

## **Status Report pertaining to the significant activities carried out by DULS from June, 2005 to March, 2006.**

1. **Preparation of Website of DULS:** An effort has been made to release the beta test version of the website of DULS. The website includes historical background of the libraries under DULS, Electronic resources which were being subscribed or provided through the INFONET programme of INFLIBNET. It has large number of electronic full text resources which are in public domain and are useful for the academic community. Another feature of the website is the availability of Online Public Access Catalogue of about eight libraries with bibliographical information of about four lakhs documents. A provision has been made to interact with the reference staff through e-mails for electronic e-referencing. The website includes the amended ordinance, the rules and regulations concerning library services and the Committees constituted by the University and different libraries within DULS. We endeavor to improve the website on a regular basis making more value additions.
  
2. **Preparation of a Vision Document for Modernization of DULS:** The Governing Body in its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2005 desired that a Vision document with long-term and short-term vision may be prepared with financial outlays which could rejuvenate the Delhi University Library System with its modern infrastructure and library services. The document in consultation with Dean, Planning was prepared and submitted to the Vice-Chancellor for further perusal. The executive summary of the vision document has been sent to the members of the Governing Body. Vision Document conceptualizes the Delhi University Library System to be a Hybrid Library System. The activities which were proposed in the Vision Document are as follows:
  - a.** Renovation of the Central Library with furniture and fixtures;
  - b.** Augmentation of IT infrastructure and creation of State of the Art Electronic Library System;
  - c.** Augmentation of the existing reference collection and electronic databases;
  - d.** Accessibility of electronic resources, especially the subscription of electronic journals in different subject disciplines;

- e.** Developing Online Public Access Catalogue of strong 14 lacs volumes using international standards;
- f.** Developing Multiple Data Access System or Union Catalogue of all the books available in the DULS;
- g.** Improving the documentation and Bibliographical services by tapping the web based resources available in the public domain;
- h.** Website creation, centralized membership system, online circulation system and other in-house activities;
- i.** Professional development of library staff to gear them for IT related activities; and
- j.** Extension of the Central Library for exclusive State of the Art Electronic Library and special library wing for physically challenged students on the land available with DULS.

The proposal envisages an expenditure of about Rs.14 crores spread over in two years.

3. **Upgradation of Computers in the Central Library:** A proposal was submitted to upgrade 40 PCs which became technologically obsolete and required immediate attention. These PCs were purchased by the library in 1997 and were sent to different libraries for various activities. All the PCs were upgraded under buy back programme and have been distributed to the respective libraries. Six PCs have been placed in the Central Library for user access.
  
4. **Trials of Electronic Databases:** The interaction with the academic community revealed the immediate requirement to provide accessibility to electronic resources in all the subject disciplines. The DULS took an initiative to provide access to electronic databases hosted by different agencies. The agencies like, M/s EBSCO Publishing, M/s. Informatics India, M/s. Elsevier came forward with the proposal to provide trial access to their databases. The four databases, namely, *Academic Search Premier* ; *SocINDEX TM with Full Tex* ;, *Humanities International Complete* and *Business Source Premier* are hosted by M/s. EBSCO. Its trial version began in the month of September, 2005 for a period of three months. I am happy to inform that within a span of three months about 3565 users made use of the trial databases and have downloaded 2500 Full Text documents. Similar exercise was made by providing accessibility to a database, namely, *ABI/INFORM* from the ProQuest family for one month trial during November/December, 2005. It is heartening to note that about

160 users accessed the database and downloaded about 180 Full Text documents. Similar exercise was also made for another database namely *Scopus* which is hosted by M/s Elsevier. It has also been accessed by large number of users from the Science stream.

5. **Subscription of Electronic Databases:** The overwhelming response received from the academic community including constituent colleges has encouraged the library to propose subscription of the electronic databases and I am happy to inform that four databases hosted by M/s EBSCO have already been subscribed out of the existing funds available with the Central Library. While agreement has been signed to subscribe the database hosted by M/s Elsevier, the position of fund to pay the subscription price is not yet clear. However, the Vice-Chancellor has agreed to provide necessary funds. As far as, subscription of ABI/INFORM is concerned, the approvals of VC and PVC have been obtained but payment could be made only when the Book Budget 2005-06 of the CRL is restored back after the clearance from Executive Council. A discussion is in process with the Faculty of Law to subscribe another useful database, namely, LexisNexis. A proposal is before the Governing Body to create a Corpus Fund out of the Recurring Book Budget for regular subscription of the electronic databases which will include thousands of journals, reports, dissertations, newspapers, magazines, monographs and other qualitative reading materials.
6. **Digitization of Books:** The Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India has conceived a project “Digital Library of India” to digitize large number of books available in different libraries of the country and has made the same operational through CDAC , Noida. The undersigned approached CDAC, Noida to develop a Scanning Centre within the Central Library of University of Delhi for digitization of the books which are out of the Copyright Act. A survey was made by the University Librarian on the books available in the Central Library and Arts Library and was noticed that there are about 25,000 books which are out of Copyright Act. It is envisaged that, out of the total collection available in DULS, about 80,000 books are out of the copyright act and could be placed on the internet for wider accessibility. A pilot project was conceived and approval was sought from PVC to digitize 3000 books at the initial stage and then go for the formal project of digitization of remaining books. CDAC, Noida has installed its infrastructure on November 16, 2005 for scanning and

