<u>RECOMMENDATIONS - ICDL 2013</u>

Theme: Vision 2020: Looking back 10 Years and Forging New frontiers

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Digital Library Vision Statement

Build digital libraries that support
- Global access to digital and virtual materials
- Cross-linguistic interoperability, metadata interoperability, and interoperability in all key areas of infrastructure
- Automatic translation and transliteration of digital content

Issues of Concern, Challenges, and Opportunities

Wide gap between developed and developing nations - The conference recognizes that developed and developing nations differ significantly in the levels of their investment in digitization and digital preservation, library skills and infrastructure in digital library technologies, and in their adherence to best practices and standards for digital content availability, accessibility, and sustainability.

Issues responsible for under-developed status of digital libraries - The conference recognises that issues that are largely responsible for the under developed status of digital libraries in developing countries include lack of cutting edge ICT infrastructure, lack of leadership and governance, lack of proper planning for integration of digital libraries, unfair copyright restrictions and licensing agreement conditions, lack of ICT policies and standards, lack of management support, and lack of technical skills in digital library development.

Developing 2nd and 3rd Generational digital libraries - The conference recognises that resource discovery and access to institutional repositories and to deep web digital resources is distributed. Federating or harvesting such stand-alone digital libraries for searching digital materials using a common user interface is still a challenge. The challenge is both in terms of managing digital technology and content.

Need for cutting edge technologies in libraries - The conference recognises that technology access, digital literacy, and rich media development are essential steps for keeping libraries relevant within the technological landscape of the present period and equipping users with necessary tools to thrive as citizens of the 21st century

Need for bridging digital divide - The conference recognises bridging digital divide is a prerequisite for democratisation of information in the society

Need for library services for checking plagiarism – The conference recognises that librarians need training to analyse the output from plagiarism detection tools since such question come to them frequently.

Need for legal digital deposit scheme - The conference recognises that a well-organized legal deposit scheme for digital materials is an essential element of any national public policy for ensuring freedom of expression and access to information, and also an effective instrument for ensuring global access to digital output from any country.

Need for a single search interface - The conference recognises that libraries need to have common search interface that can search across vendor, web, and library online resources. Such interfaces must be context and content specific and developed using search and access standards and protocols.

Integrating digital libraries on a common platform for comprehensive access - The conference recognizes that frameworks such as national digital library platform can play significant role in integrating and coordinating digital library activities across the nation such as digitization, resource building, content creation, content preservation, undertaking initiatives for bridging digital divide, capacity building in digital library skills and digital library research, and in educational activities in the DL field.

Need for governmental support for revamping libraries – The conference recognizes the importance of funding support from national governments to revamp and vitalize libraries. In India, the Government is extending policy and funding support for planning new initiatives in e-governance and library development. India has allocated a sum of Rs.3537 (Rs.35.37 billion) for planning major initiatives in e-governance and a sum of Rs.500 crore (Rs.5 billion) for library development in the country. Under this initiative India started planning library projects such as National Virtual Library, up-gradation of public libraries, and capacity building. Initiatives on similar lines are needed in all nations.

ICDL emerging as an institution - The ICDL is now conducting 4th digital library conference in a span of one decade. The conference recognizes that ICDL has emerged as a major forum for DL community world over that can lead, present and discuss research ideas and results, catalyze, integrate and coordinate the on-going digital content development and research activities as well as influence research, development, and educational activities in the DL field.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the current issues, challenges, and opportunities, the Conference proposes the following recommendation for different stakeholders

<u>Recommendations for the National Governments and their Agencies</u>

1. **National Digital Library Platform That Nations can Adopt**

   In order to develop digital libraries as an instrument of change in national development, and for advancing towards international digital library development, it is desirable that digital libraries are accessible, interoperable, and sustainable using a single search interface. Given these expectations, the conference recommends that digital libraries are integrated on a national platform and developed as dynamic and interactive knowledge resource on the internet. The other benefits expected from such a national digital platform are:
   a) Leading a major shift in libraries from print to digital media
   b) Opportunities for library collaboration at national and international level
   c) Opportunities to aggregate digital resources from libraries and archives from across the nation
   d) Opportunities for consortial agreements for nationwide access to network based digital resources
   e) Consistent network interface for resource discovery and access
   f) Opportunities to engage and draw on the national and international expertise for reformulating terms and conditions for licensing e-resources from the library perspective and for their long term use.
   g) Opportunities to launch national digital archives to house academic and public interest digital content. India has already undertaken initiative in this regard and written a policy document for the purpose. This document is under consideration of the Government of India. *(Ref* – National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy - 2012 as notified by Gazette of India).
   h) Opportunities to plan, organise, and coordinate digital library services at various levels such as national and regional level.

