F.No 4-1/2019-TEL
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
******

525-C, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi, dated 16.01.2019

To

Shri Vishal Rakheecha 55141
11-13-485/5, Road No 1
Yadava Nagar Colony
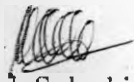**Alkapuri, Saroornagar Post**
Hyderabad - 500035

Sub: Information sought under Right to Information Act – 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your online RTI Application No. DOHED/R/2019/50070 dated 12.01.2019 under RTI Act 2005.

2.   In this regard, it is hereby informed that the desired copies of minutes of the meeting of e-Shodh Sindhu Review held on 03.08.2018, Meeting of NSC of eSS held on 14.08.2018 and Meeting of NAC of eSS held on 14.08.2018 are enclosed.

3.   If you are not satisfied with this reply, you may file your appeal with Ms. Malathi Naraynan. Deputy Secretary, M/o Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhavan. New Delhi within the 30 days of the receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully

(Rajesh Singh Solanki)
CPIO & Under Secretary
Tel 011-2338 5935

Minutes of the meeting on e-Shodh Sindhu held on 3rd August 2018 under the Chairmanship of Shri R Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Higher Education

Secretary (HE) held a review of the ESS Project on 3rd August 2018 and the following were present:

1. Sri. R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary (HE), MHRD
2. Dr. N Saravana Kumar JS(TEL & ICC), MHRD
3. Mrs. Malathi Narayanan DS(TEL), MHRD
4. Dr. Jagdish Arora Director INFLIBNET
5. Sri. Ashok Rai, Scientist D, INFLIBNET
6. Sri. Parameswaran N, Advisor, MHRD

Secretary (HE) posed the following questions/issues to INFLIBNET for review:

1. Whether the new ESS model is working fine. Any indication that Research Productivity is going up or declining
2. How to provide the best anti plagiarism software (viz. TURNITIN) to all universities in the country
3. How to ensure access of ESS to all the Universities in the country. What model can be thought of .
4. How are the financials
5. The new version of e-vidwan ie. Indian Research Network System (IRNS)

The following points came out of the discussion:

1. There are complaints from universities that they are not able to fund for the resources themselves and with the result the access to the books and periodicals have reduced. As regards measuring its impact on the Research Productivity, this would take at least couple of years to assess.
2. It was decided to estimate the funds requirement to provide the all possible e-resources free of cost for the top 200 NIRF ranked institutions.

This would include providing e-resources, on demand by these top 200 Institutions. Other Institutions can use the negotiated rates and procure the resources themselves

3. To ensure the optimal use of e-resources, possibility of providing the same to research scholars, students and faculty on actual use basis by providing credit points to them may be considered. INFLIBNET was requested to work on this possibility.

4. The financials for providing resources to all universities are very high.

5. After seeing a demo of IRNS, it was decided that the same should be implemented in all universities

6. TURNITIN, anti-plagiarism software is considered as the undisputed best available in the market. It is decided that the proposal to provide the best anti-plagiarism software to all Institutions should be worked out and discussed in the next meeting.

7. It was decided to have the next meeting at 10.30 hrs on 10th August 2018.

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30th August. 2018

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the National Advisory Committee, e-Shodh Sindhu held on 14th August. 2018, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Meeting of the 4th National Advisory Committee (NSC), E-Shodh Sindhu Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources. was held on August 14. 2018 at MHRD. Shastri Bhavan. New Delhi. The following members attended the meeting

Chairman. NAC, eSS

Shri R. Subrahmanyam. Secretary (HE), MHRD (Chairman)

