.

05 Presentation of Audited Accounts

The audited Accounts for the FY 2003-04 and 2004-05 were presented by Shri D P Negi, Admn. Officer (PA&F) before the Council. The Council unanimously approved the same. However, while approving the above accounts, the President advised the Centre to submit a brief note on the pricing of the SOUL package supplied to the Madhya Pradesh Government Colleges and also furnish the necessary clarifications with regard to the actual corpus/trust's funds to the Commission, for information. The Members advised that such administrative matters need not be brought to the Council hence forth.

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07 *Vote of Thanks*

At the end Dr. T A V Murthy expressed his sincere thanks on his own behalf and on behalf of the INFLIBNET family members who stood with him all these years in carrying forward his vision and mission, to the Members and officials of UGC for extending kind guidance, support and encouragement.

He also expressed his deep gratitude to Dr. Arun Nigavekar and wished him Good Luck for a happy retired life.

Minutes prepared by

(T A V Murthy)
Director & Member Secretary
Council of INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by

Chairman, UGC &
President Council of
INFLIBNET CENTRE