United Nations Library Networking in Bangladesh During 2002-2017: An Overview

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Abstract

This study intends to demonstrate the importance of library networking and resource sharing activities in Bangladesh. Particularly, it emphasizes the significance and value of UN library network that exists in Bangladesh. It concentrates on the background of UN library network, highlights resource sharing programmes, events, workshops, and trainings organized by the network. This paper is prepared through reviewing literature, using printed and online documents and research papers, visiting websites and interviewing focal points of member libraries. It states other resource sharing programmes which don't have any existence and which are currently working at this moment in Bangladesh. It shows the challenges of networking and resource sharing. It has been experienced that during the last two decades, a number of good initiatives were taken to establish an effective library and information network system for the purpose of resource sharing, but most of the networks could not sustain for many reasons with a few exceptions. Finally, some steps are recommended to formulate effective networking and resource sharing programme in Bangladesh by which valuable library services could be ensured.

Keywords: United Nations, UN Library Network, Resource Sharing, Bangladesh

Introduction

Library network is a platform consisting of several libraries that work for common interest and its main purpose is to share existing resources. Network activities can be done both electronically as well as by traditional means. There are many positive implications of networking and resource sharing in the field of library and information services in this digital age. Library network helps enhance the capacity of member libraries by reducing cost and proper utilization of human resources. In this digital age, a strong library network means a strong platform that makes library operations and services easier. UNISIST II Main Working Document stated that Information network is "a set of inter-related information systems associated with communication facilities, which are cooperating through more or less formal agreements and institutional agreements in order to jointly implement information handling operations with a view to pooling their resources and to offer better services to the user. They generally follow identical or compatible rules and procedures".

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Alphonse F. Trezza defined that "library network is a formal organization among libraries for cooperation and sharing of resources, in which the group as a whole is organized into subgroups with the exception that most of the needs of a library will be satisfied within the subgroups of which is its member".

Mannan (2017) defined that resource sharing means collaborating with one or more libraries to maximize access to a larger array of resources by sharing the collections of the cooperating libraries or pooling funding to purchase shared digital resources.

Kochar and Sudarshan (2007) stated that library network consists of six major components: Information resources; Reader or users of information; Schemes for intellectual organization of data/documents; Methods for delivery of information to user-the output; Formal organization – cooperation, whether voluntary or obligatory, in information exchange and utilization; Bidirectional communication links.

In Bangladesh, previously the experience of library networking was not that much impact oriented or sustainable. In analyzing the history of library networking, it is found that many initiatives were taken by various organizations, but no one could sustain effectively with few exceptions. In the digital era of the 21st century, the importance of library networking should not be ignored and no one can afford to be left behind.

After a number of consultations with library experts and library professionals, an initiative was taken by United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka to form a library network under the auspices of UNIC Dhaka which is called United Nations Library Network in Bangladesh (UN L-net BD) in 2002 (UNIC Dhaka, 2018).

Objectives of the Study

1. Focus on the background of UN library network in Bangladesh
2. Discover the importance of UN library network in Bangladesh
3. Highlight the current scenario of library networking in Bangladesh
4. Underline the activities of UN library network and the significance of the workshops and trainings arranged by UN library network in Bangladesh since 2002
6. Draw a conclusion and recommendation.

Literature Review

Mannan & Bose (1998) concluded in a study that "the overall results suggest that the existing library and information services are below the expectation level of users despite quite a good number of rich academic and specialized libraries in the country. However, as noted earlier, to improve the prevailing poor services, care should immediately be taken to provide efficient resource sharing systems among the libraries through better management and use of modern technological facilities".

Peters (1995) concluded in his study "it is very important that people who care about knowledge production, distribution, and utilization in society get informed and stay informed about as well as get active and stay active in the politics and economics of networking and networked information" (p. 56)

Jahan, Mannan & Kabir (2013) analyzed the situation of resource sharing and networking in Bangladesh. A model plan for resource sharing and networking was also proposed for special libraries of Bangladesh. The authors collected data from the users of five categories of libraries located in Dhaka city. The study revealed that the special libraries were in a infancy condition regarding their resources and services. Therefore, it was easier for the researchers to get a positive result out of their proposed model plan for resource sharing and networking in Bangladesh. It will foster the mobilization of resource sharing and networking in Bangladesh and abroad which will ultimately ensure better library and information services.

