
Unit 18 □ Bibliographic Information Networks

Structure

18.0 Objectives

18.1 Introduction

18.2 Bibliographic Standards

18.3 Bibliographic Information Network

18.3.1 Objectives

18.3.2 Control of Bibliographic Information Networks

18.3.3 Characteristics

18.3.4 Benefits

18.4 Information Programme and Systems Coordinated in India

18.4.1 International

18.4.2 Regional

18.4.3 Countrywide Area Network

18.4.4 Metropolitan Networks

18.5 Exercise

18.0 Objectives

The objectives of the Unit are to :

- Examine the concept of bibliographic information network (BIN)
- Explain the concept of standardization in library & information activities
- Discuss various aspects of bibliographic information networks-objectives, requirements, topologies, services etc.
- Present an overview of international, regional, national, and city based library and information networks
- Examine the treatments of bibliographic information networks in various policy statements of Government of India.
- Discuss the concept behind OAI

18.1 Introduction

Bibliographic networked started with the formal networking of libraries that had converted their catalogues into MARC records. Probably first successful bibliographic network was OCLC (Ohio Library College Centre, now known as Online Computer Library Centre), which was established in 1963. However, with the change of technology and its easy availability, many more library networks came into existence around the world.

18.2 Bibliographic Standards

A library/Network could devise its own method of organizing the bibliographic information, but it would isolate the library, limit its options, and create much more work for itself. Every national library system has two fundamental functions :

- ♦ To collect, preserve, and disseminate national print and non-print publishing and research output; and,
- ♦ To exchange their information with other national systems.

In other words, library materials should be organized in such a way that provides for effective retrieval and exchange. There is an urgent need for the national library system to standardize the way it organizes its collection for retrieval and exchange. What it needs are both a national cataloguing code and a national MARC format. This is not to say that cataloguing code not being currently used in libraries; rather, it implies that that cataloguing code should be standardized and implemented nationwide. The following Table explains the types of standards involved in a computerized library environment.

Cataloguing Standards	Enabling library to share catalogue records with other libraries, both in the country and overseas. AACR (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2nd edition) is a major international standard for the cataloguing of all types of materials collected by general libraries. The rules for description in Part I of AACR are based on the general framework for the description of library materials, the ISBD(G) - General International Standard Bibliographic Description. Close correspondence also exists between the chapters in AACR, which relate to different types of material and the corresponding ISBD.
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	<p>The family of International Standard Bibliographic Descriptions (ISBD) specifies the requirements for description and identification of information resources. Responsibility for the development and maintenance of ISBD resides with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. - Section of Cataloguing, in which the British Library plays an active role.</p>
Exchange Formats	<p>Formats are used to transfer data in a structured form. Exchange formats were developed in parallel with the development of computers and other electronic storage devices to facilitate the transfer of bibliographic data between computer systems.</p> <p>The MARC 21 formats are standards for the representation and communication of bibliographic and related information in machine-readable form. The Library of Congress in consultation with various user communities maintains the MARC 21 formats.</p> <p>The primary purpose of UNIMARC is to facilitate the international exchange of data in machine-readable form between national bibliographic agencies. UNIMARC may also be used as a model for the development of new machine-readable bibliographic formats.</p>
Name Authority Control	<p>Authority Control is the process of establishing and maintaining consistency in headings in a bibliographic file by means of an authority file.</p>
Subject Access	<p>The use of a standardized system of subject headings allows compatible access by subject across different files and catalogues. In libraries document classification enables ordering of material in a helpful way on open shelves, browsing and retrieval of related items in catalogues, meaningful arrangement in subject indexes and bibliographies, analysis of the collectios, and increasingly provides structural tools for mapping and organizing Web resources.</p>
ISSN	<p>The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is an internationally accepted code, which identifies the title of serial publications. The ISSN is not connected with ownership of the journal, nor does it confer copyright or protect the title of the serial from use by other publishers. The ISSN is not related to legal deposit. The users of ISSN are :</p>

Publishers who wish to identify their serial publications and incorporate a barcode on the magazine, journal or newspaper for sale via the major retailers, *Libraries*, which use the ISSN as a fundamental identifier for distinguishing between identical serial titles and facilitating checking and ordering procedures, collection management, legal deposit, interlibrary loans etc., *Catalogue databases*, which use the ISSN as a record control number and can make use of the records on the ISSN register, *Documentation centres and databases*, which handle bibliographic references and use the ISSN for more accurate serials citation, abstracting and indexing services etc. *Subscription agencies* that act as intermediaries between publishers and their customers use the ISSN to ensure the correct serial publication is ordered, *Academics* who wish to cite in full details of publications for research purposes.