Chairman, NSC, eSS

Prof. Partha P. Chakrabarti, Director. IIT Kharagpur

Members

1. Ms. Darshana M Dabral, JS & FA. MHRD
2. Prof. Sri Krishna Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, NEHU
3. Prof. Nageshwar Rao. Vice Chancellor, IGNOU
4. Prof. Suhas Pednekar. Vice Chancellor. University of Mumbai
5. Dr. Pankaj Mittal. Additional Secretary. UGC (Representing Chairman. UGC)
6. Dr. Nabi Hasan. Librarian, IIT Delhi
7. Prof. Pratosh Bansal, Professor of IT, IET. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya. Indore
8. Dr. (Smt.) P. Visakhi. Librarian. IISER. Mohali (Representing Director)
9. Prof. Appa Rao Podile. Vice Chancellor. University of Hyderabad
10. Dr Vandana Suhag. Manipal University, Jaipur (Representing President. Manipal University)
11. Prof. I V Malhan, Central University of Himachal Pradesh
12. Dr. T.S. Kumbar. Librarian. IIT Gandhinagar
13. Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma. Librarian, Assam University. Silchar
14. Mr. Manoj Kumar, Coordinator, NKRC Consortium
15. Dr. Jagdish Arora. Director. INFLIBNET Centre
16. Dr. N. Saravana Kumar. Joint Secretary (TEL), MHRD (Convener)

Invitees

4. Mrs. Malathi Narayanan Dy. Secretary, TEL (MHRD)
5. Mr. Parameswaran N, Sr. Consultant, NMEICT, MHRD, New Delhi
6. Sh. Ashok Kumar Rai, Scientist D, INFLIBNET Centre
7. Mrs. Kruti Trivedi, Scientist - B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre Gandhinagar
8. Mr. Dinesh Ranjan Pradhan, Scientist - B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar

Ms. Ishita Roy Joint Secretary (HE), MHRD, Prof. Anil D. Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE, Adviser (Higher Education), NITI Aayog, New Delhi, Prof. Asoke Kumar Sen, Dean, Science Assam University, Prof. Devang V Khakhar Director, IIT Bombay Prof. K L Verma, Vice Chancellor, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Prof. P P Das, Professor, Deptt. of Computer Science, IIT Kharagpur, Sh. Maneesh Garg, Joint Secretary (SE-I), Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD and Prof. Huzar Saran, Deptt. of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Delhi could not attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the National Advisory Committee, e-Shodh Sindhu held on 18th Dec., 2015 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Copy of the draft Minutes of third Meeting of the National Advisory Committee, s-Shodh Sindhu was circulated to members along with the Agenda for 4^{in} Meeting of National Advisory Committee, e-Shodh Sindhu. The Minutes were approved post-facto by the members of National Advisory Committee.

2. Action Taken, Progress Made and New Developments since the Last Meeting of the National Advisory Committee

Members noted that actions were taken on all decisions made during the 3rd Meeting of the National Advisory Committee, e-Shodh Sindhu held on 18th Dec., 2015 which were duly reported during the 4th Meeting of the National Steering Committee held on 16th January, 2017.

3. Presentation of New Model (2018) & Current Status of e-Shodh Sindhu

Dr. Arora made a presentation on the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu adopted for the year 2018. Under the new model, all institutions of higher education in India were requested to register their e-resource requirements through Online e-Resources Requisition System (http://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/oes/) created for this purpose. The portal was opened for all institutions listed in AISHE database from 10th October to 13th November 2017. During this period, 1767 institutions activated their login IDs on the online portal and 604 institutions submitted their e-resource requirements. Based on the requirements submitted by the institutions, the Consortium negotiated rates of subscription for more than 150 resources and finalized rates for 120 resources /

collections. Based on the requirement submitted and funds made available to e-SS, 17 resources were selected for central funding that were provided to eligible institutions that register their e-resource requirements online through portal designed for this purpose. The Committee made the following recommendations on the new model and current status of e-Shodh Sindhu:

i)   The members recommended to increase reach of NLIST to all eligible colleges and create awareness among colleges for the programme through affiliating universities. Directorate of Higher Education of different states and Regional Offices of UGC;

ii) The names of top colleges based on usage of e-resources should be displayed under different categories with an aim to promote usage of NLIST resources;

iii) The Consortium may look for student representatives in colleges to promote the use of NLIST resources in colleges;

iv) The consortium should create testimonials of users regarding how the e-resources are being used and how they are necessary for teaching and research;

v)   Promote e-Shodh Sindhu among users through e-mail alerts and social media: and

vi) The consortium may start a quarterly newsletter to inform the users about the latest developments in e-Shodh Sindhu

