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First private library to go digital

Correspondent

NIC inks MoU with Abhinav Orissa Public Library

- NIC scientists developed software in three years
- Child corner to be set up at a cost of Rs 1.5 lakhs

CUTTACK: The National Informatics Center (NIC) signed an MoU with Abhinav Orissa Public Library (AOPL) at Abhinav Bidanasi in Cuttack recently and installed e-Granthalaya software for library automation here.

This NIC facility meant exclusively for government run libraries was installed for the first time in a private library in recognition to AOPL's contributions towards promoting the library movement in the State. Under the banner of a state level NGO, Abhinav Orissa, a few youths have set up the modern and round-the-clock open library and are supplying available information and data to the readers through electronic infrastructure facilities within minutes.

"e-Granthalaya, a digital agenda for library automation and networking would be an immense help to the readers as well as to the librarians because of its versatility in accessing the books, journals, newspaper clippings, article heads and web-based access to other connected libraries at the click of a mouse," says P.K. Mishra, secretary and chief project coordinator of AOPL. As per the MoU, the AOPL will get future software support and training of librarians to acclimatise themselves with the new facility. NIC authorities claimed that the software was developed in three years by a group of scientists under its library division.

New dimension

The software was installed in some prestigious libraries of the state like Ravenshaw Unitary University, SCB Medical College and Hospital and the Hare Krushna Mahatab State Library in Bhubaneswar, said Budhhadev Panda, State Deputy Director (library) under the Department of Culture. "This would give a new dimension to the modernisation of public libraries in the State," he said.

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- First private library to go digital

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Non-matching scheme

Meanwhile, the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), under the Union Ministry of Culture, also recognised the AOPL's effort to promote library movement and sanctioned a non-matching scheme for children to establish a children corner at a cost of Rs. 1.5 lakhs for building of infrastructure and purchase of children's books and other learning items, Mishra informed. RRRLF had also considered providing another Rs 60,000 as grant to AOPL for purchase of furniture and reading materials, he added.

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