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Iucaa meet to discuss info service in astronomy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

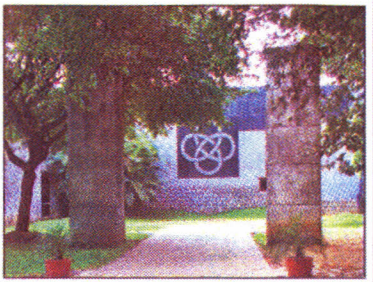
Pune: The 6th Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA) conference will be held in the city between February 14 and 17 at the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (Iucaa).

The conference is being organised by members of the Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (Forsa) libraries and is being co-hosted by Iucaa and NCRA, Pune. This is the first time that the LISA conference is being held in India.

The conference will be inaugurated on February 15 at 9 am at the Chandrasekhar auditorium. The theme of the conference is '21st century astronomy librarianship: From new ideas to action'. The conference will discuss issues concerning the future of librarianship; Web 2.0/3.0 use, access and metrics; resource management and intellectual property; preservation and archiving and the virtual observatory.

Close to 90 participants will be attending the conference out of which over 50 participants are from abroad and represent Argentina, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, UK and the USA.

LISA is held with the aim of providing a platform to discuss astronomy librarianship in respect of information management, storage, retrieval, delivery and preservation and



to discern new directions in which the library profession is evolving.

Over the last two decades, five conferences have been held covering a wide range of subjects including acquisition, organisation and maintenance of books, journals, pre-prints and other specialised materials both in print and electronic formats, use of information resources, astronomical information seeking on the internet/world wide web, bibliographic and full text astronomy databases, online astronomical catalogues, changes in libraries and librarians' tasks, astronomical data centres, conservation and archiving among others.

The Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy and Astrophysics was set up as in the early 1980s, due to proliferation of information, library professionals working in the institutes where astronomy was one of the main thrust areas of research, felt the need to come together and to form a forum which could act as a springboard for sharing and exchange of information.