CHAPTER – 8A

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SIKKIM LIBRARY NETWORK (SILIBNET): A PROPOSED MODEL

8A.1. Introduction:

In the areas of library networking in India, it has been made considerable progress. A number of library and information networks have been established in India during the late 1980s and early 1990s. These networks are playing an important role in collection, organisation of information and their retrievals and dissemination. Due to financial crisis and resource crunch in Government as well as in private sector emphasis was given on the idea of resource sharing among the libraries and information centers. The main purpose of all these networks is to acquire reading materials collectively, avoid duplication, consortia approach for costly foreign journals and databases, maximum utilization of reading materials available in libraries of a particular locality or region by the users. In this direction Govt. of India has established NICNET and NISSAT, and CMC also established INDONET, which have introduced the concept of networking of organisations. Therefore professionals' bodies like ILA, IASLIC have started promoting the benefits of library networks and concept of consortia approach for collection development and its utilizations by the academic communities.

8A.2. Information Infrastructure for Sharing of Information in Libraries

Adequate information infrastructure is required in any university/ technical / special institutional libraries or public libraries for sharing of information at regional, National and International or global level. These library are equipped with the latest ICT gadgets having full automated/ computerised library housekeeping operations and LIS services for end users; campus wide network, well connected to the Internet either by V-SAT, Lease Line, Radio frequency or by Broad Band Dial-up connection; and also having access to the digital or e-resources like e-journals, On-line Databases, CD-ROM Databases and Online Bibliographic services provided by the Library & Information Networks like INFLIBNET, DELNET etc. In such modernised library and information centres sharing of information among the universities/ institutions is possible across the country or world may be under consortia agreement or under open access of scholarly communication in STM and other discipline. Indian libraries are in hybrid stage where both computers based and manual library and information services are being offered to their users. According to a survey of ICT application of university libraries in India conducted by Sinha, 2004, the actual implementation of the INFLIBNET programme has been taken and the study reveals that most of the university libraries covered under this programme (142 university Libraries) have developed adequate information infrastructure for extending computerized library and information services (Sinha,2004). Besides this, about 171 university libraries have been covered under UGC-INFONET E-Journals/ Digital Library Consortium Programme, which is under direct monitoring of INFLIBNET for access to 4500+ scholarly e-journals and electronic on-line databases for the academic community for quality research output (Sinha, 2008).

8A.3. Library Networks and Resource Sharing

On the basis of sponsoring agencies, following library & information networks can be categorized / classified (Sinha and Sahay, 2006, Sinha, 2008):

General Network

NICNET : National Informatics Centre Network , Planning Commission, Govt. of India INDONET : CMC , 1996

COALNET : Coal India Ltd., 1993

ERNET : Education and Research Network, Dept. of Electronics, Govt. of India connects Academic Institutions, IISC/IITS, Dept of Electronics, Delhi, National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) Bombay

SIRNET: Scientific and Industrial Research Network. Connects Major National Research Laboratories Under CSIR/INSDOC

NISSAT Sponsored Library and Information Networks

DELNET : Delhi Library Network/ Developing Library Network, NISSAT, 1998-99 CALIBNET : Calcutta Library Network, 1998 – INSDOC Regional Centre, Calcutta PUNENET : Poona, 1992 ADINET : Ahmedabad Library Network. Ahmedabad, 1993 MALINET : Madras Library Network, INSDOC, 1993 BONET : Bombay Library Network, 1992, NCST NISSAT BALNET : Bangalore Library Network, 1995 MYLIBNET : Mysore Library Network

UGC - Sponsored Library Network

INFLIBNET: Information & Library Network, Ahmedabad, 1988

8A.4. Factors of Library Networking in India
There has been a spurt in activities on library networks development in activities on library networks development in the recent past. Some of the factors responsible for the promotion and support of such efforts in India are (Sinha and Satpathy, 2004):

- ❖ Growth in awareness of the need for resource sharing;

- ❖ All round resource crunch;

- ❖ Increase in computer installations, access facilities in library environment and Enhancement of the skills of library professionals;

- ❖ Improvement in computer communication facilities within and across geographical regions, and availability of general data networks like NICNET (Planning Commission);

- ❖ INDONET (Computer Maintenance Corporation) and more recently the INET (Department) of Tele communications)

- ❖ Creation of facilities of Electronic Mail by the ERNET (Department of Electronics), SIRNET (network of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research maintained by INSDOC) and more recently the ICNET, SPRINTMAIL etc. in private sector.

