

Exploring the potential of HEC in developing University Libraries Network

by

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What's a Library Network ?

“A library network is broadly described as a **group of libraries** coming together with some **agreement of understanding** to **help each other** with a view to satisfying the information needs of their clientele”

- Ref: As cited in “Library and Information Networks in India,” Franklin David Jebaraj, Fredrick Robin Devadoss. *Library Philosophy and Practice* Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 2004)

HEC: A Brief Introduction

The **Higher Education Commission (HEC)**, formerly the University Grant Commission, is the primary regulator of higher education in Pakistan. In Pakistan, up till 2002, Universities were recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) which draws its powers from *The University Grants Commission Act, 1974*. The Act was repealed in 2002 by the **Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002** and since then, **HEC** is responsible for higher education policy, quality assurance, degree recognition, development of new institutions and uplift of existing institutions in Pakistan. It also facilitated the development of higher educational system in Pakistan. The HEC has played a leading role towards building a knowledge based economy in Pakistan through its various programs.

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HEC: A Brief Introduction

- In an article entitled "Pak Threat to Indian Science" published in the leading daily newspaper Hindustan Times, India, it has been reported that Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Chairman of the Indian Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council made a presentation to the Indian Prime Minister at the rapid progress made by Pakistan in the higher education sector under the leadership of Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman, Higher Education Commission. It was reported that as result of the reforms brought about in Pakistan " Pakistan may soon join China in giving India serious competition in science".

Ref: [Pak threat to Indian science](#), [Hindustan Times](#), 23 July 2006, retrieved March 26, 2012

Nation Wide Universities/DAI's chartered by

■ Government of Pakistan	21	05
■ Government of the Punjab	18	21
■ Government of Sindh	13	23
■ Government of KPK	15	10
■ Government of Balochistan	05	01
■ Government of AJ & K	02	02
Total	<u>74</u>	<u>62</u>
Grand Total:		136
❖ HEC Recognized Campuses	76	
❖ Universities Affiliated Colleges	1994	

Ref: www.hec.gov.pk/OurInstitutes/Pages/Default.aspx Retrieved March 24, 2012

Information Sources in University Libraries of Pakistan

■ Books, Bound Volumes of Journals, Theses etc.(N=52)	4859849
■ Subscribed Journals (N=43)	2397
■ CD ROM Databases (N=13)	91
■ Audio-Visual material (N=28)	9600
■ Microforms (N=5)	21275

Functions of Library Networks

1. Union Catalogue
2. Collection Development
3. Cooperative Cataloguing
4. Inter-library Loan
5. Document Delivery Service
6. Consortium
7. Exchange of Resources

Ref: Kaul & Vashishth (2009). Understanding Networking in Adult Learning. Retrieved March 25, 2012, from <http://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/32538/1/Unit11.pdf>

What's HEC offering?

- National Digital Library Program (Consortium)
- British Library Document Delivery Service (DDS)
- Pakistan Research Repository
- New Development/Up gradation of IT/Library & Information Facilities
 - Networking/Hardware/Software
 - INTERNET
 - Video conferencing

National Digital Library Program

- A programme to provide researchers within public and private universities in Pakistan and non-profit research and development organizations with access to international scholarly literature based on electronic (online) delivery, providing access to high quality, peer-reviewed journals, databases and articles across a wide range of disciplines.
- Availability of over 30 databases providing access to around 75,000 number of electronic content from the world's leading publishers.
- DL accessible by approximately 400 institutes (Public Universities, Private Universities, R & D Organizations).
- Nearly 6 million articles downloaded in 2009 and the number is continuously rising.
- Collection of over 50,000 e-books available for researchers.

British Library Document Delivery Service

- Access to collection of over 150 million items available through British Library Document Delivery Service.
- Document delivery take around 2 to 5 working days.

Pakistan Research Repository

- Pakistan Research Repository is a project of the Higher Education Commission to promote the international visibility of research originating out of institutes of higher education in Pakistan. The aim of this service is to maintain a digital archive of all PhD theses produced indigenously to promote the intellectual output of Pakistani institutions. It provides a free, single-entry access point to view the manuscript of research executed, and distribute this information as widely as possible.
- The repository which is currently being populated with content has already made the full-text of PhD theses available in high-quality digitized format, whilst a further theses are in process of digitization. Higher Education Commission has introduced a systematic mechanism for the collection and digitization of all the theses produced so far in Pakistan.

What's HEC missing?

1. A common memorandum of understanding
2. Union catalogue
3. Collection development
4. Cooperative cataloguing
5. Inter-library loan
6. Exchange of resources

A Road Map

HEC may initiate a resource sharing network of university libraries utilizing the existing resources and services by taking the following steps:

■ Role as a Coordination Agency

- to develop standards and propose legislation
- To provide suitable software to Pakistani university libraries keeping in view their financial, support, and data conversion issues.
- to modernize services and resources
- to assist resources sharing
- capacity building of LIS professionals
- to provide consultancy services

Continue...

A Road Map

- Restructuring
 - National Digital Library Project
 - HEC Library
- A common memorandum of understanding



Thanks