DEVELOPING LIBRARY NETWORK (DELNET) MAJOR RESOURCE SHARING LIBRARY NETWORK IN INDIA

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Abstract

DELNET is a valuable resource for libraries and information users in India. It has helped to improve access to information, reduce duplication of resources, and promote collaboration among libraries. DELNET is committed to continuing to play a leading role in the development of library and information services in India The Developing Library Network (DELNET) was started in January 1988 as a project of the India International Centre Library in New Delhi. It was initially supported by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India.

Keywords: *DELNET, Resource Sharing, Developing Library Network, Research and Development, Document Delivery, Inter-Library Loan Service, Information Technology, Users, Research*

Introduction:

The main objective of DELNET was to promote resource sharing among libraries in India through the development of a network of libraries. It also aimed to collect, store, and disseminate information besides offering computerized services to users, to coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and also to reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible. DELNET was registered as a society in June 1992. It is currently being promoted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and India International Centre, New Delhi.

DELNET has come a long way in the past 35 years. It has grown from a small project with a few dozen members to the largest library network in India with over 8,100 members. It has also expanded its services to include inter-library loan, document delivery, online access to library catalogs and databases, training and workshops, and research and development. DELNET has played a significant role in the modernization and networking of libraries in India. It has helped to improve access to information for students, researchers, and other users. It has also helped to reduce the duplication of resources and to promote collaboration among libraries.

DELNET is committed to continuing to play a leading role in the development of library and information services in India. It is constantly evolving its services and programs to meet the changing needs of its members.

History:

DELNET stands for Developing Library Network. It is a national level, non-profit organization that was established in 1992 by the Department of Electronics, Government of India. DELNET is dedicated to the modernization and networking of libraries in India. DELNET is headquartered in New Delhi, India. It has regional centers in Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai. It provides a variety of services to its members; here are some of the milestones in the history of DELNET:

- 1988: DELNET is started as a project of the India International Centre Library.
- 1992: DELNET is registered as a society.
- 1996: DELNET launches its online union catalog.
- 2000: DELNET launches its inter-library loan service.
- 2004: DELNET launches its document delivery service.
- 2010: DELNET launches its e-resources service.
- 2016: DELNET launches its training and workshops program.
- 2020: DELNET launches its research and development program.

Services from DELNET:

- **Inter-library loan (ILL):** Members can borrow books and other materials from other libraries in the DELNET network.
- **Document delivery:** Members can request copies of articles or other documents from other libraries in the DELNET network.

- **Online access to library catalogs and databases:** Members can search the catalogs and databases of other libraries in the DELNET network.

- **Training and workshops:** DELNET offers training and workshops on a variety of topics related to library management and technology.

- **Research and development:** DELNET supports research and development in the field of library and information science.

- **Access to a large collection of resources:** DELNET members have access to a large collection of e-books, e-journals, and e-databases.

- **Convenient access:** DELNET members can access library resources from anywhere in the world.

- **Cost-effective:** DELNET membership is a cost-effective way to get access to a large collection of library resources.

If you are a student, researcher, or librarian, I encourage you to learn more about DELNET and consider joining the network

Importance of DELNET:

DELNET has over 8,100 members, including universities, colleges, research institutions, and government agencies. It is the largest library network in India. As of March 2023, DELNET has over 1.2 million e-books, 100,000 e-journals, and 10,000 e-databases. It also has a collection of over 1 million print books and journals.

DELNET was developed by a team of librarians and information scientists from the India International Centre Library, the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), and the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The team was led by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, who is considered the father of library science in India. Dr. Ranganathan was a strong advocate of library networking and resource sharing. He believed that libraries could work together to provide better access to information for their users. The DELNET team worked to develop a system that would allow libraries to share their resources and collaborate on projects. They also developed a training program to help librarians learn how to use the system. DELNET was launched in 1988 and has since grown to become the largest library network in India. It has over 8,100 members and provides a variety of services to its members, including inter-library loan, document delivery, online access to library catalogs and databases, training and workshops,

and research and development. DELNET has played a significant role in the modernization and networking of libraries in India. It has helped to improve access to information for students, researchers, and other users. It has also helped to reduce the duplication of resources and to promote collaboration among libraries. DELNET is a valuable resource for libraries and information users in India. It is committed to continuing to play a leading role in the development of library and information services in India.

DELNET functions as a library network that connects libraries in India. It provides a variety of services to its members, including: Inter-library loan (ILL): Members can borrow books and other materials from other libraries in the DELNET network. Document delivery: Members can request copies of articles or other documents from other libraries in the DELNET network. Online access to library catalogs and databases: Members can search the catalogs and databases of other libraries in the DELNET network. Training and workshops: DELNET offers training and workshops on a variety of topics related to library management and technology. Research and development: DELNET supports research and development in the field of library and information science. DELNET also provides a number of other services, such as: Cooperative collection development: DELNET helps libraries to coordinate their collection development efforts to avoid duplication of resources. Resource sharing: DELNET facilitates the sharing of resources between libraries, such as books, journals, and databases. Information dissemination: DELNET disseminates information to its members through publications, newsletters, and other channels. Professional development: DELNET provides professional development opportunities for librarians through training programs, workshops, and conferences. DELNET is governed by a Board of Governors, which is responsible for setting the policies and overseeing the operations of the network. The Board is composed of representatives from the Department of Electronics, Government of India, the National Informatics Centre, the India International Centre Library, and other organizations. DELNET is funded by the Department of Electronics, Government of India, and by membership fees from its members.

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Key functions of DELNET:

- **Resource sharing:** DELNET facilitates the sharing of resources between libraries, such as books, journals, and databases. This helps to improve access to information for users and reduces the duplication of resources.