2. **Towards digital deposit legislation**

   In order to guarantee permanent free access to the national digital collection of the country, the conference recommends that the current act in place in a country (e.g. Deposit of Books, Periodicals, and E-publications Act as in the case of India is under consideration) be suitably amended or if necessary a new legislation for legal deposit of digital publications is brought in for the purpose.

3. **National governments should fund and support policies, programmes for digital library development**
   For ensuring smooth development of digital libraries, the conference recommends that national governments in the country and their agencies should support with funds for digital library programmes such as follows.

   a) Programme for cutting edge information infrastructure for digital libraries
   b) Programmes for **'software as a service for digital libraries'** – Such programmes are aimed at facilitating libraries to access technology and software applications including library services platforms, library management systems, digital library systems, resource discovery tools, resource discovery tools, including name entity recognition and discourse anaphora resolution tools, as well as tools and applications to check plagiarism
   c) Programmes for developing natural language technologies capable of efficient processing of multilingual digital libraries
   d) Support programmes for open access to digital content

e) Support programmes for preservation of digital content.
f) Support institutional level efforts in creating and maintaining a database of digitisation and digital preservation activities in each country and sharing such databases on the web.

4. Commission a national survey to assess the status of digital libraries development in developing countries

The conference recommends that developing countries should undertake a survey of digital libraries in their countries to assess the status of development in all areas of digital library technologies such as information infrastructure, digital technology applications, digital library research, and standards and practices followed as well as library staff competency level in managing digital technologies. In India such a survey may be undertaken in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, National Mission on Libraries, and Department of Information Technology.

5. Re-affirming Past ICDL Recommendations

5.1 The conference reaffirms its recommendations that ICDL made in 2006 and 2010

a) Reemphasizes the need for enacting Digital Library Act as already recommended in ICDL 2006 and ICDL 2010
b) Reemphasizes the need to evolve National Digital Library Policy as already recommended in ICDL 2006 and ICDL 2010.
c) Capacity and capability building through public and private sector partnership.
d) Harness digital library technologies for e-learning and open and distance learning.

5.2 National Digital Library Policy

a) Set up apex body to provide leadership in digital library development.
b) Set up inter-ministerial body as a coordinating mechanism to address all issues of common concerns to different ministries.
c) Use open access, open source software, open standards for content creation and access.
d) Connect with national and international initiatives and programmes for global cooperation, collaboration, international visibility and to leverage cost benefits.
e) Prepare for long-term preservation and sustainability of digital content for their continuous use.

5.3 Capacity and Capability Building

a) Public and private partnership for capacity and capability building in digital library skills, technologies, education, and information service and their marketing.
b) Introduce specialization in digital library studies for teaching in universities.
c) New models of teaching such as e-learning, virtual classrooms, virtual reality may be exploited.
d) Bring together experts in library and information science, computer science, management education to meet and address interdisciplinary needs and issues.
e) Harness potential of institution-based and community based digital libraries in information literacy.

In addition, the conference recommends as follows in order to build capacity in digital libraries (to be considered both by national governments as well as well as for the Library Association & Professionals)

f) Benefit from collaboration with other national and international institutions on digital skill building initiatives

g) Collaborate on an international scale with appropriate partners including European Union Digital Library Learning Programme (DLL), the international iSchool Group, IFLA (Section on Education & Training; Section on Digital Libraries; Advancement in Librarianship Programme) in order to address skill building needs

h) Library schools should integrate sufficient library technology in their training programmes for teaching students skills how to implement digital library technologies for content development and network access to content

i) Library schools should collaborate with leading national and international management institutes for organising training programmes in leadership development and governance of digital libraries

j) TERI or other   leading institutions should consider creating a core team comprising national and international experts including even those who have already participated in the ICDL conferences with the purpose to share ideas and results in digital library research and development and report such developments in their journal '*World Digital Libraries'*.

k) Create international committees for research and development of novel, more efficient, digital libraries.

l) Plan programmes for training of librarians to analyse the output from plagiarism detection tools since such question come to them frequently.

Recommendations for the Libraries and Professional Associations

6. **Digital library development programmes**

   ICDL recommends planning new programmes for digital library development as follows
   a) Plan programmes for building policies, practices, guidelines for digital library development
   b) Plan national digital literacy programme in collaboration with IFLA and UNESCO (e.g. India is planning such a programme – *Ref*. Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) – Section: Economic Sectors).
   c) Plan programme to set up a national digital library platform
   d) Develop guidelines for preserving and archiving paper print materials (as a national resource) content of which have already been digitised
   e) Develop guidelines for interoperability and sustainability of digital libraries
   f) Plan a programme for bridging digital divide of all types
   g) Plan a programme for revitalising library professionals
   h) Plan a programme for integration of libraries and library schools in developing course material in digital libraries and giving librarians teaching roles in digital library science.
   i) Plan international collaboration programme on research and development of digital libraries.

7. **Digital Library Research**

   ICDL recommends use of and support for research on multilingual technologies to address a key problem of digital divide