

**INFLIBNET Centre  
Ahmedabad**

December 3, 2007

**Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of INFLIBNET Centre held on Monday,  
the 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 at the UGC Headquarters, New Delhi**

**Members Present**

Prof. S.K. Thorat	President, Council, INFLIBNET Centre
Prof. S.K. Khanna	Chairman, GB, INFLIBNET Centre

**Members, INFLIBNET's Council**

Dr. T R Kem	Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
Dr. P.R. Goswami	(Representing Chairman, ICSSR, New Delhi)
Dr. R Ramachandran	I/C Director, National Library, Kolkatta
Dr. Kamlakar Singh	Vice Chancellor, MP Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal
Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra	Jt. Secretary, UGC, New Delhi (Bureau-Head)

**Members, INFLIBNET's Governing Board**

Dr. A. Balasubramanian	Director, EMMRC, Mysore
Shri M. Moni	Dy. Director General, NIC, New Delhi
Dr. Muttayya Koganuramath	University Librarian, TISS, Mumbai
Dr. Jagdish Arora	Director, INFLIBNET & Member Secretary, GB

**Invitees**

Shri D P Negi	AO (PA&F), INFLIBNET Centre
Shri Ashok P Ahtani	Section Officer, INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. Moolchand Sharma, Vice-Chairman, UGC, Chairman, AICTE and Dr. Samir K Brahamachari, Director General, CSIR, New Delhi, could not attend the meeting because of prior commitments.

At the outset, Prof. S K Thorat, Chairman, UGC and President of the Council, INFLIBNET Centre extended a warm welcome to all the distinguished members of the council and the Governing Body of the Centre and thanked them for contributing to the activities of INFLIBNET Centre with their suggestions. He specially thanked Prof. S.K. Khanna, Chairman of the Governing Board, INFLIBNET Centre for attending the meetings of the Governing Board and the Council in spite of his personal commitments.

Prof. Thorat reiterated that the INFLIBNET Centre is one of the service-oriented IUCs of the UGC that is geared to meet the information requirements of the academic community



in universities. Moreover, the UGC-Infonet programmes on Internet Connectivity and Digital Library Consortium has attracted appreciations from academic community in universities. He reiterated that the programme should now be extended to all colleges including colleges with Potential for Excellence as well as autonomous colleges.

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 at the UGC Headquarters, New Delhi**

The Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 was confirmed as circulated, since no comments were received from the members.

**2. Presentation on the Current Status of the Centre**

**2.1. Launch of New Web Site for the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium**

On request of Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, the Chairman, UGC launched new version of the website of the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium. Dr. Arora then gave a live demonstration on search & browse interfaces and other features and functionalities of the new web site.

**2.2. Current Status and Activities of the Centre**

A presentation was made on the following major activities and services of the Centre:

**2.2.1. Database Management**

The Centre, since its inception, took initiatives of building union catalogues of library resources available in university libraries in India. These databases contain bibliographic records of books, serials and theses on all subject areas available in participating universities. The INFLIBNET databases are compiled by gathering bibliographic records from 142 participating universities in different formats that are merged into a single union database with each record having information about holding universities. The databases are made accessible free-of-cost through web-based search interfaces developed in-house through the Centre's Web site at <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>. Major union databases and number of records in each of them is as follows:

Name of the Database	No. of Records
Books	75,46,314
Theses	1,75,206
Current Serials	13,881
Serials (Unique)	14,500
Serials (Holdings)	50,164
Subject Experts (University)	15,500
Subject Experts (NISSAT)	14,000



### **2.2.2. Utilities and Interfaces for Union Databases**

The Centre is involved in development of software based on functional requirements, day-to-day activities and services of the Centre. Two groups of the Centre i.e. Software R&D Group and Database R&D Group are involved in the software development activities. The Database R&D Group has developed software applications and utilities for activities and routines that are pre-requisites in the process of making union catalogues. These applications and utilities are deployed to reformat bibliographic records of books, journals and theses received from various universities so as to merge them into the union catalogues of books, journals and theses, respectively. The Database R & D Group has also developed web-based search and browse interfaces for these union catalogues.

