

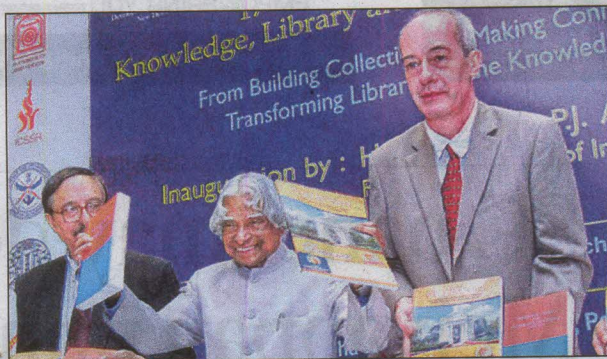
Kalam moots usage of 'm-libraries'

Says With 80Cr Mobile Users Integration With Mobile Platform Will Be A Success

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Puducherry: Former President A P J Abdul Kalam mooted the idea of integrating existing libraries in the country with mobile platforms to launch what he termed 'm-libraries'. He was in the Union territory of Puducherry to inaugurate the 17th national convention on 'Knowledge, Library and Information Networking' jointly hosted by Developing Library Network (Delnet) and French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) on December 9.

The three-day conference on the theme, 'From building collections to making connections: Transforming libraries in the knowledge era' will conclude on December



(From left) Dr H K Kaul, director of Delnet, Former President A P J Abdul Kalam and Pierre Grard, director of IFP, at a convention hosted by Delnet and IFP in Puducherry on Tuesday

11.

Pointing out that India has more than 80 crore mobile subscribers, Kalam said he was optimistic of creating

mobile-based books that can be shared by m-libraries across the nation. He was of the opinion that with the advancing linguistic transla-

tion and processing power available in mobile phones, real-time translation facilities could be developed.

The mobile application could be used to translate any book into any language. "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. This way, we can truly transcend barriers of language, distance, cost and even reading ability and reach books to the last person," Kalam said.

India has embarked on the mission of imparting skills to 50 crore people by the year 2022. These 50 crore people mostly youth have to be empowered with knowledge

from books and journals as well. "Hence the role of libraries would be very important in this domain (achieving India's mission)," he said. He urged people to allocate at least one hour a day for reading quality books.

"Parents should start a small library in their homes with approximately 20 books to begin with. This library should particularly have 10 children's books so that children can also cultivate the habit of reading at an early age...home library will enable entire family to discuss on common topics.

He suggested that Delnet extensively use the social media to disseminate information important to various sections of people.

Pondy French inst to digitalise rare books in its collection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Puducherry: French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) director Pierre Grard said the institute has begun digitising rare books in its collection. Speaking at the inaugural function of the 17th national convention on 'Knowledge, Library and Information Networking' jointly hosted by Developing Library Network (Delnet) and IFP on Tuesday in Puducherry, Grard said the IFP, established in 1955, is the largest of the French research centres outside France. He said the institute

in six decades became an immense reservoir of knowledge on cultures, societies and environment of India and has gathered valuable documents and research materials.

DIGITISING THE PAST

The documentary heritage of the institute included the manuscript collection - 8,500 palm leaf bundles, 360 paper codices and 1,144 paper transcripts. The institute has the largest collection of manuscripts of texts of the 'Saiva Siddhanta' (Hindu philoso-

phy focusing on worship of Lord Siva) in the world. The Unesco included the manuscript collection into its 'Memory of the World' register.

The photo archives of the institute include 1.6 lakh photographs on temple art in south India in the second half of the 20th century. He said the library of the multi-disciplinary research institute has 65,000 books, 360 thesis, 1,600 articles and 800 journals in the fields of Indology, ecology and social sciences. "The Indology collection is deemed to be among the richest in south India," he said.