

MINUTES OF THE 6th COUNCIL MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 10TH OF JULY 2003 AT
UGC HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI

The 6th Council meeting of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC Head Quarters, New Delhi on 10th July 2003. Following members were present:

In the chair

Dr. Arun Nigavekar Chairman, UGC & President of the Council

Members:

Dr. S Ramani	Chairman, GB-INFLIBNET
Dr. V N Rajasekharan Pillai	Vice - Chairman, UGC, Delhi
Dr. Ved Prakash	Secretary UGC, Delhi
Dr. H K Kaul	Director, DELNET
Prof. Shalini Urs	University of Mysore
Dr. Amit Roy	Director, NSC, Delhi
Dr. T A V Murthy (Member/Secretary)	Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad

Invitees:

Dr. P Prakash	Joint Secretary (IUC/MC) UGC, Delhi
Dr. C S Meena	Joint Secretary (FD), UGC, Delhi
Prof. Ajit Kembahavi	Dean, (VAP) IUCAA, Pune
Sh. S M Salgar	Scientist-G, INFLIBNET, Centre
Sh. C K Shah	Admn. Officer (F & A), INFLIBNET Centre
Dr. V S Cholin	Scientist-B, INFLIBNET Centre
Sh. D P Negi	Admn. Officer (P & A), INFLIBNET Centre

Welcome:

Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, profoundly expressed his happiness in extending a warm welcome to Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai, who assumed charge as Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, who is a distinguished academician and former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (Kerala State) and Director, NAAC, Bangalore. All the Members joined him in congratulating Dr. V N Rajasekharan Pillai.



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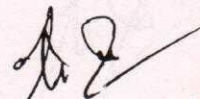
01 **Opening Remarks by the President**

Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, University Grants Commission and also President of the Council of INFLIBNET Centre, extended a warm welcome to all the Members and apprised them of the review of the new initiatives taken by him in the recent months, in particular, the UGC-infonet and E-Journal Subscription. He especially expressed his profound happiness and complimented Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, for shouldering higher responsibilities in co-ordinating with the initiatives and important activities with the Universities, ERNET, UGC and other Agencies, in an efficient manner.

While complementing Dr. T A V Murthy, he desired that this should be placed on record.

Dr. Nigavekar, on this occasion informed the members that with the launch of UGC-infonet and E-subscription activities, the responsibilities of INFLIBNET has increased tremendously. He also mentioned that in all about 151 Universities in the country will be brought under the scope of UGC-infonet and the implementation will be done in three phases. In the first phase, 62 universities have already been sanctioned the grants and action to sanction grants to another 62 universities will be initiated as soon as the JTTC finalizes the requisite connectivity to be provided to this Universities, under the second phase. The implementation of the remaining 27 universities will be taken up under the third phase. He further mentioned that besides launching the prestigious UGC-infonet and E-Journal subscription activities, the Commission has initiated the UGC Network Resource Centre Scheme for the Colleges and proposals have already been received from about 2000 Colleges out of about 5800 Colleges. He suggested that to make the e-journal initiative more effective and meaningful, the awareness campaign and users training are very important and should be initiated.

He further apprised the members that to meet these objectives, the Commission has already planned to organize 5 training programmes across the country by drawing academic staff college teachers to equip them with necessary skills and act as trainers from 51 academic staff college. These training programmes have been scheduled to be conducted



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during August-September, 2003 and about 200 individuals will be trained under the training programme. It was also suggested to include the use of E-Journal methodology besides modus operandi of UGC-infonet etc. which will be handled by INFLIBNET.

The President informed that CEC will play an effective role in E-content through EMRC which will be known as Education Multimedia Resource Centres. He also expressed happiness over the contribution of the IUCs in helping the Commission in its newer activities.

**02 Confirmation of the Minutes of the
5th Meeting of the Council**

Since no comments relating to the Minutes of the 5th Council meeting were received, the Minutes were confirmed.

