

MINUTES OF THE FIRST GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
OF THE INFLIBNET CENTRE

The first meeting of the Governing Board of INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC, New Delhi on 20th May, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. Following were present.

In the Chair : Prof. Yash Pal, National Research Professor and  
Chairman, GB

Members : Prof. J.V.Narlikar, Director, IUCAA  
Dr. S.P. Gupta, Secretary, UGC  
Shri P.P. Kale, Ex-Director, SAC/ISRO  
Prof. Chandrakant Mehta, VC, Gujarat University  
Prof. J.P. Gupta, Member Secretary, AICTE  
Prof. T. Vishwanathan, Director, INSDOC  
Miss Harsha Parekh, Librarian, SNTD Women's  
University  
Shri Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET and  
Secretary to the GB

Invitees : Prof. N.C.Mathur, Vice Chairman, UGC  
Dr. P.S. Rajput, Joint Secretary, UGC

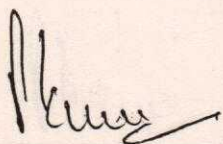
Also present : Dr. R.P. Gangurde, Addl. Secretary, UGC  
Shri S.M. Salgar, Scientist-G, INFLIBNET

Other members of the GB who were unable to be present :  
Dr. Vasant Gowarikar, Prof. Y.K. Alagh and Prof. Ramlal Parikh.

(Agenda Item No.1) : CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman welcomed the members of GB to the meeting. He said that it was a special occasion as INFLIBNET has been registered as a society under Societies Registration Act 1860 and also under Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 on 16th May, 1996.

Minutes of the informal GB meeting held on 19th April, 1996 were confirmed and a copy of the same was circulated to all the members.



Chairman remarked that there was a wrong feeling that all information comes from abroad. There is enough information available in our own country, but unfortunately this information is not shared and so is not visible. He was of the view that INFLIBNET develop its own network to support academic and research programme in the country. This network should be connected to INTERNET so that the whole world can access the vast amount of wisdom and knowledge available in India.

(Agenda Item No.2) : ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO GOVERNING BOARD OF IUCAA AND STEERING COMMITTEE OF INFLIBNET PROGRAMME FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS INFLIBNET PROGRAMME

GB acknowledged the contributions made by Prof. J.V. Narlikar, the staff members and the Governing Board of IUCAA, for nurturing the INFLIBNET Programme from 1991 to 1996. Prof. Narlikar in turn thanked UGC and its authorities in helping to run INFLIBNET Programme. He congratulated Director, INFLIBNET Programme for getting it registered as an IUC of UGC and hoped that INFLIBNET Centre will achieve new heights in future.

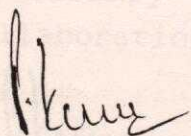
(Agenda Item No.3) : BRIEF PRESENTATION ON ACTIVITIES OF INFLIBNET PROGRAMME BY THE DIRECTOR

Director, INFLIBNET Centre thanked Director, and the staff of IUCAA for providing all the support and sustaining INFLIBNET Programme for last five years.

The Director gave a brief account of the activities carried out by INFLIBNET Programme. Highlights are given below.

(1) Automation of libraries

Against the target of automating 60 university libraries in the 8th Plan period, 54 libraries have already been funded under this programme till the end of March, 1996. It is proposed to fund 20 more libraries in FY 1996-97 for which budget has been sanctioned by UGC. Out of 54 libraries funded so far, only about 16 libraries have managed to procure computer systems. The



procurement process in universities for these computers needs to be hastened.

(2) **Training**

Library professionals from 110 universities and 12 Regional Engineering Colleges have been trained in computerised operation of libraries through 12, one month courses for operational staff and 3 Executive Workshops for senior librarians. 3 annual national conventions popular with acronym CALIBER have been organised in different parts of the country. The last convention was organised at Vadodara jointly with MS University of Baroda in February this year which was attended by more than 200 library professional from all over the country.

(3) **Creation of Standards/Formats for Data Capturing**

A national level standardisation committee has finalised standards and formats for serials, books, theses and dissertations, to be used by libraries for creating databases. Copies of a manual containing these standards and formats have been widely distributed to university libraries.

(4) **Creation of Databases**

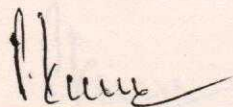
A centralised database is being created at INFLIBNET Centre. We have so far received data of serial holdings from 60 universities. Theses/dissertations have been collected from all universities. The database now covers 27,000 serials, 70,000 doctoral dissertations, and about 6.5 lakhs book holdings. A database of experts in various academic fields is also being created which has 1600 records presently.

(5) **On-line Access Facility**

A mini computer to house this centralised database has been installed at INFLIBNET Centre. This computer has been connected to I-NET on leased line with four X.25 ports. This database can be accessed by university libraries either on-line or in off-line mode using E-Mail.

(6) **Software development**

A Library Management Software is under development in collaboration with DESIDOC. Cataloguing, search and circulation



modules were developed and refined based on feedback received from few university libraries where these packages were installed for trial. Other modules viz. Acquisition and serial control are under development. Number of interfaces and utility software tools have also been developed.

