ICDL 2013 Comes to a Promising End

The journey which began on 27 November 2013 came to a promising end on the 29th. ICDL 2013 will be remembered for further strengthening the digitization movement in the country and institutionalizing several key concepts. The conference concluded with a Valedictory Session, where the special guest was Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati. Dr Shantanu Ganguly, Organizing Secretary, ICDL, presenting a Conference Report during the Valedictory session, stated that the conference was held in partnership with the Government of India, non-government agencies, academic and research organizations, and societies and associations of library and information science professionals. Spread over three days, the ICDL included 6 pre-conference tutorials, 23 technical sessions, a plenary session, 24 invited talks, 40 paper presentations, 9 thematic workshops-cum-panel discussions, a cultural programme, a poster session, 15 product presentations by leading companies, and a daily bulletin/newsletter.

The conference witnessed much brainstorming and many informative sessions, involving a large number of eminent people, well-known library luminaries, scholars, computer scientists, activists, and practitioners. The pre-conference tutorials included hands-on training on contemporary topics such as 'Introduction to Data Mining with Weka,' 'Imagine! Information Retrieval from the WWW by images,' 'Content-based Image Retrieval: Concepts, Challenges,' 'Research Opportunities, Ontological Engineering, Using XML and TEI to Produce Digital Books for Digital Libraries,' and 'Open Data Repositories and Linked Data,' conducted by globally renowned experts.

Dr V Srinivas, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, addressed the session and enlightened the audience about the various proposed activities of the National Mission on Libraries and thanked the organizers for organizing such an event. Mr Jawhar Sircar, the chief guest for the evening, shared his views on issues such as preservation of digital content, especially audio and visual material. He also raised some concerns about the faulty way in which manuscripts are being preserved by some Indian organizations. He advocated the need for a proper protocol to be followed in the process of digitization, and also focussed on the issues of access to such information for common citizens. The winners of the 'Best Paper' and 'Best Poster' awards were also announced during the session.

Some of the following recommendations were announced at the end of the conference:

- The conference recommends that digital libraries be integrated on a national platform and developed as a dynamic and interactive knowledge resource on the internet.
- Depositor of Books, Periodicals, and E-publications Act should be suitably amended or, if necessary, a new legislation for legal deposit of digital publications should be introduced.
- For ensuring smooth development of digital libraries, the conference recommends that the national government and its agencies should support funding for digital library programmes.
- To assess the status of development in all areas of digital library technologies — information infrastructure, digital technology applications, digital library research, and standards and practices followed, as well as mapping the competency level of library staff in managing digital technologies — a survey may be undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, National Mission on Libraries, and Department of Information Technology.
- Capacity-and capability-building through public and private sector partnership.
- Harnessing digital library technologies for e-learning and open and distance learning.
- Using open access, open source software, open standards for content creation and access.
- New models of teaching should be introduced such as e-learning, virtual classrooms, and virtual reality, to harness the potential of institution and community-based digital libraries in information literacy.
- Collaboration on an international scale with appropriate partners including the European Union Digital Library Learning Programme (DLL), the international iSchool Group, and IFLA (Section on Education and Training; Section on Digital Libraries; Advancement in Librarianship Programme) in order to address skill-building needs.
- Planning a national digital literacy programme in collaboration with IFLA and UNESCO (e.g., India is planning such a programme)
- Developing guidelines for interoperability and sustainability of digital libraries.
- Planning a programme for integration of libraries and library schools in developing course material for digital libraries, and giving librarians teaching roles in digital library science.

ICDL recommends the use of and support for research on multilingual technologies to address a key problem of the digital divide.
Session 5A: Data Curation and Access Management

The session was chaired by Dr Jose Borbinha. The first invited speaker, Dr Yan Quan Liu, spoke on “Data Curation, its Education in ILS Schools.” He then talked about his research study on the curriculum and courses offered by ILS schools in North America to understand the focus on data curation. The results obtained from the study were also highlighted by him.

Further Dr Borbinha added that Information and Library Science programmes should address digital data curation as a component of their curricula for information professionals and librarians. The next speaker, Dr Debal C Kar, delivered a lecture on “Digital Library of India: An initiative by the Indian government for the preservation and dissemination of the national heritage.” He discussed about the vision, mission, and goals of the DLI project. He also briefly talked about the history and the contents of the project and highlighted the usage statistics, its benefits and the challenges faced and the future plan of DLI.

There were three contributed papers in this session. Dr Satish Kumar presented a paper on “Digital Preservation of Electronic Resources: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities.” He gave an overview of the major issues in digital preservation, highlighting current research and standard efforts. He discussed the aspects involved in the digital preservation and discussed some of the techniques required for digital preservation and gave a bird’s eye view of various projects initiated for archiving digital content of scholarly journals. The second paper was presented by Humma Ahangar on “Culture Lost and Culture Regained: Healing the wounds of cultural heritage using digital technology, initiatives in a conflict zone, Kashmir.” She talked about the digital initiatives showcasing the cultural heritage initiatives that took place in the Kashmir valley. She even highlighted various facets of the Kashmiri tradition and culture and how it can be prioritized via various elements of the society. The last paper was presented by Dr Nabi Hassan on “Digital Preservation of Information Resources in Academic Libraries in Nigeria.” He described the status of digital preservation of information resources in academic libraries, its benefit, challenges, and prospects from the Nigerian perspective.