18.3 Bibliographic Information Network

The pressure for resource sharing due to the devaluation of the currencies in different countries, rising costs of published materials, information explosion, and limited infrastructure resulted design and development of networks. It is set of inter-related information systems associated with communication facilities, which are cooperating through more or less formal agreements in order to implement information handling operations to offer better services to the users. Bibliographic information networks are responsible for collection of bibliographic information on various subjects and making them searchable to the users through computer terminals within a campus and/or over the Internet. These networks are responsible for

- Collection
- Processing and Dissemination
- Development of standards and procedures
- Modernization of hardware and software

A bibliographic information network makes information available on information materials issued within the territory it serves and other information materials included in the libraries and collections of the territory it serves. Bibliographic Information Networks contain more bibliographic records, but database consisting of textual and/or numerical information are also very common.

Networks are set up to improve and develop the bibliographic services already provided by the individuals libraries and other sources of information within their territory, and to plan and coordinate those which individual organizations cannot themselves provide, and to serve as recognized centres for all requests not met elsewhere for bibliographic information and as a clearing houses for international inquiries. Where necessary they will also put inquiries in touch with other sources of bibliographic information.

18.3.1 Objectives of Bibliographic Information Networks

Bibliographic Information Networks take many forms. There is steadily increasing number of national Networks. In addition, regional networks are a features of a number of countries, and there are number of networks serving smaller areas. Among the many activities undertaken by networks in various parts of the world, the following are undertaking, though no existing networks includes all of them :

- Copyright registration of some or all forms of information materials issued within the territory served.
- Formation of union catalogue of such materials
- Provision of catalogue entries for those materials
- Provision for various forms of centralized cataloguing
- Formation of union catalogues of foreign materials in the stock of libraries and collections within the territory.
- International exchange and ILL
- International coordination of bibliographic work and standardization
- Reproduction of information materials as a substitute for national or international loan
- Publication of guides to libraries and special collection and their resources within the territory.
- Coordination of bibliographic information and records
- Provision of access to unpublished theses and dissertations
- Identification of materials
- Studies and supports library automation
- Compilation of retrospective national/regional/local bibliographies
- Forwarding requests to the appropriate individual libraries and collections
- Dissemination of bibliographic information of materials published in or about the territory.

- Provision of advice, direction, and supervision of local bibliographic activity; its simulation, coordination, and recording. Finally, reporting such activity to international organizations
- Motivate smaller libraries to participate and benefit from the network to maximize the national development.
- To strengthen bibliographic control of the country's own technological output and to establish computer based bibliographic databases in subject areas of interest to the region.
- Stimulate and promote creation of non-bibliographic databases in different areas.
- Improve national information infrastructure.
- Develop and promote the technical and organizational structure and capabilities for exchange of data.
- Coordinate with other local, regional, national and international networks.
- Formulate policies, programmes and standards for different areas of activities.

18.3.2 Control of Bibliographic Information Networks

Control of bibliographic networks depends in most cases on the main sources of a center's income. Where cooperating libraries mostly provide support voluntarily, control usually takes the form of an elected council of representatives of member libraries. In countries where the centre draws the greater part of its income from government funds, it is usually made responsible to the appropriate government department, or, to the national or national university library (ies). In the latter case, it may therefore be housed at or near the national library. In other case it is customary to choose a strategic site for the centre, and the choice may be influenced by possibilities of cutting overheads. Many centres draw a small income from various activities.

Many national and international bibliographic databases are now available in computerized forms. There are various types of bibliographic databases :

- Catalogues
 1. Individual library
 2. Union Catalogue
- Bibliographic Databases
 1. National
 2. Books-in-Prints
- Abstracting & Indexing Services

- Full-Text Databases
 1. Journals/Serials
 2. News papers
 3. E-Books
- Numerical/Factual databases
- Digital Libraries.