### **2.2.3. SOUL Software**

The SOUL software, designed and developed for automating libraries of the universities and colleges, is a state-of-the-art library management software consists of six integrated modules, i.e. Acquisition, Cataloguing, Circulation, Serials Control, OPAC and Administration. It is windows-based software working on client-server architecture. The software uses MS-SQL as back-end database. It adheres to the international standards for bibliographic formats such as MARC21, CCF and AACR2 for rendering of records, etc. Some of the special features of the SOUL software included Web-based OPAC, Barcode generation facility for books as well as for patrons, User's friendly search interface, Automatic report generation facilities for all modules, Multi-lingual support, etc.

The software has more than 1384 installations including several large academic and public libraries of the country. Under the special scheme directed by the Prime minister office (PMO) of the country, the software was installed in several colleges in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States. The Centre has established region-wise SOUL Support Service Units at four different places i.e. Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Trivendrum for providing continuous support to the users of the SOUL software. Recently, the Centre has set-up SOUL Support Centres with dedicated manpower, telephone line and FAX facilities at the INFLIBNET Centre to attend to the queries from the users.

### **2.2.4. UGC-Infonet Internet Connectivity Programme**

The UGC-Infonet Connectivity Programme, launched in 2003, provides Internet bandwidth ranging from 256 Kbps to 2 Mbps to 149 universities distributed across the country. The task of establishing and maintaining the entire network for the universities is being done by the ERNET India on turn-key basis. Each participating university has signed the quadri-partite agreements with UGC, INFLIBNET and ERNET. The entire project is funded by the UGC with 90% on capital investment and 100% of recurring bandwidth charges. The INFLIBNET plays an important role of monitoring and liaisoning between ERNET and the universities. The ERNET, in collaboration with the INFLIBNET, imparts training to network and system administrators of universities for managing the campus networks and equipment. As per the decision taken by the CCMC,



connectivity for all universities is being up-graded to 2 Mbps depending upon the technical feasibility.

### **2.2.5. UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium**

The UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium was formally launched in December, 2003 by Honourable Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the then President of India., soon after providing the Internet connectivity to the universities in the year 2003 under the UGC-Infonet programme. The Consortium proved to be a recipe to university libraries which have been discontinuing subscription of scholarly journals because of "Serials Crisis". The term "serials crisis" refers to exponential and continuing increase in subscription cost of scholarly journals. The crisis is a result of rise in cost of journals much faster than the rate of inflation, increase in number of journals and the paucity of funds available to the libraries.

The Consortium provides current as well as archival access to more than 5,000 core and peer-reviewed journals and nine bibliographic databases from 23 publishers and aggregators in different disciplines. The programme has been implemented in a phased manner. In the first phase that began in 2004, access to e-resources was provided to 50 universities who had Internet connectivity under the UGC-Infonet Connectivity programme of the UGC. In the second phase, 50 more universities were added to the programme in the year 2005. So far 125 universities out of 171 that come under the purview of UGC, have been provided differential access to subscribed e-resources. These e-resources covers almost all subject disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, computer sciences, mathematics and statistics, etc. The programme is wholly funded by the UGC and executed by the INFLIBNET Centre.

The benefit of subscription to e-resources would also be extended to the colleges, to begin with the College for Potential with Excellence (CPE). The Consortium also plans to launch its "Associate Membership Programme" wherein private universities and other research organizations would be welcomed to join the Consortium for selected e-resources.