Okeagu and Okeagu (2008) said that networking and resource sharing have always been factors for important library services. Formation of consortium appears to be most viable means for library cooperation. The authors concluded that libraries must face up to the reality of resource and information synergy in order to live up to the expectations of clients and society.
Kar, Bhattacharya & Deb (2007) mentioned that the concept of library networking to aid information resource sharing and support activities in libraries has become a real necessity. The shortcomings observed are mainly related to two aspects: a) Non-availability of materials and services, and b) Efficient administrative control.

Mannan and Bose (1998) conducted a study among 25 libraries and 100 users of different categories for measuring the satisfaction level of users on library networking and resource sharing activities among the major libraries in Bangladesh. The study highlighted that library and information services were below satisfaction level to meet user needs. It suggested that in order to improve poor services, special attention should be given to resource sharing system among the libraries through better library management and the use of modern technological facilities.

Methodology

The article was prepared through reviewing relevant literature, using printed and online documents and research papers, visiting websites and interviewing focal points of member libraries. United Nations database was also consulted in preparing the research paper. A number of telephone conversations were made to the focal personnel of UN and non-UN agencies for the research work.
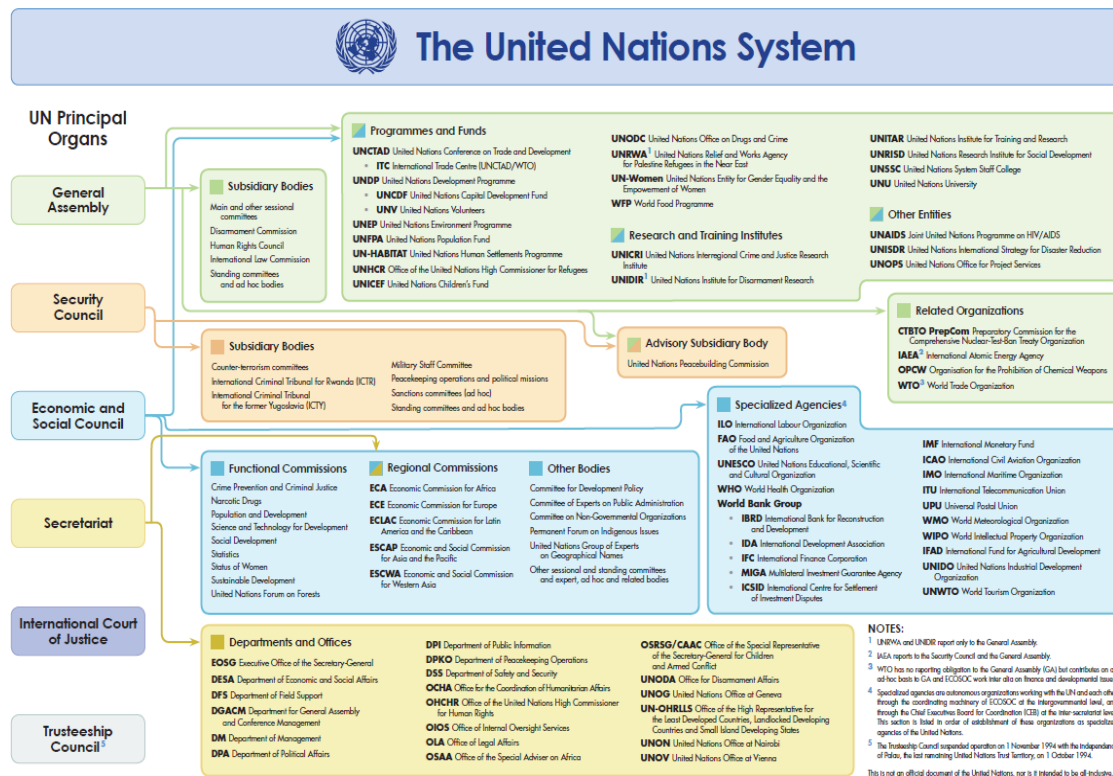
A brief history of the United Nations

United Nations is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 193-member countries with its Headquarters in New York, USA. In order to establish peace after the devastating Second World War, the world leaders sat together to form a new world body, when the League of Nations was

abolished. The new world body was called United Nations which was established on 24 October 1945. Initially, 51 countries became members of United Nations which now currently stands at 193 countries. South Sudan is the latest member. Initially, peace was the main agenda of the United Nations, later developmental part was included in it.

