

MINUTES OF THE 9th FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 10th OF JULY 2003 AT
UGC HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI

The 9th Meeting of the Finance Committee of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC, headquarters, New Delhi on 10th July 2003. The meeting commenced at 1030 Hours and concluded at 1130 hrs. The following were present:

In the chair

Dr. S Ramani Chairman

Members:

Dr. C S Meena	Joint Secretary (FD), UGC
Dr. T A V Murthy	Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad
Shri S M Salgar	Scientist-G, INFLIBNET Centre
Shri C K Shah	Admn. Officer (F&A), INFLIBNET Centre & Non-Member Secretary to FC

Special Invitees:

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi	Dean, VAP, IUCAA, Pune
Dr. P Prakash	Joint Secretary (IUC/MC) UGC, Delhi
Shri R K Kainth	Under Secretary (IUC) UGC
Sh. D P Negi	Admn. Officer (P & A), INFLIBNET Centre

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Dr. Ved prakash, Secretary,UGC, and Dr. S Venkateswaran, Director, BITS, Pilani could not attend the meeting

At the outset, Dr. T A V Murthy, Director of the Centre welcomed all the members and introduced Dr. C S Meena, JS (FD) UGC, to the Members. Dr. S Ramani, Chairman GB/FC expressed happiness in his presidential welcome after reviewing the progress and achievements of the Centre on various fronts and in its missions. He hoped that the Centre will get more support from the Members through their active involvement and participation. He has observed that the Centre has fully geared itself in the challenging scenario with increased responsibilities and produced tangible results.

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01 Opening Remarks:

The chairman requested the Director to proceed with the Agenda items. The Director apprised the members briefly on the major initiatives taken and other responsibilities shouldered by the Centre, particularly the co-ordination and support extended for launch of UGC-infonet and E-Subscription etc. which are of gigantic nature. Special training Workshops on "Web Designing and Hosting", E-Resources and Networking" and ICAR-INFLIBNET Training Programme initiated by the Centre, to train 140 Librarians drawn from different SAUS and ICAR institutions for which an amount of Rs.20 lakhs has already been received as grant from NATP under World Bank funding Programme, also figured during the opening remarks. The Chairman admired the progress made by the Centre and mentioned that this has been possible due to sustained efforts put in and close interaction with the people concerned made by Dr. T A V Murthy, Director. All the members concurred with the Chairman and appreciated the leadership provided by Dr. Murthy in galvanizing the Centre's activities to new heights and boosting the morale of the staff.

02 Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Centre circulated the Minutes of the 8th Finance Meeting to all the Members vide letter No.DIR/VIII-FC/2003 dated 17th February 2003. Since no comments were received, the Committee confirmed the minutes.

03 Action items generated in the last Meeting of FC And reporting on action taken:

Shri C K Shah, Non-Member Secretary of Finance Committee/Admn.Officer (F&A) of the Centre, informed the members about the action items of the last meeting of Finance Committee and action taken on those items. While participating in the discussion, Dr. C S Meenta, JS (FD) made suggestion that in future the Centre may furnish the brief background and justifications on the items of expenditure, which are considered on higher side, as compared to the expenditure incurred under those heads during the



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previous year, for the information of the members. He further suggested that this could be presented as an Annexure to the respective financial accounts of the Centre. All the Members appreciated his valuable guidance. The Director of the Centre agreed to provide required information, in future.

04 Presentation of Audited Accounts for the F.Y. 2002-2003

The Admn. Officer (F&A) of the Centre presented to the Committee the Audited Accounts for the F.Y. 2002-2003 and explained the contents in detail. While considering the Audited Accounts, the Committee made the following observations.

- (a) Regarding expenditure on Stationery & Printing given in schedule No. 13 on page No. 15, members expressed concern regarding the higher expenditure on above item, as compared to last year. Shri Shah clarified that during the last F.Y. a variety of training and new programs were undertaken by the Centre, which has resulted increase in expenditure. The clarification was noted with satisfaction.
- (b) Regarding maintenance of office equipments given in Schedule No. 13 and on Page No. 15, members wanted to know the reasons for no expenditure last year and the expenditure incurred under this head this year. It was explained that due to the warranty period of equipments no maintenance charges were increased during the last year.
- (c) For higher expenditure on telephone and trunks calls, electricity charges and building maintenance, members wanted to know the reasons. It was brought to their kind notice that during the period in question, the Centre has undertaken many training programs and other activities and therefore, the expenditure has gone on higher side, in particular, UGC-Infonet, E-Journal subscription and regional training programmes across the country. It was further clarified that the Centre has observed utmost economy in building maintenance and it was bare minimum requirement for up keeping the buildings. Therefore, expenditure has been kept to barest minimum. The matter was noted with satisfaction.

