Minutes of the Meeting held in connection with the formation of Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET), February 6, 2020, KSHEC Board Room, Thiruvananthapuram

Members Present :

1. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M	-	Vice Chairman, KSHEC
2. Dr. Rajan Varughese	-	Member Secretary, KSHEC
3. Dr. B. Ekbal	-	Member, Planning Board
4. Dr. Vijaya Kumar K. P.	-	Former Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science
5. Sri. Ravindran Asari. K,	-	Former University Librarian, Mahatma Gandhi University
6. Dr. Ajikumari T	-	University of Kerala
7. Dr. H. Majeed	-	University of Kerala
8. Dr. P.K..Suresh Kumar	-	University of Kerala
9. Dr. Anu George	-	Mahatma Gandhi University
10. Sri. Vimal Kumar V.	-	Mahatma Gandhi University
11. Dr. Beena C.	-	Cochin University of Science and Technology
12. Sri. Joseph Thadus T.P.	-	Cochin University of Science and Technology
13. Ms. Jeeja V.T.	-	National University of Advanced Legal Studies
14. Dr. A.T. Francis	-	Kerala Agricultural University
Dr. A. Lekha	-	Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University for Arts & Culture
15. Dr. K.T.Jayalatha	-	Kerala University of Health Sciences
16. Sri. Jabirmon M.P	-	Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University
17. Dr. Mohammed Sageer T.K.	-	Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit
18. Dr. Abdul Azeez.T.A	-	University of Calicut
19. Dr. Mohanlal E.K.	-	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
20. Ms. Priya T.K.	-	Kannur University
21. Dr. Shefeeque V	-	Kerala State Higher Education Council
22. Dr. Manulal P Ram	-	Kerala State Higher Education Council
23. Deepika Lakshman	-	Kerala State Higher Education Council

The Governing Body meeting of KSHEC held on 21-01-2020 has resolved (Item No. A6.) to form the Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET), and hence a meeting was convened to work out the details of the same, with the participation of university librarians and experts in this field.

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
Equity Excellence
Thiruvananthapuram-33

Prof Rajan Gurukkal Vice Chairman, KSHEC in his presidential address spoke of the need to integrate libraries with teaching and research and of the inevitability of libraries in teaching and learning. He said that teaching has become too mechanical with learning being replaced by remembering and students are not motivated to learn and it has become exam centered. He pointed this needs to be remedied by introducing Outcome Based teaching and evaluation. Learning has now become a predicament and libraries should become a learning site as far as higher education sector is concerned. Teachers are expected to teach how to learn and it is here that libraries and librarians have a role to play. A Faculty-Student-Librarian collaboration needs to be established and the librarian's knowledge for conducting effective literature search with precision needs to be utilised. Librarians' whose roles have been reduced to stockists and purchase officers have to be changed to that of supporting the academic community, the teaching–learning process, curriculum development and research. Self esteem has to be developed in each librarian and they should be part of the academic community and help in the dissemination of knowledge.

Dr. B. Ekbal (Member, Kerala State Planning Board) emphasised the need to modernise the libraries in the higher education institutions and develop suitable mechanism to share the vast reservoir of knowledge which is remaining unutilised in universities and colleges. The new initiative of the KSHEC, he said, will pave the way for a drastic change in teaching and research in the state.

Sri. K. Ravindran Asari made a detailed presentation of KALNET. He spoke of the evolution of library networks in India and abroad with special emphasis on DELNET (Developing Library Network).

He proposed the following structure for KALNET:

Networking at two levels:

i) Libraries of a University to be networked and to be known by the name of the University
   eg: Library Network of University of Kerala to be known as KULNET.

Each University Library and its department libraries would have completed its automation and creation of an Online Public Access Catalogue(OPAC). The University level networks will then be linked to form the KALNET.

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
Equity Excellence
Thiruvananthapuram-33

ii) The second level would consist of the network of the affiliated college libraries which in turn would be linked to KALNET.

Members of the Network :

- Universities
- University departments and subcentres
- Arts & Science Colleges
- Teacher Education Institutes
- Professional Colleges(Engineering, Medical Sciences, Pharmacy, Law, Management etc)

He also proposed the formation of a Network Administration Centre and a Governing Council for KALNET.

Structure of Governing Council

i. Vice Chairman, KSHEC

ii. One representative from each University

iii. Staff:

   a. Librarian

   b. IT expert

   c. Other staff as decided by the Governing Council of KALNET

Functions of KALNET.

i. Provide nationwide service

ii. Institutional membership within the country

iii. Individual membership to teachers & research scholars

iv. Interlibrary loan within & outside the network

v. Document delivery service to all members

vi. Cooperation with other service centres like British Library Lending Service to attain full user satisfaction

vii. Fee based services

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
Equity Excellence
Thiruvananthapuram-33

Other suggestions that come up include:

1. Data migration to Cloud

   It was suggested that since majority of the libraries are working on the Koha Platform, the open source software, it would be easy to migrate the data to a cloud platform. However, the technicalities need to be worked out on what type of data would be migrated-holdings of books, journals and theses etc. and its updation.

2. Discovery services to be adopted that would allow seamless search across a wide range of content of the databases of all the universities. Vufind, an open source software was suggested.
3. Constitution of a Technical team
4. Listing out the services to be provided and the costs involved
5. Time frame as to when the network would be operational
6. Monetary outlay that would be involved.
7. Intimation to be sent to the Vice Chancellors/Librarians regarding the migration of data
8. KSHEC to be the nodal centre

It was decided that KSHEC website will function as the coordinating hub for making the state-wide network of libraries feasible through cloud computing.

It was also decided to hold further deliberations in this regard to discuss the technical issues involved and the execution of the project and formation of a consortium of e-journals in the State. Dr. Rajan Varughese also assured that discussions on the would be held in the upcoming meeting.

The meeting started at 11:00 am. and ended by 1:00 pm.

Rajan Varughese

Dr. Rajan Varughese
Member Secretary

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
Equity Excellence
Thiruvananthapuram-33