Preamble of UN Charter stated that "we the people of the United Nations determined to save the succeeding generations from scourge of war" (UN Charter, 2015).

Figure 1: Organogram of the entire UN System

Source: Basic Facts about United Nations

The world body has got six main organs: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and Secretariat. There are many funds, programmes, specialized agencies and entities working under United Nations; it is called the UN System of organizations. Bangladesh became a member of United Nations on 17th September 1974 (United Nations, 2014).
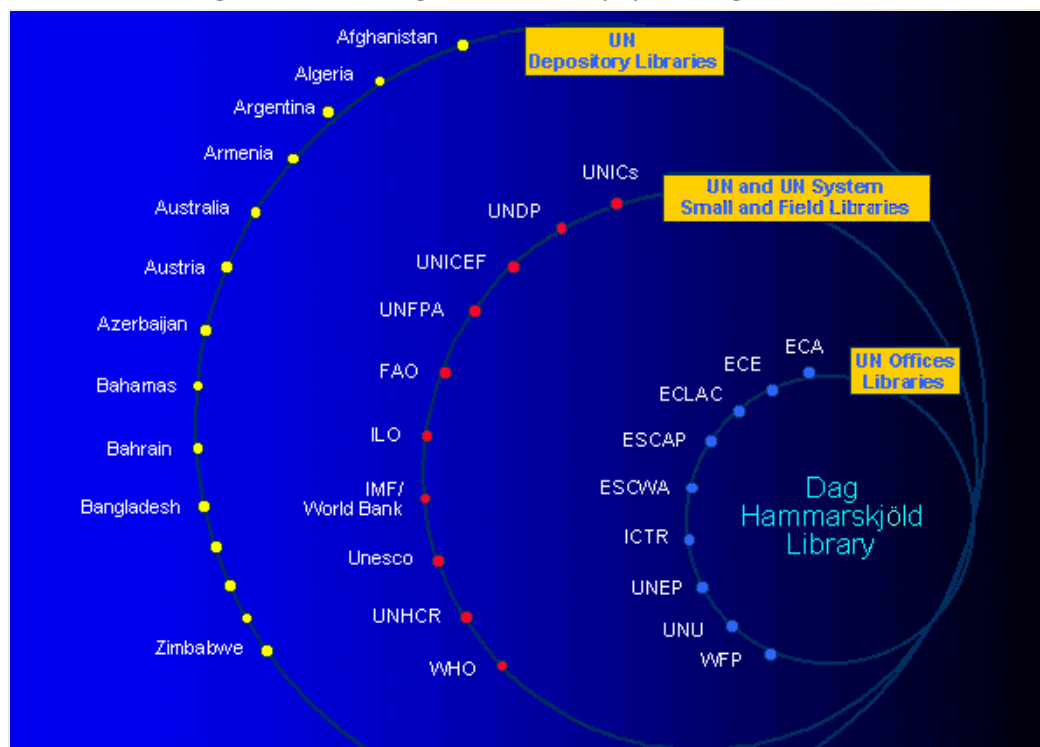
Table 1: Chronological List of United Nations Agencies and entities working in Bangladesh:

Sl. No.	Name of Selected United Nations Agencies	Location	Year of Operations in Bangladesh
01.	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Minto Road, Dhaka	1971
02.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1972
03.	World Health Organization (WHO)	Gulshan, Dhaka	1972
04.	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Gulshan	1973
05.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	1973
06.	World Food Programmme (WFP)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1974
07.	United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1981
08.	United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)	Ramna, Dhaka	1982
09.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1984
10.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1988
11.	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Gulshan Dhaka	1992
12.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Banani, Dhaka	1996
13.	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Gulshan, Dhaka	1998
14.	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS *(UNAIDS)*	Minto Road, Dhaka	1998
15.	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Agargaon, Dhaka	2000
16.	UN-Habitat – United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Ramna, Dhaka	2000
17.	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Agargaon, Dhaka	2003
18.	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Agargaon, Dhaka	2007
19.	UN Women	Gulshan, Dhaka	2011
20.	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Agargaon, Dhaka	--
21.	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Agargaon, Dhaka	--
22.	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Dhaka	--
23.	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Dhaka	--

United Nations Library

United Nations Secretariat in New York maintains a Central Library which is called Dag Hammarskjöld Library in the name of former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld who died in a plane crash. Since 1946, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library has arranged for the distribution of United Nations documents and publications to users around the world through a network of depository libraries. At present, there are 356 depository libraries located in 136 countries and territories; they include national, parliamentary, public, and university libraries, as well as libraries at research institutes and think tanks (Source: UN website).

