

# International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2010)

## Shaping the Information Paradigm

23–26 February 2010 • New Delhi

<http://teriin.org/events/icdl/>

### Multilinguality in DL Development binds the participants in the breakfast session

The day started with the breakfast session, 'Multilingual contents impose barriers to DL development'. The speakers discussed translation issues and problems on multilingual diversity of their respective countries. They also narrated the learned experience during their work

on machine language translation and natural language processing, etc. The group recommended the use of natural language processing techniques (NLP) for translation purpose and other latest technologies like twitter to preserve the spoken language document.



### Democracy, the way of digital libraries

Jens Thorague, the first keynote speaker of the day spoke on digital libraries for all: a discussion for strategic development. He observed that the scenario today is quite encouraging with the establishment of large number of digital libraries. There have been parallel developments in hardware and Internet infrastructure too. Challenges being faced are more from the social and economic front. While discussing the issues and comparing them with the traditional library service scenario, he concluded that our focus should be in overcoming the barriers to unleash the information for all benefit of digital libraries.



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# Presentations, discussions and interaction...the wheel rolls on

## Web communities need support of Libraries ...Prof. K.R. Srivathsan

Prof. K R Srivathsan, PVC, IGNOU in his talk of the day emphasized the need of integrating digital libraries in the ODL system. Librarians can play an active role in the content categorization. He described in detail the initiatives of IGNOU in content creation and delivery through open distributed technology using DRUPAL and other OSS.



There were other papers on e-learning stressing on its advantages of flexibility; self paced learning and modular approach. E-learning initiatives taken by University of Delhi were also discussed. There was a paper on the case study of e-learning system developed by G B Pant University. Another paper on the effect of the transition from print to online resources in IGNOU library was presented. It was welcomed by the users as they provide far and wide reach to the distance learners scattered all around. Another highly appreciated paper on virtual laboratory management system was presented. Prof. S B Ghosh in his invited talk spoke on e-learning as a method of open and distance education and digital libraries. He delved into the impact of convergence of technologies on learning and thereby reducing the gap between the haves and have nots.

The session, 'Digital library standards and policy' began with the paper 'Future library services: nightmares and daydreams'. It discussed about the common nightmares, pitfalls of web search engines, context sensitive search, failure of library and information science, semantic web and concluded by giving an open mantra that library should use open access software, open standards, policies etc. The second presentation 'Wait until half time? It must be late: a strategic time point in negotiation and decision making' raised critical points for decision making under time constraints. Dr John Dolan started his lecture on 'How opposites attract: national strategies for sustainable communities' with the quote by Albert Einstein – The only thing that interferes

with my learning is my education. While demonstrating the role of public libraries he emphasized on social networking and provision of more downloadable contents in and around library building.

'Digital Library Advancement: country profile' another interesting session had a paper 'The National Digital Library of Finland', presenting an overview of her digital library project to be completed by summer of 2010. The project is mainly long term presentation of electronic cultural heritage material. 'Challenges and opportunities: German National Library and Digital Preservation' explained problems of digital preservation, approaches and steps like KOPAL and NESTOR and gave an update of German National Library. Another paper on 'Adding value to an abstracting and indexing system: the case of MyAIS, Malaysia' explained problems of scholarly journals published in Malaysia discussed the launch of MyAIS (Malaysian abstracting and indexing system). She at length described the features of MyAIS which added value to the system and motivated the author to contribute to the system in order to increase availability and accessibility. The concluding lecture on 'Digital library development and management: the state of digitization activity in Nepal' briefed the digitization efforts made by five leading libraries of Nepal.

