I on the behalf of the University of Health sciences, Lahore feel honored to welcome all the distinguished guests for "workshop on Digital Library".

I feel great pleasure that this digital library workshop is being held at UHS, in coordination with HEC, in-order to promote effective usage of the resources available through the Digital Library program and I appreciate the efforts of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in establishing the academic network among universities of Pakistan for the exchange of research databases, digital library and enhancement of academic excellence etc.

Just Imagine, that only One Internet connection can put you in direct contact with many of the larger libraries of the world. Introduction of new technologies necessitates the urgent requirement of training of medical students to carry out the tasks.

The idea of easy, finger-tip access to information is what we conceptualize as digital libraries today. This idea began with Vannenar Bush's Memex machine and has continued to evolve with each advance in Information technology. When computers were connected into large networks forming the internet, and research turned to creating libraries of digital information that could be accessed by anyone from anywhere in the world, Phrases like "virtual library", "electronic library" most recently, "digital library" became common." Digital library" is the most current and most widely accepted term and is now used almost exclusively in the literature.

One of the largest issues in creating digital libraries will be the building of digital collections. According to Clifford Lynch, a leading scholar in the area of digital library research,

One sometimes hears the Internet characterized as the world's library for the digital age. This description does not stand up under even casual examination. Digital libraries are collection of resources in the form of digital works, so that they are readily and economically available for use.

Copyright has been called the "single most vexing barrier to digital library development" as Digital objects are less fixed, easily copied and remotely accessible by multiple users simultaneously. This workshop will also educate us on the copyright issues.

Currently UHS is provided with full text access to the materials provided by the seven publishers under the HEC digital library program. But keeping in view the scope of the university and its focus on Postgraduate education, we also require the full text access to the following publishers;

1) JSTOR

2) SCIENCE DIRECT

3) NATURE PUBLISHING

4) AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY

5) AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

6) AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

This workshop is being held in the light of the vision of our Chairman BoG *Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ahmad Ch.* who has always cherished the goal of revolutionizing the research culture by sharing of knowledge and resources with the help of modern technologies.

The most modern IT facilities like PERN, digital library and video conferencing will be made available in all of UHS affiliated institutions through HEC funded projects worth 80million. After the establishment of the wireless network and Latest computer labs, the above mentioned facilities will be available to the students and faculty members of affiliated colleges /institutions in their own respective institutions and they can conduct online research and can share resources between them.

I am sure; all these efforts would go a long way towards establishing new standards of academic excellence at UHS, and its affiliated medical institutions.