The United Nations also maintains a global extended library system in order to provide UN information resources in the field level. Additionally, there is a UN field library within UNICs in 63 countries.

Figure 2: A view of global UN library system is given below:

Currently, there are more than 22 UN organizations and entities that have been working in Bangladesh. The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) was established in Dhaka in 1981 by adopting a UN General Assembly Resolution and by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Government of Bangladesh and United Nations. It is an integral part of Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat located in New York, USA. Among other communication and information activities, UNIC Dhaka formed a library network in 2002.

Status of Library Network and Consortium in Bangladesh

In regard to library networking, many initiatives have been taken in Bangladesh during the last two decades, but none of the initiatives worked properly and effectively with a few exceptions, i.e. Bangladesh INASP-PERi Consortium run by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and University Grants Commission (UGC) Digital Library (UDL). Besides, a small network popularly known as UN library network, regulated by UNIC Dhaka, has been working on a very small scale through arranging annual training/workshop and distributing UN information materials among the member libraries, on a regular basis. The achievement of UN library network is to give the professionals an opportunity to discuss contemporary issues relating to library and information services and to make aware the professionals about the recent development and agenda of the

United Nations. In total, 15 workshops have been conducted since 2002. The importance of the workshops for the last sixteen years have been recognized by the participants, because of its uniqueness in terms of selection of resource persons for the workshops from other professions which is applicable in more than 50% cases. It gives an opportunity to library professionals to interact with the experts of other professions in a diverse environment. The contemporary problems, challenges and opportunities of the profession are also discussed.

Rahman, Nahar, Akter (2006) highlighted that one of the significant initiatives was taken by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) to collect electronic resources through the programme for Enhancement of Research Information (PERI), a programme of International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). Several universities and research organizations came forward for subscription. That was the beginning of consortium based subscription to the electronic resources in 2007. This initiative was formal and it was named the Bangladesh - INASP-PERI Consortium (BIPC). At present there are no local hosting of resources, they are accessible from publisher's web-sites. All the participating libraries have access to online journals. Around five thousand titles of journals of different disciplines are available for the users. To run the activities of the consortium more effectively and democratically, the members of the consortium drafted a constitution for the consortium incorporating inputs from the stakeholders spread across the country. In view of the national character, the consortium has been renamed as the Library Consortium of Bangladesh (LiCOB) (Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, 2011). Though the participating libraries are subscribing to e-journals as members of the consortium; the major objective of the consortium is collective acquisition of information resources and disseminate the same to respective member organizations.

There is another consortium called UDL run by University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The full name of UDL is UGC Digital Library. The purpose of UDL is to provide access to electronic information resources for the academic community in Bangladesh as the academic community has limited access mostly due to awareness and the huge cost associated with accessing such resources. The UGC Digital Library (UDL) was formed in June 2012. After formation of UDL, the limited access scenario of academic community to e-resources has improved dramatically after the formation of UDL, which is hosted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and is largely funded by the World Bank's Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). The main aim of the UGC Digital Library (UDL) is to subscribe to electronic resources for the member institutions at lower rates of subscription that is being offered to the UDL. UDL operates on a non-profit basis" (UDL, 2018).

The following networks were formed in Bangladesh, but did not work well:
- National Agricultural Information System (NAIS);
- Social Science Research Network (SSRN);
- Heath Literature, Library and Information Science Network (HELLIS);
- Development Information Network on South Asia (DEVINSA);
- National Science and Technology Information Policy (NASTIP);

- Bangladesh University Libraries Network (BULN);
- Bangladesh National Scientific and Library Information Network (BANSLINK);
- Population Information Network (POPIN);
- Information Network for Library Development (INRD).
- UN Library Network in Bangladesh (UN L-net BD).

Currently the above mentioned networks, except UN Library Network, do not exist.

Background of UN Library Network in Bangladesh

An initiative was taken by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka during the year of 2002 with an aim to share information resources produced by the United Nations. As a result a meeting was called by UNIC Dhaka in the same year to form a library network titled UN Library Network in Bangladesh (UN L-Net BD). Initially the network consisted of twenty major libraries including government, NGOs, Int'l Organizations, Universities and UN agencies based in Dhaka (UNIC, 2006).

