ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE

SH/LIC/Database/2020-21 11.01.21

Submitted to the Director.

Sub: Payment for database subscription in foreign currency-reg.

Ref: Payment reminder received from M/s Proquest dtd 21.12.20

Respected Madam,

We have been subscribing to the COMDISDOME and LLBA databases since 2011. Usually, the price of the databases and journals will increase by 5-15% every year. However, we could manage to renew the COMDISDOME and LLBA databases' subscription without any price hike in the last four years, i.e., from 2016 to 2019. In 2020, M/s Proquest Inc., the Publisher of the databases, wanted to increase the price but was ready to maintain the current price if we make the payment in US dollars as the company is based in the USA and has no operating bank in the country.

A negotiation meeting was held under the aegis of our Purchase Section on 13.08.20 to reduce the price further. The Chairperson, Library Advisory Council, the Chief Adminsitartive Officer, the Chief Accounts Officer, I/c Purchase Section and the Library and Information Officer attended the meeting on behalf of the Institute. The Publisher did not agree to reduce the cost in the discussion but agreed to renew the databases for the same price for another two more years. Later, the Publisher raised an invoice for making payment, and the Accounts Section suggested some changes in it. However, when the Publisher revised the invoice and submitted it, the Section objected, saying that it should be in Indian rupees.

It may please be noted that the proforma invoice was in US dollars and in the negotiation meeting, the pricing was discussed in US dollars (The minutes were prepared accordingly). The initial original invoice was also in US dollars. The issue of raising the invoice in Indian Rupees did not come up during any of these times. Now, objecting to the payment in dollars without giving any valid reason will only help in ruining the reputation of the Institute. On the other hand, the Institute will be in gain if we make the payment in dollars. Also, purchasing equipment and other materials from abroad and making transactions in foreign currencies is a regular practice at the Institute..

Hence, the Accounts Section may kindly be instructed to make the payment at the earliest and avoid interruption in database access.

It is also brought to your kind attention that we could not complete the renewal of the MedOneComSi database in 2020 though the Purchase Section conducted a negotiation meeting initially with the Publisher and later with a vendor. Both COMDISDOME and MedOneComSi are unique databases related to communication disorders. While COMDISDOME is the only bibliographic database on communication disorders available in the world, the MedOneComSi is a full-text database with several e-books on audiology and speech published by M/s Thieme and three e-journals namely, *Seminars in Hearing*, *Seminars in Speech,* and *International Journal of Audiology*.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

Library and Information Officer