

# 'e-Libraries around the corner'

## REPORTER

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**Pune:** "While the 'hard-copy' version may continue for some time, the virtual version (of the libraries) is round the corner and is bound to dominate in the future," said professor Jayant Narlikar in his keynote address to the delegates of the 6th Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA) conference. The conference was inaugurated at Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) on February 14. It will conclude on February 17.

This is the first time that the conference is being organised in India. The theme of the conference is '21st Century Astronomy Librarianship: From New Ideas to Action'. The meet will discuss

## THOSE PRESENT

■ Around 90 participants are taking part in the meet. They include over 50 participants from abroad, representing 18 countries.

issues concerning the future of librarianship, resource management and intellectual property, preservation and archiving and the virtual observatory.

In his keynote address, Prof. Narlikar talked about his experience as a long time user of the libraries across the globe and the challenges ahead in the 21st century. Talking about digitised literature, he mentioned how many universities benefited, when journals like 'Physics Re-

view' were made available in the electronic format, as the cost of the printed version of the same was prohibitively high. He said that it was the efforts of IUCAA Director Prof Ajit Kembhavi, that brought in this change for the Indian Universities. Prof Kembhavi formally inaugurated the conference.

The conference is being organised jointly by the members of the Forum for Resource Sharing in Astronomy (FORSA) libraries and co-hosted by IUCAA and the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA). Director NCRA Prof Rajaram Nityananda, in-charge of IUCAA library Nirupama Bawdekar; library incharge of NCRA Sunita Barve and Alberto Accomazzi from Astrophysical Data System, Cambridge, USA were present on the occasion.