

Government of India
Ministry of Culture
National Mission on Libraries (NML)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of National Mission on Libraries held on 14th September 2012 at 11.00 a.m. in the Conference Hall of Central Secretariat Library, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

The list of participants is at Annexure.

At the outset, Chairman welcomed the members and special invitees present in the meeting. He appreciated the hard work done by the various Working Groups in drawing up detailed plans towards implementation of the activities and programmes to be undertaken by the Mission. He mentioned that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recommendations made by the Working Groups and to prepare a workable action plan so that the recommendations could be implemented in a time bound manner. Thereafter, the Agenda points were taken up.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the National Mission on Libraries

The minutes of the first meeting held on 18th May 2012, were confirmed.

3. Governance Structure

3.1 Creation of the Task Force

Chairman requested Secretary, MOC to constitute a Task Force headed by a Joint Secretary rank official in the Ministry of Culture for monitoring various stages of implementation of the programmes recommended by NML. It was decided that the Task Force would be constituted once the projects of the Mission are formally approved and the Secretariat for the Mission is made functional

3.2 Developing a Secretariat to assist the Mission and the Task Force for the National Virtual Library

It was decided to set up a moderately furnished Secretariat in the space earmarked at Janpath Bhavan. To begin with, a few people on contractual basis may be engaged by DG, RRRLF till regular posts are created.

4. Working Group Recommendations:

The Chairman informed that 4 Working Groups, as constituted in the 1st meeting of the Mission, have already met and deliberated on the issues relevant to their respective Group. The Chairman requested the head of each Working Group to enlighten the members of the Mission on their deliberations and recommendations. Thereafter, the heads of the Working Groups presented their recommendations. After detailed discussion on the subject the following decisions were taken:

4.1 Recommendations of the Working Group on National Virtual Library, Networking and ICT applications in libraries

a) National Virtual Library

Dr. H.K. Kaul, Chairman of the Working Group on National Virtual Library, Networking and ICT applications in libraries, presented the recommendations. He emphasized the need for hiring the services of a technically qualified Consultant. He also suggested that preparation of the Feasibility Report and DPR for National Virtual Library may be entrusted to the Indian Statistical Institute.

Shri P. K. Upadhyaya, Technical Director and OI/C, Library, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi, who was invited to inform the Mission on the work already done, if any, in this regard. He explained as to how NIC could help the Mission in setting up of the National Virtual Library.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided that the establishment of the National Virtual Library will be divided into two phases.

Phase I will comprise of the following:

- i) Identification of all digital resources available under digitisation projects already undertaken by various Agencies and Govt. Departments like MOC, HRD, DIT, CDAC, Prasar Bharati, AIR, State Govts etc.
- ii) To seek permission to obtain digital copies of relevant content or link such resources to the National Virtual Library from the above organizations.
- iii) National Virtual Library should provide access to all such resources through a unified interface with provision for federated search across all such resources.
- iv) National Virtual Library should also facilitate search in different Indian languages at a later stage.
- v) The Mission unanimously decided that the work of Phase I should be entrusted to the National Informatics Centre (NIC) keeping in view their technical competence, experience and all India presence. NIC may hire suitable manpower required for undertaking the project for which a proposal could be initiated. A suitable request may be sent to NIC in this regard.
- vi) To oversee the work and finalise the project proposal an expert group consisting of the following was constituted:
 1. Dr. H.K. Kaul
 2. Dr. A. R. D. Prasad
 3. Shri K.K. Banerjee, D.G., R.R.R.L.F.
 4. Two representatives nominated by NIC
 5. One representative nominated by CDAC
 6. A representative of Ministry of Culture
- vii) The Mission also decided that the expert group should meet as early as possible and formulate the necessary proposal including the cost estimates.

- viii) As regards establishment of National Virtual Library and engagement of a consultant for that purpose it was decided to take up the matter after finalization of the project proposal.

It was decided that Phase II will begin after the work on Phase I has been accomplished. However, preparatory activities which can be initiated for Phase II in parallel should be indentified and put up for consideration for the Mission. This phase will include actual digitization of important materials in libraries, museums and archives.

For this purpose, Ministry of Culture will coordinate with Govt. Departments and consult the State Governments. Ministry of Culture will also write to all Chief Secretaries of the States to build a synergy with State Governments.

Regarding digitization of rare materials, Shri T. S. Randhawa, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Culture observed that the quality of digitization done in some organizations are very poor and there is a need to formulate standards. Some members pointed out that even the metadata created in some of the digitization projects are also of poor standard. Dr. A.R.D. Prasad opined that it was possible to set standards for both digitization and metadata.

b) Creation of model libraries

Following decisions were taken:

- i) National Knowledge Network authority may be requested for providing internet connectivity to 28 State Central Libraries and one library in each district having adequate infrastructure. RRRLF will prepare a list of such libraries. Ministry of Culture will write to the appropriate authority of National Knowledge Network and Ministry of HRD in this regard. Since the NKN approval may take time, the libraries may be asked to arrange Internet connectivity on their own.
- ii) RRRLF will invite proposals from selected libraries regarding upgradation of infrastructure available with them.

iii) Since it is not desirable to provide Server to libraries in small town or rural level due to non availability of services, it was decided that Server will be provided to libraries located in major towns and cities.

c) Adoption of ‘open source’ cataloguing software KOHA

Sh. P.K. Upadhayay of NIC informed that instead of installing KOHA at each library it would be appropriate to use centralised services with facilities for Internet connection for better management of the resources and services. Dr. A.R. D. Prasad also supported the concept and emphasized the need for using Cloud computing which facilitates use of computing resources (hardware and software) and can be delivered as a service over the Internet. However, it was pointed out by D.G., RRRLF that it may not be feasible in many locations primarily due to non availability of Internet Connectivity / electricity etc.

