

News

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IGNOU helps Ministry of Culture @ Creating a National Virtual Library of India

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is aiding the initiative of Ministry of Culture, under the National Mission of Libraries, by way of creating a union catalogue of libraries across India which apart from books includes artefacts and other resources from libraries, museums, archives etc. using open source platform Koha. Now, anyone can search the availability of any book/ manuscript/ periodical/ journal, which you thought is no more available in your nearest library or a 3D image of any museum artefact with a click of a mouse.

The National Mission on Libraries (NML) consists of four components: creation of National Virtual Library of India (NVLI), setting up of NML model libraries, qualitative and quantitative survey of libraries and capacity building. IGNOU, along with IIT- Bombay and CDAC have been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) under the National Mission on Libraries (NML) which will be hosting information of the entire Indian cultural heritage in the digital web world.

The workshop on capacity building programme of national mission on libraries for public library personnel started at IGNOU and would last for five days. IGNOU is giving hands on training to the participants on Koha open

source applications in a dedicated NVLI lab in IGNOU campus, Delhi.

Source: http://ignou.ac.in/ignou/bulletinboard/announcements/latest/detail/IGNOU_helps_MoC_in_Creating_a_National_Virtual_Library_of_India-1870

Law Ministry Launches Digital Initiatives for Legal Access in Rural Areas

The Law Ministry launched three major digital initiatives, which are stated as under:

- Pro-bono legal services
- Tele law
- Nyaya Mitra

Pro bono legal Services

The 'Pro bono legal services' initiative is a web-based platform, through which interested lawyers can register themselves to volunteer pro bono services for the underprivileged litigants, who are unable to afford it. The Department of Justice has launched the online application for this initiative on its **website doj.gov.in**. Through this online portal, litigants from marginalised communities (including members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, women, children, senior citizens, persons with low income and persons with disabilities) can also apply for legal aid and advice from the pro bono lawyers.

Tele Law: Mainstreaming Legal Aid through Common Service Centre

Through the second initiative, launched by the Minister, the Department of Justice and NALSA are partnering with CSC- E- Governance Service Limited for mainstreaming legal aid to the marginalized communities through the Common Service Centers (CSCs). This initiative, called 'Tele Law', is aimed at facilitating delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers – stationed at the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA). The project would connect lawyers with clients through video conferencing facilities at CSCs, operated by para legal volunteers. For this purpose, this initiative would also play a pivotal role in empowering 1000 women para legal volunteers.

District Facilitation Centre to reduce pendency: Engagement of Nyaya Mitra

The Minister also discussed the issue of heavy pendency of cases in courts across the country. He noted that at present, more than 2.4 crore cases are pending in the district and lower judiciary, of which nearly 10% are more than 10 years old. He called for collective action and efforts in remedying this situation. In this context, the Minister also inaugurated the Nyaya Mitra scheme, which is aimed at reducing pendency of cases across selected districts, with special focus on those pending for more than 10 years.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=161179>

First Detailed Global Internet Atlas Developed

Scientists have developed the first global Internet Atlas — including a detailed map of the internet's physical structure in India — an advance that could help guard the infrastructure from terrorism or extreme weather events. Despite the internet-dependent nature of our world, a thorough understanding of the internet's physical makeup has only recently emerged through Internet Atlas developed by

researchers from University of Wisconsin-Madison in US and their collaborators.

Data centres in buildings all over the world are packed with servers storing many types of data. Traffic exchange occurs between different service providers at internet exchange points. Though these and other elements may be out of sight for the average user, they are crucial pieces of the physical infrastructure that billions of people rely on.

Mapping the physical internet helps stakeholders boost performance and guard against a number of threats, from terrorism to extreme weather events, like hurricanes. The project has helped direct attention to the problem of shared risk. Physical infrastructure is commonly shared by multiple networking entities, so damage to any particular piece of infrastructure can impact more than one entity.

Much of the data used to create the Internet Atlas comes from publicly available information, such as what internet service providers publish on their websites. Other data has taken more legwork to uncover, such as combing through mundane items like local permits for laying cables, researchers said. The team is looking to enhance the maps even further and share their work so it can be deployed by others to boost network performance and security.

Source: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/science-technology/first-detailed-global-internet-atlas-developed/394379.html>

Indian–African to use 'Digital India' as Global Case Study

An Indian–African entrepreneur is planning to use the 'Digital India' model in South Africa as a global case study to incubate innovative digital start-ups that will propel the continent towards faster growth. Ramesh Awtaney is the founder and chairman of iSON Group, Africa's leading IT conglomerate, who is executing his own vision of 'Digital Africa' inspired by the Indian government's digital drive. Awtaney, who has over 28 years of experience in global

technology, market development and business process outsourcing (BPO), highlighted the need for India to move up the “value chain” towards Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), which is more “cerebral and offers a better price”. He predicted that Africa can replicate India’s growth story in IT/ITeS in just 10 years. He visualized this opportunity early and have been investing in new centres across Sub-Saharan Africa over the past seven years, which have helped catalyse the ecosystems for growth in these countries. The iSON Group chief, whose companies have a presence in 25 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, also believes in big scope in India and Africa collaborations in the IT industry. Given the changing IT dynamics across the world,

Awtaney played down the threat of US President Donald Trump’s increasingly protectionist policies. Under his leadership, the iSON Group has been on an expansion spree and has invested over 20 million dollars in Africa in the last seven years and plans to invest an additional 20 million dollars to set up four new centres.

Source: <http://www.dailypioneer.com/business/indian-african-to-use--digital-india-as-global-case-study.html>