

UPGRADATION OF NADT LIBRARY

Significant efforts by NADT to augment its library resources - particularly digital resources and infrastructure - proposal to enhance status of its Library under the Government of India norms.

As a training institution of excellence, NADT must remain equipped with top-class library services capable of providing the latest resources to trainees and faculty. Yet the library suffered from a series of inadequacies including limited access to digital resources, outdated hardware, as well as infrastructural and manpower constraints.

2. With a view to improving the overall capacity of the Library and enable it to become an important resource not only for the NADT but for the Department as a whole, a series of initiatives were taken as part of a comprehensive project for the up-gradation of the Library.

3. The Digital Library hardware was expanded and access to digital services was extended beyond NADT. The Digital Library operates on Libsys software, incorporating a fast search engine and indexing facility, whereby, books, presentations and other documents and multimedia can be preserved and shared. All authorised users can access it over the internet with a user ID and password. This facility was made fully functional with installation of upgraded servers which enabled extension of access to DTRTIs as well as to other in-service trainees visiting the Department. Over 3000 documents, comprising study material, monographs and research papers prepared by trainees and faculty at NADT, manuals, and other documents prepared by the Department, were uploaded for access by users.

4. To enable the trainees and the faculty to regularly update their knowledge and to assist them in undertaking research projects which are a part of the various training programs conducted by the Academy, access was made available to tax-related databases and also to Lexis Nexis. It was also decided to join government promoted consortia to access more databases at an economic price.

5. A workshop was held on Library Day³ for local Government Libraries in Nagpur, which provided a valuable opportunity for the

³ The 12th of August, being the birthday of Prof. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of modern Library Science, is celebrated in India as "Library Day".

staff of NADT Library to interact with other Librarians. It was also decided in the workshop that all Government Libraries will work together to increase sharing of resources and best practices among one-another. A Library Bulletin was published and released on the day, which highlighted the initiatives undertaken by NADT Library and the issues and challenges ahead. It also documented the progress made, and is expected to serve as a reservoir of institutional memory. It was circulated primarily in digital format (as a pdf file) to minimize the costs and reduce environmental footprint.

6. Government of India rules provide for categorisation of government libraries into six categories from Category I (smallest) to Category VI (largest). Grant of posts of Librarian and other staff in Government Libraries is dependent upon such categorization. The NADT Library is currently in Category II. An initiative was undertaken to get the library re-categorised. An objective evaluation of the necessary parameters based on which the library will qualify for re-categorization was carried out. The exercise revealed that the NADT Library would qualify as a Category IV Library. Accordingly, a detailed proposal for re-categorisation of NADT Library as Category IV Library (which is the highest category status for any government training institution's library in India so far) has been prepared and sent to the Ministry for its approval.

7. As a result of the purposeful steps taken to upgrade the library, NADT is today much better equipped to cater to the needs of trainees, trainers, researchers and other users of its services. Cooperation with other government libraries has improved. Since the library has fulfilled all the requirements to be graded as Category- IV as per the prescribed criteria, the CBDT has agreed to the proposal and a formal communication in this regard is being awaited.

Names of the Officers : N. Sankaran, ADG-I, NADT
 R Ravichandran, ADG-II, NADT
 Dr Vinay Kumar Singh, Addl. Director
 (Fac & Lib.), NADT
 C Tripura Sundari, Additional Director (Fac)
 Shekhar Gajbhiye Joint Director (Admin)
 S Swaminathan, Joint Director (Fac)