18.3.3 Characteristics of Bibliographic Information Networks

Library cooperation is not a new phenomenon. However, computerization of libraries provides an opportunity for formal cooperation among the automated libraries at a scale, which was not possible earlier. The characteristics of bibliographic information networks are :

- Data : Bibliographic data in MARC format, Numeric data, full text databases
- Retrieval : Author/title/series/subject terms/keywords/document codes
- Access : LAN and/or Internet
- Users : From any where
- Equal opportunity of access
- Interdependence
- Standards and quality
- Shared decision making
- Intergration and Coordination
- Centralization
- Cost and productivity

18.3.4 Benefits of Bibliographic Information Network

There are various benefits of development of bibliographic information networks. Salient benefits are as follows :

- Better bibliographic control
- Easy to ascertain availability
- Wider access to Information
- Rationalization of resource development policies and programme
- Promotion and protection of copyright and IPR
- Maximization of uses of resources
- Effective and efficient document delivery service

18.4 Information Programme and Systems Coordinated in India

It is relevant to mention that during the past decades several important international information programmes and systems have been established. Many libraries from India are also contributing to there programme and system. A brief descriptions of efforts to establish International, Regional and National Bibliographic/Information Networks is given below :

18.4.1 International Networks

18.4.1.1 INIS [<http://www.iaea.org/inis/>]

The **International Nuclear Information System** (INIS) is information system on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. INIS is operated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with its Member States and co-operating international organizations.

INIS provides a comprehensive information reference service for literature on the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. To do this, INIS processes most of the world's scientific and technical literature that falls within its subject scope and maintains a database which contains millions of bibliographic references, making it the world's most comprehensive information source on the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. Additionally, INIS also maintains a unique collection of full text non-conventional (grey) literature that would be difficult to obtain elsewhere.

18.4.1.2 AGRIS [<http://www.fao.org/agris/>]

AGRIS is the international information system for the agricultural sciences and technology. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created it in 1974, to facilitate information exchange and to bring together world literature dealing with all aspects of agriculture. AGRIS is a cooperative system in which participating countries input references to the literature produced within their boundaries and in return, draw on the information provided by the other participants. To date, 240 national, international and intergovernmental centres participate.

The AGORA site provides access to over 400 journals from major scientific publishers in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science and related social sciences. AGORA is available to students and researchers in qualifying not-for-profit institutions in eligible developing countries.

18.4.1.3 POPIN [<http://www.un.org/popin/home/about.html>]

The population Information Network (POPIN) was founded on 9 May 1979, by resolution 1979/33 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. POPIN strives to make international, regional and national population information, particularly information available from United Nations sources, easily available to the international community. The development of POPIN was partially supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Population Information Network is a decentralized community of population institutions organized into global, regional and national networks. Global POPIN activities, including this web site, are established by and within the United Nations Population Division. Regional population networks have been established by the

- Economic Commission for Africa (POPIN Africa),
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Asia-Pacific POPIN),
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (IPALCA),
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (POPIN Western Asia) and the
- Association for Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers-International for Northern America (Northern American POPIN).

Regularly issued publications which provide updates on POPIN activities include :

- Population Newsletter
- Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin
- PADIS Newsletter
- Boletín del PROLAP
- APLIC-International Communicator.

Bibliographic Databases maintained by the global and regional POPIN networks include :

- DOCPAL : Bibliographic database of citations to Latin American population literature. Produced by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL). Also available in CD-ROM format from CELADE.

- EBIS POPFILE : Bibliographic database of citations to Asia-Pacific population literature. Produced by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Also, available on diskette from ESCAP. For national databases, please contact Asia-Pacific POPIN.
- PADIS bibliographic database of citations to African population literature. Produced by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Also, available on diskette from the ECA.

For further information about the Population Information Network, please contact : The Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, 2 United Nations Plaza (Rm.DC2-1950), New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone : (212) 963-3179; Fax : (212) 963-2147.

18.4.2 Regional

Significant regional information networks are : ASTINFO and TECHNINET ASIA.