#### **2.2.5.1. Economics of UGC-Infonet E-Journals Consortium**

The factors that determine economic viability and cost-effectiveness of consortia-based subscription to e-resources are: its intensity of usage in terms of number of downloads of articles, successful migration from print to electronic version (with discontinuation of print) and cost avoidance. The Consortium, with its collective strength of participating institutions, has attracted highly discounted rates of subscription coupled with most favourable terms of agreement. In effect, the members of the consortium avoid the cost commitments on the following account:



### i) Lower Rates of Subscription

The rates offered to the Consortium are lower by 50% to 90%. The Consortium was offered lower rates of subscription from the vendors not only because of combined strength of its members, but also due to the eagerness of publishers to enter the Indian market.

### ii) Cost Avoidance

Cost avoidance on account of lower rates of subscription for the members of the Consortium, is calculated in terms of difference between cost paid by the Consortium for its member institutions for e-resources and its list price, i.e., payable by individual institutions in case the resources were subscribed by them on their own on the list price. The Figure given below depicts that there is a savings of Rs. 113.20 crores in 2004, Rs. 231 crores in 2005 and 278.88 crores during 2006 with overall figure of Rs. 623 crores (approx.) given the fact that the same resources on list price would have costed Rs. 130 crores, 257 crores and 307 crores as against Rs. 16.19 crores, 25.92 crores and 28.86 crores for the year 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

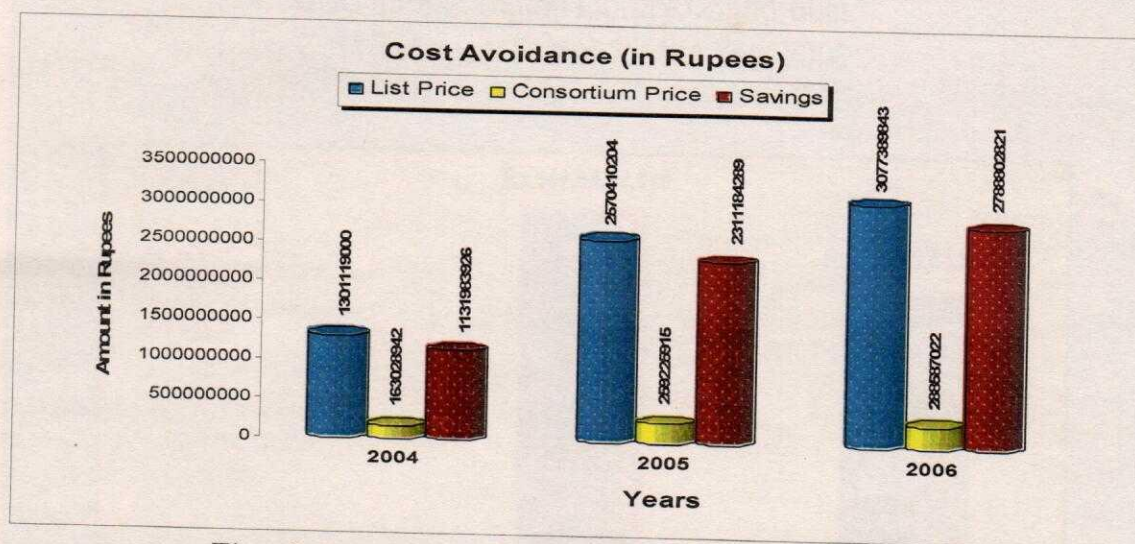


Fig.: Cost Avoidance: List price v/s Consortium price

### iii) Annual Increase in Rates of Subscription

Members of the Consortium have the benefit of cap on the annual increase in the rates of subscription for e-resources. While the usual increase in price of e-resources vary from 10 to 15%, members of the Consortium enjoy the cap on increase in price ranging from 4.5% to 6%.