The main objective of establishing the network was to share UN information resources and exchange publications among the member libraries. The other areas of the activities of the UN library network are dissemination of UN resources including books, documents, reports, AV materials among the network libraries by traditional and electronic means, initiating inter-library publication exchange/ loan programme and organizing training and workshop for the members. Initially there were 20 member libraries, but currently 40 libraries based in Dhaka are members of the UN library network.

A focal point had been selected from each member library to coordinate network activities and a working committee was also formed to run the network smoothly. UNIC was selected as a secretariat of the network.

Activities of UN Library Network in Bangladesh

In line with resource sharing initiative, the United Nations Information Centre, as a Secretariat of the UN library network, has been contributing to network member agencies through disseminating various UN reports, books, documents, newsletters, posters, booklets etc. As a result the member libraries of governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, youth groups and training institutions have been able to serve their respective library clientele with UN information resources. The main successful programme of the network is to organize training/workshop jointly with member organizations every year since 2002. There are a number of specific activities that have been taking place on a regular basis in collaboration with member organizations, such as:

- Distribution of UN publication: books, documents, reports, AV materials among the network libraries;
- Electronic dissemination of UN newsletters, important reports and documents;
- Exchange and loan programmes between network secretariat and member libraries;

- Making the training institutes focal points for distributing the UN info materials among their trainees;
- UNIC library has been working as a clearinghouse for distributing important UN information materials published by other UN agencies based in Dhaka;
- Distributing locally produced Bangla publications;
- Organizing trainings, and meetings. (UNIC 2016)

Table 2: Chronological List of Member Libraries of UN Library Network in Bangladesh:

Sl. No.	Name of Selected Member Libraries of UN Library Network in Bangladesh	Location	Year of establishment
01.	Dhaka University Library	Ramna, Dhaka	1921
02.	American Centre Library	Baridhara, Dhaka	1951
03.	Sufia Kamal National Central Public Library	Shahbagh, Dhaka	1958
04.	National Academy of Educational Management (NAEM) Library	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	1959
05.	Daily Ittefaq Library	Karwan Bazar, Dhaka	1959
06.	Dept of Information Science and Library Management	Ramna, Dhaka	1959
07.	International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) Library	Mohakhali, Dhaka	1962
08.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Library	Ramna, Dhaka	1971
09.	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Library	Agargaon, Dhaka	1971
10.	United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF)	Minto Road, Dhaka	1971
11.	National library of Bangladesh	Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka	1972
12.	Bangladesh Parliament Library	Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka	1972
13.	Bangladesh Bank Library	Motijheel, Dhaka	1972
14.	Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) Library	Mohakhali, Dhaka	1972
15.	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	1973
16.	Institute of Public Health Library	Mohakhali, Dhaka	1974
17.	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1974
18.	Shishu Academy Library	Ramna, Dhaka	1976
19.	Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Library	Topkhana Road, Dhaka	1976
20.	Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Library	Topkhana Road, Dhaka	1976
21.	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) Library	Ramna, Dhaka	1980
22.	Community Development Library (CDL)	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	1980
23.	BIRDEM Library	Shahbagh, Dhaka	1980
24.	United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)	Agargaon, Dhaka	1981
25.	ERDDocumention Centre	Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka	1985
26.	Islamic University of Technology (IUT) Library	Gazipur, Dhaka	1986
27.	Bangladesh Civil Service (Admn.) AcademyLibrary	Shahbagh, Dhaka	1987
28.	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Library	Agargaon, Dhaka	1990

29.	Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Library	Mohammadpur, Dhaka	1990
30.	North South University (NSU) Library	Bashundhara, Dhaka	1992
31.	Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) Library	Baridhara, Dhaka	1993
32.	East West University (EWU) Library	Aftabnagar, Dhaka	1996
33.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Banani, Dhaka	1996
34.	BRAC University Library	Mohakhali, Dhaka	2001
35.	State University of Bangladesh (SUB) Library	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	2002
36.	Stamford University Library	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	2002
37.	Daffodil International (DIU) University Library	Mohakhali, Dhaka	2002
38.	University of Liberal Art (ULAB) Library	Dhanmondi, Dhaka	2004
39.	Voice	Shyamoli, Dhaka	2005
40.	Apollo Hospital Library	Boshundhara, Dhaka	2015