18.4.2.1 ASTINFO [<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/regoff/astinfo.htm>]

ASTINFO is a co-operative programme, which aims to promote the exchange of information and experience in science and technology among countries in the Asia/Pacific region. It was established in 1983 as a result of the Second Conference of the Science Ministers and Economic Planning Bodies in the Asia/Pacific region (CASTASIA II), held in March 1982 in Manila (Philippines). ASTINFO comprises co-ordinating units in 18 Member states; and some 82 national/regional institutions now hold the status of ASTINFO Associated Centres and Networks. A quarterly Newsletter is published. The aims and benefits of ASTINFO include :

- Computerization of library and Information Management Services;
- Pilot projects on Specialized information systems and services;
- Development of National Information Policies and Standards;
- Innovative approaches to education and training of library and information personnel;
- Establishment of document delivery systems and services;
- Serving as a forum for communication and information exchange.

18.4.2.2 TECHNINET ASIA [<http://www.technonet.org.sg/>]

Technonet Asia is a non-stock, non-profit and non-political international development organization comprising 9 Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME) promotion and development organizations (PO) from 8 Asian countries, with its Secretariat based in Singapore.

Technonet Asia has gained international recognition as a dynamic organization in the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries and has been highly acclaimed as an effective model in North-South and South-South collaboration achieved through sharing and exchange of institutional expertise.

As a cooperative network, its mission is to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of small micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) in member countries through the employment of innovative approaches for enhancing its contributions to their respective economies.

Technonet achieves its objectives through action-oriented programmes incorporating a suitable blend of consultancy, training, institution building and appropriate management methods. These are effected through the following initiatives :

- Formulation and implementation of new and innovative support programme for SMMEs promotion and development in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Promotion of capacity building among SMME support institutions in the member countries.
- Conduct of regional scale techno-economic research studies on policy initiatives, best practices and successful programmes
- Implementation of multi-country technical assistance projects supported by international donor organizations and serves as an effective conduit to channel assistance to SMME institutions to carry out priority based development programmes.
- Maintain information database on SMME practitioners and professionals to serve on call in the member countries in the specific areas of SMME needs.
- Actively promoting and facilitating the networking among member organizations in the region.

Technonet Asia was established in 1973 as a project of the International Development Research Center of Canada. The organization was registered as an autonomous legal entity in January 1980 in the Republic of Singapore. It is now recognized as a regional non-government organization (NGO).

Technonet Asia is governed by a Council composed of heads of the POs and the Executive Director and is headed by a Chairman elected annually. Coordination and administrative functions are performed by Technonet Center (Secretariat) in Singapore. Through a special arrangement with the Participating Organizations, Technonet Center plans and implements the national and regional programmes.

Technonet Center, based in Singapore, acts as the secretariat of the network and is headed by a full-time Executive Director. It maintains a core of programme

and administrative staff and is responsible for project formulation, planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation.

18.4.3 National

18.4.3.1 Bibliographic Information Networks in India

The growth of library networks in India may be traced back to the policies and programme that were initiated by the Government of India/State Government since 1950s, however, it was actually in the 1980s when the organized efforts were made for collection and dissemination of information. Various policy papers included recommendation for development of library network. Since 1988 many networks have been established in India-INFLIBNET, CALIBNET, DELNET etc. however, none of these networks really achieved any great success. Winding up of NISSAT may clearly indicate the ground condition. Brief description of selected library networks is provided here :

- INFLIBNET
- DELNET
- CALIBNET
- ADINET

The explosion in the amount of literature that is available, increases among the number of users and their different needs, and the application of electronic media are forcing libraries to construct and participate in networks. Retrieval through telecommunications networks and access to international databases are available for searching for information on various subjects. With the advent of networks, remote transmission of texts and graphics, video clips and animated clips are also possible. Some factors that are responsible for the development of library and information networks in India are :

- The report of the working group of the planning commission on modernization of library services and informatics for the seventh five year plan, 1985-90.
- The National Policy on Library & Information systems document (1986) accepted by the ministry of HRD, Government of India.
- The report on national policy on university libraries prepared by the Association of Indian Universities (1987).
- The UGC report on information systems for science and technology under the Department of Science & Industrial Research (DSIR) Government of India has been vigorously promoting an integrated approach to library automation and networking.

A network may fail in the early stages if there is not proper planning or if adequate funds are not available. Moreover, a common memorandum of agreement signed by the participating libraries at the institutional level is essential for the success of a network venture. On a more practical level, catalogue data must be in a standard, machine-readable form for it to be shared and exchanged. And finally, a continuous flow of external assistance is crucial for the network's survival. These points may explain the status of different networks in India.