Mr Sudhir Arora, chairing the session Digital Library and its development had the keynote speaker, Prof. Manohar Lal speaking on Advanced Mathematical Techniques for Knowledge Elicitation from large Digital Repositories in a very forceful manner. He meticulously highlighted the importance of mathematical science in the background of development of ICT application in the field of digital libraries. Mr Andreas Klingenberg and Ms Neena Singh in their paper, Bridging the Digital Divide – digital libraries information literacy instruction in India and Germany, highlighted the status of information literacy in both the countries. They stated that digital

libraries create new possibilities of accessing information worldwide and suggested various strategies for improving information literacy in both the countries and the need for a National Literacy Forum especially in India. Mr Alex D Wade in his paper, Tools for the Scholarly Communication Lifecycle pointed out the significance of e-research in the age of information explosion and the efforts of Microsoft Corporation in the field of e-research. He also highlighted the importance of research information centre (RIC), the virtual Environment (VRE) framework, developed by Microsoft External Research and The British Library. He has also given a description of various tools developed by RIC, namely, NodeXL, Microsoft biology Foundation (MBF), Chem4Word, Ontology Add in for Word and Zentity. Dr Bharti Paliwal in her paper, User Centric Digital Information Services and Resources in TERI University Library described the various web-based services to its clientele. She discussed the potential, capacity, infrastructure, organizational structure and mandate to organize and promote DRM and facilitating its sharing; distance online teaching, virtual referencing, library-faculty-students relationships and user centric digital services in the context of emerging knowledge economy as means to support teaching and learning. Mr Samrat Guha Roy in his paper, Building Library Website Using Drupal, focused on the features of Drupal, library system architecture, system requirements and layers of functioning. He concluded the paper with a description of how non-programmers can achieve a lot with Drupal simply by tweaking and twisting configurable options.

Content Management in Digital Libraries, chaired by Dr H K Kaul, Director, DELNET, India started with a presentation by the keynote speaker Ms Rebecca B Vargha on Contentdm and Digital Collections at the University of North Carolina: Background and a case study of Migrating Master's Papers at the School of Information and Library Science to Contentdm.



She outlined the general development and history of Contentdm software for digital collections, digitization projects at the University of North Carolina and practical lessons learnt from migrating a PHP database to Contentdm and managing a digital collection in a departmental library. The paper, 'Records Transition Survival-When Used over Several Decades, focused on preservation strategies, comparison of various preservation systems and preservation systems like LOCKSS, E-prints, DSpace, e-Depot, FEDORA, DRIVER and iRODS. 'Novel Approach for E-Content Management and Delivery in Digital Library' discussed techniques for content management and delivery of digital collections derived from paper based documents. The next paper on Application of Open Source Software in Virtual Learning Environment concentrated on the application of OSS VCASMO in virtual learning environment. It brought out the utility of open source software VCASMO for imparting education to the learners, by which both the learners and instructors can be benefited. Another interesting paper 'Digital Libraries: A Conceptual Framework' discussed the typology of digital library research, based on Yates' model of information work and comprising three interlinked domains: informational, technological and social. The framework is expected to provide a valuable tool for understanding the nature of digital libraries and for comparing and analysing the results of research and the experience of practice. The last paper of the technical session 6D, was on Information Product Preparation through Repackaging Cartographic Content: The Current Corporate Contexts. It presented a procedural view of information product preparation as a component of targeted corporate knowledge support system. It concluded with a mention on the necessity of including such need based practicals in the MLIS curricula of the nation.

Prof. Anna Maria Di Sciullo, chaired the session Multilinguality and Interoperability Issues which began with the invited talk by Prof. Michael Seadle on 'Interoperability and Infrastructure for Digital Archiving the LuKII', Prof. Seadle described the Project LOCKSS, an alliance to share cost and development and support with utilization of its resources by 197 libraries and other institutions in 19 countries. The main features of KDPAL Project 2004 – 2007 for long term digital information Archive based on DIAS, developed by IBM for German National Library to support the integration of DIAS in local clients were detailed. He opined that research on digital Archiving is



a continuous process and should be carried on for further betterment. A paper described locally developed depth classification scheme, using DDC base, for multi-lingual, multi-model repository in CIIL, Mysore. Another paper, described the initiatives, process and technology for creating digital library of Persian, Urdu, Arabic and Kashmiri language PhD and MPhil theses in the University of Kashmir Library. The session progressed with a presentation of the another paper giving detailed account of the project eFL, undertaken for finding a viable solution for digital storage and retrieval of South Asian Languages. The last paper discussed the problem of digitization of Hindi language documents, ISCI of Bureau of Indian Standards, with some thought provoking questions left for the august participants to think upon.

