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DU libraries declared Y2K compliant

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Dhaka University Library Automation Project, the only computerised project in the University, has declared itself as totally compliant to the millennium bug.

The project has been working on the computerisation of cataloging system of the university libraries since 1997. It also provides Internet browsing facilities to the research and development fellows of the University.

Equipped with modern computer facilities, the automation project has debugged all its computer hardware and other systems all by its own efforts, informed the project director Dr. Fazlul Alam.

"We have gone through and thorough test run to be sure that our systems are totally Y2K compliant", said Dr. Alam adding, "we didn't have to spend any money since we had enough manpower to debug our system".

The project director further informed this correspondent that their entire system was not affected with the disastrous millennium bug. "A small portion of our hardware and some programmes were bugged and we've successfully overcome the problem", he added.

Had the millennium bug affected the project, the total catalogue, which is a gigantic one, would have been collapsed.

"The vendors who provide us with service related to the project have also cooperated with us in many ways", Dr. Alam said.

Apart from the University Computer Center, the Library Automation Project was the only computerised project in the university that remained vulnerable in terms of the millennium bug. But now this project also has become complaint to Y2K. The Computer Center already announced them compliant to the problem a few weeks back. Talking to this correspondent, the officials at the computer center told that they were well aware of the millennium bug and were acting accordingly. "We took all necessary measures to debug our machines and systems and have gone through test runs which indicated us a 'no problem' sign", they said.

The Dhaka University Library Automation Project is an important project providing computerised catalogue for use of the library users at different points, computerised issue and discharge system to the students, periodicals and journals listing, book ordering and receipt, Internet connection and on-line browsing and CD-ROM service for hefthy volumes and possible on-line subscription of major journals on the net.

The computerisation work of Dhaka University Library has created much interest, enthusiasm and expectations among the faculty members and the students as well. "But it hurts me when I see faculty members using the Internet facilities of the Library, provided free of charge for them, checking their e-mails in spite of using the facilities for research and development purpose", said the Project Director of the Dhaka University Library Automation Project Dr. Fazlul Alam.

The Project Director also informed this correspondent of some problems they had been facing cataloging the huge number of books and other periodicals in Bangla. "The problem that we are facing cataloging the Bangla Books is that Bangla Fonts don't have Alphabetisation", he said.

Earlier, the Dhaka University branch of Janata Bank declared themselves as Y2K compliant. The bank officials told this correspondent that all the computers of the bank having the transactional data are free from the millennium bug. "We don't have any risk regarding the millennial computer problem" said a senior official of the bank adding that there was no risk for the customers to have transaction with the bank.