

CALIBER UPDATES

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In collaboration with

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From Editor's Desk

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Dear Colleagues,

CALIBER – 2007 is really a learning experience for all of us. The conference papers and commercial demonstrations have really added to our knowledge base. But there is always scope for improvement. If all potential authors decide to add more value to their papers, conference proceedings would be more compact and effective. We are living in an era of low-cost products and services. In other words, we can not afford to waste our precious resources on tracing history of metaphors like digital libraries or describing the features of various software packages. On occasions like caliber-2007, we must rise above our individual interests and work as team members to ensure quality, equality, equity, diversity and flexibility in library resources and services. It is good to talk about digital libraries, knowledge management, ICT enabled services and software developments, but we must not forget to focus on the information needs of the rural poor. ICT must be used to provide seamless access to quality information to one and all. There is need for altitudinal change also. Either we must lead change or follow it. Otherwise the third option is to get out of the way, that we can not afford to. We will have to look beyond degrees, digital libraries and knowledge management. Lifelong learning and end-user empowerment must be the focus of our attention.

Conference logistics have a pivotal role to play. We understand that the delegates must have timely access to the needed information, but some times things go beyond control. We have taken cognizance of your perceptions and assure you that in future we would try our best to maintain the timeline. Nothing will be done at the cost of academics and delegates convenience.

The conference organizers and the INFLIBNET team will always wait with alacrity for your valuable suggestions in the near future. I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and comfortable journey. I sincerely look forward to meet again.

Jagtar Singh

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Technical Sessions – III & IV

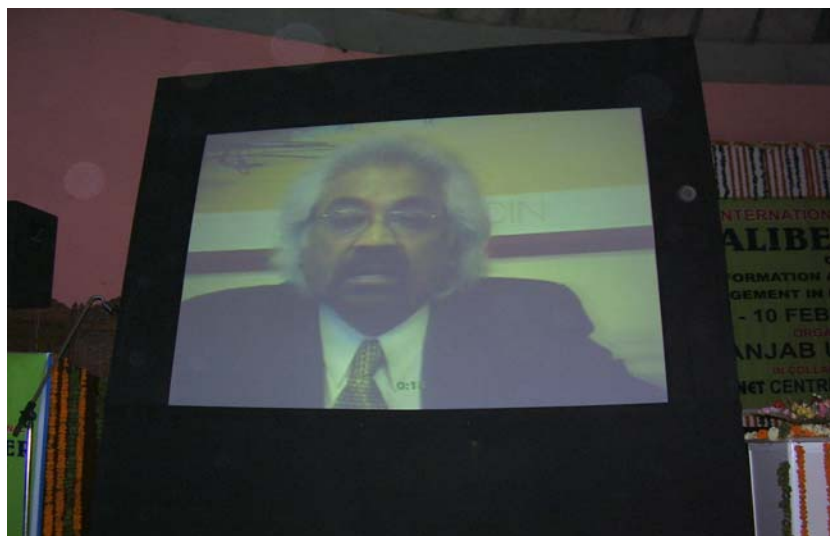
Director of the convention Dr. Ravi Gaddarimath, Librarian, Gulbarga University, Rapporteur General: Dr. S.L. Sangam, Professor, DLIS, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Mr. K Prakash, Joint Convener and Senior Scientific and Technical Officer, INFLIBNET acted as Conference Associate Director and Mr. H G Hosamani, Scientist B, INFLIBNET was the Conference Associate Rapporteur.

Because of unavoidable circumstances the session technical session-7 was shifted to 10th February. In all there were 8 technical sessions which was chaired respectively by Dr. P.V. Konnour, Dr. Devindar Kaur, Prof. Pravakar Rath, Mrs. Predepa Wijetunge, Dr. M.K. Bandi, Dr. S. Majumdar, Dr. Ranajana Vora and Prof. Jagtar Singh. Three theme papers were presented by Prof. Salini Urs, Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, Dr. A R D Prasad respectably, where as the fourth theme paper could not be presented because of the non availability of Dr. Muttayya Kognuramath.

Earlier, the key note address presented by Prof. K R Srinivashan, Director, IITMK and Prof. Salini Urs was in chair.

Prof. Sam Pitroda addressed during CALIBER -2007

The delegates of the CALIBER-2007 were in deeded enthralled by an interactive Video Conference Session held on the 9th February evening. Mr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, National Knowledge Commission (NKC) firstly addressed the delegates from Chicago and later on interacted with audience. In the beginning, he told about the mandate of the National Knowledge Commission and its composition as well. He further explained that the work of the Commission has been organized around five facets of the knowledge paradigm, i.e. Access to Knowledge, Knowledge Concepts, Creation of Knowledge, Knowledge Applications and Delivery of Services.