The next session chaired by Prof. Shalini Urs had the invited speaker Dr Usha Mujoo – Munshi presenting her paper titled 'Re-conceptualising Learning in the Knowledge Society: rethinking in globalization of digital repositories' relating digital open access repositories with e-learning initiatives at INSA and IIPA libraries in a comprehensive manner. The session continued with a paper

giving detailed account of the initiatives taken for starting digital archive for business school libraries. Mrs. Racheal O Odunlade from Nigeria described in detail the efforts made for digitization of closed access collection of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Research and Bibliographic Library, Lagos. This was followed by a presentation on creating digital repository of research papers of IMTECH, Chandigarh a CSIR lab. The session ended with the paper titled 'Evaluation of Few

Digital libraries and institutional repositories in India'. It briefed the evaluation criteria, techniques, adopted and problems encountered in Indian context, while evaluating digital repositories.

### Securing Digital Libraries : panelists articulate threat perception

Prof B K Murthy chaired the panel discussion on 'Digital Library Security'. The panelist were Prof K R Srivasthan, PVC, IGNOU; Prof Peter Schirmbacher (Humboldt-Universitat zu, Germany); Prof Stefan Gradman (Humboldt-Universitat zu, Germany); Prof K Subramanian (Director, ACIL, IGNOU); and Dr V N Shukla (Director, CDAC).

The discussion started with the chairman's introductory remarks on security of digital content, its communication channels, access protection and authentication at the user's end. He threw light on different protection mechanisms of digital content such as digital watermarking, etc. and the government initiatives in this regard in the field of higher education system. He spoke about National Knowledge Network which covers 15 000 institutions comprising of different sectors such

*Recommendation Committee met this morning to discuss and debate the inputs received from rapporteurs, journalists, committee members and other participants of the conference for the purpose of formatting the recommendation for ICDL 2010. The inputs received were very informative, encouraging and covered wide varieties of topics such as addressing issues to overcome barriers to global access to information, and benefits of digital library technologies to all stake holders in the society. Emerging issues related to content development and access to copyright material, skill development and the opportunities that are now before the professionals to redefine the roles and functions of the libraries and librarians. The committee would value inputs on all important aspects from the participants of the conference and such communication needs to be addressed to Mr Rajesh Kumar Bhardwaj.*



*The digital community should aim at realizing long term preservation of digital materials and open access to digital contents.*

as R&D, universities, IITs, IIMs and others. Another such digital information network is on National skill development project to create higher ICT skilled personnel on a mass scale.

Prof K R Srivathsan stressed upon security to Digital content and its interoperability. He warned that private commercial vendors are taking lead in developing such applications. The overall setup of digital content over a network requires layered security approach, including cryptography and firewalls.

Prof Peter Schirmbacher spoke on using open source virtual learning environment such as Moodle. He further talked at length on technical issues pertaining to server security and document security. The requirement of content authenticity in a digital repository is a crucial concern. He also talked about DINI Certificate.

Prof Stefan Gradmann pointed that identity management and user authorization to be vital issues in digital library service delivery.

Prof Subramanian threw light on security architecture and the designing aspect of digital library. He also spoke on evolution of digital library from its primitive stages. Cyber security

can be achieved through collaboration. Digital library security ensures us about revenues, legal aspect and its impact.