- **Inter-library loan:** DELNET provides a mechanism for libraries to borrow books and other materials from each other. This is a valuable service for libraries that do not have all the resources they need.

- **Document delivery:** DELNET provides a service for libraries to request copies of articles or other documents from other libraries. This is a valuable service for libraries that need access to information that is not available in their own collections.

- **Online access to library catalogs and databases:** DELNET provides online access to the catalogs and databases of its member libraries. This allows users to search for materials across a wide range of libraries.

- **Training and workshops:** DELNET offers training and workshops on a variety of topics related to library management and technology. This helps to improve the skills of librarians and other library staff.

- **Research and development:** DELNET supports research and development in the field of library and information science. This helps to improve the quality of library services.

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DELNET provides a variety of resources to its members, including:

- **E-books:** DELNET has a collection of over 1.2 million e-books. These e-books can be accessed by members from anywhere in the world.

- **E-journals:** DELNET has a collection of over 100,000 e-journals. These e-journals can be accessed by members from anywhere in the world.

- **E-databases:** DELNET has a collection of over 10,000 e-databases. These e-databases provide access to a variety of information, such as scholarly articles, news articles, and government documents.

- **Online access to library catalogs and databases:** DELNET provides online access to the catalogs and databases of its member libraries. This allows users to search for materials across a wide range of libraries.

  DELNET also provides a number of other resources, such as:

- **Cooperative collection development:** DELNET helps libraries to coordinate their collection development efforts to avoid duplication of resources.

- **Resource sharing:** DELNET facilitates the sharing of resources between libraries, such as books, journals, and databases.

- **Information dissemination:** DELNET disseminates information to its members through publications, newsletters, and other channels.

- **Professional development**: DELNET provides professional development opportunities for librarians through training programs, workshops, and conferences.

  The resources available through DELNET are constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of its members. DELNET is committed to providing its members with the best possible resources to support their research and learning.

  DELNET can be used by libraries in a variety of ways, including:

- **To improve access to information:** DELNET provides access to a wide range of resources, including e-books, e-journals, and e-databases. This can help libraries to improve access to information for their users.

- **To reduce duplication of resources:** DELNET helps libraries to coordinate their collection development efforts to avoid duplication of resources. This can help libraries to save money and improve the efficiency of their operations.

- **To promote collaboration:** DELNET facilitates the sharing of resources between libraries. This can help libraries to pool their resources and provide better services to their users.

- **To provide training and development:** DELNET offers training and workshops on a variety of topics related to library management and technology. This can help libraries to improve the skills of their staff and keep up with the latest trends.

- **To support research and development:** DELNET supports research and development in the field of library and information science. This can help libraries to improve the quality of their services and better meet the needs of their users.

DELNET is a valuable resource for libraries. It can help libraries to improve access to information, reduce duplication of resources, promote collaboration, and provide training and development. DELNET is committed to helping libraries to provide the best possible services to their users.

Specific examples of how DELNET can be used by libraries:

- A library can use DELNET to borrow a book that is not available in its own collection.
- A library can use DELNET to request a copy of an article that is not available in its own collection.
- A library can use DELNET to search the catalogs and databases of other libraries to find information on a particular topic.
- A library can use DELNET to train its staff on how to use new library technologies.
- A library can use DELNET to collaborate with other libraries on a research project.

  DELNET is a powerful tool that can be used by libraries to improve their services and meet the needs of their users. If you are a librarian, I encourage you to learn more about DELNET and consider using it to improve your library's services.

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Union Catalogue of Books:

DELNET maintains an online union catalogue of books available in its member-libraries. This union catalogue is continuously updated and is growing in size. The information can be retrieved by author, title, subject, conference, series, etc. It has 3,83,75,350 bibliographic records. The request for inter-library loan can be placed through the online system.

Union List of Current Periodicals:

DELNET has created union lists of current periodicals in science and technology, social sciences and humanities. This database is available online to DELNET users. It now lists 1,10,507 periodicals and is regularly updated and new titles are added annually. It is a major resource for Document Delivery Services.

Union Catalogue of Periodicals:

DELNET maintains a union catalogue of periodicals, which contains full holdings data of the libraries. At present, the database contains 28,543 records.

Database of Periodical Articles:

The database has details of articles which can be searched under the title, author, compiler, name of the periodical and subject. The database is being extensively utilized by the researchers and scholars. At present the database contains 11, 24,250 records.

CD-ROM Database:

A bibliographic database of CD-ROMs available with the member-libraries is being compiled. It has 69,130 records.

Union List of Video Recordings:

This is a database of video cassettes available in DELNET member-libraries and has about 6,000 listings.

Union List of Sound Recordings:

This union list consists of audio cassette records available in member-libraries. This database has 1,025 records.

Database of Theses and Dissertations:

A database of Theses and Dissertations submitted to Indian Universities has been started, which covers various subjects. The database has 1,40,195 records

Union List of Newspapers:

The database has 70 records and contains information about the newspapers including title, name of the editor, published from, E-mail address and also the Web address of the Internet edition if available on the www.

Database of E-books:

It has nearly 1613 records.

Profile of Member-Libraries:

A directory of member-libraries is available and contains information about them.

Conclusions:

DELNET is the largest library network in India. It provides a variety of services to its members, including inter-library loan, document delivery, online access to library catalogs and databases, training and workshops, and research and development. DELNET is funded by the Department

of Electronics, Government of India, and by membership fees from its members. DELNET is governed by a Board of Governors, which is responsible for setting the policies and overseeing the operations of the network. DELNET is a valuable resource for libraries and information users in India. It has helped to improve access to information, reduce duplication of resources, and promote collaboration among libraries. DELNET is a dynamic organization that is constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of its members. It is committed to providing its members with the best possible resources to support their research and learning. After observing all the things, it proves that this is a very big resource sharing library network of India.

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