(7) **Networking**

University libraries have been advised to subscribe to ERNET of DOE, NICNET of Planning Commission and I-NET of DOT. Through ERNET and NICNET, users will be able to send E-Mail across the world and also access INFLIBNET database off-line in query and response mode. Use of I-NET for data communication substantially reduces communication charges.

Some universities have already started taking advantages of off-line search facility by sending queries to INFLIBNET using E-Mail which are being served off-line and reply is being sent back by E-Mail.

INFLIBNET HQ has already got X.25 leased line connection of I-NET. This will enable university libraries having I-NET connections to access INFLIBNET databases on-line.

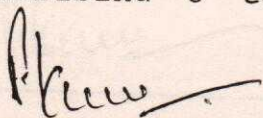
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. have started a cost effective service called "Gateway INTERNET Access Service (GIAS)" for accessing foreign databases on-line. INFLIBNET has become a subscriber to GIAS.

(8) **COPSAT Services**

"Contents with Abstracts of Periodicals in Science And Technology (COPSAT)" service started in collaboration with NCSI, Bangalore is increasingly becoming popular. ISO 2709 format has been introduced in the service to enable subscribers to create their own COPSAT database. This service has been found very useful by the research and academic community. 283 subscriptions have been received till date.

(9) **Manpower**

INFLIBNET Programme in first year had staff strength of 12 comprising 6 technical persons and 6 administrative/support



staff. Significant growth in the manpower took place in the third year i.e. 1993-94 and the staff strength became 19 /comprising 11 technical and 8 administrative/support staff. The staff strength in 1995-96 rose to 23 comprising 15 technical and 8 administrative/support staff.

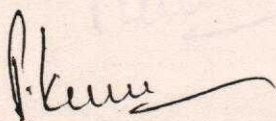
(10) Budget

The total grant provided by UGC to INFLIBNET Programme in 8th Five Year Plan was Rs.853.9 lakhs. It had two main components viz. (i) Grant-in-aid of Rs.459.63 lakhs provided directly to universities for modernising their libraries and (ii) Grant totalling Rs.394.27 lakhs provided to INFLIBNET Centre for its activities.

In the first year i.e. 1991-92 a small amount of Rs.25 lakhs only was provided for initiating the Programme. The grant peaked to Rs.360 lakhs in 1994-95 when substantial amount was provided to a number of universities as grant-in-aid from the special grant provided for library improvement. In the last year of the 8th plan i.e. 1996-97 a grant of Rs.250.04 lakhs has been approved by UGC.

(11) Utilisation of Grants

UGC has provided a total grant of Rs.394.27 lakhs for various activities at INFLIBNET Centre during the 8th five year plan. The total establishment expenses are of the order of Rs.181 lakhs. Training and networking activities account for Rs.55.25 lakhs and Rs.38.15 lakhs respectively. A mini computer along with suitable RDBMS worth Rs.15 lakhs has been procured. Database creation and software development activities account for Rs.10.9 lakhs and Rs.5 lakhs respectively. Maintenance and consumables account for Rs.14.8 lakhs. An amount Rs.45.82 lakhs for INFLIBNET building consists of rent being paid to Gujarat university for present premises and a sum of Rs.10 lakhs as seed money is kept for starting building activity for INFLIBNET Centre. This seed money could not be used till date due to non-availability of land. Rs.27.43 lakhs meant for setting up a regional centre has been sanctioned for the year 1996-97 and will be utilised accordingly.



For further details, 'Activities of INFLIBNET Programme' document, provided with agenda papers, may be referred.

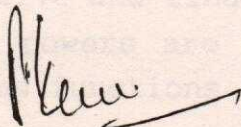
GB considered the report of activities undertaken by the INFLIBNET Programme during the years 1991-96 and suggested that :

- (a) the Library management software developed by INFLIBNET Programme be widely publicised through brochures, press notes, etc.
- (b) more funds be provided for software development and database creation activities.
- (c) Shri P.P.Kale may be requested to approach Ahmedabad Education Society and other agencies for helping in identifying some land for housing the INFLIBNET Centre in Ahmedabad.
- (d) INFLIBNET should provide high speed and reliable data services by using VSAT facilities and may approach private data network operators for the required services.
- (e) INFLIBNET Programme approach universities to send text of theses and dissertations produced in their campus on floppies to some centres who can store them and provide information services. UGC's help may be sought in this matter.

(Agenda Item No.4)

:AUDITOR'S REPORT

GB considered the Auditor's Report for the F.Y. 1995-96 and the audited accounts of the INFLIBNET Programme for the year 1995-96 and accepted the Auditor's Report.



