International CALIBER 2008: a Report

CALIBER is an International Convention organized every year in different parts of the country by the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad in collaboration with universities. The 6th International CALIBER 2008 was organized at the University of Allahabad, Allahabad during 28th to 29th February and 1st March 2008 on the theme **"From Automation to Transformation"**.

The event was formally inaugurated on 28th February at 10 A.M. in the Senate Hall of the University of Allahabad. Dr. A.P. Gakhar, Librarian, University of Allahabad and Organizing Secretary, CALIBER 2008 welcomed the delegates, invitees, media and the dignitaries on the dais. Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director INFLIBNET, presented a brief report of the activities, services and functions of the INFLIBNET Centre. He also deliberated on the UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium and the resources provided to the universities under the Consortium. The Convention Director, Dr. Bhushan Lal (Former Librarian of IIT, Kanpur), while addressing the delegates, opined that a Library is also a place for preserving intellect and wisdom. He reiterated that the library is considered as a social institution for ages. He said that the transformation in libraries was the result of rapid changes in the growing demand of knowledge and information in the society coupled with applications of information and communication technology (ICT).

Dignitaries on the dais during inauguration of International CALIBER 2008

The function was presided over by Prof. Rajen Harshe, Vice-Chancellor, University of Allahabad as a Chief Guest of the Convention. Prof. Harshe released the proceedings and the CD of the Convention. The Souvenir of the convention was released by Dr. Jagdish Arora. Prof. A B Samaddar, Director, Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad released the New Version of Catalogue Module of

the SOUL. Prof. Harshe, in his address to the delegates, said that a Library is a place where we can get vital knowledge related to different walks of life. He said that libraries play a very important role in enhancing the knowledge and wisdom. Differentiating between information and knowledge, Prof. Harshe opined that these two terms might have different meanings and significance depending upon the context. Addressing the issue of digitization of Libraries, Prof. Harshe opined that digital libraries have transformed the field of information and knowledge in revolutionary manner. It is also possible to obtain important and vital information at just a click of the mouse.

Prof. A B Samaddar, presenting his keynote address, said that libraries are information centres from where knowledge in all formats including gray literature and local resources can be obtained. In his presentation, he highlighted the current technological advances in database management system and also shed light on protection of Intellectual Property Right (IPR), Group Property Rights, unethical hacking of resources, and the spread of e-education and e-learning. He said libraries have the potential to become sources of open knowledge and could be developed as an interface of knowledge sharing by incorporating ICTs.

Mr. Rajesh Chandrakar, Convener of the Convention and Scientific & Technical Officer of INFLIBNET Centre presented vote of thanks to the delegates, invitees, media and the dignitaries of the convention.

Delegates of the International CALIBER 2008

The inaugural session was followed with tutorials on digital libraries, open source content management system and the e-resources under the UGC-Infonet Digital

Library Consortium by Mr. Yatrik Patel, Dr. Aditya Tripathi and by Dr. Jagdish Arora, respectively.

The following seven technical sessions were conducted between 28th February and 1st March 2008:

Technical Session	Theme of the Session	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson	Rapporteurs
Session 1	Impact of ICT in LIS: Major Shifts & Practices	Prof. C P Vashishta		Sh. Mahendra Jadhav
Session 2	Impact of ICT in LIS: Major Shifts & Practices	Dr. Shailendra Kuamr	Sh. Prem Chand	Dr. D K Singh Sh. Gourhari Jana
Session 3	Digital Libraries: Federated Search & Metadata Harvesting	Prof. E Rama Reddy	Dr. V D Srivastava	Dr. Theressa William
Session 4	Standards & Protocols in LIS	Dr. M Koganurmath	Prof. Prabhakar Rath	Dr. R K Mishra
Session 5	Content Aggregation & Content Representations	Prof. H S Chopra	Dr. U N Singh	Sh. Rakesh Kumar & Sh. Umesha Naik
Session 6	Evolving Technologies: RSS Feed, Blogs, Web2.0, Lib2.0	Dr. Ravindran Asari	Mr. Manoj Kumar K	Sh. Shashank Sonwane & Sh. S F Kattimani
Session 7	Use of E-Resources & UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium	Dr. P V Konnur	Dr. J L Upadhyay	Dr. S K Singh & Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha

At the end of each technical session, there were commercial presentations by publishers and IT companies. More than 400 delegates attended the convention including 14 delegates from foreign countries. 41 papers were presented out of 101 papers published in the proceedings of the Convention.

The concluding session was held on 1st March 2008 at 12:30 P.M. Prof. Rajan Hershe presided over the function as a Chief Guest. Rapporteur General, Dr. U C Sharma, Head, Department of Library & Information Science, Dr. B R Ambedkar University, Agra presented a brief report and the recommendations of the Convention made by the chairpersons of the various technical sessions. Dr. Jagdish Arora thanked the Organizing Secretary for hosting the CALIBER 2008 and for making the event successfully. Prof. Harshe delivered concluding remarks. Mr. Chandrakar, Convener of the Convention and the Organizing Secretary, Dr. A P Gakhar presented the vote of thanks. The recommendations of the convention are as follows:

1. Best practices may be complex and difficult for many libraries to implement due to several constraints, it is the pursuit of superior performance that can motivate and lead libraries to best practices and suggested that LICs need to take first leap forward, although at a moderate level.

2. Librarians should be sensitive enough towards issues involving computer and data security. As such they should adopt best practices in digital preservation and apply them for preservation of valuable data.

Dignitaries on the dais on prayer mode while concluding the International CALIBER 2008

3. Recommended that public information must be freely and easily accessible to all citizens of the Country.
4. Libraries must have collection development policies for providing access to all forms of information and materials for meeting the diverse need of users.
5. The library and information professionals should familiarize themselves with the emerging technology for survival in this electronic age. Libraries will have a prominent role to play in the era of õPaperless Societyö.
6. Metadata is a new name of a traditional cataloguing adopted to suit web-based environment. It was suggested that librarians should adopt the methodology for indexing of e-resources.
7. Libraries should take initiative in Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 applications to facilitate personalized services to their users.
8. Open source software for library computerization and open access to electronic resources are best solutions for libraries.

9. A strategy with defined selection criteria for digitization is critical and should be taken considering both preservation and access issues. The focus should be on traditional preservation such as value of material, condition of material, use of material, and characteristics of material ensuring a high level of success of digitization project.

10. Librarians should ensure that LIS related standards such as XML, OAI, NCIP, MARC, Z39.50 etc. are implemented in the software either they purchase or they develop for their library house keeping.

11. In connection with UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, university libraries must conduct the user awareness program with INFLIBNET to train and assist the academic community with an aim to promote better utilization of e-resources.

12. Librarians and professional organizations should value the information requirements of users and provide best services to them. It would be an added advantage for the library as well as for the users to be part of a national network of libraries - UGC-Infonet, where library is a nodal point between the users and e-resources of the network.

13. User-friendly technology should be made available to all citizens through libraries for enhancing their lifelong learning efforts.

14. Libraries should be well aware of the IPR issues in changing scenario especially in the open access environment. Libraries should impart knowledge about IPR issues to the user community.

15. It was recommended that digitization of thesis/dissertation at the university level should be encouraged to avoid the duplication of research efforts.