

CITY HUB – A BRIEF OUTLINE

The National Library has planned to convert the space at the Esplanade Reading Room, after it is vacated, into a CITY HUB.

In this City Hub, state of the art library services will be available to readers in microform and digital format.

The gross outline of the library services which the NL intends to provide at the City Hub is as follows:

1. Users will be allowed to consult microfilms of all old newspapers which have been microfilmed till date and which will be microfilmed henceforth;
2. All newspaper-digital-archives which are in the process of being procured/purchased by the NL will be made available to the users;
3. More than 20000 book which have already been digitized at the NL will be made accessible at the City Hub;
4. Some of the e-resources which are being subscribed to by the NL will be allowed to be consulted by users;
5. It will also have a professional setup for providing guidance and information to prospective users of the National Library

All this is in consonance with the idea of keeping a wing of the National Library present in the centre of the city of Kolkata.

In this respect the CPWD has already been instructed to submit estimates for renovation, face lifting and remodelling of the said space with modern appropriate fittings and the work will be taken up during FY 2013-2014 after shifting the Old Newspaper Collection to the Alipur Campus.

In order to seek guidance and technical expertise, Dr. A.R.D. Prasad, Professor and Head, Documentation Research & Training Centre (DRTC), Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore an institute at the forefront of research and development of libraries in the country, has been approached and taking keen interest in the issue, he has agreed to help develop the blueprint.