### iv) Intensity of Usage: Cost Recovery

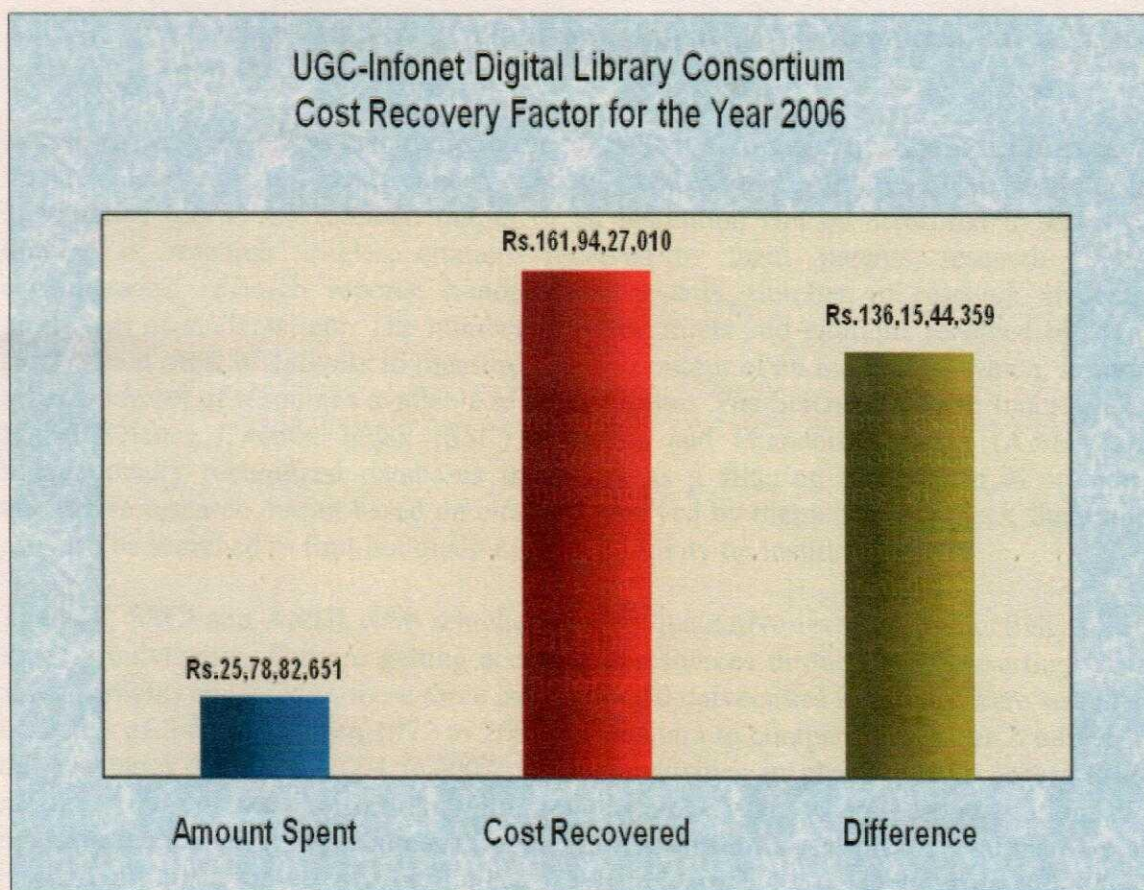
The recovery of cost incurred on e-resources subscribed through the Consortium can be judged in terms of intensity of usage of resources. Most publishers maintain detailed usage statistics for resources offered by them to the Consortium. The Consortium obtains



comparative usage statistics for member institutions from the publishers. The statistics collected by the Consortium is made accessible to the users through the INFLIBNET website.

The cost recovery is calculated on the presumption that if the electronic resources were not available through the Consortium, articles downloaded from these resources by the member institutions would have been sourced on inter-library loan / document delivery at a cost of US \$ 15.00 per article. (Average cost of article taken from a study conducted by the American Research Libraries (ARL). As is evident from the Figure given below, the Consortium has recovered the cost incurred on subscription for all e-resources except for journals published by the Cambridge University Press.

The total cost that has been recovered amounts to Rs. 161.94 crores as against the total expenditure of Rs. 25.79 crores with Rs. 136.15 crores as the cost of articles downloaded in excess. The JSTOR has recorded maximum usage in terms of cost of articles downloaded.



