

Kalam Raises Pitch for of M-Libraries

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Puducherry: Integrating the existing libraries with mobile platform-enabled m-libraries will enhance its reach and help spread knowledge for empowering the youth, said Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India.

He was inaugurating the 17th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) 2014, jointly organised by DELNET - Developing Library Network, New Delhi, and the French Institute of Pondicherry, here, on Tuesday. The main theme of the convention is 'From Building Collections to Making Connections: Transforming Libraries in the Knowledge Era.'

Addressing the gathering, Kalam said, "The nation has embarked on a mission of equipping 500 million people, mostly youth, with skills by the year 2022 and these 500 million will need to be empowered with the knowledge from books and journals as

well, hence the role of libraries would be important in this domain."

Pointing out that the country has over 700 million mobile subscribers, he said, "We can create mobile-based books, which can be shared by m-libraries across the nation. With advancing linguistic translation and process-

ing power available in mobile phones, we can develop real-time translation facilities by which any book can be translated into any language by the mobile application itself."

Speaking at the function, Dr Pierre Grard, director of French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), said the IFP,

founded in 1955, is the largest of the French research centres abroad.

"In six decades, the IFP has become an immense reservoir of knowledge on the cultures, societies and environment of India and has gathered valuable documents and research materials within its store," he said.



A P J Abdul Kalam addressing the gathering at NACLIN 2014 in Puducherry on Tuesday as Pierre Grard, Director of French Institute of Pondicherry and other dignitaries look on | G PATTABIRAMAN