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Dear Friends

The eight Quarterly Seminar on "Using Open Access Resources for Professional Development" was organised jointly by ADINET and Resource Center - DAIICT in the month of February 2013. A Report of this Seminar is covered in this newsletter.

A write up of the Importance of OSCW in Libraries is also included. There are thousands of OSCWs. Web 2.0 has given us a very large number of audio and video courses. It is all free, educative and also enriching. But it is also scattered across the web and may not be easy to find. Our task is to locate these courses subject wise, collate them, and provide access to this high quality content whenever required by our users.

In the March 4, 2013 issue of THE HINDU an article on Education Online (A-VIEW) was published. A-VIEW (Amrita Virtual Interactive e-Learning World) will soon connect 20,000 colleges across the country. It has been developed under the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. A-VIEW has already been installed at more than 450 universities and 2,000 colleges across the country.

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CURRENT TRENDS IN LIBRARIES**SERIES 8****Using Open Access Resources for Professional Development**

The Quarterly Seminar on "Using Open Access Resources for Professional Development" was jointly organized by Ahmedabad Library Network (ADINET) & Resource Centre DA-IICT on 16th February 2013 at DA-IICT, Gandhinagar.

Over 67 professionals attended the Seminar. As usual maintaining the trend of ADINET, the seminar started with a prayer recited by Ms. Swadha Majumdar, Former Librarian, NID & Ms. Hema Rawal, Asst. Librarian, EDI. After registration and high tea, Mr. Satish Deshpande Head, Resource Centre, DA-IICT welcomed participants and introduced Prof. Laxminarayana Pillutla a Faculty member of DA-IICT & Registrar Mr. Soman Nair who were present at the seminar. In his opening remarks Mr. Deshpande mentioned the purpose of the seminar and gave a brief introduction of the programme, as well as information regarding DA-IICT Resource Centre. He emphasized on the relevance of using open access resource in current scenario, how it could be important in professional development and talked about today's changing role of the librarian & the library profession.

Mr. Soman Nair, DA-IICT Registrar welcomed all the participants. He shared his working experience with three major institutions in which he had worked earlier and spoke about the important contributions made by the libraries of these institutions. He added that libraries and librarians play a crucial role in guiding students.

During his keynote address, on "Library as a space to nurture inquisitive minds – role of the librarians" – Prof. Laxminarayana, Faculty, DA-IICT, acknowledged the significant role of libraries and librarian in the society. In the earlier days, according to him libraries were for quiet & calm reading. Today libraries are still very important in the days of internet & web connectivity. He emphasized the role of librarians for nurturing and catering to the needs of users. Further he shared his experience, during his stay at Canada where he found that both the main university library and department libraries, could be used by both the university students and was also accessible to outsiders. He felt that this trend could be adopted in our universities also.

The first Technical session started with the presentation from Ms. Rupam Sikligar, Librarian – Gandhinagar Institute of Technology. In her presentation she covered the basic concept of courseware. She highlighted the difference between traditional learning vs e-learning; She explained the importance of e-courseware. Further, in her presentation she discussed NPTEL (National Programme of Technology Enhanced Learning) funded by MHRD. She also gave brief introduction of Eklavya Project by IIT Bombay, E-gyankosh by IGNOU, CEC-LOR (Consortium for Educational Communication), Learning Object Repository (LOR) by UGC, ALVCOM (Active Learning Video) by Gujarat Technological University, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Open Courseware by MIT, MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) by California State University Center for Distributed Learning, Tufts Open Courseware, Utah State Open Course Ware, Notre Dame OCW etc. Finally, she listed some of the softwares like Moodle, Dspace, Eprints, Greenstone etc. She also briefly mentioned about Creative Commons – the non –profit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge free legal tools. It works alongside copyright and enables one to modify copyright terms. It's not an alternative to copyright.

The last technical presentation was on "Need & Importance of E-learning" by Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, Hon. Director, ADINET. Introducing the topic and its importance she explained the relevance of Open Courseware in current scenario,



Participants at DA-IICT Seminar

and how Open Courseware plays a crucial role in libraries. In her presentation she gave the importance of using OSCW to provide information services to the library users. She discussed various E-Learning techniques and also listed most of the OSCW initiatives listed above.

Further she highlighted the Web 2.0 concept which is a trend in the use of World Wide Web technology and web design that aims to facilitate creativity, information sharing, and, most notably, collaboration among users. These concepts have led to the development and evolution of web-based communities and hosted services, such as social-networking sites, wikis, blogs etc.

She stated that according to Guild Research Report 2005 - People acquire new knowledge and/or skills through both formal education and training programs and informal learning situations.

48% - Through informal learning

29% - By performing the knowledge or skills in/on-the-job situations

23% - Through formal education programmes

She also listed some of the benefits of OSCW. It advances knowledge by unlocking information for the benefit of all, provides open access to high-quality educational content to educators and learners for whom the material can make the most difference.

In the end Mr. Despande thanked all the participants. This was followed by a tour of the DA-IICT, Resource Centre, where the participants got a chance to see the various resources available in the library and the useful services provided by the library.

Reported by Sarita R. Ranga, Librarian, SPIESR

IMPORTANCE OF OSCW IN

LIBRARIES

Electronic Learning or e-learning is a general term used to refer to a form of learning in which the instructor and student are separated by space or time, where the gap between the two is bridged through the use of online technologies – Wikipedia. In general we can say that the instructional content or learning experience is supported, delivered or enabled by electronic technology and networks.

