

# **ROLE OF GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES IN THE E- GOVERNANCE IN INDIA**

**BY**

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**The course of human development  
has taken new dimension with the  
introduction of information and  
communication technology (ICT)**

- **The GOI has recognized the potential of ICT for rapid and all-round national development.**
- **The National Agenda for Governance, which is the Government's policy blueprint, has taken due note of the ICT Revolution that is sweeping the globe**

# To India E-governance will mean

- the application of IT to the processes of governments' functioning to bring about **Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent (SMART)** governance that works better, costs less and is capable of fulfilling the citizen's need as never before.

# E-governance

- Efficient delivery of government services to citizens and business;
- Better dissemination of government information;
- Improved efficiency of government information; and
- Improved revenue collection and budgetary controls

# Benefits

- Provides integrated government services through a single window by re-engineering of government processes;
- Capable of not only speeding up transactions but also transparent functioning;
- Reduction in the procedural and postal delays involved in current system; and
- Helps common man getting governed with minimum red tape and zero corruption.

- **For India, the rise of Information and Communication Technology is an opportunity to overcome historical disabilities and to become the master of one's own national destiny**

# ROLE OF LIBRARIES

- Assist the Government and Citizen by making them available All new non-commercial publications released by a Ministry / Department online concurrently with other forms of dissemination
- Provide free access to information by installing 24/7 information kiosks;
- Provide One-Window Information System for all issues concerning the E-Governance

# GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES IN INDIA

- Gearing themselves to undertake the new challenges by:
  - Developing Machine readable catalogue and make it available on the network for wider accessibility;
  - Developing full text databases of different nature;
  - Adopting to international standards;
  - Explore ways and means to preserve the machine readable information in a way that can sustain the future requirements of ICT;
  - Changing the focus from providing library services to the fulfilling the demand for right to information.

# Indian Libraries also have taken up the Challenge

- Develop the machine readable catalogue and make it available on the network for wider accessibility;
- Develop machine readable full text documents to provide greater accessibility to full text databases of different nature;
- Standardize such development by adopting international standards;
- Explore ways and means to preserve the machine readable information in a way that can sustain the future requirements of ICT.;
- Changing the focus of government libraries from providing library services to the fulfilling the long pending focus of right to information.

# GOVERNMENTAL PUBLICATIONS IN INDIA

- The sphere of governmental activity in India has expanded considerably. Many burning issues like population control, health management, economic and social condition of rural and urban masses, education, basic requirements. In every field the government has intervened

# **Types of Documents Published by the Government Organizations**

- **Administrative Reports**
- **Governmental Notifications**
- **Statistical Reports**
- **Budget Documents**
- **Committee and Commission Reports**
- **Research Reports**

# **Types of Documents Published by the Government Organizations**

- **Bills, Acts, Laws, Codes, Rules and Regulations, Law Reports, Digests and Parliamentary Debates**
- **Reports of various Parliamentary Committees**

# **TECHNOLOGICAL INITIATIVES FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS**

- Initiatives have been taken by National Informatics Centre to provide most of the information through a portal where in different kinds of digital documents on the governmental activities can be accessed.**
- But these efforts also have not been properly coordinated and digital documents brought out by many of the departments do not form part of the Web site.**

# Status of Government Libraries in India

- **82 Libraries were surveyed**
  - 20 per cent has up to 10,000 collection;
  - 40 per cent between 10,000 – 50,000;
  - 10 per cent 50,000 to 1,00,000;
  - 10 per cent 100,000 to 300,000;
  - 3 Libraries has more than 300,000;
  - 20 per cent do not have the collection
  - This does not take Parliament Library into account

# Status of Government Libraries in India

## IT Hardware

- 50 per cent of the libraries have PCs in the range of 1 to 5;
- 15 per cent have in the range of 6 to 10;
- 7 per cent do have PCs in the range of 11 to 20;
- handful of libraries have a sizable number of PCs;
- There are 14 libraries which do not a single PC
- 38 out of 82 libraries have servers installed

# Status of Government Libraries in India

## IT Applications

- Libraries are operating their library applications on Window and are using Libsys
- Operations are confined to development of on-line public access catalogue, and acquisition activities.