4. **Presentation on the Proceedings of the 5th Meeting of the National Steering Committee of e-SS held at 1:00 PM Prior to the Meeting of National Advisory Committee, e-SS**

Dr. Jagdish Arora and Dr. N. Saravana Kumar briefed the members of the National Advisory Committee of e-SS on the proceedings of the 5th Meetings of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of e-SS held prior to the meeting of NAC. The following important decisions taken by the NSC were specifically reported to the National Advisory Committee:

i)   The National Steering Committee (NSC), e-SS accorded post-facto approval to the rates of subscription to e-resources negotiated by the Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu for the year 2018 (**Agenda Item 4**).

ii) The NSC approved total budget requirement of Rs. 149.17 crores towards renewal of subscription to existing resources for the existing institutions for the year 2019 as per the prevailing model of eSS. The NSC recommended immediate release of Rs 44.22 crores to meet the committed expenditure for year 2018 at the earliest. Moreover, the NSC also recommended release of funds to e-Shodh Sindhu in a single instalment since payment to the publishers is due in the beginning of every calendar year (**Agenda Item 5**).

iii) The NSC recommended continued access to WEL for all institutions beyond 2018 which was initially committed for three years, i.e. from 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. The Committee also recommended exploring purchase of journal archives on one-time basis under National licensing (**Agenda Item 6**).

iv) NSC noted that several institutions, especially state, central and deemed-to-be universities, did not subscribe to e-resources as per their commitments on the e-SS portal for the year 2018 because of paucity of funds. The NSC made the following recommendations in this regard (**Agenda Item 7**):

   a) The good performing institutions (based on NIRF ranking) and centrally-funded institutions should be given access to e-resources through central funding;

   b) New institutions (less than 10 years old) should be provided access to minimum core resources;

   c) The state universities with satisfactory usage to e-resources should be given access to the existing resources for 2-3 years with established research goals to be achieved during this period, and

   d) The access to e-resources may also be extended to SWAYAM users to incentivize the users who enroll for various online courses and increase the reach of access to e-resources to such individual users.

v) National Steering Committee (NSC), National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu was re-constituted with inclusion of new members representing various stakeholders of the Consortium (**Agenda Item 8**).

5. New Model of e-Shodh Sindhu for Years 2019 and 2020

Dr. N Saravana Kumar briefed the members of National Advisory Committee about the meetings convened by the Secretary (HE) on 3rd and 10th August 2018 regarding the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu evolved for 2018 and the challenges faced by the institutions. The challenges for the institutions in getting access to electronic resources and its possible impact in the research ecosystem have been highlighted. Also, JS (ICC / TEL) mentioned the demand made by many Institutions for easy and facilitated access to electronic resources, in the recently held National Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Directors. After detailed discussions and deliberations during the meetings, the following decisions with regard to new model of eSS for the years 2019 and 2020 were taken:

☞ All institutions which are in the top 200 of NIRF rankings overall, or in the top 100 in their respective subject categories and all centrally-funded institutions (total numbering about 250), would be provided access to all the resources as per their requirements. Funds required for this purpose would be met from the new Scheme.

☞ Utilization of the resources and their publication output will be monitored regularly and a benchmark for ratio of downloads to publications is set at 100:1. The ratio would be monitored quarterly and institutions with adverse ratio will be given a show-cause notice as to why further access to electronic journals may not be restricted/stopped. The option of stopping access to all or some of those resources should lie with the Government. This will bring in accountability for utilization of the resources and would also link the resources.

☞ All other universities, whether private or public will be provided article level access to e-resources through JGATE Plus. With this, access of digital resources would be universalised across all universities in the country

It was observed that if the proposed strategy is followed, 112 existing institutions that are getting access to e-resources through e-SS would lose their access through central-funding. Members recommended that the State funded 12(B) of UGC Act recognised universities should be provided with access to selected core resources with set target to enhance their ranking over a period of 2-3 years. It was also observed that the current ratio of downloads to research publications is 1000:1. As such, the Ministry may modify the target accordingly.