**Fig. : Cost recovery V/s Cost Incurred for the Year 2006**



#### **v) Average Cost of an Article / Record**

The average cost of a full-text article varies from Rs. 24.94 (in case of JSTOR) to Rs. 775.43 (in case of Cambridge University Press). The average cost of article is for the Consortium is Rs. 107.16.

#### **vi) Cost Savings**

The UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, as a policy, has subscribed to print-independent e-resources, which essentially means that member universities are free to drop subscription to journals that are made accessible to them through the Consortia arrangement. Moreover, beneficiary universities have instructed to delete print subscription to resources for which electronic access is available through the Consortium. Although figures for saving on account of drop in print subscription are not available readily, it is presumed that the total savings made on this account would be equivalent to the expenditure incurred on subscription to e-resources through the Consortium.

#### **2.2.5.2. Measuring Research Output and Impact of E-Resources through the Consortium**

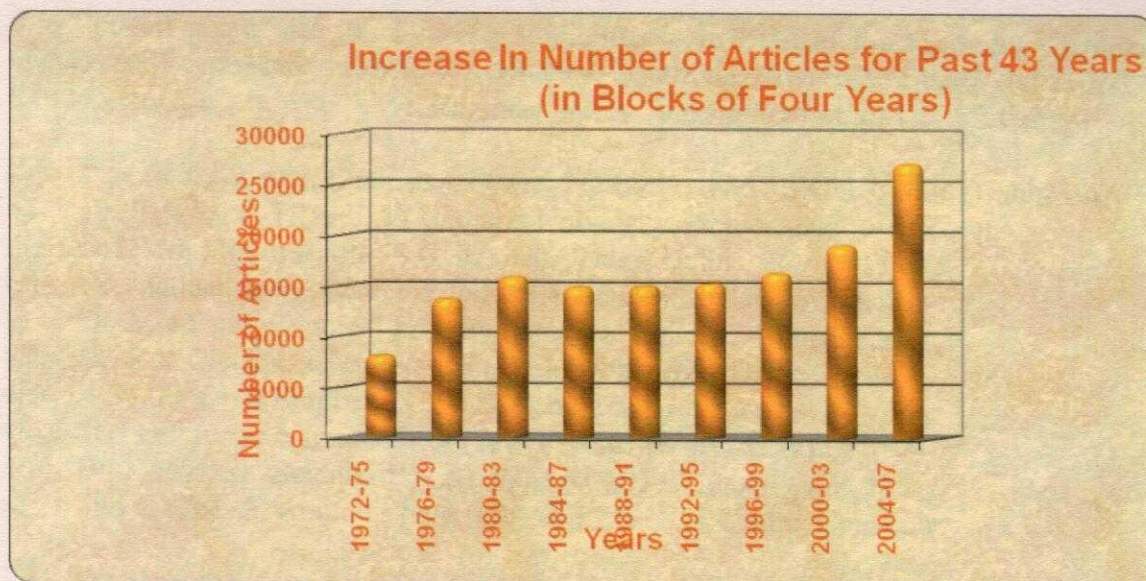
Access to print as well as electronic resources is known to make qualitative difference to research, learning, staff development, scholarly and R & D activities of an Institute. In quantitative terms, the research output of an institution can be measured in terms of number of research articles, citations received by them, patents, research grants, consultancies, research reports, honours and awards, number of research students, placement of students, etc. The number of publications and citations received by them can be used most effectively to measure research output of an institution, which, in turn, reflects impact of resources available to an institution. The Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) and Arts and Humanities Index (A&HI) are internationally recognized databases that work as a filtering mechanism as it index qualitative research output based on citations received by them. These indices, therefore, can also be searched to find-out qualitative productivity on institutions.