Session 5B: Knowledge Management and Best Practices - I

This session was chaired by Prof. J K Mitra and began with a presentation by the invited speaker, Prof. Michael Seadle. Prof. Seadle’s paper was titled, ‘Inventing Knowledge: From Databases to Semantic Web’. The presentation was very informative and he concluded by asking to what degree can humans accept machines not merely beating them at games, but outthinking them in other realms of knowledge? The next presentation was shared by authors Dr P K Bhattaracharya and Dr S Ganguly. The paper titled ‘Knowledge Management Strategic Initiative’ looked into knowledge management of a few leading organizations, including TERI.

Session 5C: Information Storage and Retrieval

This session was chaired by Dr H K Kaul. In his opening remarks, he stressed on the importance of resource sharing and information discovery system. Speaker Prof. Paul Nieuwenhuyzen, who comes with an experience of 20 years in the field of information landscape such as Federated searching and Merging databases talked about UniCat (Union Catalogue of Scientific Libraries). He also talked about the difference of a Google scholar and a commercial discovery system.

Ms Priya Rai, who presented a paper, spoke about her study on “Comparative Analysis of Commercial Databases and Public Domain Resources” in the context of content, accuracy, clarity, reliability and costing, and concluded that all information needs to be filtered by knowledge professionals. Huma Shafiq, a student from Kashmir University, explained about the Europaena Digital Manifestation and proposed the idea of implementing this model in other countries as well.

Session 6A: Open Access Initiatives

The session on Open Access Initiatives was chaired by Dr Phet Sayo. The first invited speaker, Dr Denise Troll Covey, delivered a lecture on ‘Support for Self-Archiving: Laudatory or Predatory?’ In this, she explained about data and discourse to better understand publisher perspectives on self-archiving, and based on this understanding, urged action from open access advocates. The second presentation titled ‘Open Access Is Gaining Momentum: Now on It Is Only Looking Forward’ was delivered by Dr Subbiah Arunachalam. He talked about the concept of Open Access, as well as the access and visibility of publications. He stated that Indian scientists are facing information poverty. Dr Subbiah spoke about the rising momentum of Open Access and gave suggestions for the future. There were two contributed papers in this session. Dr Madan Lal Jat, presented the first paper, ‘Use of E-Journal on Health Sciences: Ophthalmology through Directory Open Access Journal: A Study’. He discussed and presented the results of his study on full text online journals which he had carried out through DOAJ. The Health Science-Ophthalmology field.

Session 6B: Knowledge Management and Best Practices - II

Chaired by Mr B P Prakash, this session took off with a presentation by the invited speaker Melissa Shaffer. The title of her paper was ‘Baker 3.0: Building the 21st Century Digital Library through Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships’. Sharing her experiences at the Baker Library, she explained that though a strategic shift is familiar to everyone, the exercise of understanding and articulating what these shifts are help us to formulate our strategic plan. This helps us know where we should focus our efforts and resources. She also shared few of her projects on which her library team is working on.

This was followed by a few contributed papers, such as ‘Discovery and Delivery in Digital Library Era: Looking Back 10 Years and Shaping New Frontiers Web Scale Discovery’, ‘Development of Usability Assessment Tool for Library Website Evaluation’, ‘Quality Management System at BraHMos Aerospace Knowledge Centre: An Effective Approach’, and ‘Patent Information System in Digital Era: A Recent Trend’.

Session 6C: Semantic Web

The session was chaired by Alberto H F Laender. Invited speaker, Ian Witten, spoke about the Wikification of Semantic document representation such as selection of data, Indexing clustering and other techniques which need to be efficiently planned and applied.

The other invited speaker, K Srinivas, spoke in detail about the Semantic Web and Information Retrieval Semantic search engine architecture model which works fairly easy in retrieving and accessing information more efficiently.

The last contributed paper was presented by Abhijit Dasgupta, on ‘Ontological Semantic Approach towards the Diseases of Blood, Heart and Circulation’. He proposed the model using semantic web technology.

Session 7A: Digital Research Libraries

Chaired by Dr Uma Kanjilal, this session had its first presentation by Dr Frédéric Blin, titled, ‘Cultural Heritage, Scientific Knowledge, Public Information: Digital Libraries and Identity’. Starting with the National and University Library of Strasbourg, he presented his vision for 2020 — more integration of
Interdisciplinary Research Network “COLLNET”.

Talk on ‘Genesis and Development of the Global

Invited speaker, Hildrun Kretschmer, delivered the

This last session was chaired by Michele Reilly.