processing the documents and create full text electronic version of those books which are out of the Copyright Act. I am happy to inform you that as on date about 625 books have already been digitized and other technical processing are being undertaken for placing the same on the web. The Vice-Chancellor has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. B.P.Sahu of the Department of History to monitor such digitization project. Formal proposal is being sent to CDAC, Noida with financial outlay which will be discussed in the Steering Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Information Technology. Once approved, the Library will have immense benefit out of the project in the form of capital equipment and digital material.

7. **Rejuvenation of RTL:** On the initiative taken by the Vice-Chancellor to provide the modern ambiance to the Library attached with Delhi School of Economics namely Ratan Tata Library, the undersigned appraised the VC with the pathetic condition of RTL and proposed few initiatives to rejuvenate the RTL by providing necessary infrastructure for IT based activities. The architect appointed by the University has made several visits and discussed the necessary restoration work. Structural Engineer had made visit to the library with regard to restoration of the building, especially, second floor. We hope to give a new ambiance to this library in a very short period.
8. **Restoration of Eastern Wing of the Central Library:** A proposal was placed before the University to improve pathetic condition of the Eastern Wing of the Central Library where roof of the hall was to be restored with additional reinforced structure. The work is in progress and once completed, will house such reading materials which are to be exclusively used within the Library System. In addition, a small wing of the electronic library will also be created in the Eastern Wing.
9. **Disposal of books of the Undergraduate Libraries:** On the recommendation of a Committee constituted by the then Vice-Chancellor Prof. Deepak Nayyar, the Chairman of the Governing Body of DULS had decided to close three undergraduate libraries which were located at East Zone, Shahdara, West Zone, Raja Garden and North Zone, Timarpur. The decision to this effect was made in 2004. It was also decided that the books which were part of these undergraduate libraries may be disposed off and be placed under the disposal of Khadi Gram Udyog for recycling purpose. The books were

written off from the assets of the University by following due process and were kept ready for disposal. Meanwhile, large number of students contacted the undersigned and requested that the books may be exhibited at a convenient place so that students and teachers could be benefited by taking the relevant books for personal use. On the requests of the students, a proposal was placed before the VC to exhibit the written off books and dispose it with a token price of Rupee one. The exhibition was conducted for a week from July 18, 2005 to July 23, 2005. There has been an overwhelming response from undergraduate students, postgraduate students, research scholars, teaching and non-teaching staff of the university and colleges. However, due precaution was taken before the books were disposed off by inviting the first academic community to list their books of choice. Such lists were re-examined by a team of professionals with a view to ascertain that at least one book is retained in the Central Library or sent back to the undergraduate library for use and see that only those books which are of text books in nature and are of older editions, are disposed off. Though the exhibition was conducted with about 28,000 books, we have disposed off only about 7300 books and rest of the books are still in the Library.

10. **Disposal of unusable and unserviceable furniture and equipment:** An effort was made to get rid of heap of unusable and unserviceable furniture and equipments which were lying in the Central Library. With the involvement of the Internal Audit Deptt., USIC Deptt. and the Library authorities auction was done for such material.
  
11. **Activities related to Braille Library:** Dr. Dipender Manocha who was assisting the Library System in the matters of development of the Braille Library as a Consultant, has been asked to continue. There has been discussion with undergraduate and postgraduate students who are visually impaired. This has helped in formulating a long-term programme for the development of the Braille Library System. University has also submitted a proposal to the Government for creating an exclusive infrastructure for visually impaired students. While working out the plan for extension of the Central Library, the undersigned has proposed an exclusive ground floor with complete infrastructure for physically challenged students.

12. **Proposal to upgrade the College Libraries:** The then Dean, Planning Prof. Verma desired that the undersigned should submit a detailed proposal for networking college libraries and bringing them closure to the Delhi University Library System with regard to accessibility of electronic resources. The proposal with financial outlay to the extent of Rs.15 crores has been submitted to the University which highlights:

1. Provision of number of terminals in the college libraries for students and teachers to access electronic resources.
2. Procurement of CD based electronic documents and provisions to make accessible through CD servers;
3. Basic Infrastructure for the creation of IT environment
4. Creation of zonal undergraduate electronic libraries with computer terminals;
5. Creation of exclusive website with public domain electronic resources by tapping the open archive resources;
6. Creation of Online catalogue in a uniform manner.