The SCI, SSCI and A&HI were searched to find qualitative research productivity of 50 Phase I universities that are getting access to e-resources through the Consortium. The source articles appeared in these three indices for 50 universities in phase I were searched in blocks of four years from 1972 to 2007 with an aim to compare the research output in the last block year, i.e. 2004 – 2007, when universities in phase I have access to e-resources through the Consortium, with previous block years when these institutions did not have the benefit of e-resources through the Consortium. A un-precedental increase in research productivity in terms of number of research articles is evident during 2004-2007 as shown in Figure given below as compare to previous seven block of four years, i.e. 1972-1975 to 2000-2003.

The increase in cumulative research output for all the 50 phase I universities from 1972 to 2007 varies from -6.01% in block years 1984 – 87 to 42.42% in the block years from 2000-2003 to 2004-2007 as shown in the Figure given below. This is the period when all



the 50 phase I universities were getting the benefit of access to e-resources through the Consortium.



**Fig.: Increase in Number of Research Articles Published by Universities in I Phase**

### **3. Presentation of the Meetings of 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Governing Board held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 Respectively**

Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director of the Centre, with the permission of the President, Council presented the discussions and deliberations held on various agenda items in the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Governing Body. After the briefing made by the Director, the Council approved the following proposals that were already approved by the Governing Board:

#### **3.1. Appointment of Architect for Construction of Permanent Institutional Building at INFOCITY, Gandhinagar**

The Council approved the following Architects / Architectural firms on the recommendation of 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board:

- i) M/s Vastu Shilpa
- ii) M/s HCP Design and Project Management Pvt Ltd
- iii) M/s L J Purani & Associates
- iv) M/s Dutta & Dutta Associates

The Council also approved selection of Dr. Balkrishna V Doshi of Vastu Shilpa Consultants, who is one of the world-renowned Architects. The Members of the Council approved the panel of architects / architectural firms selected by its Committee and approved that the contract / agreement may be signed with the first architectural firm as per the prescribed norms.



### **3.2. Constitution of Building Committee for Construction of Permanent Institutional Building.**

The Council noted that the Building Committee consisting of the following members under the Chairmanship of Prof. S K Khanna, Chairman, Governing Board, INFLIBNET Centre, who is a renowned Civil Engineer and is Consultant to M/s JAYPEE Group:

- i) Prof. S K Khanna, Chairman, Governing Body, INFLIBNET Centre (Chairman)
- ii) Dr. Parimal H Trivedi, VC, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad
- iii) Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Batra, JS (IUC), UGC, New Delhi
- iv) Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, IUCAA, Pune
- v) Dr. MN Patel, Principal L.D. Engineering. College, Ahmedabad
- vi) Dr. R K Chadha, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha, New Delhi
- vii) A Senior Civil Engineer, CPWD, Gandhinagar
- viii) Shri D P Negi, Admn. Officer (PA&F), INFLIBNET Centre
- ix) Dr. K Prakash, Scientis-B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre
- x) Shri C K Shah, Admn. Officer (GS), INFLIBNET Centre, Convener

### **3.3. Proposal for Appointment of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants for the Installation and Maintenance of SOUL Software**

The Council approved the deployment of seven SOUL Coordinators and requisite number of Technical Assistants depending upon the number of installations for maintenance of SOUL Software as approved by the Governing Body in its 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The members of the Council noted that the Centre generates sufficient funds by sale of SOUL Software to meet the cost of Rs. 23.76 lakhs which would be incurred on deployment of desired number of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants.

It was noted that the cost incurred on deployment of SOUL Coordinators and Technical Assistants would be met from the income generated through SOUL Software and there would not be any financial liability on the UGC/INFLIBNET Centre in this regard.

### **3.4. Filling-up of Vacant Scientific & Technical Positions: Current Status**

The Council noted that the UGC has released four scientific and technical positions that fell vacant in past one year. The Chairman also assured that the commission would take necessary action for releasing the requisite number of positions that have fallen vacant.