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- (d) The Committee wanted to know about Additional Grants earned as investment shown as Rs. 1,23,49,808.00 in the income and expenditure accounts for the year, which ended on 31st March 2003. It was explained that in tune with the internal audit suggestion, interest earned during the year has been shown in the above manner. It was further clarified that basically it is an interest earned by the Centre on various deposits kept with nationalized banks, which was noted by the Members.
- (e) In respect of the balance sheet as at 31st March 2003 (page No. 8) regarding corpus or Trust Fund's of the INFLIBNET Centre, Committee wanted to know about the corpus of Rs. 7,39,25,570.00. Committee was of the opinion that it is unspent money accumulated by the Centre. Shri Shah explained in detail above the corpus fund and savings available with the Centre. He also explained that it is not unspent money but excess of income over expenditure accumulated from the beginning and details of the same are shown on the Asset side in the balance sheet. Mr. Shah also explained that Centre has Rs. 4,24,76,991.00 as corpus, which has been kept as deposit with nationalized banks with full security. It was further explained that it is not unspent money but revenue generated by the Centre from supply SOUL and other miscellaneous income and accumulated interest earned on it from the beginning. The Members were satisfied with the above reasoning.

**05 Briefing on the replies furnished to Internal Audit of
UGC against the Audit queries relating to F.Y. 2001-2002.**

The Chairman desired to know the type of objections raised by the Internal Audit Wing of UGC on the Accounts for the above financial years. Each para raised by the IAW was read to the Committee with replies furnished to IAW. The Committee felt satisfaction over the replies furnished to the IAW.

Officer
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Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre
(An IUC of University Grants Commission)
Ahmedabad 380 009

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06 To Scrutinize and approve revised estimates for F.Y. 2003-04 and budget estimates for F.Y. 2004-05.

The F.C considered the projection of the Centre under R.E. for F.Y. 2003-04 and B.E. for F.Y. 2004-05 as shown under the different heads in budget document. Dr. P. Prakash, Joint Secretary, UGC, informed that for E-Subscription there is a separate provision for funds, which will be provided by UGC to INFLIBNET Centre, in a phased manner. As regards funds for UGC-Infonet, funds for the same will be transferred to Universities directly by UGC. He suggested that the Centre should make provision for E-Subscription activity because substantial funds are required for the same. The Director of the Centre explained that in the Budget document appropriate provision has been projected for this activity. The Director of the Centre has also apprised the Members about the various meetings of the Group set-up by UGC, held on E-subscription and the progress made on those activities. Further, he requested Dr. V.S. Cholin to enlighten the Committee about the E-Subscription in detail. Dr. Cholin gave the detailed information about the participating universities, the disciplines and Publishers/Societies selected etc. and also briefed members on other issues related to E-Subscription.

After considering the submission made by the Director and AO-F&A of the Centre and taking into account all other aspects, the committee recommended the following budgetary provisions for the Centre, for approval of the GB.

Revised Estimates for FY 2003-04	(Rupees in lakhs)	Budget Estimates for FY 2004-05	(Rupees in lakhs)
Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.1500 lakhs for E-subscription)	1621.00	Plan (This includes the provision of Rs. 4500 lakhs for E- subscription)	4734.00
Non-Plan	280.20	Non-Plan	314.40

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07 PROJECTS ON E-JOURNAL/CONSORTIA SUBSCRIPTION
UNDER 10TH PLAN

Keeping in view the innovative initiatives taken up by the Commission, a Committee was set-up by the Chairman, UGC for e-Journal subscriptions to be made available for the academics across the country, in particular, to the **UGC-infonet** covered Universities on priority basis.