The National Advisory Committee noted that the NSC has appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following members to discuss the above proposal in detail and give its recommendations in this regard, by 30th September 2018 including financial implications.

  - ☞ Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi (Chairman)
  - ☞ Mr. Parameswaran N. Sr. Consultant, NMEICT, MHRD
  - ☞ Dr. Anand Byrappa. Librarian, IISc Bengaluru
  - ☞ Dr. Tamal Kumar Guha, Librarian, IIT Guwahati
  - ☞ Dr. T S Kumbar, Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar
  - ☞ Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
  - ☞ Sh. Ashok Kumar Rai. Scientist - D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre

6. Constitution of Negotiation Committee for Providing Access to Plagiarism Detection Software to all Universities (including CFTIs)

Dr. N Saravana Kumar briefed the members of NAC regarding the need to provide plagiarism detection software to all universities to tackle the menace of plagiarism and highlighted the direction given by Hon'ble HRM in this regard in the recently concluded National Conference of Vice-Chancellors and Directors. In this regard, a meeting was convened by the Secretary (HE) on 10th August, 2018 which stressed upon the constitution of an Expert Group for negotiation with TURNITIN and such other vendors

of anti-plagiarism software and make recommendations to the Ministry along with the expenditure incurred in providing this facility to all Universities.

The members of NAC noted that the software would be used by more than 60 lakh students in various UG, PG and Ph.D. categories across the country assuming that around 30 million pages of reports / assignments would need to be checked annually. The Committee discussed the matter and opined that it would require huge expenditure for providing this service to all universities. As such, it was recommended that the plagiarism detection software should be explored and negotiated for a period of 2-3 years through an expert committee. In addition, the MHRD may initiate a project for developing such indigenous tool with funding through NMEICT involving institution and private partnership. This will help in reducing the recurring cost for subscription of plagiarism detection tool in future.

The National Advisory Committee noted that the NSC has appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following members to discuss the above proposal in detail and negotiate with the vendors of plagiarism detection software:

- Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur (Chairman)
- Prof. P.P. Das, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Kharagpur
- Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian, IIT Delhi
- Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary (TEL), MHRD / or his representative
- Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, NLS Bangalore
- Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
- Dr P. Visakhi, Librarian, IISER Mohali
- Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, Scientist D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre
- Mr. Manoj Kumar K, Scientist D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre

The Expert Group would be required to submit its recommendations to the Ministry regarding software to be subscribed along with expenditure involved by 15th October, 2018.

7. Request for Intervention of MHRD for Exemption of GST for all Payments made for e-Resources under e-Shodh Sindhu by the INFLIBNET Centre

Members of the National Advisory Committee, eSS opined that INFLIBNET should continue to pay the GST on subscription to e-resources as applicable and project its fund requirements in its budget proposal. The Ministry would make necessary provision for the GST component payable on e-resource.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC), E-Shodh Sindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources August 14, 2018, MHRD, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

16 August 2018

The 5th Meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC), E-Shodh Sindhu: Consortium for Higher Education Electronic Resources was held on August 14, 2018 at MHRD, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. The following members attended the meeting:

Chairman, NSC, eSS

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur

Members

1. Prof. Sri Krishna Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, NEHU
2. Prof. Suhas Pednekar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai
3. Prof. Kamlesh Joshipura, Former Vice Chancellor, Saurashtra University
4. Prof. Uma Kanjilal, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU, (Representing Vice Chancellor)
5. Dr. Umeshareddy Kacherki, Dy. Librarian, IISER, Pune (Representing Director)
6. Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian, IIT Delhi
7. Dr. Anand Byrappa, Librarian, IISc Bengaluru (Representing Director)
8. Dr. Tamal Kumar Guha, Librarian, IIT Guwahati (Representing Director)
9. Dr. M. D. Selvaraj, Dean (Research), IITDM Kancheepuram (Representing Director)
10. Dr. R S Kumbar, Librarian I/c, NLS Bangalore (Representing Vice Chancellor)
11. Sh. K. Ramamurthi, Chairman, Library Committee, IIT Madras (Representing Director)
12. Dr. Murli Manohar, VIT University, Vellore (Representing Vice Chancellor)
13. Mr. Manoj Kumar, Coordinator, NKRC Consortium
14. Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary (TEL), MHRD
15. Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar (Convenor)

