# Need and Importance of Networking in Engineering College Libraries of Gujarat : A Plan

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**Abstract :** This paper is reveals the importance of the networking, sharing resources and standards of various engineering college libraries of Gujarat. I have also try to give some definition and strategies for resource sharing and networking in engineering libraries of Gujarat. I have given the attention to GTU to take the initiate for same.

Key Words : Resource Sharing, Networking, Library Automation,

**Introduction :**

Global information technology and communication capacity is escalating, and India, with its population of more than a billion, is fast emerging as a knowledge hub. The growth of Indian telecom and of IT skills subsequently developed leave India well-placed to use infrastructures to create centers of excellence that unite universities, colleges and research institutes as well. Libraries play a vital role to explore the large number of data and information with the use of ICT and networking with the emergence of knowledge in an education world.

Libraries are no longer the storehouse of knowledge in the form of books and other reading materials: they have now become the crux of major research activities going on in the country. Now in days an importance is given to the R & D to develop indigenous technology. In this scenario, Academic libraries, especially Engineering Libraries are playing a vital role in information production processing and dissemination to meet the needs of the search workers. Hence library and information professionals should adopt the latest technologies to meet their user demands as well the library's own demand. To fulfill such requirement, the libraries should have networking with each other. If, networking is there, it would be very cost effective which will really beneficial to the management of Self Finance Institutions which ultimately benefited to the Librarian and library staff also.

Before understand the Needs of Networking, we should understood that; what is Resource Sharing, because resource sharing is the base of Networking of Libraries.

**What is Resource Sharing ? :**



The concept of resource sharing involves two words i.e. Resource and Sharing. Resource means wealth or available assets and Sharing means giving, to have or use with others. Thus, resource sharing means sharing ones assets with others. Resource Sharing in libraries means sharing material or function or services; any of the two; or all.
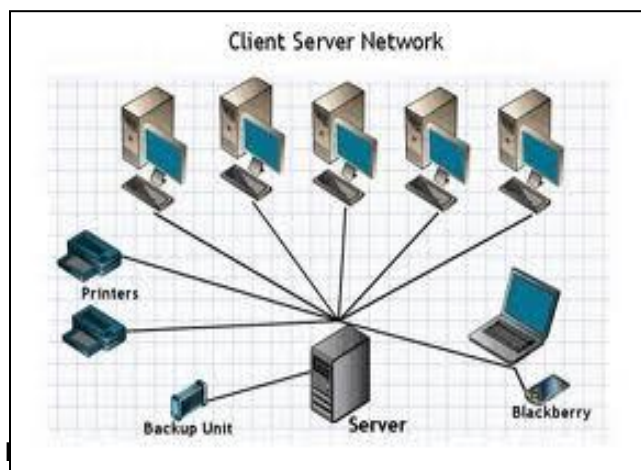
**Benefits of Resource Sharing:**

- The reading material can be accessed which are not available in our library.

- To have access different services which are not available in the library.
- To economize the cost of organization and management of libraries.
- To have integration of library and information services of s system, or of a geographical area.
- Reciprocity leading to better interaction among libraries.
- Can have better and quality library services.
- Saves the time, money, space, man power and effort.

**What is Network? :**

Network can be defined as a group of individuals or organizations that are interconnected. The advent of computers and new developments in telecommunication technology made networking a global phenomenon. Library and information institutions are forming networks to achieve better resource sharing and to provide better service to the users.



**Need of the Networking:**

Network based services are very cost effective and offer many opportunities for providing useful services to the member library users which are not possible manually. Some of the important needs for network based services are given below :

- Library Network offers great potential and new areas of sharing information among different engineering college libraries.
- Online access and dissemination of information is possible without physical presence in library.
- e-journals can be accessed by many users at a time in a networked environment.
- Sharing of on-line e-journals can be made among many users at a time among member library users in the networked environment.

**Objectives:**

- To find out the availability of library resources in different subjects in the engineering college libraries in Gujarat State.
- Exchange of documents and data.
- To promote sharing of resources.
- To build bibliographical databases.
- To build various types of databases like final year projects of the students, thesis, presented paper of seminar and workshops, etc.

- help in the establishment of referral service, online retrieval of information and online union catalogues
- To be done electronic mailing, file transferring
- evolve standards and guidelines in techniques, methods, procedures, hardware, software, services and so on.
- To know the fund allotment for procurement of various library resources by their management.
- To find the various types of information services.
- To know the existing staff pattern among the member libraries.
- To identify IT Facilities available in the libraries to find out the interest to the authorizing of colleges of sharing their resources.
- To develop the professional relation with giving best services with the use of networking.

**Hypothesis:**

- There are 84 SFI Colleges and 16 Government Colleges in Gujarat as per the website of GTU as on 14-05-12.
- Total 100 Engineering Colleges are there affiliated with GTU. Most of the colleges have good infrastructure of library and they spare enough budget for library.
- Engineering College Libraries have unique and large collection of books on all branches as AICTE ruled to purchase a books in terms of tile and volume.
- Engineering College libraries have large collection of periodicals in physical as well online as they have to obey the rules of A.I.C.T.E.
- Most of the colleges have good collection of Non Technical books also.
- Large collection of CD/DVD's of related subjects
- A Collection of Video Lectures like NPTEL.
- A Collection of e-books also.
- Enough Library funds for library development expect newly opened college.
- Engineering College Library have unique library staff pattern.