Dr V N Shukla described the digital library project of India, project of Information Technology, Government of India. He spoke about the requirements of different layers of

security. He concluded by saying that although different open source soft wares are being used for the development of digital library but there needs to be consensus about it and its protocol.

During the discussion delegates also raised concern about content quality and its certification system.

## Committee walk through the poster gallery

Poster Award Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Jean-Marc, visited the poster sessions. They discussed, reviewed and finalized the winners. The committee comprised: Prof S B Ghosh Dr S Venkadesan, Dr Gill Needham and Dr M Koteshwer Rao.



## 'Lucky Draw' draws large crowds towards stalls

It may appear ironical but this is the general refrain if you speak to exhibitors at ICDL. Adds Shaji John of EBSCO, a familiar face at conference circuit 'The overall arrangements are superb and response is tremendous.' It is providing good opportunity to interact with potential customers' said Mr Bharat Nagrecha of Beeges Computers. Mr Rakesh Malik of SWETS has all praise for arrangement and number of delegates to some of whom he hopes to convert into customers soon. Responding to a question Mr Collin D'mello, Vice President GIST asserted the need for larger role for vendors and publishers into the over all planning of conference as important stakeholders. Mr Harpal Singh Gill of Nature publishing Group wore a satisfying look and had all praise for ICDL for providing such a big platform to meet people and promote business. The representative of Bentham Science felt the need for larger interaction with participants so that the entire exercise is more fruitful for the exhibitors.. Mr Sanjay Grover of INFORMATICS and Manish Singh of CABI were quite happy with the arrangements, interaction with the delegates and promotional opportunity for their products. They all unanimously voted for the concept of 'Lucky Draw' introduced by ICDL organizers this year.

## FACE TO FACE

### 'We need to be tough lovers'

The ICDL team interviewed **Prof. Shalini Urs**, Director, ISIM. Some excerpts from the interview:



Shalini Urs

**ICDL:** Can we have your overall comments about the conference?

**Shalini:** It's good. ICDL has made a mark for itself now; it is being successfully organized for the third year now. We need to introspect to further strengthen it, try to find out the grey areas. One such area that needs immediate attention is the quality of papers. We need to benchmark. Theoretical papers should be avoided. Even a small study with some analysis would be good enough to be presented in a conference. It may even be a comparison of existing systems. The international papers should inspire the friends from our country. The organizer has to follow the policy of a tough lover for the good of the profession.

**ICDL:** How would you like the libraries to change to serve the users better?

**Shalini:** We need to make the libraries a happening place. Make them a point of attraction. Try out something different to see that people love to visit libraries.

**ICDL:** What is the role of the government?

**Shalini:** Policies need to be formulated after a lot of interaction. Its not that some people sit down and take decisions, we should take a crowd source policy.

The ICDL team interviewed **Gill Needham**, Associate Director, U.K. Open University. Some excerpts from the interview:

**ICDL:** How do you find the conference?

**Gill:** It's very interesting and stimulating. There is a lot of commitment from the delegates.



Gill Needham

**ICDL:** You also delivered the tutorials, how was that?

**Gill:** Yes, that was also interesting; there were lots of questions and ideas generated.

**ICDL:** How do you relate Digital Library and Open Distance Learning?

**Gill:** DL has a very important role to play in ODL particularly e-learning. It provides content online, enhances democratic access and enriches learning.

**ICDL:** Google is a major information provider today. Do you fear it may overtake us?

**Gill:** People trust Google but do not realize the fact of matter that they provide access to sources on the surface missing licensed collection which libraries provide. The attraction towards Google is easy access which we libraries have to imbibe in our services. User centred services need to be planned. What we provide thinking it is user centred is looking from the librarian's side. We need to look from the eyes of the user, what is user-centric and innovate.

**ICDL:** What is the challenge before librarians today?

**Gill:** We need to re-define our roles, think afresh and plan new activities. Contents need to change, OER, wikis, etc. If we do not change the profession it will die.