Warehousing and Mining

Session 7C: Integration of Data

by a number of participants.

were five contributed papers presented in the session

important for the seller but also for consumers. There

his presentation by saying that marketing is not only

practices followed in other libraries. He concluded

convince people of the need for libraries, rather it is

digital libraries and best practices from the University

of the new services that libraries can offer on mobile

dissemination of AV resources.

national standards and national policy for better

AV contents. There was consensus of developing

they encountered during digital archiving of analog

views on practical aspects such as technical difficulties

in handling AV archives and their approaches to

All India Radio, respectively, shared their experiences

Chandra, and Dr K Vageesh from Doordarshan and

Jadavpur University, Kolkata highlighted the

Gupta, Director, School of Cultural Texts and Records,

The moderator of the workshop Dr Amlan Das

Workshop5: Audio-Visual Archives:

The moderator of the workshop Dr Amlan Das

Gupta, Director, School of Cultural Texts and Records,

Dr Sandhu in her presentation titled ‘Digital Library

invited speakers Dr Gurdish Sandhu and Dr D K Gupta.

of the Global Interdisciplinary Research Network “COLLNET”.

She emphasized on the need for national and international collaboration in the field of science and technology.

Contributed speaker, B P Singh, proposed the model of aODLMS and briefed about its benefits. Nabi Hasan presented the ‘Scientometrics Analysis of Digital Library Literature’. He observed that the trend of Digital Library Literature has been found to be decreasing.

Mr Surinder Kumar presented the Middleware Program for uploading of metadata from DSpace.

Workshop6: National Virtual Library in

The workshop was chaired by Prof. Deepak Pental, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi. Prof. Pental gave a brief introduction on virtual libraries and how the world is becoming virtually connected, cutting across nationalities. Dr H K Kaul gave a presentation on ‘National Virtual Library: Global and New Initiatives’. Dr Kaul gave his perspective on what is happening around the world and what is ahead of us at hand. He gave an overview of the different initiatives of virtual library across the globe starting with ‘National Virtual Library Bulgaria’, which gives access to a variety of special collections, digital resources, catalogues and offers services to readers, publishers besides professional services. Dr Kaul further gave the reference of US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Virtual Library, which links to all full textbooks, pamphlets, newspapers, and historical documents. Prof. A R D Prasad gave a presentation on ‘National Virtual Library of India (NVLI)’. He started his presentation with a remark that the scenario of public libraries in India are in a pathetic condition. He gave his perspective on the vision and future goals of National Virtual Library of India and how it can bring a transformation in our society. He stated that without the participation of public libraries in providing content and disseminating information NVLI would be a mere website, which only a few of the literate section could access. The Workshop was followed by very fruitful interactions between the speakers and the participants.

Workshop 9: Technology for Libraries: Highest Technology and Best Features, Yet Affordable and Future-Proof

The workshop was chaired by Dr M Madhusudan, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science and DeputyDean Academics, University of Delhi. The workshop explored and explained different issues of installation and customization of KOHA software. KOHA is an open source integrated library management software featuring different functionalities of library automation. The speaker of this workshop Mr Sudhir Gandotra highlighted silent features of the KOHA software and he also gave a technological comparison of KOHA with the proprietary software available in India. This workshop attracted questions from the practicing librarians who use the KOHA software or are planning to use it. He also introduced commercially available customer support services in India through OpenLX Technologies and other solution providers.

Dr Madhusudan excellently handled questions from the audience and rephrased some of the questions for easy understanding and the speaker cleared many doubts of the audience.
**WINNERS AT ICDL 2013**

**Best Paper**
- **First Prize**
  - Dr Zahid Ashraf Wani and Tariq Shafi
  - Citation analysis in open access world: A case study of health science open access repositories

- **Second Prize**
  - Hasina Afroz
  - Moving towards the next-generation library: BRAC University experience

- **Best Poster**
  - **First Prize**
    - Nadim Akhtar Khan
    - Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, India

  - **Second Prize**
    - Sarwesh Pareek
    - Librarian, BVB Vidyashram, Jaipur, India

  - **Third Prize**
    - Vrinda J Benegal
    - Digital Repository of Raman Research Institute Library, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore

**FACE TO FACE WITH EXHIBITORS**

Ganesh Venkatraman, Marketing Manager, Emerald, observed that the major purpose of the exhibition was to establish a relationship with the library community, branding of the products, and conducting a demonstration of the services.

Biraj Valia, Beegees Computers Pvt. Ltd stated that ICDL is an ideal platform to interact with senior library professionals.

Joost van der Willik, Managing Director, NEDAP FZE, Middle East, shared his views, saying that ICDL has helped educate the market about RFID and other emerging technologies.

Han Jit Kwang, Elsevier, appreciated the ICDL initiatives and was proud to be a part of the Conference as an exhibitor.

**DELEGATE SPEAK**

Ms Dilara Begum, Librarian, East West University, Bangladesh, shared her experience with the ICDL team and said the conference has been a fruitful experience for her. She provided an overview of the status of digital libraries in Bangladesh — which are at a nascent stage.

**MESSAGE FOR DELEGATES**

“Digital libraries can play a vital role in helping librarians to tailor information according to the needs of each user. This should be the major goal of libraries in order to contribute towards the development of the knowledge society in the country.”

Dr H K Kaul, Director, Developing Library Network (DELNET)