18.4.3 Countrywide Area Network

18.4.3.1 VIDYANET

Title : VIDYANET (Dedicated Communication Computer Net)

Sponsor : TATA Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay

Objectives : To provide rapid means of communications by linking computers at various institutions in India to similar networks outside the country; to stimulate corporate research, the day-to-day exchange of research information and the execution of joint projects and publications

Services : File transfer facility; sharing of computer resources and access to remote applications, databases, libraries, etc.

18.4.3.2 INFLIBNET

INFLIBNET is an autonomous Inter-University Centre of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. It is a major National Programme initiated by the UGC in 1991 with its Head Quarter at Gujarat University Campus, Ahmedabad. Initially started as a project under the IUCAA, it became an independent Inter University Centre in 1996. INFLIBNET is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connecting them as well as information centres in the country through a nation-wide high-speed data network using the state-of-art technologies for the optimum utilization of information. INFLIBNET is set out to be a major player in promoting scholarly communication among academicians and researchers in India.

The objectives of INFLIBNET as envisaged in Memorandum of Association are :

- To promote and establish communication facilities to improve capability in information transfer and access, that provide support to scholarship, learning, research and academic pursuit through cooperation and involvement of agencies concerned.
- To establish **INFLIBNET : Information and Library Network** a computer communication network for linking libraries and information centres in

universities, deemed to be universities, colleges, UGC information centres, insitutions of national importance and R&D institutions, etc. avoiding duplication of efforts.

In order to fulfill the broad objectives, INFLIBNET will :

- Promote and implement computerization of operations and services in the libraries and information centres of the country, following a uniform standard.
- Evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods, procedures, computer hardware and software, services and promote their adoption in actual practice by all libraries, in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchange of information towards optimal use of resources and facilities.
- Evolve a national network interconnecting various libraries and information centres in the country and to improve capability in information handling and service.
- Provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating online union catalogue of serials, theses/dissertations, books, monographs and non-book materials (manuscripts, audio-visuals, computer data, multimedia, etc.) in various libraries in India.
- Provide access to bibliographic information sources with citations, abstracts etc. through indigenously created databases of the Sectoral Information Centres of NISSAT, UGC Information Centres, City Networks and such others and by establishing gateways for online accessing of national and international databases held by national and international information networks and centres respectively.
- Develop new methods and techniques for archival of valuable information available as manuscripts and information documents in different Indian languages, in the form of digital images using high-density storage media.
- Optimise information resource utilization through shared cataloguing, inter-library loan service, catalogue production, collection development and thus avoiding duplication in acquisition to the extent possible.
- Enable the users dispersed all over the country, irrespective of location and distance, to have access to information regarding serials, theses/dissertations, books, monographs and non-book materials by locating the sources wherefrom available and to obtain it through the facilities of INFLIBNET and union catalogue of documents.
- Create databases of projects, institutions, specialists etc. for providing online information service.

- Encourage co-operation among libraries, documentation centres and information centres in the country, so that the resources can be pooled for the benefit of the weaker resource centres by stronger ones.
- Train and develop human resources in the field of computerized library operations and networking to establish, manage and sustain INFLIBNET.
- Facilitate academic communication amongst scientists, engineers, social scientists, academics, faculties, researchers and students through electronic mail, file transfer, computer/audio/video conferencing, etc.
- Undertake system design and studies in the field of communications, computer networking, and information handling and data management.
- Establish appropriate control and monitoring system for the communication network and organize maintenance.
- Collaborate with institutions, libraries, information centres and other organizations in India and abroad in the field relevant to the objectives of the Centre.
- Create and promote R & D and other facilities and technical positions for realizing the objectives of the Centre.
- Generate revenue by providing consultancies and information services.
- Do all other such things as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objectives.

During the recent period quite a large number of libraries and information centers are forming networks. The advent of computer networking as an accepted part of the library and information infrastructure has had a very significant impact on the way in which library and information systems are perceived. India is thus on the threshold of a new era of computer communication networks both for general purposes and for library and information purposes.

18.4.3.3 DELNET [<http://www.delnet.nic.in/about-ourselves.htm>]

DELNET has been in operation since January 1988 and was registered as a society in 1992. It was initially sponsored by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India and is currently being promoted by the National Informatics Centre, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and India International Centre, New Delhi.