Invitees

1. Mrs. Malathi Narayanan, Deputy Secretary, MHRD
2. Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, Scientist - D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar
3. Mr. Parameswaran N, Sr. Consultant, NMEICT, MHRD, New Delhi
4. Ms. Kruti Trivedi, Scientist B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar
5. Mr. Dinesh Ranjan Pradhan, Scientist B (LS), INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Emeritus Professor, IUCAA, Pune, Prof. Karanam Uma Maheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Surathkal, Prof. Chattopadhyay Saibal, Director, IIM Kolkata, Dr. D D Lal, Coordinator, DelCON (DBT), Smt. Alka Bansal, Coordinator, DRDO Consortium, Dr. S.K. Joshi, Coordinator, CERA Consortium, Dr. Prabir G. Dastidar, Coordinator, Earth Science Consortium (MOES), Prof. A. P. Mittal, Secretary, AICTE, New Delhi and Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Singh, Joint Secretary (IUC), UGC, New Delhi, could not attend the meeting due to prior commitment.

Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur and Chairman, NSC, e-Shodh Sindhu, welcomed all members of NSC, E-Shodh Sindhu and thanked them for attending the meeting. The Chairman requested Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre and Convener of the NSC, eSS to take-up the Agenda of the Meeting. Dr. Arora welcomed all the

members to the Committee. He apologized for convening the meeting after lapse of one and half years. He assured the members that the Meetings of the NSC will be convened more frequently in future and NSC will be kept informed regarding all developments with regard to subscription of e-resources and other activities of the Consortium.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the NSC, e-Shodh Sindhu held on January 16, 2017, MHRD, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi**

The Minutes of the 4th Meeting of National Steering Committee. e-Shodh Sindhu held on January 16, 2017 at MHRD. Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi was confirmed as circulated since no comments were received from the members.

2. **Action Taken and Progress Made since Last Meeting of the NSC**

2.1. **Funds Received from Ministry for e-Shodh Sindhu and Payment Made for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-19**: The Ministry had released Rs 145.12 crores during FY 2017-18, which was used for renewal of subscription to e-resources for the year 2017 including outstanding payment for Science Direct and SAA/WEL for the year 2017. During FY 2018-19, the Ministry released Rs. 127.87 crores in June 2018. This amount is being used for renewal of subscription to 17 e-resources for the year 2018.

2.2. **Renewal of Subscription to e-Resources for the 2018 under New Model of eSS**. Subscription has been renewed for 17 centrally-paid e-resources for universities / CFTIs under the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu including 10 resources for colleges covered under NLIST for the year 2018.

2.3. **Inclusion of SPAs in e-Shodh Sindhu Consortium**: As per the decision of MHRD. three SPAs were given access to two resources namely JSTOR and ISID through eSS for the year 2018.

2.4. **Evolving Cost Sharing Model for e-Shodh Sindhu**: The sub-committee of NSC. constituted during 4th Meeting of the NSC, to propose cost sharing model for subscription to e-resources for the year 2018 met on 7th September. 2017 at IIT Madras. Chennai under Chairmanship of Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy, Director. IIT Madras. However, since the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu was implemented, the recommendations were not considered for its implementation.

2.5. **Subscription to AICTE-Funded Resources**: The Centre has received grant-in-aid of Rs 8.72 crores from AICTE on June 30, 2018 for subscription to four e-resources. namely IEL. ASME, ASCE and Pharmacy (Bentham Science) for the year 2018 for 102 institutes (including existing and new) for the year 2018. Subscription to e-resources was renewed for four e-resources for technical and pharmacy institutions for the year 2018.