8A.5. Development of Library Network in India

- ❖ The library network development in India has taken the following three broad directions:

- ❖ Development of Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN) in cities like Bombay (BONET), Calcutta (CALIBNET), Delhi (DELNET), Madras (MALIBNET), Pune (PUNENET) and Ahmedabad (ADINET) and Hyderabad (HYLIBNET).

- ❖ Development of countrywide networks like the INFLIBNET (for University libraries), DESINET (for Defense laboratories) and NISSAT (National Information System for Science and Technology).

- ❖ Development of sectoral facilities like the BTISNET (Biotechnology Information System Network), and the proposed ones for oil and natural gas, management science and environment

8A.6. Need and Purpose of Establishing SILIBNET

The main purpose of all the networks is to acquire reading materials collectively, avoid duplication, consortia approach for costly foreign journals and databases, maximum utilization of reading materials available in libraries of a particular locality or region by the users. Since the no steps have been initiated to establish a Regional Network covering entire North Eastern Region of India, in the study an attempt has been taken to put forward a proposal for the design and development of Sikkim Library & Information Network (SILIBNET) to look into the sharing of resources and information amongst these eight states in particular and entire country in general for the greater interest of the N E Region of India.

8A.7. Sikkim Library Network (SILIBNET): A Proposal

In Sikkim the development of library science profession and library system is very poor. If we look at the states of South India (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala), West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab and other States of North East (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram) where Library Act has been enacted and considerable progress has been made in the area of development of library profession and library services in the states. At the professional level no active library association has been established. Library Act was not introduced in the state of Sikkim. The Government of Sikkim has to think over the condition of library profession, public and academic library systems and in view of the considerable progress made in other states. The library and Information Professionals of few states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharastra, Delhi, West Bengal etc and with cooperation of the respective State Government and assistance from NISSAT (DSIR) have done excellent effort to establish the local library networks like ADINET, MALIBNET, MYLIBNET, BONET, DELNET, CALIBNET etc for resource sharing among the member libraries

and for full utilization of library resources without any duplication in efforts. On the pattern of national, regional and local library network like INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET etc. there is a proposal for design and development of the Library and Information Network for the electronically in Sikkim. The proposed network may be named as Sikkim Library and Information Network. The acronym would be SILIBNET, which may be a registered society and would be a joint venture of Sikkim. Therefore there is a need for taking initiatives both from the library science professionals working within the state or out side the state and also the State Government for establishing regional library network of Sikkim under the proposed name of SILIBNET.

From the study on ICT application it has been observed that the status of computerisation of library and information activities of the higher educational libraries located in the state is very poor and no initiative has been taken from state govt. in this regard.

8A.8. Need of Establishment of the Regional Library and Information Network

The information infrastructure available in the higher educational libraries of Sikkim is poor and except few central govt funded institutions. There is a lack of confidence and commitment among the library and information professionals working in the state of Sikkim. Therefore the library and information professionals, academician have to come forward and join the hand of local professionals to establish regional library and information network which will take care of resource sharing of documents, manpower and infrastructure for computerisation of library activities of libraries located in Sikkim. On the basis of the other national, regional, metropolitan, local library network the SILIBNET can be established and the financial assistance may be sought from the NISSAT, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India,

Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India, and the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Science and Technology of respective State Govt. The professional assistance for manpower training may be had from the existing various library and information networks, library professional organisations like ILA, IASLIC, MALAI, SIS etc. for providing basic training to the library professionals on the application of Information and Communication Technology in library activities and services.

On the basis of experience from other library networks the proposed library network, SILIBNET can be established which might be a part of national library network like INFLIBNET Centre or Regional Library Network of INFLIBNET. The network can better look after the computerised library and information activities of libraries located in Sikkim. This network may also work under the guidance and financial assistance from the INFLIBNET and NISSAT. Although very recently INFLIBNET has established SOUL Coordinator on regional basis which has been extending support for data creation using SOUL software but this will be applicable to those libraries which have started developing necessary ICT infrastructure and creating databases of book, serials, theses and reports.

8A.9. Aims of SILIBNET

❖ 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 Library Network "SILIBNET " a computer communication network for linking academic, public and technical/ specialised libraries/ library and information centres associated with school, universities, technical

institutions deemed to be universities, colleges, etc. for avoiding duplication of efforts

8A.10. Objectives of SILIBNET

- ❖ To evolve a regional network, interconnecting various academic, public and technical/specialised libraries/institutional libraries and information centres associated with universities, deemed to be universities, institutions of national, regional importance and R & D institutions etc. in the state and NE Region for efficient sharing of information resources available with them and to improve capability of information handling and services;

- ❖ To provide reliable access to document collection of libraries by creating online union catalogues of monographs, serials, and non-book materials (manuscripts, audio-visuals, computer media etc.) in various libraries Sikkim;

- ❖ To provide better access to worldwide bibliographic information sources with citations and abstracts, such as periodical articles, conference papers, preprints, technical reports, standards and specifications, patents, monographs etc. through indigenously created databases and by establishing gateways for online accessing of international databases held by international information networks and centres.