Significance and Contributions of UN Library Network

Since its inception in 2002, the Secretariat of UN library Network in Bangladesh has been engaged and contributed to use the library platform in advancing the information dissemination process, sharing the information resources, knowledge management and exchanging of ideas on the recent development of library profession as a whole. Most of the contributions were based on workshops and training programmes that have been organized by Network Secretariat since 2002. Each year, a workshop is organized jointly with a member library and Network Secretariat, UNIC. This is a unique initiative or model on the part of UNIC Dhaka among the global network of UNICs in 63 countries. A total of 15 workshops have been arranged under the banner of UN library network starting from 2002. The major topics of the workshops were resource sharing, knowledge management, library cooperation, website development, public information system, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, bibliometrics, digitization, social science information network, social media, content management etc.

Remarks of Member Libraries in Video Interview

In terms of qualitative way of getting feedback from member libraries, video interviews were taken in a number of libraries. It has been identified from the interviewees that as a result of formation of UN library network, books, reports and other UN information materials are being made available among the network member libraries. The focal points of UN library network mentioned that the network has been contributing by disseminating the local language Bangla publications, especially, monthly Bangla newsletter to the people of Bangladesh; it is also stated during interview that the library network is the most effective programme; the electronic distribution of UN information materials is very useful which are then re-transmitted to users through email. Distribution of Bangla newsletter to member libraries, during different seminar and workshops, was very useful; library users come over to study UN books, journals, and other documents and carry out research work in the respective library. The library also disseminates this information among other users. However the users would be more benefitted if more

information materials are made available to the library thus that can be distributed among branch libraries in different districts of Bangladesh. A member library stated that the UN information materials which they receive are being re-distributed among their branch library users in different parts of the country.

The above-mentioned remarks, in open-ended video interviews, made by heads of member libraries of UN library network gave a qualitative indication of the effectiveness of the library network. The interviewees mostly found the actions of network are very useful for their respective libraries, as well as effective for their branch libraries located in different parts of the country (UN Library Network in Bangladesh, 2017).

Table-3: A year-wise list of workshops/trainings organized by UN library network in Bangladesh (UNIC Dhaka) and co-hosted by a member library is given below:

Sl. No.	Topic(s) of Workshop	Year	Organizers
01.	Resource Sharing and Management of UN Library Network in Bangladesh	2002	UNIC and UNESCO
02.	UN Millennium Development Goals; World Bank Public Information Activities	2003	UNIC and World Bank
03.	On-line UN Electronic Resources	2004	UNIC
04.	Role of Knowledge Managers to Disseminate UN Resources through Website	2005	UNIC and CIRDAP
05.	Webpage Development	2006	UNIC and Stamford University
06.	Internet and Resource Sharing Tools	2007	UNIC and Stamford University
07.	Knowledge Management and Digitization	2008	UNIC and University of Liberal Arts (ULAB)
08.	Climate Change; Social Science Information Network; Bibliometrics	2009	UNIC and University of Liberal Arts (ULAB)
09.	MDGs Achievement in Bangladesh; Content Management in Knowledge Centres	2010	UNIC and University of Liberal Arts (ULAB)
10.	Rio+20: The Future We Want; Use of Social Media in Library Services	2011	UNIC and University of Liberal Arts (ULAB)
11.	Knowledge Sharing for Improving Information Service; MDGs–Where Do We Stand in 2012	2012	UNIC and The American Centre/US Embassy
12.	Post-2015 Development Agenda; E-information Resources –where are we	2013	UNIC and icddr,b Library
13.	Information Services in Rural Bangladesh: an A2i initiative	2014	UNIC and Central Public Library
14.	Sustainable Development Goals & COP21; Impact of ICT in library and Information Services	2015	UNIC and Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) Library
15.	Re-imagining Libraries, Technology Transfer And Resource Sharing in Libraries of Bangladesh: An Observation	2017	UNIC and icddr,b Library

Research4 Life Programme of the United Nations - Highlighted in the Workshop of UN library network organized jointly by UNIC Dhaka and icddr,b Library

Research4 life is a network to provide free or low-cost online access to the major journals on biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries. This is a wonderful and magnificent initiative taken by the United Nations' former Secretary General Kofi Annan at the UN Millennium Summit in the year 2000 (World Health Organization, 2017). Research4 life is an umbrella of private–public partnership of four programs namely HINARI focusing on health, AGORA focusing on agriculture, OARE focusing on environment and ARDI focusing on innovation (Research4 life, 2017).

