

DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA: A PROPOSAL FOR OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Data and correspondence advancements have acquired critical changes all-round improvement of the general public through transmission of data. Data is the support for influence and riches and extremely significant for monetary and social improvement of the general public. In India, various advanced library activities and digitization programs have been started the nation over. A large portion of the computerized library activities are government supported. The Ministry of Communications and Information innovation has likewise settled the Digital Library of India. This paper examines different issues, difficulties and issues required in configuration and advancement of computerized libraries in India. The paper highlights the part of Distance Education Council (DEC) as an Apex body in co-ordinating Distance Education, Research and innovation move in India. One of the most prominent quality of Open Distance Learning (ODL) is its capacity to bridle the most recent correspondence advancements to come to the unreached and to decrease imbalances and react to socio, social and monetary connections of the learners and advance brilliance. It's methodology and system stand on three columns – importance, uniformity and magnificence. This paper proposes a Digital Library System for Open Universities in India.

KEY TERMS: Digital Libraries; Open Distance Learning

INTRODUCTION:

Data and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have acquired noteworthy changes all round advancement of the general public through transmission of data. Use of data innovation to Library and Information Science has given more extensive open doors in chronicling and getting to learning in the digitized frame other than protection and safeguarding of the conventional learning. Digitization of materials will give improved access to the electronic data sources and the clients can get to the advanced substance regardless of time and space limits. In India, advanced library activities were embraced at first with a perspective to safeguard the workmanship, society and legacy of the nation. Some unique libraries are likewise occupied with computerized library activities limitedly. Be that as it may, activities in scholarly libraries especially in the Open Separation Learning Libraries (ODL) are yet to wander into the digitization. In that capacity, this paper proposes to:

Study the advanced library activities embraced so far by the Government and other associations in India. Examine the difficulties and issues confronted in the advanced library activities, and propose an advanced library activity for the ODL foundations in India. As such, this paper proposes to:

- _Study the digital library initiatives undertaken so far by the Government and other organizations in India.
- _Examine the challenges and problems faced in the digital library initiatives, and
- _Propose a digital library initiative for the ODL institutions in India.

DIGITAL LIBRARIES INITIATIVE IN INDIA

Numerous huge libraries all through the world began digitizing their materials in mid 1990s. In 1992 Cornell University shaped the advanced access coalition to investigate the utilization of computerized symbolism which is presently taken up by the Cornell Institute of advanced gathering. Dispatched in 1992, the Yale University

Open Book Project has changed over its smaller scale taped volumes of nineteenth and twentieth century books into computerized position. The US Digital Library Initiative is financed by the National Science Foundation and was propelled in 1994. In UK a progression of advanced library activities were dispatched amid late 1990s. English library was one of the key players being developed and digitization activities in U.K. Open libraries in U.K framed a National Grid for Learning and get to be vital supplier of Electronic data. Among the advanced library activities of Open Universities, the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) Electronic library and U.K. Open University (UKOU) Library merit specifying. The Electronic library of OUHK gives access to electronic assets, electronic books and other reference material and can be utilized whenever, anyplace by its understudies, staff and workforce. The UKOU likewise gives access to its learners electronic assets by client name furthermore, secret key. It additionally gives connections to a few open access diaries and reference materials. Global Center for Distance Learning (ICDL) situated in the Open University's Institute of Instructive Technology likewise has digitized library which incorporates data on separation training organizations, courses and writing relating to separation learning. India is likewise not behind. Various activities are being taken-up, in India towards digitization. The idea of computerized libraries in India started in the mid 1990s with the spread of data innovation, the web and the backing of the Central Government. In 1996, this idea was perceived amid the Conference on Digital Libraries sorted out by the Society of Information Science at Bangalore. Despite the fact that a couple of libraries have made endeavours before in this bearing, the advanced library activity in India is still at maturing stage. Greater part of the Digital library activities were to a great extent restricted to constrained uses, for example, subscribing to e-diaries, examining archives and introducing them on the intranet. Be that as it may, there is each requirement for quick change in this situation of libraries in India to utilize the Information Innovation (IT) and ICTs which are limited so far to the prestigious National foundations such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), Indian Organizations of Science (IIS) Research Institutes under the control of NISSAT and some uncommon Libraries. Some administration organizations and establishments, generally in people in general segment are moreover occupied with digitization of their libraries in a constrained way. Notwithstanding, it is clear from the activities taken so far in this course the considerable capability of ICTs for creating computerized libraries has not yet been completely used. A portion of the imperative computerized library activities and programs started the nation over are inspected underneath