3. **Presentation on New Model and Current Status of e-SS**

Dr. Arora made a presentation on the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu adopted from 2018 onwards. Under the new model, all institutions of higher education in India were requested to register their e-resource requirements through Online e-Resources Requisition System (http://ess.inflibnet.ac.in/oes/) created for this purpose. The portal was opened for all institutions listed in AISHE database from 10th October to 13th November 2017. During this period, 1767 institutions activated their login IDs on the online portal and 604 institutions submitted their e-resource requirements. Based on the requirements submitted by the

institutions. the Consortium negotiated rates of subscription for more than 150 resources and finalized rates for 120 resources/collections. Based on the requirement submitted and funds made available to e-SS. 17 resources were selected for central funding that were provided to eligible institutions that register their e-resource requirements online through portal designed for this purpose. The Committee made the following recommendations on the new model and current status of e-Shodh Sindhu:

   i)   The members recommended to increase reach of NLIST to all eligible colleges and create awareness among colleges for the programme through affiliating universities, Directorate of Higher Education of different states and Regional Offices of UGC;

   ii) The names of top colleges based on usage of e-resources should be displayed under different categories with an aim to promote usage of NLIST resources;

   iii) The Consortium may look for student representatives in colleges to promote the use of NLIST resources in colleges;

   iv) The consortium should create testimonials of users regarding how the e-resources are being used and how they are necessary for teaching and research;

   v) Promote e-Shodh Sindhu among users through e-mail alerts and social media; and

   vi) The consortium may start a quarterly newsletter to inform the users about the latest developments in the consortium.

4. Post-facto Approval of Rates of Subscription Negotiated by Joint Negotiation Committee for the year 2018

Members of NSC were informed that the Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu met 5 times for 11 days over a period of three months (Dec. 2017 to February 2018) to get minimum rates of subscription from publishers. Dr. Arora briefed about the challenges of the Negotiation Committee where the rates of subscription to e-resources were being negotiated without central funding. The Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC) negotiated rates of subscription for 120 resources / collections whose requirements were registered on the e-SS portal by 604 institutions. The Committee noted that increase in rates of subscription to most of the resources were kept at 0-3% except in two cases where 4 to 5% increase was allowed only for the private-funded AICTE institutions. The Committee noted that the savings of more than Rs. 8 crores was made in case of Springer journals with print-independent negotiation for this resource. The NSC appreciated efforts put-in by the Negotiation Committee to get the lower rates of subscription for e-resources from publishers in an environment where there will no longer be a single order and single payment. NSC accorded post-facto approval to the rates of subscription negotiated by the Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu for the year 2018.

5. Request for Release of Funds to e-Shodh Sindhu as Single Instalment as a Special Case for Renewal of Subscription for the Year 2018 and 2019

The Committee discussed the budget requirement for current Financial Year (2018-19) and noted that due to subscription period of e-resources are on calendar year basis and the release of funds are on financial year basis, there is a roll-over of funds requirement to the next year. Moreover, e-Shodh Sindhu is also facing paucity of funds because of various reasons including non-release of allocated funds, additional expenditure on subscription / purchase of

WEL & SAA, devaluation of Rupees against major foreign currencies, increase in GST rates. etc. In view of the same, the Committee recommended that there is a need to release a one-time higher grant to e-Shodh Sindhu for current financial year to avoid rolling over of accumulative deficit.

Sl. No.	Item of Expenditure for FY 2018-19	Rupees in Crores
1	Pending Committed payment for 2018 including 3rd instalment of SAA and WEL	44.22
2	2019 Subscription for existing Resources to existing institute during 2018-19	149.17
3	Total Funds Required during FY 2018-19	193.39

The Committee recommended release of Rs. 44.22 crores to meet the committed expenditure for year 2018 at the earliest. The Committee also approved the budget requirement of Rs. 149.17 crores towards renewal of subscription to existing resources for the existing institutions for the year 2019 as per the current model. Moreover, the NSC also recommended release of funds to e-Shodh Sindhu in a single instalment since payment to the publishers is due in the beginning of every calendar year.

However, in view of the proposed new model for 2019, this budget may be revised as per the recommendation of the sub-committee for enhanced access to e-resources for 2019 and 2020 (Agenda Item 9).

