

Minutes of the second meeting of the NML Working Group on Census, Content Creation and Community Information held at DELNET, New Delhi, on 28 January 2013

The second meeting of the NML Working Group on Census, Content creation and Community information was held at DELNET, New Delhi on 28 January 2013 at 2.30 pm under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Arunachalam.

The following members were present:

Prof. S Arunachalam	Chairman
Shri Jayarajan	Member
Dr H K Kaul	do
Dr A R D Prasad	do
Shri N Avadaiappan	do
Shri Satish Deshpande	do
Ms Amrita Patwardhan	Spl. Invitee
Shri K K Banerjee	Member-Secretary

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members.

The Chairman then welcomed comments from the members on the minutes of the earlier meeting. As no objection was raised, the same was approved.

As requested by the Chairman, the Member-Secretary briefed the members about decisions taken so far.

As regards Census of Libraries, it was decided to carry out a sample survey of public libraries and even if an agency were to be commissioned to carry out the survey, the NML would finalize the parameters and define the scope of the survey. Members were informed that RRRLF has data on infrastructure. The questionnaire for carrying out a census of public libraries already prepared by Shri Jayarajan was accepted, and Shri Jayarajan was asked to prepare the terms of reference/specifications for user survey (including 'potential users') for circulation among members for comment before entrusting the work to professional agencies, which he accepted.

On content development, the suggestion that the Mission work with organizations such as NBT,CBT, CBSE, NCERT, etc. came up for discussion. As the proposed project on Virtual Libraries also covers content development, it was decided that this Working group would defer action on this subject. It was suggested that if and when the NML convenes a stakeholders meeting organizations representing the physically and visually challenged be invited along with organizations such as NBT and CBT.

The proposals for provision of Community Information and services submitted by Ms Amrita Patwardhan, Mr Rahul Cherian and Mr N Avadaippan were discussed and a proposal for the provision for Community information and services in 1000 rural public libraries (at Rs.6 lakh each) at the total cost of Rs.60 crore was accepted . The recurring expenditure on electricity charges, AMCs, contingencies, etc. would be met by the stake holders such as State Govt/UT/NGOs/Individual libraries.

Mr K K Banerjee appraised the members of details of the proposal for upgradation of 29 State and Union Territory Central Libraries (at Rs 1 crore each) and 35 District Central Libraries, one in each state/UT (at Rs.50 lakh each) at the total cost of Rs.46.5 crore.

The meeting concluded with the Members thanking the chair.