From Director's Desk

"Government should be a place where people can come together and no one gets left behind......"

- Aaron Sorkin

Aaron Sorkin's quote, "No one gets left behind", requires more attention of the governments today as millions are still left behind in higher education, especially in Commonwealth Asia. Given the fact that these countries spend a very small percentage of their GDP on education it is preposterous to believe that quality educational content can be made available to all. Therefore, distribution and utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER) in various forms, is one of the important necessities of time.

For success and acceptance of OERs as an essential part of teaching learning process, however, it is important to address the issues concerning quality, visibility, distribution and easy access to open resources.

Though research suggests that OERs have a 'positive impact on learner performance and satisfaction', its impact is not visible in areas housing the world's most disadvantageous and marginalized people. The irony is that most of the OERs are created and utilized in USA and Europe. Awareness in other parts of the world, where it is required the most, is limited. Majority of the academics are not even aware about the existence of OERs.

Quality of OER material is an important factor. In the age of information explosion, thanks to robust search engines, students are finding it difficult to locate the reliable and authentic educational material. It is essential to have a transparent quality control mechanism and certification process and simultaneously create authentic and reliable portals for hosting the quality OERs for easy access.

Owing to success of YouTube, development of OERs, with a good mix of video and animations, provides an important opportunity. OERs with a good mix of video, graphics and animations, scalable across all the available media platforms, including smart phones, will increase their access and acceptance by teachers and students.

CEMCA and COL have been at the forefront of advocating policies and practices of OER, especially for Open and Distance Learning in entire Commonwealth Asia with a fairly good success. In the recent years we have helped 11 educational institutions to draft and adopt OER policies.

Unfortunately, the inclination of academics and academic leaders towards OERs, is disappointing. There are some valid and not so valid reasons for this. Unless there is some peer motivation, a serious and sustained administrative pressure, together with financial and academic incentives, it is hard to get the best teachers for creation of OERs. The collective efforts of governments, academic leaders and the teachers together with CEMCA and COL will increase the equity and access in the distribution and utilization of quality educational resources, in the form of OERs and help achieve the dream of education for all. "Let no one be left behind".

With best wishes for a very Happy New Year.

Dr. Shahid Rasool

ICDL 2016: Smart Future
Knowledge Trends that will Change the World

13-16 December, 2016, IHC, New Delhi, India

ICDL 2016 was organized by TERI from 13-16December 2016 at the India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, in collaboration with NASSCOM Foundation; Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India; Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA); Department of Biotechnology, Government of India; Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and various other organizations. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), USA was the Knowledge Partner of the conference.

ICDL 2016, the fifth in ICDL series, aimed to provide a global forum for sharing of experiences among researchers, educators, practitioners, and policy makers from a wide range of disciplines such as library and information science, information and communication technology, archival and museum studies, knowledge management, data analytics and social media. The theme of ICDL 2016—*Smart Future: Knowledge Trends that will Change the Future*—provides a futuristic outlook about understanding, visualizing, and exploring the possible scenarios of the interconnected knowledge generating activities.

An international exhibition was hosted in parallel to conference where 34 exhibitors showcased their projects, products and services. Apart from institutes like IIT Kharagpur and Digital Empowerment Foundation, the exhibitors included international online publishers, DL software companies, and other information providers.

Programme

The Conference was inaugurated by Ms Donna Scheeder, President, IFLA, USA on13 December 2016. The conference comprised 4 tutorials, 3 thematic workshops, 20 technical sessions, 14 special events and 3 plenaries. The thematic *Workshops* dealt with key topical subjects on big data, knowledge management and innovation, and social media analytics that generated widespread interest and enthusiasm amongst participants.

> "IFLA believes that increasing access to information and knowledge across society assisted by the availability ICTs, supports sustainable development and improves peoples' lives."
>
> Ms Donna Scheeder, President, IFLA
> INAUGURAL SESSION, ICDL 2016

The *Tutorials* covered the following contemporary topics:

- Creation and Utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER) for Higher Education
- Information Discovery using Search by Image
- Application R-Software in Big-data Analytics
- Big Data Analytics on Visualize Quasi-Structured Data and Semi-Structure Data

Special Events on the following topics were hosted during the conference:

- National Digital Library of India
- Content, Context and Technology: Monetizing your Content through New Means