ARCHIVES OF INDIAN LABOUR

The Archives of Indian Labor was set up in July, 1998 as a synergistic venture of V.V. Giri National Labor Institute and the Association of Indian Labor Historians. The center exercises of the document are Digital Archiving, Research, Collection, Public Interface and Dissemination. It was founded so as to address the critical requirement for safeguarding of quickly rotting archives and material on work and to accommodate more noteworthy community to the same, as It was felt that archives and information on Indian Labor are as a rule hopelessly lost because of absence of a sorted out activity to protect these reports in the nation. The chronicle, aside from being a vault of reports likewise fabricates accumulations and starts research in the field of work history.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF INDIA

Digital Library of India (DLI) is the biggest national level digital library initiative in India. It is a part of the Universal Digital Library Project, envisaged by Carnegie Mellon University, USA, which has some other international partners such as China and Egypt. DLI is coordinated by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and is supported by Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India. The Mission is to create a portal for the Digital Library of India which will foster creativity and free access to all human knowledge. As a first step in realizing this mission, it is proposed to create the Digital Library of one million books, predominantly in Indian languages, available to everyone over the Internet. This portal will also become an aggregator of all the knowledge and digital content created by other digital library initiatives in India.

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF ART MASTERPIECES

HP Labs, (Hewlett Packard's) reported a pilot venture with the Center for Development of Propelled Computing (CDAC) to digitize part of the workmanship accumulation in the National Gallery of Present day Art (NGMA). NGMA arrangements to set up pictures of the canvases on the net, from which clients can arrange full-sized prints. The exhibition hall will make propagations on interest on Hp outline Jet printers and offer them. Likewise, the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) has taken up mixed media ventures for the digitization of conventional fine art and ancient rarities that will be made accessible on the web. The digitization of "Geet Govinda," an essential exemplary of Indian writing, is one of their fruitful endeavours.

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

The National Library of India has started in late 1990s a digitization program, known as 'Down the Memory Lane', to digitize uncommon books, original copies and different assets from its accumulation. The English books that were distributed preceding 1900 and Indian books distributed before 1920 were mulled over. Additionally, the Central Secretariat Library has started a project to digitize government productions like, Gazette of India, Commission and Committee Reports, Annual Reports of the Ministries.

INDIAN NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has set-up the Indian National Digital Library in Engineering Sciences and Technology (INDEST) Consortium on the suggestion made by the Expert Group. INDEST Consortium is the most aggressive activity taken up so far in the nation. It invites different organizations to join and offers exceptionally reduced rates of membership and better terms of concurrence with the distributors. INDEST Consortium in the blink of an eye incorporate ACM Digital Library, ASCE Journals, ASME Journals, Capitaline, Euromonitor (GMID), IEL Online, Indian Standards, Nature, ProQuest Science, Sciencedirect, Springerlink and bibliographic databases of Compendex, Inspec and MathSciNet.

PROBLEMS RELATED WITH DIGITAL LIBRARIES – POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

The digitization initiatives in India are encountered with the problems of lack of technical infrastructure, trained manpower, finances and policy initiatives. Some of the problems are:- a) Lack of clear cut policy at National level with main focus on sustainability b) Outdated software and hardware and difficulty in upgrading the same. c) Non-availability of cost effective new technological advancement. d) Lack of multiple Indian language OCR facilities. e) Non-standard technical activities, data description and transmission characteristics. f) Non-availability of well-trained skilled personnel. g) Lack of management support h) Lack of proper preservation policy i) No Intellectual Property Rights policy for content development of digital information. j) Rigidity in the publishers' policies and data formats The above factors affect the success of digitization initiatives and the creation of digital libraries. These problems have to be addressed positively to ensure planned digital resource development programmes and digital libraries in the country. In order to achieve it, the following factors may be taken into consideration.

DISTANCE EDUCATION IN INDIA

So as to meet the developing requirement for instructive get to and to accomplish the objective of democratization of instruction, conveying training to the compass of unreached, substitute frameworks of instruction have been created over the globe. Separation or Open Learning has advanced as another framework making instruction more available to the learner at reasonable taken a toll. Today, over the world, the idea of ODL has picked up force and is perceived as a worthy medium for granting instruction. The progressive changes in electronic media and ICTs added to further advancement of the framework and cleared approach to sight and sound direction utilizing e-materials, Radio, Audio-visual strategies, remotely coordinating, PC conferencing and broad utilization of web. In India, the University of Delhi was the first to present separation learning programs in 1962 through its correspondence courses. Before long it was trailed by a few different colleges. The main Open University was built up in 1982 in the nation. The Open University and separation training foundations are presently in a position to take care of the demand for instruction. India has an immeasurable system of separation instruction organizations, with around 106 double mode establishments also, 14 single mode Open Universities, (Refer Annexure – II for rundown of Open Universities in India). The Distance Education Council (DEC) is in charge of advancement of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) framework and for coordination and upkeep of guidelines in separation instruction in the nation. In compatibility of these goals, DEC has taken various activities for giving backing to State Open Universities (SOUs) and other Correspondence Course Institutes (CCIs) of traditional colleges. The Council develops specialized and money related backing for improvement of framework, institutional changes, proficient advancement and preparing, understudy bolster administrations, computerization and systems administration for change of nature of instruction. With the late activities of the DEC, around 40 customary colleges have built up new Distance Education Institutions (DEIs). The number of double mode colleges in the nation now is 106.

