

MINUTES OF THE 12TH GOVERNING BOARD OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 10TH OF JULY 2003 AT
UGC HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI

The 12th meeting of the **Governing Board (GB)** of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at UGC Head Quarters, New Delhi on 10th July 2003. Following members were present:

In the chair:

Dr. S Ramani Chairman

Members:

Dr. V N Rajasekharan Pillai	Vice – Chairman, UGC, Delhi
Dr. Ved Prakash	Secretary UGC, Delhi
Prof. Shalini Urs	University of Mysore
Dr. Amit Roy	Director, NSC, Delhi
Dr. T A V Murthy	Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad
(Member/Secretary)	

Invitees:

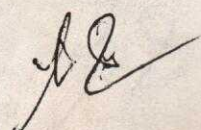
Dr. P Prakash	Joint Secretary (IUC/MC) UGC, Delhi
Dr. C S Meena	Joint Secretary (FD), UGC, Delhi
Prof. Ajit Kembahavi	Dean, (VAP) IUCAA, Pune
Sh. S M Salgar	Scientist-G, INFLIBNET, Centre
Sh. C K Shah	Admn. Officer (F & A), INFLIBNET Centre
Dr. V S Cholin	Scientist-B, INFLIBNET Centre
Sh. D P Negi	Admn.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

Prof. A U Patel, Dr. S Venkateswaran, Prof. S K Kak, Member Secretary, AICTE, Dr. Y Venkatrami Reddy, and Dr. N S Rame Godwa, could not attend the meeting.

01 Welcome:

Dr. S Ramani, Chairman, GB, welcomed the newly appointed Vice Chairman of University Grants Commission, Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai, a renowned academician and former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (Kerala State) and Director, NAAC, Bangalore and congratulated him on his appointment and also welcomed all other members present.

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02 Chairman's Remarks

In his opening remarks, Dr. S Ramani, expressed happiness over the quantum jump in the activities and the output produced by the Centre in the last two years, which is visible. He also appreciated the tremendous innovative efforts put in and direction given by the Director in motivating and encouraging the staff members to enable them to make scientific achievements. He particularly pointed out that Dr. Murthy is always responsive and is quick to implement the suggestions made for the growth and developmental activities of the Centre and thus he has been found very pro-active in his role. All the members unanimously agreed with the expression made by the Chairman.

03 Confirmation of the minutes of the 11th GB meeting

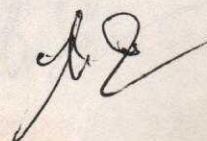
Since no comments were received, relating to the minutes of 11th GB, the Board confirmed the minutes of the 11th GB meeting.

04 Report on the action taken in the last GB Meeting:

The Director, Dr. T A V Murthy, apprised the members of the action taken.

Action Items	Actions Taken
(a.) GB wanted the Centre to take possession of land offered by Gujarat Government at Gandhinagar and take up building construction activity including fencing at an early date.	The Centre has recently received a letter from UGC authorizing Director, INFLIBNET to take possession of the land and further action is in progress.
(b.) Director, INFLIBNET was advised by GB to take care of outsourcing of installation and maintenance of SOUL	<p>The Centre has already complied with the approval of the Commission in engaging SOUL coordinators in 4 Regions viz.</p> <p>Shri P C Shah – Gujarat, Rajasthan and MP Dr. A Y Asundi(Karnataka and Kerala) Dr. Janak Raj(Punjab, Haryana, HP and Delhi) Dr. L S Ramaiah(AP, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry) Dr. S R Ganpule,(Maharashtra & Goa) Action for engaging SOUL Coordinators in other areas is being taken up vigorously on the same lines</p>