Owing to advances in technology, learners now have access to the internet, which supports interactive communication & provides access to powerful learning opportunities anytime and anywhere, even outside classrooms. Also there is so much to learn, that schools and colleges cannot cover all the knowledge necessary for life today. Again what is learnt today may become obsolete after a few years. Even at the work place, workers have to continuously improve their knowledge, skills and productivity. The home has also become a learning place, where powerful learning opportunities are available. Libraries are also becoming virtual classrooms since both online exams and even interviews are conducted.

In order to enable and promote e-learning, course material is required. In the year 1999 MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Faculty considered how to use the internet in pursuit of MIT's mission which is to advance knowledge and to educate students. In the year 2000 they proposed Open Courseware (OCW). In April 2001 former president of MIT, Charles Vest officially introduced this concept of OCW. In a press conference he had said, "simply put OCW is a natural marriage of American higher education and the capabilities of www." In November 2007, MIT completed the initial publication of virtually the entire curriculum, over 1800 courses in 33 academic disciplines. These courses are being updated by adding new content and services. At present there are more than 2000 courses, which have been used by 100 million students. Also more than half the professors use OCW. These courses have now spread to over 120 universities worldwide.

There is a large number of Open Source Coursewares (OSCW). OSCW can be defined as free and open digital publication of high quality educational material organised as courses and provided to the public without charge via the internet. OSCW has become possible by a collaboration of higher educational institutions and organisations worldwide. They have created a

broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model. Some of the Open Education Resources can be revised, remixed and redistributed.

One such OSCW is OpenCulture (www.openculture.com) It contains 700 free online courses from top universities. OpenCulture was founded in 2006. It contains the best free and cultural media on the web. It brings, together high quality cultural and educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community.

Some of its contents are:

Free Online Training Courses

Free Certificate Courses

Free Audio books and also e-books

Great Science Videos

Free Language Lessons

The Harvard Classics and many more

Dan Coleman, the lead editor is the Director and Associate Dean of Stanford's Continuing, studies program. He together with six other members are behind Open Culture.

e-Learning for Kids (e-learningforkids.org) is a global non profit foundation dedicated to free and fun online learning for kids of all ages.

There are also several Indian initiatives. A major one is the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). It provides e-learning through online web & video courses in Engineering, Science & Humanities Streams. The mission of NPTEL is to enhance the quality of Engineering education by providing free online courseware. It is a joint initiative of the IITs & IISc.

In the 1st phase 260 courses are available Each course contains 40+ Lecture hours. Thousand plus courses are proposed in the 2nd phase. Teachers, students, industry, institutions, individuals and even professionals, benefit by using NPTEL.

UGC's Consortium for Educational Communication is an inter university centre on electronic media. It has been established with the goal of addressing the needs of Higher Education through the use of powerful medium of Television along with the appropriate use of ICT.

Sakshat has been designed and developed by IGNOU for the Ministry of HRD. It offers e-books, e-journals, Digital Repository, Scholarship, Audio /Video Library, Reference Material and Virtual Class.

Several universities have also developed courseware. The (VTU) Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belgaum uses the power

of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL). TEL has the goal to provide socio-technical innovations, also improve efficiency and cost effectiveness for e-learning practises, independent of time, place and pace. The VTU e-Learning Centre has been spear heading the cause of e-learning in a big way and is gaining momentum in the country.

There are also some OCW-India Corporate Education Initiatives.

Shiksha India (www.shikshaindia.org)

Cisco Networking Academy

Inter Computer Clubhouse

(www.computerclubhouse.org)

Hole-in-the-Wall (www.hole-in-wall.com)

It breaks the traditional confines of a school and takes the Learning Station to the playground for children in underprivileged communities.

There is also an Open Courseware Consortium. It is a worldwide community of hundreds of higher education institutions and associated organisations committed to advancing Open Courseware and its impact on global education. OCW Consortium members have published material from more than 13,000 courses in 20 languages.

Open CourseWare Finder has also been developed. It provides a search interface to retrieve the open coursewares. The courses can also be browsed through the keywords provided in the first column. Subdivisions of which are presented in the subsequent column. It is indeed a Great Tool to find Open Course ware. "Gurus are in short supply the world over. Technology can make great teachers available to thousands of students" Uday Singh Exec. V. P & Head NIIT.

Benefits of Open Source Courseware are truly enormous and too many to enumerate. For Library and Information Science professionals, OSCW is a real boon, both for their professional growth and also for their clientele. Scores of sites provide open course LIS material. This can be used for their continuing professional development, for learning new managerial and entrepreneurial skills and techniques, for developing and marketing new information products and services.

With the help of Open CourseWare Finder, LIS personnel need to identify and document the existing OSCW initiatives as per the needs of their users.

Live Good Life by Choice, Not Chance Self and Life Improvement Book

By M. R. Joshipura
Management Consultant

Recommended by GranthalayaNiyamak, Govt. of Gujarat for Public Libraries, under their letter dated 4th March 2013

Written in simple English and printed on most modern machinery, this reader friendly comprehensive book is first of its kind book by Ahmedabad based Indian author (Gujarati) to **improve self and life in totality**

Highlights of the Book

- ❖ Comprehensive, Rational, Simple, Reader Friendly, Practical
- ❖ Learn Art and Science of Managing Self and Life
- ❖ Develop Physical Health, Positive Mind, Positive Emotions, Positive Personality
- ❖ Improve Intelligence, Personal Qualities, Abilities and Practical Life Skills
- ❖ Make Wise Choices in Life, Work Effectively, Earn More Money and Manage Money
- ❖ Build Enjoyable Relations with Spouse, Family, Friends and Healthy Relationships at Work
- ❖ Be your own Guru and Live Good and Happy Life

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