**Methodology:**

We can collect primary data through a questionnaires and interview method. We can also ask directly with our library professionals with our relation. The questionnaires can be administered personally and distributed to all engineering college libraries in Gujarat through which we can gather the data for resource sharing. After getting such handsome data, we can proceed further for Networking of Libraries.

**Resource Sharing and Networking of Libraries:**

As explain benefits of resource sharing, resource of libraries is becoming inadequate day by day, not only the increased number of users, but also due to the increased cost of the materials and the inadequate allocation of funds. The number of learned periodicals in the field of science and technology alone has now increased to triple in size at a rate of 1000 periodical per year.

Several commissions like Radha Krishna commission of 1948 and the Kothari Commission of 1964 had recommended that 6.25 % to 10.0 % of the over all education budget of each college should be allotted to library. Besides lack of manpower, paucity of space and inadequate of collection owing to financial crisis, improper management and facility makes no library as self sufficient one.

Under these baffling circumstances, engineering college libraries are needs to forming networks for better resource sharing to provide their level best services to the

users. It is also beneficial and useful to library administration and the management of college also.

**Such Library Networks in India:**

The automation and networking of many universities, national institutions and other institutions of higher learning has been initiated by the national agencies dealing with information and library networks like NICNET, INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET and other metropolitan and city networks which have started developing various bibliographic databases of their holding. NICNET and ERNET have made email/internet service available to the academic as well as in government sectors. Some of the metropolitan and city library networks like ADINET, MALIBNET, CALIBNET, PUNNET, BONET etc. have been initiated and couple of them have started functioning and providing various online service through these networks.

**Uses:**

We know that now all engineering colleges are comes under G.T.U. i.e. Gujarat Technological University. If GTU takes initiative to join all these engineering colleges through the network and make available the resources of libraries to each other, then it will be the great step for GTU. And we can avail the under mentioned facilities:

- online retrieval of bibliographic, numeric, as well as full text databases
- Compilation of reading lists, topical bibliographic etc.
- to have bibliographic control by integrating GTU library catalogues
- Automatic book requesting system
- Access of online international journals, e-books, standards etc...
- Use of CD-ROM products and services
- Remote data enter facility
- Downloading of information
- Library mailing, interlibrary requests and lending etc.
- Document delivery
- Access to public domain information/data/software

**Suggestions :-**

- It is suggested to the librarian of every engineering colleges to make automation of library for further resource sharing services
- AICTE and GTU should insist the colleges to automate their libraries as a basic requirement for recognition
- Almost all the libraries should have high-end computers for quick services
- The management should allocate sufficient funds to the libraries for networking
- GTU should establish the networking of engineering college libraries. And librarians have to pay attention and take follow-up for start the same.
- Based on the above suggestions, it is proposed a cost effective plan to establish GELNET (GELNET-Gujarat Engineering Library Network) with the help of Gujarat Government, GTU and Librarian and principled management of all the engineering college libraries of Gujarat.

**Some Questions to be answered :-**

- What are the benefits of the users? What are the benefits of the library?
- Will the Project save the money, effort? How?
- How will you measure success?
- At first glance, how easy/difficult will maintenance and administration be?

- Is the necessary infrastructure in place?
- Is there a favorable climate for implementation?
- Impact on other areas? ILL etc.
- Is there any copyright issues? Have you study it?

**Prerequisites for Networking of Libraries:-**

- Paper work and planning for initiate the same.
- Agreement for implementing cooperation with proper format.
- Establishment of facilities for sorting little used materials
- Agreement to share the currently owned materials, with protocols, limitations and priorities carefully spelled out
- Schemes for intelligent organization of data/documents
- Methods of adequate delivery of resources to users (the output media)
- The subject interest area should be a common one among the centers being connected
- Compatibility between the computing systems available with the organizations to be netted is essential
- To ensure the ability of network among the resource sharing libraries, a compatible record format is highly desirable
- Standardization of policies and procedures across the network and adhered to by all participants in order that these tasks could be performed and shared in efficient manner.
- Adequate means of information dissemination
- Formal established organizational cooperation
- Established and functioning communication links ( telephone, telex, fax, satellite communication channels, or any high configured communication facility through which communication can be done easily)
- Deep study of copyright law for resource sharing the reading material.

**Conclusion:-**

Network resource sharing is an important factor in the growing era of information explosion. As we know that from this year AICTE has made mandatory rule for all the Engineering Colleges to subscribe online journals of reputed publishers which costs near to 15 lack rupee per year. Engineering Colleges of Gujarat can be minimize their expenditure and maximize their facilities if they plan to make networking of their libraries with the help of GTU, Gujarat Government and Library Professionals together. Thus we can say that if we can make the different portal of engineering library network of Gujarat, it would be very fruitful to the students, staff and management of the institutions and off course to the library professional.

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