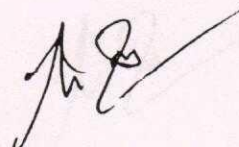
**03 Report on the action taken items
Generated in the last council Meeting:**

Action initiated with regard to major initiatives namely UGC-infonet, E-Journal subscriptions and 10th Plan Proposals, Vision documents extension of training programmes were appraised and Members noted with sense of satisfaction.

**04 Presentation of Status Report of the Centre
by the Director.**

The Director of the Centre, Dr. T A V Murthy was congratulated by the Chairman, GB, on the progress of the Centre, in particular, the marathon exercises undertaken with the co-ordination of Dr. Ajit Kembhavi, Dean, VAP, IUCAA, Pune and others in finalizing the modus-operandi relating to UGC-infonet and E-Journal subscription and strengthening the SOUL Software activities and reaching the same to larger number of users.

Besides all other important activities, Dr. Murthy apprised the members regarding the ICAR-INFLIBNET Training programme initiated by the Centre, to train 140 Librarians drawn from different SAUs and ICAR institutions for



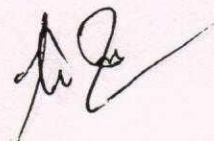
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which an amount of Rs.20 lakhs has already been received as grant from NATP under World Bank funding Programme and also tremendous progress achieved in the NISSAT/DSIR funded project on expert databases in the field of Science and Technology in respect of Scientific and R&D Organizations under which about 26,000 records have been created and successfully hosted on the Web. He also informed the members regarding successfully conducting the prestigious training Workshops on "Web Designing and Hosting", "E-Resource Management using UGC-Infonet." in the context of UGC-Infonet. Further coordinating National Training Courses under UGC-Infonet and effectively conducting the annual convention CALIBER-2002 which was converted for the first time into an international event and held at Nirma Education and Research Foundation (NERF) Ahmedabad, where more than 300 delegates participated, out of which over a dozen International delegates from UK, USA, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines and Sri Lanka participated. He also apprised about the steps taken in upgrading technological and physical infrastructure both at the main buildings and at the hostels as an operational need to meet with the high standards.

The Director of the Centre apprised the members with regard to the ongoing activities of the Centre viz. SOUL (New version) and its Promotion across the country, E-learning Modules, New Training Programmes, NISSAT Expert databases and continuous updating of Books, Serials and other databases etc. and the newer initiatives of ICAR-INFLIBNET Training programme, and the members greatly expressed satisfaction and complemented the Director and his staff.

05 Briefing on proceedings of the 12th meeting of Governing Board

Dr. S Ramani, Chairman of the GB briefed the Council about the deliberations of the 12th Governing Board meeting held on the same day fore-noon and the recommendations made and approval accorded on various issues. He stated that there is a need to ensure adequate training of users all over the country for the usage of the E-Journals. He suggested that about 15 experts may be drawn from different Universities/Institutions to train the trainers and the members endorsed the same.



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The President while appreciating the suggestion of Dr. S Ramani for auditing of UGC-infonet connectivity, the existing JTTC, which is already addressing this issue should minutely look into this aspect and further said that INFLIBNET to take all the necessary steps to make the programme viable.

**06 Presentation of Audited Accounts
for FY 2002-2003:**

The Council considered the Audited Accounts of the Centre pertaining to FY 2002-2003 and approved the same unanimously.

07 Presentation of Annual Reports for 2002-2003:

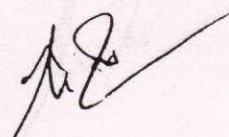
The Annual Report of the Centre relating to the year 2002-2003 were placed before the Council. The contents were discussed and the same were approved.

08 Status of UGC-Infonet

The Status of **UGC-infonet** was presented by Dr. Murthy with Shri S M Salgar, Scientist-G, indicating the progress made on 171 Universities to be connected which were categorized into A,B,C & D. The status include..