DIGITAL LIBRARY – A PROPOSAL FOR ODL

Distance Learners' qualities are not the same as understudies in the customary colleges. They are by and large grown-ups, utilized and have family obligations. Their inspiration levels are by and large high and will assume liability for their own training. For the most part they are self-coordinated and think about on autonomous

premise. They pick an assortment of routes for learning furthermore, take control over their learning. They are predominantly compelled by the issues of access furthermore, recovery of the required data from libraries. The issues as depicted by Angel what's more, Budnick (1986) and Cooper and others (1998) are The primary Open University was set up in 1982 in the nation. The Open University and separation instruction establishments are presently in a position to take care of the demand for training. India has a limitless system of separation training establishments, with around 106 double mode organizations what's more, 14 single mode Open Universities, Universities in The Distance Education Council (DEC) is in charge of advancement of the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) framework and for coordination and upkeep of gauges in separation instruction in the nation. In compatibility of these destinations, DEC has taken various activities for giving backing to State Open Universities (SOUs) and other Correspondence Course Institutes (CCIs) of traditional colleges. The Council expands specialized and money related backing for advancement of foundation, institutional changes, proficient improvement and preparing, understudy bolster administrations, computerization and systems administration for change of nature of instruction. With the late activities of the DEC, around 40 customary colleges have built up new Distance Education Institutions (DEIs). The number of double mode colleges in the nation now is 106.

- a) The distance learning institution may not offer library services to the learners.
- b) Learners have reluctance to travel long distances to use the library
- c) Lack of information literacy skills.
- d) Lack of knowledge in using libraries or using electronic information sources.
- e) Reluctance to approach the librarian and library staff members for help in retrieving the information.

Digitised library gives a response to the vast majority of the data access issues of the distant learners. Today, ODL establishments bring training at the doorsteps of the learners through systems. The Internet likewise assumes a fundamental part in going about as a capable device to the learners. Digitization of academic materials is one of the numerous activities attempted by organizations over the globe, which encourages wide get to and accessibility of such materials. The ODL establishments can start a consortium that will arrange, co-ordinate and actualize a national level computerized library for the advantage of separation learners. Every individual part establishment of the consortium ought to share its learning assets. Thusly, an extensive variety of gathering of learning materials can be produced. This ought to be made accessible to the learners and open through the Intranet and the Internet. A computerized rights administration framework can be interlinked with the computerized library to address the copyrights and other related issues. Duplicate right laws are extremely old in India and should be corrected keeping in perspective of the digitization. In the proposed consortium approach all the taking an interest open colleges ought to go to an accord on the duplicate right issues to advance open access activity. India has one Open University at the national level and 13 State Open Universities advertising courses just in separation mode. These colleges have libraries to meet the data necessities of their learners. Every one of these colleges subscribe to a few high esteem diaries with generous duplication. Moreover, they distribute bulletins, yearly reports, proposal, course materials, old inquiry papers and so forth., which are vital assets for the learners. The duplication of assets can be maintained a strategic distance from, if a nodal organization is shaped under the aegis of Distance Education Council. This nodal organization will make vital base to system the digitized assets of the considerable number of colleges and support the entrance of the high esteemed electronic diaries and different assets

CONCLUSION

As such, the Indian advanced library activities are for the most part seen as scholastic and exploration arranged. In spite of the fact that some valuable asset material, for example, land records, cartographs, strategy reports, lawful judgments, parliamentary discourses and so forth., are being made accessible, they are not on extensive scale. The vast majority of these activities are done in disengagement with no coordination with other comparative foundations. It can likewise be seen that large portions of the activities are one time ventures with a constrained stipend, frequently with no legitimate making arrangements for coherence. Imperative issues, for example, venture destinations, conservation techniques, content choice, coordination with other comparative activities, access system, manageability and cost component are not tended to. None of the current computerized library ventures meet the particular needs of the ODL clients. With the blasting of the Indian economy, and an expanding gifted work constrain, the requirement for proceeding instruction projects is always expanding. The number of inhabitants in India has crossed the one billion imprint and ODL is assuming an exceptionally critical part in teaching the masses. It is normal that the proposed consortium of ODL computerized libraries would go far in making the Indian workforce the best of its kind on the world.

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