# Status of Government Libraries in India

- Large number of libraries have single PC and do not have LAN connectivity
- Internet connectivity has been made available to the libraries either through NICentre or VSNL
- Some of them still have the dial-up system
- No library of the GOI has their independent web site.
- Information about the Library associated with its parent organization's Web site are either not available or is negligible.

**CENTRAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY**  
**A NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR GOVERNMENT**  
**INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL LITERATURE**

*“ take an Indian Initiative to ICT through its libraries to promote, facilitate the development of Indian tangible heritage from printed form to machine readable collections and provide services for optimal utilization of resources and provide life long accessibility of information through vast library resources.”*

# Initiatives

- **Development of Machine readable catalogue of bibliographical information for document resources;**
- **Creating digital documents of the annual reports of the parent Ministry;**
- **Creating digital documents of the Government of India Gazette from inception to date;**
- **Creating the digital documents concerning the Commission and Committee reports of the Post Independent India**
- **Developing machine readable annotated bibliography of rare book documents available in the library;**
- **Developing a comprehensive Web-site to provide access to government information including electronic document, on-line catalogue, one window access to e-government resources and e-governance;**

# Government Information on the Web

- One Window linkage to all the latest and archival government documents generated by different Ministries/ departments/ independent Commissions and Committees etc. in the form of Annual reports, Ad-hoc Reports, Commission and Committee Reports, Budgetary documents, Acts etc.;
- One Window linkage to all the e-governance activities initiated by Central and State Governments;

# Government Information on the Web

- One Window linkages to all the Government of India Gazettes being placed on the Net by different governmental departments/ ministries;
- One Window accessibility to all the Government of India Libraries with a provision to access their On-line catalog, digital documents developed by them and other resource sharing activities;
- Provision to download the bibliographical data by different libraries for the purpose of developing their catalog;

# Framework of CSL Web-Site

- Historical background
- Tour of the Library
- Library Rules
- OPERATION-RECON Project
- Two important model tender and contract documents for Retro-conversion and Digitization projects
- High Power Committee on Government of India Libraries.

# Framework of CSL Web-Site

- **CSL PUBLICATIONS**
  - **Book News**
  - **Culture Update**
  - **Compendium of Major GOI Reports on Library and Information Services**
  - **Cultural Policy of the World**
  - **Annotated Bibliography of Rare Book Documents**

# Framework of CSL Web-Site

- **THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PUBLICATIONS**
  - One Window Information
  
- **ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE**
  - 500,000 documents

# Framework of CSL Web-Site

- **FULL-TEXT DIGITAL DOCUMENTS**
  - **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GAZETTE**
    - 2 MILLION PAGES, 1950-2002
  - **COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
    - 1.2 MILLION PAGES, 5000 DOCUMENTS

# Framework of CSL Web-Site

- **PORTAL TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LIBRARIES**
  - Has statistical information of about 82 Government libraries on critical parameters
  - Linkage facility for those libraries who have developed their web sites for global access.

<http://www.csl.nic.in>

**at**

**Testing Stage**

- Thomas Jefferson said '**Information is the currency of democracy**' See Coates, E. n.d. Requests for Information Related to Thomas Jefferson Quotations.
- URL: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/7842/archives/quote018.htm>
- To evaluate the success of government programs, to be able to assert their rights, to debate the issues of the day, citizens must have access to current and historic sources of information generated by government.
- Government Libraries needs to find ways and means to reach to its citizens with governmental information in the electronic environment;

**Currency will be the Mantra**

**As we move into the electronic era of digital objects it is important to know that there are new barbarians at the gate and that we are moving into an era where much of what we know today, much of what is coded and written electronically, will be lost forever. We are, to my mind, living in the midst of digital Dark Ages; consequently, much as monks of times past, it falls to librarians and archivists to hold to the tradition which reveres history and the published heritage of our times.**

**Terry Kuny, Consultant, National Library of Canada  
1998**

**THANK YOU**