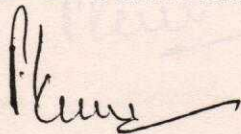
(Agenda Item No.5) : TAKING OVER ALL THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM IUCAA INCLUDING THE STAFF WORKING AT PRESENT FOR INFLIBNET CENTRE

GB considered the question of transfer of all assets and liabilities of the INFLIBNET Programme of the IUCAA, Pune, to INFLIBNET Centre, the newly registered society at Ahmedabad and

- (a) resolved that all the assets and liabilities of the INFLIBNET Programme of the IUCAA, Pune be transferred to INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad consequent to its registration as a society and becoming an IUC of UGC.
- (b) Resolved further to authorise the Director, INFLIBNET Centre to take over all the assets of the INFLIBNET Programme of the IUCAA, Pune (as mentioned in the Annexure 5-A and 5-B) and to issue a letter of acknowledgement to the Director, IUCAA, Pune.
- (c) Resolved that the services of 22 staff members including 6 vacant posts of INFLIBNET Programme as given in Annexure 5-C stand transferred with immediate effect to the INFLIBNET Centre. Most of these staff members have been appointed by IUCAA on fixed term basis. However, when people are transferred to INFLIBNET Centre all of them will be treated as appointed on regular basis and the staff will be treated as permanent staff of the Centre till superannuation.

(Agenda Item No.6) : DELEGATION OF POWERS TO DIRECTOR, INFLIBNET CENTRE

The GB considered the issue of delegation of powers to the Director, INFLIBNET Centre and resolved that the Director, will be the executive authority of the Centre. He shall have executive and financial powers on par with the Director of IUCAA. These powers are meant for enabling the Director to carry out various functions as enumerated below :



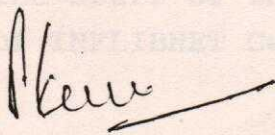
1. The Director will be executive authority of the Centre and shall have all powers needed for the administration of the Centre and shall be responsible for proper administration and control over funds of the Centre. He/She will provide leadership on all aspects of the Centre's functioning.
2. The Director is vested with such executive powers as required and incidental for the purpose of proper administration, subject to the rules and the Bye-laws.
3. The Director shall, subject to the provisions of the Rules and the Bye-laws and decisions of the Governing Board, exercise general supervision and disciplinary control over the officers and the staff of the Centre and prescribe their duties and functions.
4. The Director shall coordinate and exercise general supervision of all the activities of the Centre.

(Agenda Item No.7) : NOMINATION OF GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS  
AND ONE SENIOR STAFF UNDER INFLIBNET TO  
FINANCE COMMITTEE

GB resolved that in partial modification of Rule No.25 of rules of INFLIBNET Centre the number of members in the Finance Committee of the INFLIBNET Centre, be raised from 7 to 8, to provide for one ex-office member viz. Additional Secretary (Central Policy and Planning) of the UGC.

GB also resolved that the following be nominated as members of the Finance Committee of INFLIBNET Centre for a period of three years.

1. Shri P.P.Kale - As a member of Governing Board, nominated by chairperson Governing Board.





2. Shri S.M.Salgar - Scientist G, INFLIBNET Centre as a senior member of staff / of INFLIBNET Centre.
3. Additional Secretary, - Ex-officio member.  
UGC (Central Policy and Planning)

(Agenda Item No.8) : PRESENTATION OF INFLIBNET BUDGET FOR FY 1996-97, ALREADY SUBMITTED TO UGC

GB adopted the budget estimates of the INFLIBNET Centre for the year 1996-97, as already approved by the Finance Committee of IUCAA for INFLIBNET Programme and submitted to the UGC.

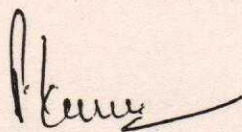
(Agenda Item No.9) : 9th PLAN PROJECTIONS

GB considered and resolved to adopt the modified budget proposals amounting to Rs.42.18 crores for the INFLIBNET Centre for the 9th Five year plan period which take care of comments of Chairperson. UGC.

(Agenda Item No.10) : BYE-LAWS AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

GB considered the question of preparing bye-laws and service conditions of the staff members of INFLIBNET Centre and

- (a) Resolved that the INFLIBNET Centre take action to prepare bye-laws and service conditions, etc. for the staff of the INFLIBNET Centre and finalise the same as early as possible and present at the next GB meeting.
- (b) Resolved further that till the various bye-laws and service conditions, etc. are finalised and adopted, in the interim period the bye-laws and service conditions as applicable to the staff of the IUCAA, Pune will be applicable to the staff of INFLIBNET Centre.



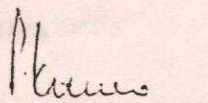
(Agenda Item No.11) : CREATION OF POST OF A SENIOR LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL.

GB considered the question of creating one post of senior library professional at the INFLIBNET Centre and resolved to create one post of Scientist-F/Scientist-E possessing requisite qualifications and experience in library science field and having knowledge of computers.

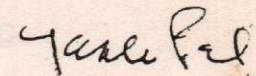
(Agenda Item No.12) : APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

GB authorised the Director, INFLIBNET Centre, to appoint consultants having specialisation in different fields to carry out various functions in coordinating information services.

There was no other matter to discuss and so the meeting ended at 12.50 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
Pramod Kumar 7.6.96

Minutes approved by

  
7.6.96  
Prof. Yash Pal  
Chairman, GB