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi IUCAA, Pune, was made Convener of the same. It has drawn people with experience on the subject from different Ministries and other wings of the Government of India, where e-journals/consortia activities have already taken place. This Committee has deliberated extensively by involving academics, scientists, librarians from different universities and institutions of national importance and suggested steps to be taken for subscribing the e-journals in a moderate way and eventually increase them over the period to all the universities under **UGC-Infonet** in a Project mode. However, they have also worked out various economic models in different disciplines and have seen the test samples etc and also submitted preliminary report in this regard. The same were placed before the Chairman, UGC. After considering the report and getting deeply convinced about the relevance and usefulness of the E-journals in the National context and to bring revolution in the higher education, appointed a High Power National Negotiation Committee, consisting of Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, as the Convener along with Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, and UGC officials, and few other Members from different disciplines. This Committee was authorized to further negotiate and arrive at an optimum cost applicable for the consortia of e-journals for Indian Universities for the mostly sought abstracting and indexing journal and full text journals in all the disciplines including the gateway portals which provide access to large numbers of Journals and help in Resource Sharing among the university libraries in India. It was also suggested that the outcome of the negotiations may be referred to the Finance Committee, Governing Board, and Council of the INFLIBNET Centre, which is the executing agency for this purpose. In this context, the Negotiation Committee has taken adequate care while going through the exercises of MHRD (INDEST) and the sporadic experiences of CSIR, and few other initiatives in the country. Since the usage is in larger scale, strenuous efforts

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were made by the Negotiation Committee. The committee used its experience, ability and skills in the process of negotiation and has been successful in arriving at the rock-bottom prices as far as possible. Since the number is likely to increase, the negotiation formula will be able to envelope the remaining new universities under its ambit in time. Under the circumstances, the committee recommended the following 6 Publishers/Societies be taken up on priority basis in Science and Technology, while further efforts for Social Science and Humanities are continued in a large-scale operation, including access to **J STOR** collection.

Publisher	No. of Journals / Database	Subscription Amount in Rs.
1. American Chemical Society	30	1,73,90,000
2. Chemical Abstracts service	Database	1,14,30,494
3. STN International Service	Database	23,50,000
4. Nature	1	34,12,500
5. Royal Society of Chemistry	27	1,10,83,500
6. Institute of Physics	36	1,48,00,125
	Total	Rs. 6,04,66,619

Thus, the 6 Publishers comprising of around 100 titles of disciplines and prestigious databases invariably needed by large number of universities would come down to Rs.6.05 crores, approximately for providing access to 50 Universities in the first phase, the same would otherwise cost about Rs.36 crores. Members felt very happy with the exercise so meticulously carried out by the Committee and appreciated the efforts and authorized the National Negotiating Committee to go with the same vigor, spirit and modalities for other publishers in all other disciplines on continuing basis.

The above data was presented by Prof. Ajit Kembhavi of IUCAA, Pune, along with Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre.

It was recommended by the Committee that wherever there is a straight-forward case of proprietary item or no competitor or single source, the Director INFLIBNET Centre is authorized to place orders based on the recommendations of the Negotiating Committee and report it to the

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Finance Committee, Governing Board and Council of the Centre, in the ensuing meetings.

The money may be released phase-wise to INFLIBNET by UGC for executing the same in the above-mentioned Project. Dr. P Prakash, Joint Secretary (IUC-UGC) confirmed that adequate funds are available for the project. INFLIBNET was also advised to look into all other formalities of multi-licensing, security, legal aspects, mirror sites, archival files, print copies, wherever applicable.

Further, the Negotiating Committee was authorized to go ahead with the E-Journal subscription activity in all disciplines taking into account the needs of the academics by way of approaching the Publishers or their authorized, aggregators vendors/Agencies/Sole representatives and deal with them while looking into their reliability, services and credentials. It was also deliberated and agreed that advance payments are to be made in the E-journal subscription. However, suitable guarantee may be obtained from respective agencies wherever considered necessary.

The Finance Committee strongly recommended to GB to accord approval for placement of orders for 50 (Fifty) universities on the above mentioned six publishers / societies for e-journal subscription as shown against their names, based on the recommendations of National Negotiation Committee without going into further negotiation / tendering, to begin with. The FC further recommended that the GB, while according its approval, may consider placing the matter the Council of the Centre to seek the approval of the Council also. FC further recommended to GB that Director, INFLIBNET, may be empowered to place orders for E-Journal subscription, based on the recommendations of the National Negotiation Committee, without calling tenders for the present and future transactions.