- ❖ To provide document delivery service by establishing resource centres in the libraries having rich collection of documents;

- ❖ To optimize information resource utilization through shared cataloguing, inter-library loan service, catalogue production, collection development and avoiding duplication in acquisition to the extent possible;

- ❖ To implement computerization of library operations of participating libraries following a uniform standards for data capturing;

- ❖ To enable users to have access to information regarding books monographs, serials, theses, projects and experts by using new information and communication technologies.

- ❖ To encourage co-operation among libraries, documentation centres and information centres in the state, NE Region or throughout the country with other networks, so that the resources can be pooled for the benefit of helping the weaker resource centres by well resourceful libraries.

- ❖ To train and develop human resources in the field of computerized library operations and networking to participate in SILIBNET programme.

- ❖ To evolve standards and uniform guidelines in techniques, methods and procedures, hardware and software services in order to facilitate pooling, sharing and exchanging resources and facilities towards optimizations.

8A.11. Headquarter of SILIBNET Centre

SILIBNET will be established as a Registered Society with its Governing Body Committee. It's headquarter can be established at Sikkim University in Gangtok.

8A.12. Membership of SILIBNET

These are the institution; libraries are located in Sikkim for Membership

1. Sikkim University, Gangtok
2. Sikkim Manipal University, Gangtok
3. ICFAI University, Gangtok
4. EIILM University, West Sikkim
5. Vinayaka Missions Sikkim University, Gangtok
6. SRM University, Gangtok
7. Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Gangtok
8. Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Rangpo
9. National Institute of Technology, Ravangla
10. District Institute of Education & Training, Gangtok

11. Sikkim Government College, Tadong, Gangtok
12. Namchi Government College, Namchi, South Sikkim
13. Rhenock Government College, Rhenock, East Sikkim
14. Government College, Geysing, West Sikkim
15. Government B.Ed. College, Geysing, West Sikkim
16. Sanskrit College, Geysing, West Sikkim
17. Teachers Training Institute, Geysing, West Sikkim
18. SHEDA College, Deorali, Gangtok
19. Dambar Singh College, Gangtok
20. Harkamaya College of Education, Gangtok
21. Himalayan Pharmacy Institute, Majhitar, East Sikkim
22. Loyala College of Education, Namchi, South Sikkim
23. Palatine College, Pakyong, East Sikkim
24. ATTC, Burdang, East Sikkim
25. CCCT, Chisopani, Namchi, South Sikkim
26. Industrial Training Institute, Rangpo, East Sikkim
27. Industrial Training Institute, Namchi, South Sikkim
28. College of Agriculture Engineering and Post Harvest Technology
29. Institute of Hotel Management, Gangtok
30. Government Law College, Burtuk, East Sikkim
31. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology
32. State Central Library, Gangtok
33. North Sikkim District Library, Mangan
34. South Sikkim District Library, Namchi
35. West Sikkim District Library, Geyzing, West Sikkim
36. Pemayangtsi Monastery Library, Geyzing, West Sikkim
37. Sub-Divisional Library, Chungthang, North Sikkim
38. Sub-Divisional Library, Pakyong, East Sikkim
39. Sub-Divisional Library Ravongla, South Sikkim
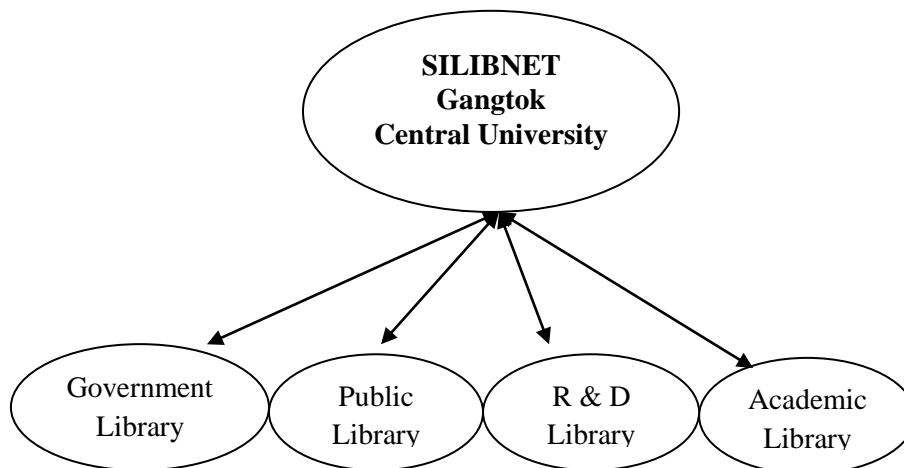40. Sub-Divisional Library Soreng, West Sikkim