> "Higher educational institutions should design and create content for public so that people can access and expand these further."
>
> Prof. Vunnam Venkaiah, Former Vice-Chancellor, Krishna University
> Mr. R. Thyagarajan, Head, Administration and Finance, CEMCA
> Dr Manas R Panigrahi, Programme Officer- Education, CEMCA
> Tutorial: CREATION AND UTILIZATION OF OER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, ICDL 2016

- Massive Open Online Courses
- Digital Preservation, Conservation and Curation
- Digitization of Indigenous Knowledge
- Innovation in Digital Publishing
- Universal Access and Sharing of Research Publications and Data
- Smart Ways to Publishing and Digital Marketing
- Digital Convergence at the Bottom of the Pyramid
- Academic Integrity in Digital World
- Transformation in Public Libraries
- Application of Internet of Things (IoT) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Digitization & Economic Development
- Capacity Building Initiatives in E-Governance

The *Technical Sessions* comprised of invited and contributed paper presentations on subjects ranging from Collaborative Knowledge Creation and Open Archives Initiatives & Post Metadata Harvesting to Semantic Web and Multimedia Content. *Poster*

Presentations were also held to encourage young researchers to present their case studies and research work.

Opinion Polls were conducted during the sessions to gauge the perception of the delegates on topics relevant to theme of the conference. The awards for the *Best Papers* and *Best Posters* were announced at the *Valedictory Session* held on 16 December 2016. The Chair of the *ICDL 2016 Recommendations Committee*, Prof. Gobinda Chowdhury, presented the ICDL 2016 Recommendations that covered the verticals –Policies, ICT Infrastructure & Systems, User engagement, Services, and Capacity building.

Participation and Outreach

The conference witnessed122 invited speakers from 19 countries including India and 550 participants from 12 countries from Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and United States of America.

ICDL 2016 Recommendations Preamble

- Data and information form the foundation of all activities related to SDGs
- Access to information and data should be a universal right
- No one left behind is the motto
- Data and information are the driver for
  - Research, education and lifelong learning
  - Business, government and decision-making in every sector
  - Empowering everyone in society including youth, women and people with special needs

The conference was live streamed across the globe and was viewed by over 6000 stakeholders from 25 countries including India.

Two volumes of the conference pre-proceedings, tutorial documentation and conference guide were disseminated to all participants. Daily Conference Bulletins covered the highlights of all the conference sessions. The conference received extensive media coverage in newspapers and online media like Business Standard, Economic Times, India Today, PTI, ANI, and several others. The live updates of ICDL 2016 were posted in Twitter and reached to 1.5 million people over the course of 4 days of the event.

Inaugural Session

Special Event on *National Digital Libraries of India*

Delegates at the conference

ICDL 2016 Exhibition

Director CEMCA, Dr Shahid Rasool, delivered a Key Note address, "Online education Initiatives - Necessity, possibilities and challenges for India", in one of the technical sessions on Technology and Innovation. In his half an hour presentation he talked about major online education initiatives in the world and their relevance to India. He stressed use of technology blended virtual education mode for increasing access and equity in higher education and also identified challenges for academicians and library professionals. He underlined that, in the age of 'digital natives', whose numbers are increasing phenomenally, the demand for virtual education with rich content -the videos, will also go up manifold. Therefore we need to gear up to meet these challenges of near future. He also highlighted the role, COL and CEMCA are playing in promoting online education for open, flexible, inclusive distance learning for sustainable development in commonwealth countries.

To know more, please visit the ICDL 2016 website www.teriin.org/events/icdl/

Creation and Utilization of OER for Higher Education in ICDL Conference 2016

Dr. Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Programme Officer Education, CEMCA, New Delhi facilitated the special interactive sessions.

Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) organised a half-day special event on the theme "Creation and Utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER) for Higher Education" in ICDL Conference 13-16 December, 2016, New Delhi. The event was held on 13th December 2016 (Time Duration: 10.00am to 1.00pm) at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The event was expected to work towards (a) Understanding of OER and Creative Commons Licenses; and (b) addressing present challenges to the creation and utilization of OER. Prof. V. Venkaiah, Former Vice-Chancelor, Krishna University, Andhra Pradesh and

The programme was attended by 48 institutional administrators and decision-makers, Government representatives, librarians, information science practitioners, technologists/service providers, academia and other domain experts across the globe. The special event on OER was worked towards achieving tangible outcomes at both the policy and programme levels. The sessions of the event were culminating a set of expert recommendations, action points and a roadmap for future activity.