Dr. Sam Pitroda addressing the delegates from Chicago through Video Conferencing

He underlined that access to knowledge is a prime concern of the Commission. Literacy, libraries, translation, language and knowledge networking are major areas of interest under this category. Knowledge sharing via networking must be order of the day. Under the 'Knowledge Concepts', overhauling of Indian education system is conceived by the Commission. School education, vocational education, open and distance education, professional education, i.e. medical education, legal education, management education and engineering education are thrust areas of this facet. The 'Creation of Knowledge' facet deals with intellectual property rights, innovation and development of science and technology for socio-economic development of the nation. The 'Knowledge Application' focuses upon agriculture and traditional knowledge. He said that just like telecommunication revolution in India, the benefit of the NKC would be visible during the next decade. There is strong need for diversity and holistic approach to the emerging challenges in the 21st century. But diversity does not mean disagreement every time. Equity, diversity and flexibility can go a long way to ameliorate the Indian economy.

Under the 'Delivery of Services' aspect he explained the need for e-governance by making effective use of the ICT. With the help of the ICT, we can out reach the people at the periphery. He also explained the modus operandi of the Commission. He told that a three page letter has been sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Then, there is a plan to discuss with the PMO Office, the implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission. During the third phase, discussions would be held with the Planning Commission and the concerned Ministries. He said that he is deeply committed to the development and use of the library and information infrastructure in India. He advised the delegates that they must make the cause of Library development in India a movement. He asked for quality feedback and suggestions on the recommendations made with respect to 'Access to Knowledge' aspect of the recommendations.

He shared his perceptions with the audience that people have tendency to resist change and majority of people want status quo. That attitude needs to be changed. Decisions are

required to be made at the top to extend the benefits of knowledge services to the info-poor. These must be extended to the grassroots. Education, healthcare and sanitation must be the top priorities for us.

Public libraries in India have a pivotal role to play by serving as local gateways to knowledge. Community participation must be the backbone of the knowledge economy. A local library can not be managed from a remote place. Local community is required to take active interest in the development of public libraries. There is an urgent need for digitization of resources and than linking these resources through the proposed 5,000 nodes. He said 30,000 villages have fiber networking and access is now possible to the rural communities. Most important thing is the decision about what is to be digitized and how fast it is to be digitized. We must also learn to learn and adapt to the changing environment. We must rise above narrow political considerations and broaden our vision. Instead of focusing on personal benefits, we must focus upon public good. He recalled his sweet memories of his visits to Chandigarh, the city beautiful. Dr. S Majumdar, Librarian, University of Delhi enquired about the model to be followed for the National Commission on Libraries. Sam said we are not going to follow the USA model, but we are open to the best practices of any model. Dr. Ravi Gaddagimath, Director CALIBER – 2007 asked about the linkage between the recommendation of the Kothari Commission and the National Knowledge Commission. Sam said the vision and recommendation of the Kothari Commission are still valid. Dr. Jagtar Singh, Professor, DLIS, Punjabi University, Patiala asked about the ways to bridge the gap between the info-rich and info-poor. Sam told that by identifying with the local communities and using the existing infrastructure we can do a lot. If telecommunication revolution is an indicator, the recommendation of NKC would certainly facilitate digital inclusion in the near future.

There were many more questions, but because of space constraints it is not possible to report these here. Mr. Manoj Kumar K, Acting Director, INFLIBNET Centre also interacted with Sam from Ahmedabad through tele-conferencing via his cell phone. This interactive video conference was really a rich learning experience for all. The delegates were able to witness the power ICTs to facilitate information communication and knowledge sharing, transcending traditional constraints of space and time. Towards the end, Dr. Ravi Gaddagimath, Conference Director and Dr V K Anand, Organising Secretary thanked Sam for sparing his valuable time for the conference delegates. (Report by Prof. Jagtar Singh).

Valedictory Session:

Surjewala, Hon'ble Minister of Twas the chief guest of the valedictory function. Prof. R. C. Sobti, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University Chandigarh, presided over the function. Dr. Ravi Gaddagimath, director of the Convention shared his perception about the deliberation and proceeding of CALIBER-2007. Prof. S.L. Sangam presented comprehensive report of the convention as well as 13 resolution adopted at the Convention. Mr. Surjewala appreciated the resolution adopted by the Convention delegates and hoped that CALIBER-2007 would have been a rich learning experience for everyone. Prof. Sobti, in his presidential

address thanked the INFLIBNET team for choosing Panjab University as a venue for the CALIBER-2007 and announced that in future also would love to host many more such Conference. Mr. Premchand thanked the local organizers, Director of the convention, Rapporteur General, chairpersons and reporters of various technical sessions, authors, presenters, delegates and sponsors for their contribution and support. Beside Mr. Premchand, INFLIBNET Centre was represented by Mr. K. Prakash, STO and Co-Convener of CALIBER-2007. CALIBER Mementos were presented to the local organizers and foreign delegates.

Dr. V.K. Anand , Organising Secretary and University Librarian, A C Joshi Library, Panjab University Chandigarh proposed the vote of thanks and Mrs. Jaspal Kaur conducted the stage.