Some achievements of Hinari, one of the four platforms of Research4 Life, are shown below:

- Registration Growth - As of 08 February 2013, the total number of participating organizations registered with HINARI in Bangladesh is 280. Bangladesh has the second highest number of registered institutions among HINARI

- Cooperative training results in scientific collaboration - Icddr,b, BSMMU, NHLDC, BMRC are involved for cooperative training programs of HINARI

- Research findings confirm rise in journal publication output - After setting up HINARI in Bangladesh, a good number of research articles on health sciences have been published by Bangladeshi researchers in peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed journals by foreign publishers and at home.

- Advancement of knowledge - HINARI is used in Bangladesh as a valued tool for advancing current knowledge of science and research, especially in health sciences area.

- Economic impact of HINARI - Complimentary with no cost or low cost access to 14,000 of HINARI journals reduces economic burdens on libraries and research organizations by managing retrieval of full-text articles from online journals, e-books, and databases.

- Overall country benefit - As a whole, organizations of Bangladesh are benefited accessing HINARI platform in terms of economy, accessing e-resources, popularizing e-resources, improving ICT facilities and services for research, and advancement of learning and up-to-date teaching resources.

Overall challenges of library networking and resource sharing

Based on the lessons learned from the UN library networking, as well as relevant literature review on library network and resource share, following challenges have been identified in general:
1. Lack of coordination and regulation: Formation of a coordination authority is critical to make a network platform functional and sustainable, at the same time absence of a regulatory body is a challenge.
2. Lack of nation-wide structure: a nation-wide network structure can bring better result.

3. Lack of sustainability: It has been identified that lack of fund and absence of oversee body are barriers to make the network platform sustainable.

4. Lack of modern technological facilities: Technological facilities are crucial to ensure effective networking and resource sharing. Lack of equal and consistent technological facilities among the network member organizations do not bring expected result.

5. Lack of Internet connection and high bandwidth: lack of internet connection facilities as well as high bandwidth is a problem for the network organizations. Data transmission speed is not ensured.

6. Financial constraint and poor service: Inadequate budget to library networking is a real challenge; as a result effective services are not ensured.

7. Lack of skilled manpower and lack of training facilities: sometime skilled manpower is not available in library networking system which brings negative impact to resource sharing process. On the other hand, adequate training facilities for the existing manpower are not available always.

8. Lack of awareness and motivation: The awareness creation is an important area where more emphasis should be given. Lack of motivation to the manpower does not help to engage them properly.

Conclusion and Recommendation

It has been experienced that during the last two decades, a number of good initiatives were taken to establish an effective library and information network system for the purpose of resource sharing. But most of the networks could not sustain for many reasons with a few exceptions of BIPC and UDL. Apart from that, a special category of library networking named 'UN library network in Bangladesh' has been sustained in a limited scale.

In order to ensure effective library networking and timely resource sharing as a whole, the following steps are recommended:

1. Nation-wide infrastructure: In bringing the major libraries under same umbrella, a nation-wide infrastructure should be developed and a Secretariat should be selected to look after the steps of infrastructure.

2. Effective coordination and communication: It is an essential part in making a library network successful since participation of same type of libraries is important, thus effective coordination should be ensured.

3. ICT facilities: In the current scenario, access to ICT and its application in networking and resource sharing is a must. The above proposed Secretariat should work to ensure ICT facilities among the member institutions/organizations.

4. Internet connection with high bandwidth and lower rate: internet facilities with high bandwidth are a prerequisite for a library network in order to ensure resource sharing in an effective way.

5. Adequate budget: Allocation of sufficient budget should be ensured to run the work of library networking and resource sharing.

6. Creating awareness and motivation: Creating awareness and motivating people are important part to bring the network member libraries under the same umbrella. If people do not know about the existence, as well as importance of network, in that case it will be very difficult to bring the right people and right organization on the same page. At the same time, secretariat of library network should encourage the libraries working in the same field to join the platform.

7. Efficient services: The institute or regulating body must ensure the quality services to make the network credible and accessible to everyone.

8. Proper training: The training is of the major components of a library networking. Training should be arranged on contemporary issues and as well as on the impact of library network.

9. Better library management: Better library management is a core area of making a library network successful. The success should be measured how efficiently the resources are being shared. Therefore, appropriate training facilities should be ensured for the members libraries of network which ultimate fulfil the objectives of network and users will get the the benefit from the network activities.

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