Fig: - 35 Membership model of SILIBNET

8A.13. Formation of High Level Committee to submit the Prospects and Feasibility of Establishing 'SILIBNET'

A high level committee should be established by the Government of Sikkim comprising of eminent library and information professionals not only from Sikkim rather than also from the other parts of the North East Region and country, members from the other library networking agencies, NISSAT, NISCAIR, INFLIBNET, and UGC, member from Culture & Tourism, Education, Higher Education, Department of Sikkim, and Librarians of the participating institutions / libraries to make a draft proposal for feasibility study.

8A.13.1. Feasibility Study and Report

The high Level Committee will make proposal for Feasibility Study and after going in details covering all aspects, the report will be submitted to the Government of Sikkim for its implementation

8A.13.2. Source of Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance can be made available from the Department of Higher Education of the state, MHRD/ UGC / INFLIBNET, DBT, NISSAT (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, DSIR), Ministry of Culture, National Library, Kolkata from public enterprises, donation from the professionals and library science students.

8A.14. Proposed Activities of SILIBNET

The High Level Committee will submit the proposed activities of SILIBNET, which would be like other library networks. Followings would be the proposed Activities of SILIBNET

➢ Information Infrastructural Development of Member Libraries

➢ Development of Databases of Member Libraries

➢ Resource Sharing and Inter-Library Loan

- ➢ Union catalogue of different types of documents like

    - ❖ Books

    - ❖ Serials

    - ❖ Theses and Dissertations

    - ❖ Non-Book Materials

    - ❖ Specialised Databases of Sikkim

    - ❖ Expert Databases

- ➢ Awareness Training for Information Technology Application in Libraries
- ➢ Professional Development / Human Resource Development/Manpower Development by organising workshop, training, conference, seminar and lecture

8A.15. Proposed Services of SILIBNET
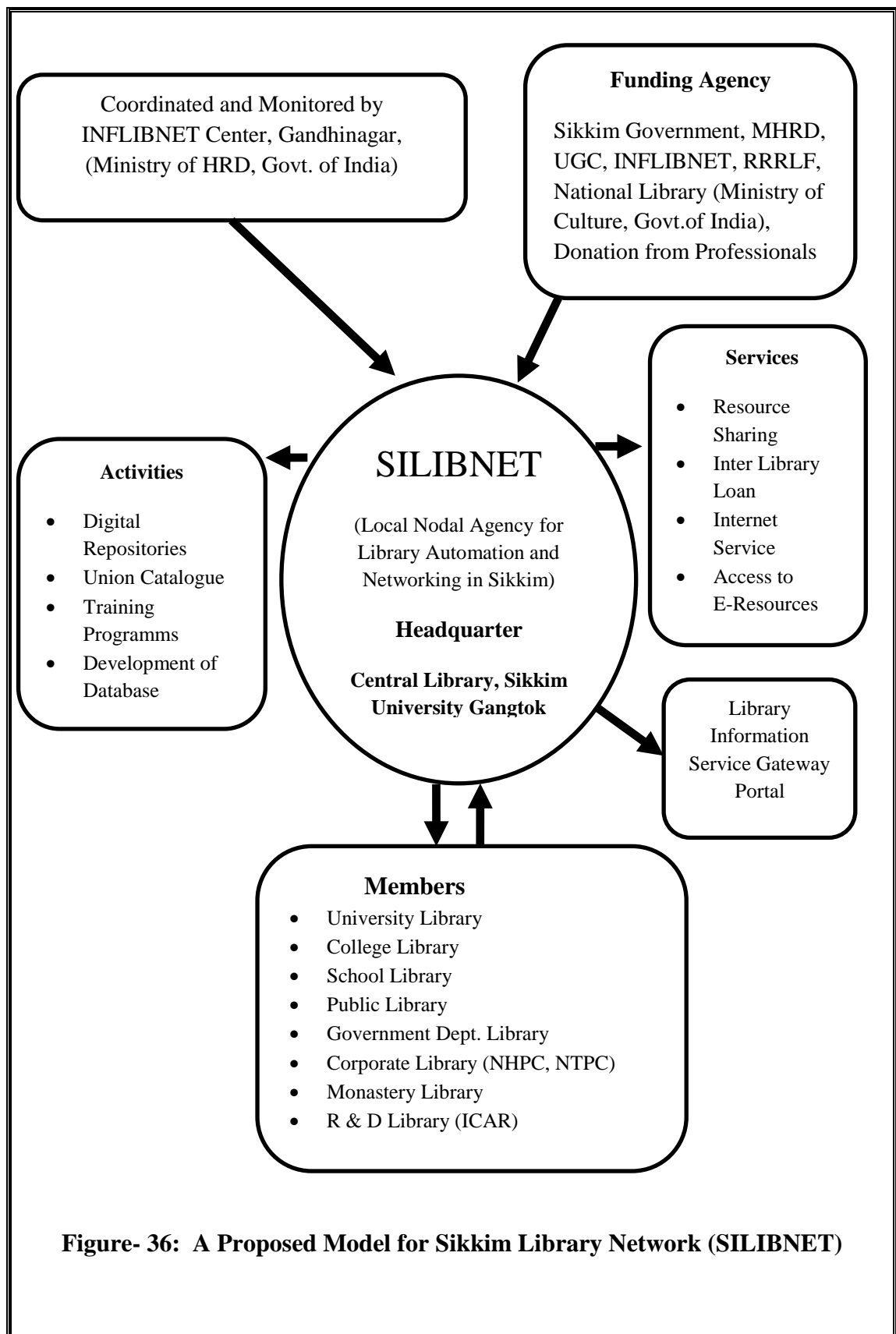
SILIBNET should offer following Services