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(c.) Secretary, UGC clarifying that ban on recruitment was not applicable to scientific posts, requested the Director to submit proposals to UGC for clearing posts required immediately.	In the light of the proposal forwarded by the Director to the Commission, GB strongly endorsed the urgent need for filling-up of the vacant posts without any further delay since work is getting hampered in view of the additional responsibilities put on the Centre.
(d.) GB desired that draft MOU between INFLIBNET and ICICI Technology Park, Hyderabad may be circulated to members electronically.	The matter came up for discussion. However, GB advised the Director to workout a detailed modality for free flow of information in the mutual interest.
(e.) Chairman, GB wanted a sub-committee consisting of Prof. Kak, Dr. Kaul, Prof. Urs and INFLIBNET representative to prepare a proposal for creating awareness among academics, researchers and students about wealth of available network resources in light of UGC Infonet and e-journal subscription etc.	In view of the changing scenario, the activity regarding creation of awareness about the UGC-infonet and E-Journals is being taken up at the academic staff Colleges identified by the Commission.

05 Status Report

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 which an amount of

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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.

Dr.Murthy also apprised the members about his recent visit to USA under INDO-US delegation to attend the Workshop on "Open Digital Libraries and Interoperability" 23-25, June 2003 at Arlington, VA. He further informed that with the consent of Dr. Ramani and Prof. Rajasukharan Pillai, it was offered to hold the next INDO-US Meeting at INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad, during December 2003/early 2004. The Chairman said that, Dr. Murthy will coordinate with Prof. Edward Fox of Virginia Tech and Prof.Shalini in this matter. Members agreed to this proposal and moderate funds can be made available from its Budget.

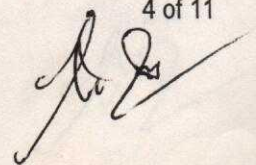
Director also shared his happiness in informing that the publications brought out by the staff members in National as well as International Journals, won recognition and awards.

The Members noted with great sense of satisfaction, the achievements made in record time with high quality and hoped that the Centre will maintain the momentum.

06 Filling up of Vacant scientific / technical posts

The Director of the Centre expressed serious concern over the shortage of skilled manpower and stated that at present there are 14 scientific / technical posts vacant in the Centre due to resignation / retirement of the incumbents of these posts. The manpower of the Centre was projected on actual need basis considering the quantum of work of high quality scientific nature and was accordingly sanctioned by the commission. However due to the ban imposed by the commission on filling up of the vacant posts, the Centre has now inadequate

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manpower and is finding it very difficult to carry out its activities including the important national projects viz. UGC-Infonet and E-journal subscription, large scale training and SOUL related activities etc. with the limited manpower. **The Chairman and members shared the concern of the Director and collectively made expression and strong recommendation that the Commission may kindly allow the Centre to fill-up all the vacant Scientific and Technical posts without any further delay since it is adversely affecting the progress and developmental activities of the Centre.** The GB also advised the Director to again take up this matter with the commission and obtain early approval for filling up the vacant posts in the organization interest.

07 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.

**08 PROJECTS 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 to help the nation and brings revolution in the higher education, appointed a High Power National

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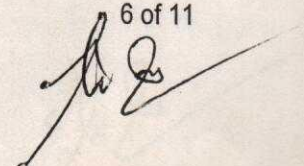
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Negotiation Committee, consisting of Prof. Ajti Kembhavi, as the Convener along with Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, and UGC officials, and few other Members from different disciplines. This Committee was authorized to further negotiate 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 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 JSTOR collection.

Publisher	No. of Journals / Database	Subscription Amount in Rs.
1. American Chemical Society	30	1,73,90,000
2. Chemical Abstracts service	Database	1,14,30,494
3. STN International Service	Database	23,50,000
4. Nature	1	34,12,500
5. Royal Society of Chemistry	27	1,10,83,500
6. 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.

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The above data was presented by Prof. Ajit Kembhavi along with Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre.

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.

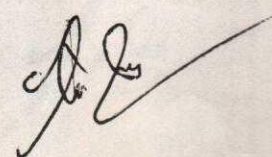
The money may be released phase-wise to INFLIBNET by UGC for executing the same in the above-mentioned Project. Dr. P Prakash, Joint Secretary (IUC-UGC) confirmed that adequate funds are available for the project. INFLIBNET was also advised to look into all other formalities of multi-licensing, security, 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.

