# National library and information network a solution for 21st-century library

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## ABSTRACT

*The knowledge is generated at many points in the world from research institutions, universities industries and commercial organisations. From the point of generation, knowledge is recorded and communicated through a variety of channels. The effective and horizontal transfer of information is becoming vital in the process of economic development of the country. Therefore, a planned approach to organising the information to ensure that information gaps are plugged and free-flow exchange of information on a centralised basis. The National Library and Information Network as a powerful National force is now being recognized by the government, industry and education. The National Library and Information Network is a means of achieving national objectives through very economical way and effective utilization of Information and helps to reduce the wasteful duplication of intellectual effort and expense incurred in providing duplicate coverage of the same materials. A National Library and information Network are the only solutions to meet the need and requirements of the 21st-century library.*

*Keywords—* *Library Network, Network System, NLIC, RLIC, BLIC, LIU*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rising cost of materials, operations and services combined with Publication explosion and shrinking budget force libraries to resource sharing and networking. In the 21st century, the role of libraries is to activate a free flow of information from the point of generation to point of the utilization of information efficiently and effectively. This is only possible by resource sharing and networking because library and information network eliminate size, distance and language limitations on the community of users through networking. The interactions between library and information centres by network system will revolutionize the method of retrieving information and provide timelines of information at a tremendous saving cost.

## 2. DEFINITION OF LIBRARY NETWORK

A library network can be defined as a group of individual libraries or organisations that are interconnected through different modes situated at different locations. The aim of networking is to achieve sharing of resources to provide better services to users. The National Commission on library and information science, USA defined the network as- "Two or more libraries and/or other organisations engaged in a common pattern of information exchange through communication for some functional purpose. A Network consists of a formal arrangement when materials and services provided by a library are made available to all the potential users." The word Corporation, centralization, consortium, resource sharing and network are used as synonyms and are interchangeable. However, a network is a form of arrangement or an administration structure that link a group of libraries which have agreed to work together and share their resources.

## 3. NEED OF NETWORKING

The extraordinary dynamics of information give rise to financial pressure upon the libraries and information centres for coalescing into a network in order to share the resources rather than duplicating them so that the sum total of document purchase, fund of the country is stretched to obtain maximum number of the titles, no matter where they may be actually held. The sharing cost of reading materials as against tighter budget does also force us to think a national Library and Information Network. There are now more users to be served by libraries and information centres. The information requirement of the users is also becoming more and more different. There is also a time pressure on the supply of information multitude of mutually competitive and uncoordinated information enter using outdated tools and inefficient and absolute techniques can no longer stand the strain. The network has come too regarded as the inevitable solution to cope with this complex situation. The reasons to develop a National Library Network are as below:

   (a)  Information explosion
   (b)  Access to global information
   (c)  Inadequacy of existing information system
   (d)  Raising the cost of documents
   (e)  Lack of library budget
   (f)  Meet the information need of a user

## 4. OBJECTIVE OF NATIONAL NETWORK

(a) Provision of literature relevant to and adequate for meeting the present need and capable of development to meet the future need of generators, processors, disseminators and users of information.

(b) Optimum utilisation of existing library and information system, their resources, services and development of new ones where necessary.

(c) Provision of precise and exhaustive information accessible with minimum delay presented in a manner convenient to the respective users at a reasonable cost.

(d) Promotion of Research Development and innovation in information technology.

(e) Development of facilities for education and training in library and information science.

## 5. FUNCTION OF THE NETWORK

The National Library and Information Network are responsible for organizing, coordinating and providing library and information services at the local, regional and national level, covering a wide range of subjects and national and endeavours. The function of the network may be as below:

(a) To survey the existing library and information system, their resources services throughout the nation.

(b) To identify the present information requirements of users at all level and forecast future requirements in the light of the National Development Plan.

(c) To develop the existing library and information resources and services and provide new ones where action to the present and future requirement of users through cooperative acquisition, processing and storage of information resources and application of latest information technology for analysis, retrieval and dissemination of information.

(d) To co-ordinate and communicate the resources and services of the components of a network for their effective utilization through union catalogue, bibliographic, CAS, indexing & abstracting services.

(e) To facilitate efficient and economic inter ending of information resources.

(f) To establish a centralized data bank for quick information services.

(g) To keep liaising to other similar national and international organisations for cooperation and exchange of Publication, information and expertise in information handling.

(h) To actively participate in Research Development and innovation in library and information science to enhance both the efficiency and effectiveness of information services.

## 6. STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NETWORK

The National Library and Information Network is a flexible system with its components, operating under a variety of ownership and jurisdiction but collaborating under the guidance of a coordinating body. The model which would be considered in this context for effective information flow and linking up of the various academic bodies in different regions of the country. The National Library and Information Network will work as a central agency, would be based on a grid system with several regional and local units. Such mortifier's organisation of the network would consist of various levels of libraries and information centres as follows:

(a) National Library Information Centres (NLICs) -The NLICs would be responsible for coordinating, organizing and providing the information services at National level covering a wide range of subject and national endeavours. Its primary rule would be to link up and promote the free flow of information throughout the nation.

(b) Regional library information centres (RLICs) -The establishment of RLICs would helpful in utilizing full resources available in various parts of the country. They would mobilize the information resources of the region to fulfil the request of users.

(c) Branch Library Information Centres (BLICs) - The BLICs would be subject-oriented or discipline-oriented, developed from the most suitable LIU having already developed a strong information base. They would serve all the institutions in the discipline of BLIC and they would be worked as a channel of dissemination of information between NLIC and LIUs.

(d) Local Library and Information Units(LIUs) - The LIUs are the ultimate recipients of information from NLICs and BLICs would be offered professionalized information services in anticipation and again specific request by providing information necessary for the efficient functioning of the present institutions.

### Activities and Services of National Network

- Acquisition and storage
- Document supply services
- Bibliographical services
- Alerting services
- Information and data supplied services
- Liaison work
- Network Control and Research Centres

## 7. CONCLUSION

The planning of National Library and Information Networks all over the world is still in the stage of infancy and no sufficiently precise doctrine or methodology has yet been developed to assist those who are responsible for the complicated task of planning. It

requires qualified experienced personal in library and information science, planner in scientific, technical, educational, social and economic development to join their heads to reframe National Library and Information Policies, define the objectives and function of  National Library Network and planning their activities and services in the light of the national development policies and plan. The government should take it as an integral part of national development and provide an adequate budget for the development of National Library and Information Network. A system of feedback should be developed to improve the existing services of the network from time to time and proper liaison should be maintained with other national and international agencies engaged in information handling and standards in various facets of library and information activities and services should be developed and applied to continuous improvement.

## 8. REFERENCES

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