

News

Third International Conference on Digital Libraries

(ICDL) 2010

Shaping the information paradigm

23–26 February 2010

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Background

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution and the advent of the Internet have had significant and far-reaching impacts on the knowledge and information sector, and have added a new dimension to information retrieval platforms. A fierce competition, in terms of global information access, has ensued amongst modern libraries, publishers, database providers, and the Internet service providers. This has resulted in the creation of digital libraries (DLs), knowledge management (KM), and e-learning portals. Also, archiving of indigenous culture and heritage has been conceived and implemented in various parts of the country. DLs, today, adopt the latest ICT tools and techniques to bring together nationwide DLs from across the country on a single platform. They have become a critical component of the global information infrastructure, as they facilitate rapid flow of information, thereby bridging the digital divide, and in the process, providing uninterrupted organized information access in multiple languages to users in all sectors.

About the conference

The Third International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL) 2010 was held during 23–26

February 2010 at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The theme of ICDL 2010 was “Shaping the information paradigm”. The conference aimed at addressing some important contemporary issues. Some of them were as follows.

Radical change from print resources to digital resources, and subsequently to various other formats suitable for video, text, multimedia, and so on.

A suitable integration of the academic environment with digitized resources to meet the needs of the faculty fraternity.

A strategic alliance for the development of DLs and e-learning across the world, focusing on the creation, adoption, implementation, and utilization of DL and open distance and online learning (ODOL) system.



The conference was jointly organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and inaugurated by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, on 23 February 2010. In the inaugural address, the minister highlighted the following points with regard to the digitization programme in India.

- Users' choice between print vis-à-vis digitized resources.
- The need for flexibility and interactivity in the digitized system.
- Socialization and interaction between libraries and their users.
- Physical libraries can be used as physical spaces for reading, using computer facilities, and socializing.
- New role for librarians, who disseminate information, thus aiding in the development of information literacy among users.

Smt D Purandeswari Devi, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, was the Guest of Honour. Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, welcomed the participants and introduced ICDL 2010, which was followed by an address by Dr Deanna Marcum of the Library of Congress, USA. Prof V N Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, highlighted the role of his institution in promoting e-learning and developing DLs, while Prof. N Balakrishnan, Professor and Associate Director, Indian Institute of Sciences (IISC), Bangalore, also addressed the conference. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Debal C Kar, Fellow, Library and Information Centre, TERI, and Organizing Secretary of the conference.

The tutorial session was inaugurated by Dr T Ramasamy, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, at the IGNOU Convention Center at 9.00 a.m. on 23 February 2010. Ms Anne Caputo, President, Special Libraries Association (SLA), USA, and Dr Vibha Dhawan, Executive Director, TERI, were

also present on the occasion. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Sudhir K Arora, University Librarian, Library and Information Centre, IGNOU. A total of nine tutorial sessions were conducted on 23 February 2010.

The conference had 40 invited speakers from 17 countries, including India, and 665 registered participants, of which more than 100 participants were from 35 countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, America, and Australia. Some of the leading DL luminaries, who attended the conference were Michael Seadle, P Anandan, R Chidambaram, A Parsuramen, Anne Caputo, Joyce Chao-chen chen, Jean Marc Comment, Denise Troll Covey, Hiranmay Ghosh, Stefan Gradman, Minna Karvonen, Akira Maeda, Gill Needham, Edie Rassmusen, Anna Maria Di Sciullo, Ming Zhang, K R Srivathsan, Shigeo Sugimoto, and many more.

Three keynote addresses were delivered on the 24, 25, and 26 February 2010. The first keynote address was delivered by Dr P Anandan, Managing Director, Microsoft India, on 24 February 2010. He emphasized that the present day video is an important source of information and highlighted the characteristics of each type of video.

The second keynote address was given by Dr Jens Thorhauge, Director General, Danish Agency for Libraries and Media, Denmark, on 25 February 2010. He stated that information and knowledge societies develop fast, and as a result, are creating a new form of global



competition, new digital information sources, and new ways for studying and research, apart from emphasizing on the new need for lifelong learning and media literacy, as also creating digital divides and social exclusion. The third keynote address was given by Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India, on 26 February 2010. He opined that today, huge amount of information is available on the Internet, and if one is not familiar with the topic then one has to be careful about the quality of the supply knowledge, and whether the person who has abstracted the material understands the subject.

A total of 260 papers/abstracts were received. These papers were reviewed by members of the national and international programme committee, and a total of 99 papers were short-listed for presentation during the conference. A Paper Award Committee was also constituted to confer three best paper awards in three categories, namely, India, Asia, and the world. A total of 30 technical sessions were held on 24, 25, and 26 February 2010. Poster presentations were held on 24–25 February 2010. The entries for the poster presentations were reviewed by members of the National and International Programme Committee, and 120 presentations were finally short-listed. A Poster Award Committee was also constituted to confer three best poster awards. Three volumes comprising tutorial proceedings, two pre-conference proceedings, and a programme guide, both in printed and electronic form, were given to all participants at the time of registration. During the conference, conference bulletins, highlighting the day's proceedings, were made available on the following day, prior to the commencement of the conference.

