

BUILDING CAPACITIES - RESOURCE SHARING IN INDIA A CASE STUDY OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH LIBRARY*

By P.K. Jain

Resource sharing becomes more important and inevitable for developing countries like India, where the information centres/ libraries are short of funds and resources. Further libraries find the space problem for storing purposes and hence they think about library networks and resource sharing. Resource sharing from its elementary concept of inter-library lending, now includes cooperative acquisition, collection development, shared cataloguing, centralised processing, exchange of content page of journals, sharing of bibliographical data, centralised periodicals collection, exchange of electronic documents and articles, obtaining photocopies of articles etc. In India, in the past two decades, information technology has made significant progress. The current state of information handling is indeed sufficient to support and encourage the sharing resources among libraries. Especially, the present decade has witnessed renewed interest in library cooperation for mutual benefits, at the national and international levels.

1. Institute of Economic Growth

The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) was founded in 1958 by the late Professor V.K.R.V. Rao. The Institute is an autonomous, multi-disciplinary centre for advanced research and training in economics, agricultural economics, health, demography, and sociology and is a recognised institutions of the University of Delhi. IEG's regular faculty consists of about 34 eminent social scientists.

2. Library

The IEG Library also established in 1958 constitutes one of the richest collections of books, journals and reports etc. in the field of social sciences and development problems in the whole of Asia. The primary aim is to build up a useful collection of relevant documents for meeting the research needs and to develop a system for

* Paper presented for the GLOBAL 2000 Worldwide Conference on Special Librarianship, 16-19 October 2000 in Brighton, UK

information dissemination. Effective service to its readers is the ultimate aim of this library.

2.1 Library Collection

2.1.1 Books

At present the total collection of the library is 1,20,000 documents including books, monographs, workshop papers, proceedings of conferences, statistical serials. An equal number of Micro Documents comprising of Institutional Research Reports, Discussion, Occasional and Working Papers are also available. The library also has a wide collection of Annual Reports of Companies, Dept. of Central & State Government and other corporate bodies. The library holds a depository status for receiving publications of World Bank, United Nations and its allied agencies and other international organisations.

2.1.2 Journals

In addition to the 20,000 back volumes of journals, the library subscribes to 126 current journals, receives 52 journals in exchange and 126 current journals on as gratis. The library exchanges the Institute's research output and publications (including its journal, (Contributions to Indian Sociology) with similar institutions in India and abroad. In total, the library receives 304 journals.

2.1.3 Subject Coverage

IEG Library has documents and journals in the field of economics, economic development, energy, environment, finance, econometrics, mathematics, agriculture, forestry, industry, irrigation, sociology, social anthropology, gender, demography, health etc.

2.3 Library Automation

2.3.1 Software

Library automation has started in 1993. Now IEG Library is now fully Computerised and uses CDS/ISIS (UNESCO) library software for recording the incoming documents and retrieving the bibliographical information from the same database.

2.3.2 Hardware

At present, library has nine Computer Nodes including four nodes with Internet connectivity and CD-ROM Drive, one printer and one Laser Printer. All the nine nodes are connected with LAN. Faculty and researchers can access library databases

from any nodes at their desk connected to network. It has got a photocopier also which is used to reproduce the documents on request.

2.3.3 Databases

IEG Library has the following databases for recording the different kinds of documents.

1. BOOKS	- for Books	50,000 records
2. IELJR	- for Journals	2,000 records
3. IELMR	- for Serials	3,200 records
4. MD	- for Micro-Documents	1,000 records
5. AR	- for Annual Reports	800 records
6. APPBKS	- for Current Arrivals	8,000 records
7. CD	- for CD-ROMs	20 records

2.3.4 CD-ROMs

The Library has 4 computers with CD Drive and 20 CD-ROMs including Econlit, Popline, World Development Report, World Development Indicator, World Development Sources, TEDDY Online, Trade Policy Review etc.

2.4 Reference and Information Services

2.4.1 Online Information Retrieval and Dissemination of Information

Library has an well-organised reference section, which is equipped with latest reference books to provide ready reference and long range reference to its users. Generally reference queries are received through personal contact, telephonically and through E-mail. Library has E-mailing facility and provides various reference and documentation services more quickly to its readers through E-mail.

1. To receive reference queries either from faculty or from the outside. (India & abroad).
2. To provide reference & documentation services more easily (e.g. providing information through E-mail regarding Arrival this Week).
3. To facilitate Inter Library Loan conveniently.
4. To mail reminders for overdue books.

Library also provides following services through Internet and CD-ROM

1. Contents of journals available on different sites.

2. Latest Publications available on the Internet.
3. Journals abstract and articles.
4. Full text service
5. Bibliographic service
6. Working papers available on Internet.

2.4.2 Selective Dissemination of Information

Library provides SDI services to its users which includes:

1. Finding out the subject interest or information needs of the users and subject contents of the in-coming documents.
2. Connecting a right user with the right document through matching and notification.
3. Keeping the interest file of the users up-to-date and responsive to their needs on the basis of the feedback.

2.4.3 Current Awareness Service (Arrivals this week)

Library also provides CAS to keep seekers of information abreast with the latest developments in their responsive field. CAS includes the '**Arrivals This Week**' document which is E-mailed to all the Faculty members, scholars and researchers on every Friday. It includes all the in-coming documents such as books, journals, annual reports, micro- documents, Working Papers and serials etc. Information available on various Newspapers is also disseminated regularly. New books, periodicals, micro-documents etc. are displayed regularly in the library.

2.4.4 Bibliographic Service

Bibliographic service provided by IEG Library play an important role in helping the research scholars to complete the research work in time. It also provides short bibliographies on request to research scholars, IEG staff and institutions all over the India. Library also prepares Subject Bibliographies on request basis.

2.4.5 Networking/Inter Library Loan Service

Today no library is self sufficient to fulfil its users information needs, therefore arrangement is made to help the readers in getting the desired books and journals which are not available in the IEG Library on inter-library-loan basis from other libraries and research institutions in the country. Library has its networking with different libraries e.g. Rattan Tata Library, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University Library System, NCAER Library, IIPA Library, NIPFP Library, DELNET and other reputed libraries in Delhi.

IEG Library is also a member of DELNET (Delhi Library Network), which gives access to several online databases of the different libraries such as Union catalogue of books, Union list of current periodicals in Delhi libraries, Union catalogue of periodicals in Delhi libraries, Database of periodicals articles, Books in print: New titles from Indian publishers and ILL online.

2.5 Future Plan

IEG Library's future plan is to upgrade its hardware and software resources in its near future to enhance the facilities to the readers and increase the productivity of the staff members. Library's plans are:

1. To purchase a CD-ROM Server/Juke Box for use of CD's Online.
2. To subscribe "JSTORE" an electronic storage of journals. It would help to the Faculty and Researches in their research work.
3. To upgrade its current Software CDS/ISIS to Window-based Software either WINISIS or some other Software which would be easier for users and the library staff for better and faster service.
4. Bar Coding of documents so that the charging and discharging of documents may be faster.

P. K. Jain
Institute of Economic Growth Library
University Enclave
Delhi - 110007
India