### **3.5. Attachment Training Programme for Practicing Librarians of North Eastern Region**

The Council noted that the Commission has allocated Rs.3.5 crores to the Centre for automation of libraries in North-Eastern Region. The Centre has distributed SOUL Software to 48 libraries, free of cost in the region so far. While this programme would continue, the Centre has proposed Attachment Training Programme for Practicing Library and Computer professionals at the INFLIBNET Centre. Under the programme, Working librarians and computer professionals from North-East would come to the



Centre and spend 3 to 6 months working in the Centre's on-going projects with the INFLIBNET Staff. The candidates selected in the Attachment Programme would be paid Rs.500.00 per day for a period varying from 3 to 6 months depending upon the choice of the candidate. The INFLIBNET will meet travel expenses of the trainees. All expenses on the Attachment Programme would be met from the budget allocated for the automation in North-East region.

### **3.6. Appointment of Contractual Staff under the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium**

The Members of the Council noted that the funds allocated to the Centre for the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium provides for 1% of the total allocation that can be used for operational activities such as imparting training programme and appointment of manpower required for offering the training as well as for other activities.

The Council noted the approval accorded by the Governing Board for appointment of Contractual Staff under the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium as per the details given below:

<b>Description</b>	<b>No. of positions</b>	<b>Consolidated salary Per month</b>
Project Officers	2	Rs.15,000.00
Project Associates	2	Rs.10,000.00
Project Assistants	2	Rs. 8,000.00

The Council also noted that the annual expenditure on contractual appointment would be approximately Rs.3,96,000.00 and the same will be met from the funds allocated to the Centre for UGC-Infonet Digital library Consortium.

### **3.7. Purchase of a Vehicle for the Director**

The Council noted that the Centre has not purchased a vehicle for the Director since its inception. The proposal for purchase of a vehicle for the Director costing Rs.7.00 lakhs (approx.) was therefore approved. It was noted that since the expenses on hiring of a vehicle for the Director are very high, the Centre would be able to recover the cost incurred within a period of 3 years.

### **4. Presentation of Audited Accounts for the Centre for the Financial year 2005-06 and 2006-07**

The Audited Accounts of the Centre for the Financial Years 2005-06 and 2006-07 were presented before the Council and were approved.



## **5. Presentation of Annual Reports for the Financial Year 2005-06 and 2006-07**

The Annual Reports of the Centre for the Financial Years 2005-06 and 2006-07 were presented before the Council and were approved.

## **6. Any other item with the Permission of the Chair**

### **6.1. Major Project on Electronic Submission of Theses and Dissertations**

Commenting the future endeavours of the Centre, the President of the Council and Chairman, UGC asked the Centre to submit a major Project on electronic submission of theses and dissertations for all the universities under the purview of UGC. The proposal may include provision for computer and infrastructural requirement, manpower requirement and any other logistic support. The Director, INFLIBNET Centre agreed to take the responsibility with the background that a project proposal and a regulatory framework on Electronic Submission of Theses and Dissertations has already been submitted to the UGC wherein Dr. Jagdish Arora represented the IIT Delhi and INFLIBNET also participated in the process.

### **6.2. College Model of the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium**

The UGC, Chairman and the President of the Council mentioned that the College Model of the Consortium should not restrict to Colleges with Potential for Excellence but should also be extended to all autonomous colleges. It was, therefore, resolved that all autonomous colleges having adequate computer and network infrastructure would be given e-resources under the programme after evaluating their infrastructure. The President of the Council requested the Director, INFLIBNET to submit a project proposal for the College Model of the Consortium and for developing e-resources suitable for the Colleges.

### **6.3. Constitution of Committee for Evaluating and Augmenting Internet Bandwidth in Colleges**

The UGC, Chairman and the President of the Council constituted a Committee consisting of the following members to evaluate and make suggestions for augmenting the availability of infrastructure and Internet bandwidth availability in colleges:

Shri N K Sinha, Jt. Secretary (Distance Learning), MHRD, New Delhi  
Shri M Moni, Dy. Director General, NIC, New Delhi  
Dr. A Balasubramanian, Director, EMMRC, Mysore  
Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**(Jagdish Arora)**  
Director, INFLIBNET Centre