In view of this it was decided that though existing facilities like Cloud computing would be a good option and should be implemented through NIC, KOHA may installed at local level to start with and necessary training may be provided to the library professionals working in these libraries.

d) Networking of Libraries

It was decided that networking of 28 State Central Libraries and other selected libraries having necessary infrastructure may be started immediately. RRRLF will identify the libraries to be networked through DELNET.

4.2 Working Group on national census of libraries, content creation and community information centres

a) Census of Libraries

Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam apprised the members about the recommendations of the Sub-committee and emphasized the need for Census of Public Libraries with 100% coverage. The proposal submitted by the Gates Foundation was considered and after detailed deliberation it was decided that data collection for the Census may be done through an Indian agency having necessary expertise in undertaking such work. The agency may be selected through an open tender process. RRRLF will

monitor the tendering process. An expert group with the following composition may be constituted to finalise the parameters for tendering and selection of agency:

- i. Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam
- ii. Representative of NSSO
- iii. One Director from MOC
- iv. Director General, RRRLF

b) Content Creation

Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam, Chairman of the Sub-Committee emphasised the need for content creation both in English and regional languages. Members present in the meeting felt that it would be a gigantic task and a huge administrative machinery is required to manage the work. However, keeping in view the importance it was decided that some important areas may be identified which can be taken up on urgent basis in collaboration with various Central and State Government organisations. A Sub-Committee would be constituted for this purpose to identify such resources.

c) Panchayat and MC reading rooms

It was decided that Ministry of Culture would write to all the State Governments to plan for reading room(s) especially in those areas where the reading habit is more prominent. Such reading rooms could be set up by Panchayats and Municipal Committees.

Minister of Culture was requested to write to Hon'ble MPs to contribute from their MPLAD funds for establishment of 'Reading Rooms' in these areas.

d) Community Information Delivery

It was decided that a detailed plan with necessary financial estimates may be prepared towards establishment of a few model Community Information Centres by the Working Group for its further processing.

4.3 **Working Group on up-gradation of the existing public libraries, School/ college libraries and use of school libraries as community libraries**

a) School libraries as community libraries

The NML considered that synergy is required to be developed with the Ministry of HRD for devising a plan for up-gradation of school libraries and their conversion into community centres for their schemes of Book Promotion policy and programmes like *Sakshar Bharat*. Ministry of HRD should involve the Ministry of Culture in these projects so that the element of overlapping can be minimised.

b) RRRLF will write to all State / U.T. authorities inviting project proposals regarding up-gradation of the existing public libraries for their specific requirements.

4.4 **Working Group on library and information science education, training and research facilities**

a) Training of librarians

Dr. A. R. D. Prasad reported the plan for conducting training programmes and development of course content in regional languages.

It was decided that training programmes should be launched immediately and development of suitable training materials may be started simultaneously without any delay. Detailed contents of training programmes may be finalized by the Working Group.

- b) RRRLF will finalise the list of Librarians to be trained in each region.
5. **Budget for the Mission:**
- It was decided that the recommendations made for each sector of NML with a clear action plan along with financial estimates may be submitted as early as possible so that EFC notes can be prepared for submission to the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for financial approval.

6. **Advocacy and Outreach Activities**

It was decided that Chairman, Working Group on National Virtual Library, Networking and Application of ICT in Libraries and DG, RRRLF should execute the work on advocacy and outreach programmes at the earliest so as to give immediate visibility to the Mission.

As there was no other point for discussion, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
(Deepak Pental)
Chairman
High Level Committee
National Mission on Libraries

Annexure

Members

Professor Deepak Pental	:	Chairman
Shri. B.S. Baswan	:	Member
Dr. H. K.Kaul	:	Member
Dr. Subbiah Arunachalam	:	Member
Dr. A. R. D. Prasad	:	Member
Shri G.R. Raghevender, Director (BP& CR) Deptt. of HE, HRD	:	Representing MHRD
Smt. Sangita Gairola Secretary, Ministry of Culture	:	Member and Convener

Special Invitees

Shri T. S. Randhawa,
(Additional Secretary and
Financial Adviser, Ministry of Culture)

Dr. Ravinder Singh
(Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

Shri Sanjiv Mittal
(Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture)

Shri P.K. Upadhyay
(Technical Director and OI/C Library,
National Informatics Centre, New Delhi)

Shri K. K. Banerjee
Director General,
Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation

Dr. P. R. Goswami
Director (CSL & Libraries), Ministry of Culture

The following members could not attend the meeting:

Ms. Sudha Murthy, Member

Mr. Sanjiv Misra, Member