6. Decision on Continuation of Subscription to World e-Book Library (WEL) Beyond 2018

e-Shodh Sindhu has purchased SAA on national licenses on one-time payment basis (in 3 Instalments) for every institution in India and has subscribed to World eBook Library with three years commitment for 5,000 institutions in India and 10,000 concurrent users through National Digital Library (NDL). The third instalment for SAA and renewal of WEL is due on September 1, 2018 for next year. All eSS members including universities. CFTIs: colleges (4500) as well as other member institutions of government consortia, i.e. DelCon. CERA. NKRC, etc. are getting access to WEL through eSS. The usage of WEL is fairly good.

Dr. N. Saravana Kumar emphasized to check the user experience w.r.t. access to these two resources in terms of the speed of access and ease of use. It was resolved that regular feedback should be invited from users of these resources for future enhancements.

The NSC recommended continued access to WEL for all institutions beyond 2018. The Committee also recommended exploring purchase of journal archives on one-time basis under National licensing.

7. Implementation of New Model of e-Shodh Sindhu (e-SS) for the Year 2019: Challenges

The Consortium negotiated rates of subscription to 120 e-resources based on the commitment for subscription for the year 2018 by the institutions that registered their e-resource requirement through e-SS portal. However, several institutions did not subscribe to resources as per their commitments for the year 2018. A summary of number of requirements registered for selected e-resource (that are not subscribed through central funding) and number of actual subscribers was presented before the NSC. It was observed that several institutions, specially

state, central and deemed-to-be universities did not subscribed to resources whose requirements was registered by them on eSS portal because of paucity of funds. The Committee suggested the followings:

- ☞ The good performing institutions (based on NIRF ranking) and centrally-funded institutions should be given access to e-resources through central funding;

- ☞ New institutions (less than 10 years old) should be provided access to minimum core resources;

- ☞ The state universities with satisfactory usage to e-resources should be given access to the existing resources for 2-3 years with established research goals to be achieved during this period; and

- ☞ The access to e-resources may also be extended to SWAYAM users to incentivise the users who enrol for various online courses and increase the reach of access to e-resources to such individual users.

8. **Report on Re-constitution of NSC, NAC and Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu**

The Committee noted the re-constitution of NSC, NAC and Joint Negotiation Committee of e-Shodh Sindhu with inclusion of new members re-presenting various stakeholders of the Consortium.

9. New Model of e-Shodh Sindhu for Years 2019 and 2020

Dr Arora briefed the members of NSC about the meetings convened by the Secretary (HE) on 3rd and 10th August 2018 regarding the new model of e-Shodh Sindhu evolved for 2018 and the challenges faced by the institutions. After detailed discussions and deliberations during the meetings, the Secretary (HE) took the following decisions with regard to new model of eSS for the years 2019 and 2020:

- ☞ All institutions which are in the top 200 of NIRF rankings overall, or in the top 100 in their respective subject categories, or centrally-funded institutions (total numbering about 250), would be provided access to all the resources as per their requirements. Funds required for this purpose would be met from the new Scheme.

- ☞ Utilizations of the resources and their publication output will be monitored regularly and a benchmark for ratio of downloads to publications is set at 100:1. The ratio would be monitored quarterly and institutions with adverse ratio will be given a show-cause notice as to why further access to electronic journals may not be restricted/stopped. The option of stopping access to all or some of those resources should lie with the Government. This will bring in accountability for utilization of the resources and would also link the resources.

- ☞ All other universities, whether private or public will be provided article level access to e-resources through JGATE Plus. With this, access of digital resources would be universalised across all universities in the country.

Members observed that if the proposed strategy is followed, 112 existing institutions that are centrally getting e-resources through e-SS would lose their access through central-funding. Members recommended that the state funded 12(B) universities should be provided with access to selected core resources with set target to enhance their ranking over a period of 2-3 years. It was also observed that the current ratio of downloads to research publications is 1000:1. As such, the Ministry may modify the target accordingly.