Existing ERNET Link	22	Agreement signed	124	Funds released from UGC	62
PO Recd. By ERNET	41	Site Survey/Link Proc.started	52	Site Survey Proc. completed	42
Equipment shipped	17	Installation in Progress	07	Link commissioned	06

The Members expressed concern about the pace of progress and felt that ERNET may be informed to speed up the implementation process, while INFLIBNET keeping a strict monitoring and keeping the Commission informed.

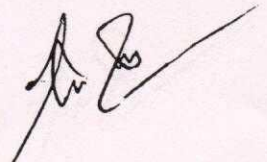


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09 **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON CONSORTIA FOR E-JOURNALS FOR
OBTAINING APPROVAL FOR PLACEMENT OF ORDERS:**

PROJECT 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 bring revolution in the higher education, the Chairman, UGC 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



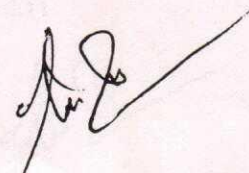
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initiatives in the country. Since the usage is in larger scale, strenuous efforts were made by the Negotiation Committee. The committee used its experience, ability and skills in the process of negotiation and has been successful in arriving at the 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.
American Chemical Society	30	1,73,90,000
Chemical Abstracts service	Database	1,14,30,494
STN International Service	Database	23,50,000
Nature	1	34,12,500
Royal Society of Chemistry	27	1,10,83,500
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 along with Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre.



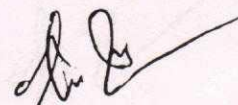
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Wherever there is a straight-forward case of proprietary item or no competitor or single source, the Director INFLIBNET Centre is authorized to place orders based on the recommendations of the Negotiating Committee and report it to the Finance Committee, 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 matter was placed before the Governing Board of the Centre in its meeting held on the same day in the forenoon. To begin with, the GB accorded 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. While according approval, the GB, however, suggested to place the matter before the council of the Centre and also seek approval of the council. The GB further resolved and empowered the Director, INFLIBNET 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.



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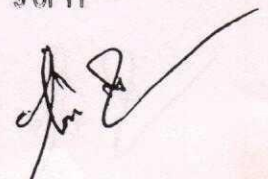
It was also further agreed unanimously that since financial crunch is on Universities they are not able to subscribe research and academic journals to meet the minimum requirements. Under the circumstances, resource sharing will expand access to much larger number of journals through gateway portal services.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

GB further authorized Director INFLIBNET 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



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Science Academy (INSA) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) etc.

Prof.V N Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, UGC and Dr. S Ramani, strongly advocated for inclusion of Management, Languages and Social Science, besides Humanities appropriately.

The Council unanimously endorsed the above recommendations and approved the same in toto and expressed special appreciations for the strenuous efforts put in by Prof. Ajit Kembhavi of IUCAA, Pune and Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET, along with his team and the Members of the Committee in evolving a methodology for E-Journal Subscription and arriving at the financial models suited to our Indian Universities.

10 Briefing on Outside Projects:

The Director and Shri S M Salgar, Scientist-G, apprised the expeditious execution of NISSAT-DSIR funded project of experts database, World Health Organization (WHO) Project on experts in Medical Sciences, and the ICAR Training programmes for 70 ICAR Institutions and State Agricultural Universities. The members noted with care the progress made and complimented the Centre on the progress and achievements.

11 Any Other item with the Permission of the Chair

With the permission of the chair the following matters were taken up for discussion:

Promotion Policy for Scientific/Technical and Administrative Staff.

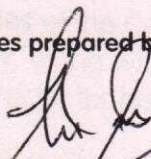
Dr. T A V Murthy, emphasized the need for restoration of the promotion policies/scheme for healthy growth and development of the Centre and its activities. The President and Members shared the views of the Director and expressed their concern over the promotion policies and requested the Chairman to look into the suitable promotion policies to the employees of the Centre at an earliest. However, as an interim measure it was approved that Centre may embark upon engaging skilled manpower on contract



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The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and also to the Members for their active role and whole-hearted support and participation.

Minutes prepared by:



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

Minutes approved by:



(Dr. Arun Nigavekar)
Chairman, UGC & President
Council of INFLIBNET Centre