The first panel discussion was held on 'DL security' on 25 February 2010. Prof. K R Srivathsan stressed upon the security of digital content and its interoperability. Prof. Peter Schirmbacher stressed on the need for using open source virtual learning environment such as

Moodle. He further spoke at length on technical issues pertaining to server security and document security. He expressed concern on content authenticity in a digital repository. He also talked about DINI Certificate. Prof Stefan Gradmann pointed out that identity management and user authorization are vital issues in DL service delivery.

The second panel discussion was held on 'DL policy and standards' on 26 February 2010. Dr Thorhauge opened the discussion on 'how to digitize materials and make it available and accessible to users in the best way'. Prof. Michael Seadle talked about the copyright policies for digitization and the need for standards for digital preservation of materials. He further added that the policies and standards we are developing should be implementable. In her discussion, Ms Kalpana Das Gupta mentioned the lack of a holistic approach and the absence of a coordinating body, with regard to the digitization of materials at the national level. India, being a multicultural and multilingual nation, requires different policies and standards catering to different material needs as well as cultural heritage of the country. Prof. Manohar Lal traced the historic evolution of digitization way back to 600 BC, the age of Panini, whom he described as the first digital librarian.

Three morning breakfast sessions were organized before the commencement of the conference on 24, 25, and 26 February 2010. A selected group of experts was invited to brainstorm on the following issues.

- Issues and challenges in DL concept
- Multi-linguality and inter-operability
- Copyright and digital rights management

The conference received tremendous response from across the country and from abroad, with the event attracting partnerships in the form of associates, co-associates, sponsors, and so on. The Ministry of Culture, Commonwealth Education Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

(CSIR), and Special Libraries Association (SLA) were some of the key associates for the conference. The co-associates were American Center, Austrian Cultural Forum, The British Council, Goethe Institute, and the Royal Embassy of Netherlands. The other institutional sponsors who supported the conference were the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF). The conference was also sponsored in different categories by Emerald Group Publishing Ltd, Global Information Systems Technology Pvt. Ltd, Nature Publishing Group, Tausco Subscription Agency Pvt. Ltd, and Taylor & Francis Group. A total of 34 exhibitors, besides TERI and IGNOU, set up stalls during the conference to showcase various digital products and services offered by leading publishers in the world.

Conclusion

The third conference in the ICDL series generated great enthusiasm among the library and information science and technology professionals

across the world. It generated awareness on the importance of digitization in the DL community both in India and abroad. The conference, on the whole, facilitated the bridging of knowledge gaps between developing and developed countries; initiated capacity building activities in DLs; provided a forum for facilitating useful interaction amongst information science and technology professionals; and most importantly, facilitated the formulation of recommendations on digitization technologies, Acts, and policies in India. It also helped in bringing together about 650 professionals, experts, digital library workers, and information providers from across the world on a single platform and encouraged the sharing of experiences, concerns, and ideas. The conference also threw light on the present status of the DL and the latest developments and techniques in this field all over the world. To understand the basics of digital preservation tools and techniques, several private and government organizations have already initiated action towards the future preservation of their documents and have approached TERI for inputs and assistance. The Ministry of Culture has started the digitization of the cultural heritage of India.



European parliament backs digital plans

The European Parliament has approved the Europe Union's Digital Agenda, an action plan designed to boost Europe's economy through the adoption of digital practices. There was also "strong support" from the European Parliament for the further development of Europeana, Europe's digital library, with the commission to draft a policy document on its future, including looking at copyright and orphan works.

- The parliament has backed the call for European citizens to have access to modern digital technologies, including high speed Internet, and the essential skills to understand and use them.
- The parliament also stressed that consumers should be able to freely access public services online and content across the European Union, and underlined the need for consumers to know their rights in the digital environment and for a clear legal framework to protect these rights.
- The parliament has now urged the commission to come forward with a proposal for an ambitious digital agenda and action plan, which would enable Europe to progress towards an open and prosperous digital society.
- The parliament also highlighted the need to address a series of copyright-related issues to facilitate the digitization and online accessibility of cultural content, including the issue of orphan works.

Source <http://www.thebookseller.com>, last accessed on 11 May 2010

DSpace 1.6 is now available

DuraSpace organization announced the long-awaited release of DSpace 1.6, the popular

turnkey open source application for managing and providing access to digital content used to create more than 800 repositories across the world. The community-requested features in the new release include the following.

- Enhanced statistics package, which provides more information on how your repository is being used.
- Embargo facility so that items can be kept dark for a period of time.
- Batch metadata editing tool, which can be used to change, add, find/replace metadata as well as facilitate mass moves, re-order values or add new items in bulk.
- Authority control, which contains integration with the Sherpa Romeo Service for publisher names, as well as the Library of Congress Nameservice

Source <http://Dspace.org>, last accessed on 21 April 2010

E-mail preservation

The Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records has developed an automated process to preserve official e-mail records produced by Microsoft Outlook. The process also captures metadata needed for the long-term preservation of the information. This work is being implemented as part of the Persistent Digital Archives and Library System project, which is developing a shared curatorial framework for preserving digital public records across multiple states.

Source <http://digitalpreservation.gov>, last accessed on 26 April 2010