

A Proposal for creating Roorkee Engineering Library Network

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Abstract

Paper proposes a model for Roorkee Engineering Library's network and discusses the modalities for the same. Roorkee has the distinction of having more than six research libraries, viz. CBRI, IRI, NIH, BEG, Roorkee University, and KTI Polytechnic, Roorkee. A survey of these libraries is carried out by circulating questionnaire and data is collected regarding the computer facilities available in these libraries. These libraries are willing to participate in the proposed library networking based on LAN system if proper funding, (initial and regular) are made available. It proposes the steps to start Roorkee Engineering Library Networking similar to DELINET, PUNENET, CALIBNET and SIRNET etc

INTRODUCTION

During the last five years, library and information activities in the country have entered a new era. Individual libraries are coming out of the proverbial Berlin wall around them. They are trying to form a larger community in an effort to tackle the ever increasing demand of information and for better services quantitatively and qualitatively in an environment already overstrained by pecuniary pressures. Forced, motivated, or logic driven, librarians are coming out in larger numbers from their shells. This has resulted in discernible change in the information scenario. Now a large number of library resource-sharing network like the Metropolitan Area Network such as CALBINET (Calcutta), BONET (Bombay), PUNET (PUNE), MALIBNET (Madras), HYLIBENET (Hyderabad), ADNET (Ahmadabad and countrywide ones like SIRNET of CSIR Laboratories are under various stages of conceptualisation, design and development. A host of agencies like NISSAT/DSIR, INSDOC/CSIR, DESIDOC/DRDO, DBT, NIO are involved. Looking from participant's side, it is common to find an institution participating more than one network. For example, CDRI, Lucknow has already an access to SIRNET and BTSINET (Biotechnology).

It is likely that development of various networks would eventually lead to the participation of hardware, software, format and codes. Unless conscious decisions are not taken across the board, every network would make its own efforts in manpower, development often drawing much more heavily than the existing small pool of resources can support.

A flexible collective mechanism is required to be established well before the situation gets out of hand. Some standard courses to support manpower requirements could be arranged for all networks. NISSAT is taking initiative in this direction.

The concept of library networking to aid information resource-sharing and support activities in libraries has become a real necessity. In India, the need for resource-sharing has been well recognised but the technology options available till now were limited. NISSAT has already taken up networking of libraries in Calcutta, Delhi and it is due to launch networking of libraries at Pune and Bombay.

NETWORKING

The implementation of the networking plan is to be achieved in various stages :

1. Getting the libraries as well as the users tuned to resource sharing via network centres around a central host computing facility.
2. Cost involved
3. Introduction to computer culture in libraries.

NETWORK SERVICES

- Union Catalogue, access to national/international data base
- Current awareness and SDI
- Authority data, document, transfer/copy
- Library automation
- Acquisition and fund accountability
- Serial control
- Books and journals maintenance, inter-library users service
- Circulation - issue and return of document
- Reservation, creation and maintenance of bibliographic data base
- User Services

Roorkee Library Networking (RELNET) : A Proposal

Roorkee is a seat of engineering excellence in education, research and practice since more than a century old. It has an old age Thomason College of Engineering presently University of Roorkee, Central Building Research Institute, U.P. Irrigation Research Institute, Bengal Engineering Group (Defence Establishment), National Institute of Hydrology, School of Earthquake Engineering, KTI Polytechnic and Institution of Engineers, Roorkee with libraries and information centres of these establishments. These have rich and rare collection that is useful to each other. The resources collection, services and expertise can be shared easily if a networking system is developed among these points lying in a radius of 2-3 kilometers in Roorkee city

The concept of networking with the introduction of high speed personal computer, interlinking is possible to communicate among each other and sharing resources directly or through a file server within and/or outside work stations of other organisations. A network can allow several users to access and use the same database using the same programme

simultaneously. File server coordinates the activities of a group of computers connected to it. A network can consist of more than one file servers, work stations alongwith their peripheries. The work stations may have an important unit (PC alongwith hard disc) that can be linked at times to the file server for larger storage space or programme execution or data handling or a dumb terminal as input/output device. Each file server will have its own links within the sysem/organisation and links to other file servers through interface cards. It can work well within a distance of 12000 to 13000 feet under bus topology with a speed of 10 MB/Sec.

EXISTING RESOURCES

Central Building Research Institute, (CBRI) has recently acquired Pentium PRO system that can easily act as server for internal networking as well as networking with University of Roorkee, National Institute of Hydrology, Bengal Engineering Group, U.P. Irrigation Research Institute and School of Earthquake Engineering which also have computer facilities for working as work stations/file servers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A ROORKEE EINGIENERING LIBRARY NETWORK (RELNET)

These institutional libraries were surveyed by preparing a questionnaire enquiring about their willingness of participating in a proposed RELNET and other details about their collections, computer facilities and other details. These questionnaires were sent to all these institutes and the replies received from them were analysed. The geneal outcome is given below :

- shows collection of participating libraries
- shows staff position
- shows the services available
- shows the trend of resource-sharing

CONCLUSION

It will definitely increase the use of available resources with a one time input in getting all these information access points linked in networking system. It will also reduce the regular recurring expenditure on collection development to a large extent using resource-sharing phenomenon and networking system. It will also avoid duplication of collection saving valuable resources from redundancy.

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