DELNET has been established with the prime objective of promoting resource sharing among the libraries through the development of a network of libraries. It aims 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 has been actively engaged with the compilation of various Union Catalogues of the resources available in member-libraries. It has already created the Union Catalogue of Books, Union List of Current Periodicals, Union Catalogue of Periodicals, CD-ROM Database, Database of Indian Specialists, Database of Periodical Articles, Union List of Video Recordings, Urdu Manuscripts' Database, Database of Theses and Dissertations, DEVINSA Database, sample databases of language publications using GIST technology and several other databases, The data is being updated in each of these databases and is growing rapidly. All the DELNET databases have been resident on DELSIS, and in-house software developed on BASISPlus, an RDBMS, the product of Information Dimensions Inc. of USA, which has been provided to DELNET courtesy National Informatics Centre, New Delhi.

DELNET provides an array of facilities including E-mail to its member-libraries including both institutional and associate institutional members. DELNET'S relentless efforts in resource sharing have proved extremely effective. It has indeed been a big leap towards the modernization of libraries in India.

18.4.4 Metropolitan Networks

18.4.4.1 CALIBNET [<http://www.calibnet.org/aboutus.htm>]

CALIBNET, a Government of India Project, has been launched by the National Information Systems for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR); and managed by the CALIBNET *Society* established under the West Bengal Government's Societies Registration Act 1961.

CALIBNET aims to provide the individual libraries and their reading members with cost-effective solutions to their information problems. The primary objective of the Project is building access to library & information resources available in the eastern region. This has been pursued through implementation of a series of Databases, Bibliographic, Factual and Intellectual Assets of West Bengal. This apart, CALIBNET provides its Participating Members and the user community at large with the following :

- Active links in this Web Page to access
 - Indian Library & Network Resources
 - Overseas Library Resources on India
 - Worldwide Library Catalogues
 - National Libraries of the World
 - Newspapers & Journals
 - Electronic Reference Tools
 - Factual Information Sources
 - Document Supply Services, and
- Varied Programmes for
 - On-Demand Information Services
 - Consultative Service for Library Automation
 - Manpower Development Opportunities, and
 - Research & Development in IT Applications

18.4.4.2 ADINET [[http://www. alibnet.org/Objectives.html](http://www.alibnet.org/Objectives.html)]

ADINET is an Information Network of Libraries in and around Ahmedabad. ADINET was registered as a Society in October 1994. National Information System sponsored it for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India. The objectives are to :

- Bring about cooperative mode of working amongst libraries and information centers in and around Ahmedabad.
- Integrate the economic, scientific and technical information systems into an effective network in and around Ahmedabad.
- Facilitate and promote sharing of resources amongst the libraries and information centres in and around Ahmedabad by developing and maintaining a central online Union Catalogue containing bibliographic information on books, serials and non-book materials of all the participating libraries.
- Coordinate with other regional, national and international networks, libraries, information and documentation centres for exchange of information and documents.
- Offer technical guidance to member libraries on selecting, storing, sharing and disseminating information.
- Coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and reduce unnecessary duplication whenever possible.

- Develop databases of projects, specialists and institution in and around Ahmedabad.
- Create awareness amongst all users' groups and to educate them in the utilization of information.
- Develop resources and to propagate information in ways appropriate to the needs of users in and around Ahmedabad.
- Help library and information centre users and also individuals who practice different professions in getting specialized information of their interest.

18.4.4.3 MYLIBNET [[http://www. mylibnet.org/](http://www.mylibnet.org/)]

There are 116 colleges/institutions affiliated to University of Mysore, out of which 34 colleges are located within Mysore city. All the libraries within Mysore city will be networked in the first phase with the following objectives :

- To **share resources** available with all the libraries.
- To provide a **faster communication** to all the libraries through Electronic Mail facility.
- To develop **software tools for better library management**.
- To create awareness in the field of latest Information Technology by conducting seminars/workshops/training programmes.
- To setup a information base in collaboration with industries.
- To conduct surveys.
- To **flash arrival of new books/journals**, announcement of events like seminar/workshop/training programmes.

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18.5 Exercise

1. What is bibliographic information network ?
2. Discuss the characteristics of library networks.
3. Discuss Information Programme and Systems Coordinated in Inida.

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