- ➢ Union Catalogue based Bibliographic Services
- ➢ Database Services,
- ➢ Provision of Access of Internet Services.
- ➢ Promotion of computerisation of Library Services

8A.16. Implementation of the Programme of SILIBNET

SILIBNET should be a Registered Society and the Act of Sikkim State should create this Library Networking Agency and Headquarter at Gangtok.

8A.17. Participation and Motivation of Library and Information Professionals

For successful implementation of the SILIBNET Programme, library and information professionals of the state should come forward and take initiatives for creation of this library networking agency and also they should try for enactment of Library Legislation.

Coordinated and Monitored by INFLIBNET Center, Gandhinagar, (Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)

Funding Agency

Sikkim Government, MHRD, UGC, INFLIBNET, RRRLF, National Library (Ministry of Culture, Govt.of India), Donation from Professionals

SILIBNET

(Local Nodal Agency for Library Automation and Networking in Sikkim)

Headquarter

Central Library, Sikkim University Gangtok

Activities

- Digital Repositories
- Union Catalogue
- Training Programms
- Development of Database

Services

- Resource Sharing
- Inter Library Loan
- Internet Service
- Access to E-Resources

Library Information Service Gateway Portal

Members
- University Library
- College Library
- School Library
- Public Library
- Government Dept. Library
- Corporate Library (NHPC, NTPC)
- Monastery Library
- R & D Library (ICAR)

Figure- 36: A Proposed Model for Sikkim Library Network (SILIBNET)

8A.18. Suggestions and Recommendation

- ✓ This should be the initiative of Govt. of Sikkim;

- ✓ The LIS Professionals both at senior and junior level should be consulted and their feedback should be taken into consideration;

- ✓ The financial support from many Corporate houses like, NHPC, Hydel Projects and many other industries should be sought for the establishment of SILIBNET;

- ✓ This Network should be established on the line of National Networks like INFLIBNET and DELNET and their expert opinion should be taken;

- ✓ All Libraries like school, colleges, university, public special and technical libraries should be included in this programme;

- ✓ Financial Support from the Ministry of HRD, Information Technology, Culture and Tourism and Ministry of Education of the state should be taken;

- ✓ Senior Experienced and qualified LIS Professionals who are having enough background of ICT implementation in Academic/ Technical Libraries should be included in core and supporting staff of SILIBNET.

- ✓ Many Open Source Software are available which should be customized and used for implementation of the SILIBNET Project; and

- ✓ Appeal all the LIS professionals of Sikkim to come together and extend all support for the successful implementation of the Programme.

8A.19. Conclusion

From the research study, it has been observed that there is need of establishing the Regional Library Network "SILIBNET" for resource sharing, the implementation of computerisation of library operations, and services. This proposal should get support

from the library professionals of Sikkim and also from other parts of the country. The national network should open its Regional Network or help establishing local or regional networks for smooth computerisation and networking of library for resource sharing and optimum utilization of the available resources both printed and electronic by the academic community of the state.