

19



Information network in Muslim countries—1

M. Jasimuddin

resource-sharing are to provide some positive effects on the user, in terms of access to more materials and services, and on the library-budget, in terms of providing services at less cost.

A NETWORK in the context of the libraries of the Muslim World may be understood as a co-operative effort among the libraries for resource sharing and having access to records of other libraries within the country, within the region and then to the information centres of the world. The concept of the library network is a specialized type of library co-operative programme of service and resource-sharing based on the principle of maximum utilization of resources and minimization of costs.

effective information support through libraries and other information centres. Progress in science and technology is most dependent on effective distribution of information and where there is a sound information service through an appropriate agency there is the progress.

It has been found in Japan that the information services are engaged in distributing, even free information to the users. The types of activities involve in international co-operation in biomedical information services in Japan are divided into two categories, viz, (i) translation into foreign language and providing it for overseas use, (ii) providing it to developing countries as a part of the economic aid programme.

Information resources are so divergent in quality and huge in quantity and spread over so many places that it becomes almost impossible

could help avoid duplication of research to save national time, energy and money. Production of goods becomes useful when it reaches the users, similarly an information network should have productive and supply aspects and supply of information should be spontaneous.

The concept of inter-library and inter-national sharing of books, periodical and other reading and audio-visual materials in the context of the networks has become a main point of interest for libraries and information scientists. This idea is almost as old as the library itself. The goals of library co-operation and

to get access to necessary resources by a single library. In the complex situation the user and information scientist alike are experiencing problems and information networking has been found to be an effective and workable solution. In the late seventies of the century with the initiative of World Health Organization the "Health Literature Library and Information Services" (Hellis) was established. Hellis is a network of Health Sciences libraries of the ten member countries of the WHO South-East Asia Region. The objectives of the network are to make better use of the existing resources in the country, other countries in the region and other regions of the world. The purpose of the network is to ensure easy access to relevant information for all health personnel and other potential users.

of a system of resource-sharing were not possible in the Muslim countries. Well-informed teachers alone can help have a good citizen and a progressive people, and by establishing a sound information delivery system on the basis of resource-sharing may help producing well-informed teachers strengthened with Islamic spirit of 'Insaniath' and 'brotherhood'. The best use of available resources within a country, within a region, and within regions may help two-way flow of receiving and disseminating information which is the goal of library resource-sharing. Pursuit of knowledge to discover and realize the secrecy of life, creation and self makes human life meaningful, which is within the teachings of Islam, can pave the way for prosperity in life in the world and happiness hereafter. Civilization owes much to information services throughout ages. The recent admirable progress which has been made in science, and technology owes much to

found that 27 such countries of more than 60 crore population have no less than 310 notable libraries of a total collection of 2.5 crore books. No one library can claim to be self-sufficient in respect of resources and there are libraries in the Muslim World not known to each other, which may have resources for which another library was in desperate search. Bibliographical tools for access to the resources were not possible to develop to a desirable standard and reciprocity of dependable awareness and establishment

it has been found in a study that, no less than 123 Universities have been established in 17 Muslim countries during the period from 1950, and all the Universities have libraries to support education and research. It also has been

also include activities which

(To be contd.)