The NSC appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following members to discuss the above proposal in detail and give recommendations by 30ᵗʰ September 2018 including financial implications.

- Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi (Chairman)
- Mr. Parameswaran N, Sr. Consultant, NMEICT, MHRD
- Dr. Anand Byrappa, Librarian, IISc Bengaluru
- Dr. Tamal Kumar Guha, Librarian, IIT Guwahati
- Dr. T S Kumbar, Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar
- Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian, IIT Delhi
- Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
- Sh. Ashok Kumar Rai, Scientist - D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre

The terms of reference of the sub-committee would be as follows:

- To compile e-resource requirements of proposed institutions;

- To examine the financial requirement for subscription to the e-resources subscribed by these institutions; and

- To propose suitable methodology for assessment and implementation of the new model based on the findings.

10. Constitution of Negotiation Committee for Providing Access to Plagiarism Detection Software to all Universities (including CFTIs)

Dr. Arora briefed the members of NSC regarding meeting convened by the Secretary (HE) on 10ᵗʰ August, 2018 w.r.t. to providing plagiarism detection software to all universities and constitution of an Expert Group for negotiation with TURNITIN and such other vendors of anti-plagiarism software and make recommendations to the Ministry along with the expenditure incurred in providing this facility to all Universities.

The members of NSC noted that the software would be used by more than 60 lakh students in various UG, PG and PhD categories across the country. It is assumed that around 30 million pages of reports / assignments would need to be checked annually. The Committee discussed the matter and opined that it would require huge expenditure for providing this service to all universities. As such, it was recommended that the plagiarism detection software should be explored and negotiated for a period of 2-3 years through an expert committee. In addition, the MHRD may initiate a project for developing such indigenous tool with funding through NMEICT involving institution and private partnership. This will help in reducing the recurring cost for subscription of plagiarism detection tool in future.

The NSC appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following members to discuss the above proposal in detail and negotiate with the vendors of plagiarism detection software:

- Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Director, IIT Kharagpur (Chairman)
  Prof. P. P. Das, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Kharagpur
- Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian, IIT Delhi
- Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary (TEL), MHRD / or his representative
- Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Vice Chancellor, NLS Bangalore
- Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
- Dr P. Visakhi, Librarian, IISER Mohali
- Mr. Ashok Kumar Rai, Scientist D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre
- Mr. Manoj Kumar K. Scientist D (CS), INFLIBNET Centre

The Expert Group would be required to submit its recommendations to the Ministry regarding software to be subscribed along with expenditure involved by 15th October, 2018.

11. Demonstration on Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) developed by INFLIBNET Centre, Gandhinagar
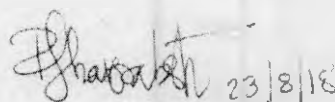
Dr Jagdish Arora, with permission of the Chair, demonstrated Indian Research Information Network System (IRINS) developed by the INFLIBNET Centre. IRINS is web-based Research Information Management (RIM) that is offered software-as-service free-of-cost to the academic and R&D organisations in India. IRINS facilitates academic and R&D organisations to collect, curate and showcase the scholarly communication and other activities of their faculty members and scientists and provides an opportunity to create scholarly networks of scientists and scholars across institutions that are using IRINS. The IRINS supports integration of existing research management system such as HR system, course management, grant management system, institutional repository, open and commercial citation databases, scholarly publishers, etc. It is integrated with academic identity such as ORCID ID, Scopus ID, Research ID, Microsoft Academic ID, Google Scholar ID for ingesting the scholarly publications from various sources. Members were informed that IRINS has been fully implemented for more than 10 organizations including IISc Bangalore.

Chairman, NSC recommended that research scholars may also be added to IRINS in addition to faculty. Members and the Chairman of the NSC appreciated the IRINS platform and recommended its funding through NME-ICT. Several member institutions showed their interest for its implementation in their respective organizations.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(Jagdish Arora)
Director, INFLBNET Centre and
Coordinator, e-Shodh Sindhu

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Prof. P. P. Chakrabarti
Director, IIT Kharagpur and
Chairman, National Steering Committee