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. It was further resolved and approved by the Governing Board that Director, INFLIBNET, is hereby empowered 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.

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.

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

09 Status of UGC-Infonet

Shri S M Salgar, Scientist-G along with Dr. Murthy, presented the Status of the UGC-Infonet based on the information collected as on 9th of July, 2003 and informed the members about the existing ERNET links, agreement signed, funds released by UGC, Site survey completed, links commissioned, installation progress, Purchase Orders received by ERNET and Site survey in progress and other related matters. The Chairman, Dr. Ramani was concerned about the status of the progress and advised INFLIBNET to exercise more follow-up with ERNET to speed-up implementation of the above aspects.

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10 Disposal of old computers, furniture, fixtures

The proposal submitted by the Centre with regard to disposal of equipments, old, obsolete and unserviceable computers; furniture etc. was considered by the GB and approved.

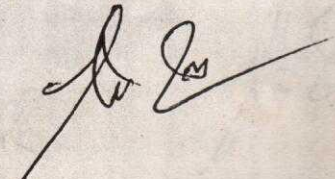
11 Summary of the 9th Finance committee Meeting

The Chairman, Dr. S Ramani, gave a brief over-view of the deliberations of the 9th Finance Committee meeting, which was also held on the same day preceding the meeting of GB and requested Shri C K Shah, Admn. Officer (F&A) of the Centre to present the proposals for RE for FY 2003-04 and BE for FY 2004-05. After due deliberations and taking into all, the GB approved the Budget Estimates of the Centre, as follows:

Revised Estimates for FY 2003-04	(Rupees in lakhs)	Budget Estimates for FY 2004-05	(Rupees in lakhs)
Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.1500 lakhs for E-subscription)	1621.00	Plan (This includes the provision of Rs. 4500 lakhs for E- subscription)	4734.00
Non-Plan	280.20	Non-Plan	314.40

12 Presentation of Audited Accounts for FY 2002-2003

The Board considered the audited accounts of the centre for the Financial year 2002-03. After discussion on certain items and obtaining necessary clarifications, the Board agreed with the audited accounts and authorized Director to place the same before the Governing Council for approval.

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13 Appointment of Auditors for the Financial Year 2003-2004

The Governing Board considered the proposal of the Centre for appointment of Auditors and approved appointment of M/s Navin & Deepak as Auditors for the year 2003-04.

14 Draft MOU between INFLIBNET and ICICI Technology Park

Regarding signing of MOU between INFLIBNET and ICICI knowledge Park, GB advised to table a detailed proposal, which should also clearly indicate the relevance of information, which others will get from INFLIBNET and vice versa.

15 Any other items with the permission of the Chair

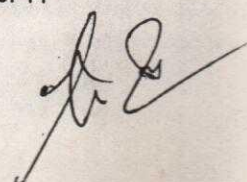
With the permission of the chair the following matters were taken up for discussion:

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 Chairman 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 basis on attractive remuneration package to carry out the activities at different levels.

Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chairman, UGC, got acquainted with the activities of the Centre and appreciated the innovative initiatives taken by Dr. Murthy, along with his team and expressed satisfaction and complemented the Director for his academic role which all the Members shared.

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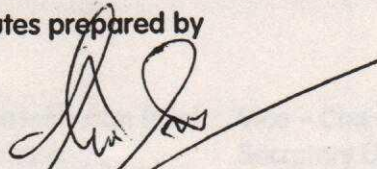


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16 Vote of Thanks

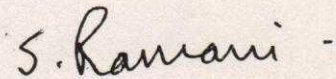
The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and also to the members for their active role and wholehearted support and participation.

Minutes prepared by



(Dr. T A V Murthy)
Director, Member Secretary, GB
INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by



(Dr. S Ramani)
Chairman-Governing Board
INFLIBNET Centre

