

Integrate libraries with mobile platforms: Kalam

The former President urges people to create home libraries

S. Prasad

PUDUCHERRY: Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Tuesday said that libraries should be integrated with mobile platforms to empower people in the country particularly the youth with knowledge from books and journals.

Speaking after inaugurating the 17th National convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking here, he said, "With India having over 700 million mobile subscribers we can create mobile based books, which can be shared by m-libraries across the nation."

Mr. Kalam said that India had embarked on the mission of skilling 500 million people by 2022. These 500 million people, most of who are youth need to be empowered with knowledge from books and journals.

The role of libraries would be important and the one possible way to enhance the reach of the libraries was to integrate existing libraries with mobile platforms, he said.

"With advancing linguistic translation and processing power available in mobile phones, we can develop real time translation facilities by which any book can be translated in any language by the mobile application itself. We can also enable voice over for these books, so that people with visual impairment or limited reading ability can access the wealth of books and libraries. In this way, we can truly transcend barriers of language, distance, cost and even reading ability- and make books reach even the last person of the nation," he said.

He appealed to the people

'Library professionals should begin to tailor services for every user'

to consider creating home libraries as it would enable the entire family to discuss on common topics. Apart from enriching the knowledge of every family member this reading habit creates a healthy discussion among the family members which is essential for the sustained harmony of the entire family, he said.

H.K. Kaul, Director, Developing Library Network (DEL-NET), said that libraries were facing a major issue in the area of archiving of e-content as the libraries are not able to archive useful content due to technological, manpower, financial and copyright barriers that exist in different ways in different types of libraries.

"The Government of India and the state governments that spend billions of rupees on acquiring content should discuss with the publishers and aggregators of e-content and see how useful content gets archived in some centres in the country", he said.

Mr. Kaul said that library professionals should begin to tailor services for every user as the needs of each user are different. "Library users may be living in any part of the world but they can be served with necessary information on the web. There are however library users with special needs, especially those who are visually impaired or those with any kind of disability. They need to be taken care of and served with the information they need," he said.



Children greet former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at the 17th National convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking in Puducherry on Tuesday. - PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR

Posters on topics of posterity

Annie Phillip

PUDUCHERRY: Apart from talks and paper presentations on a variety of subjects on harnessing information technology by libraries, there was also a poster presentation competition.

These include entries from delegates not presenting papers at the convention, said Anurupa Naik, Chief Librarian, French Institute of Pondicherry and Organising Secretary, National convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Network-



A participant explains his poster at a competition in Puducherry on Tuesday.

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ing 2014.

Some of the topics included 'Culture of reading books

in a digital era through a book bank scheme,' 'Entity search engine.'