Information & Cultural Affairs Department
Government of West Bengal

Memo no : ICA/NR/12/10 **Date: 03.08.2010**

Information about 65K Bengali books
of government libraries over the internet

Information about the books available in all district and government libraries in West Bengal is now a click away over the internet. Readers, researchers and students may have any information about Bengali books in Bengali language itself.

The implementation of West Bengal public library network service at the State Central Library under the management of mass education extension and library services department of the state government is near completion. After completion, the readers will be able to read rare books of different libraries under state control and sponsored libraries interested to come under this project and to get information about books available in all government and district libraries as well through internet. The number of books scanned to date is 10,922. Books uploaded so far is 8,500. The process is going on. Such facility is included to find specific information from a specific book.

The project of State Central Library to prepare a bibliographic database is over. There is a continuous update process. Readers interested in accessing such bibliographic information may proceed as soon as the internet connectivity is available. Information about 65K Bengali books will be available in Bengali. At present the database information is accessible only in the State Central Library Computer in web opac format and as web page through a browser in trial mode. It is noteworthy that such a huge database of Bengali books in Bengali is not currently available over the internet.

This apart, project related to community information services are in the formative stage. Most of this are visible as web page in a web browser locally. The work of preparing a bi-lingual (English and Bengali) format is also on the anvil.

In addition there will be brief introduction and contact information of all government, government-sponsored, centenary-crossed and other important libraries in the portal under discussion. Newsletters on library-related issues will be published there. A mail server will facilitate exchange of mails in Bengali. Other section will include forum, bulletin board, recent government publications etc. Catalogues of 26 libraries will be included. Solution of catalogue-related problems of libraries at different levels will also be available in this portal.

(News Report)