It was also further agreed unanimously that since financial crunch is on Universities they are not able to subscribe research and academic journals to meet the minimum requirements. Under the circumstances, resource sharing will expand access to much larger number of journals through gateway portal services. In the last few years, INFLIBNET has made

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substantial investments for creating infrastructure at Universities and also established Six document delivery centers, which could be activated through the portal services to enable them to use the resource effectively.

The FC also recommended that Director, INFLIBNET may be empowered to finalize the list of 50 universities to be given an access on experimental basis and also advised to increase the number on incremental basis for various titles under different disciplines in a time bound manner.

In the absence of availability of Indian journals in electronic form, INFLIBNET has been advised to take up the process of digitization of important journals with the help of ICSSR, TISS, CIEFL and other institutions. Dr. Ramani suggested that such type of job should be out-sourced to professionally competent parties. Director INFLIBNET will take up necessary action to invite and execute the proposals from these institutions for digitization of their reputed journals. Further it was suggested to meet the expenditure from the E-subscription project for executing these activities urgently.

Dr. Ramani suggested that **e-teaching** may be used for training people on e-subscription, introduction to digital libraries etc. Dr. Ramani felt that a sum of Rs. 5 lacs proposed to be spent on users training was much less as compared to Rs. 15 crores to be spent on e-journal subscription. He wanted this amount to be increased substantially. He suggested that experts like Dr. T. B. Rajasekhar of IISc and others may be invited to train trainers. The Members wanted that suitable mechanism be worked out for such training by 1st October, 03.

The Members were also of the opinion that, the Indian Journals available in electronic form may also be gradually included and link provided to them wherever already available and they have further advised that Dr. Murthy may take initiative to identify such collection which can be provided along with the first lot of journals to universities especially from Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) etc.

Dr. Ramani

Dr. Murthy

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08 Any Other Item

With the permission of the Chairman, the A.O. (F&A) briefed about the bank charges of Rs. 21533.00 charged by SBI during the F.Y 2001-02, which has been objected by Internal Audit Wing of UGC under the Para 8 of their Audit Report. The matter was taken up with the bank authority. The SBI has informed vide its letter No. MISC/09/2003/04/15 dated 20.06.2003 that it is not possible to reverse the earlier decision for waiving the bank charges. The Non-Member Secretary asked for advice of the committee. The Chairman and the members were of the opinion that bank should not charge the bank charges, being a Government organization and valued customer. The Committee advised to take up the matter again with the State Bank of India and ultimately if bank is unable to waive the charges, the Centre may consider to close the bank account with SBI and open new account with another nearest nationalized bank.

09 Vote of Thanks

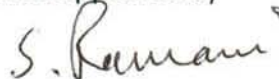
The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Minutes prepared by


(C.K. Shah)
Admn. Officer (F&A) and
Non-Member Secretary, FC
INFLIBNET Centre


(Dr. T.A.V. Murthy)
Director
INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by



(Dr. S. Ramani)
Chairman, FC
INFLIBNET Centre

**LIST OF ATTENDEES OF
9TH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE SCHEDULED ON
10TH OF JULY 2003 AT UGC HQ NEW DELHI**

S.No.	Name	Signature
01	Dr. S Ramani Chairmn-GB-INFLIBNET, Bangalore	<u>S. Ramani</u> July 10, 2003
02	Dr. Ved Prakash (Member) Secretary (UGC), Delhi	
03	Dr. S Venkateswaran Director, BITS, Pilani (Rajasthan)	
04	Dr. TAV Murthy (Member) Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad	<u>TAV Murthy</u>
05	Financial Advisor UGC, NewDelhi	<u>Dr. Chandek</u> 10/7/03
06	Dr. P. Prakash (Special Invitee) Joint Secretary (IUC), Delhi	<u>P. Prakash</u> July 10, 2003
07	Shri S M Salgar Scientist-G, Member INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad	<u>S. M. Salgar</u> 10/7/03
08	Shri C K Shah Admn.officer (F&A), Member-Secretary INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad	<u>C. K. Shah</u>

9. R. K. Kaith
Under secy - Uae

R. K. Kaith
10/7/03

10. D. P. Negi
AO CPSIA
INFLIBNET

D. P. Negi