

e-Libraries in Offing for Autonomous Colleges

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Bhubaneswar: Layers of dust spread all over and series of racks filled with outdated books flash through the mind at the very thought of a library in any Government college. This is soon going to be a thing of the past with the Government deciding to replace the outdated libraries with digitised ones.

The Department of Higher Education would automate libraries in 50 autonomous colleges of the State in the first phase. Work on this is scheduled to begin within three months and the college principals concerned have been asked to furnish details about the present condition of their libraries.

The department will use e-Granthalaya, a free library automation software created by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, for the purpose.

While NIC will implement the library automation work, the cost will be borne by the State Government.

The automation software will help in cataloguing. College libraries will be connected to a national network of libraries under NIC pur-



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view thus bringing the colleges closer to an online information hub.

In the digitised libraries, text books, reference books, journals, magazines, audio, videos, CD-ROMs, research reports, online databases, data analysis software in dif-

ferent areas and branches of all study disciplines will be made readily available for students at the click of a mouse.

Secretary of the department Gagan Dhal said in the first phase, 50 autonomous colleges will be covered.

An amount of ₹5 crore has been earmarked for the purpose and around ₹7 lakh to ₹10 lakh would be spent on each college. While the software is being provided free of cost to the libraries, money would be spent on entry of books in a digitised format and manpower training.

Vice-Chancellors of all State Government-run universities had in a recent report to Chancellor SC Jamir suggested for introducing an upgraded security system - Radio Frequency Identification Technology (RFID) - as a part of the library automation project in colleges. RFID, considered the latest software in library automation system, ensures that no book is sneaked off the library premises.

In the RFID technology, a library will have a digital library assistant to help locate books.

The Secretary said talks are on with the Chancellor and Government for implementation of RFID software.