

CAPACITY BUILDING AND RESTRUCTURING OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRES

SIR DORABJI TATA MEMORIAL LIBRARY
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Capacity Building and Restructuring for Library and Information Centres

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Capacity Building of Library Professionals: A Case Study of Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library

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INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, information revolution has dominated every aspect of our lives. Like natural resources, information has rightly been recognized as an important vital resource for growth and development of society.

Human society has undergone sea change due to phenomenal growth of information and application of information technologies in the form of high degree of computerization and transmission of electronic information telecommunication network in all walks of life. The new technology combines both continuity and fundamental change. Characteristics of present information society

reflects in (i) use of computers and telecommunication technologies in handling information (ii) Growth of infrastructural backbone for IT application (iii) Shift of occupation from manufacturing to information based activities (iv) Information as capital resource base (v) Rapid and convenient delivery of information (1) This impact of ICT forced librarians towards the digitization of documents and information services.

SIR DORABJI TATA MEMORIAL LIBRARY (SDTML): AN OVERVIEW

The SDTML library came into existence in the year 1936, when the TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES was established. The library is well equipped with good number of books, journals, E books and E journals in the field of social sciences and also with modern and latest technology to cope up growing need of information seeking in multidisciplinary subjects.

In the global information scenario, the main objective of the library is to support teaching and social research in the social science with the view to provide upto date knowledge to professional persons in social science and applied research. The library started with 5000 books and 30 periodicals in 1936, the collection as on data, shows the growth of library.

Library Collection Profile

Books	=	1,09,000 (Includes Bound Volumes)
Current Periodicals	=	290
Indian	=	133
Foreign	=	157



Periodical Holding	=	1100
E-Journals	=	7500+
Online Databases	=	15
CD-ROM Databases	=	5
E-Books	=	53 (started this year)
Audio-Visual Materials	=	1600
Theses & Dissertations	=	2450
Total area of the library	=	43,800 Sq.ft.
Total area constructed	=	20,800 Sq.ft.

CAPACITY BUILDING: CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS

Capacity building is defined as the “process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast-changing world.” (Ann Philbin, *Capacity Building in Social Justice Organizations*).

As far as library and information services is concerned, the term capacity building is identifying the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats to the profession in present interdisciplinary dynamic world. In this regard the following important responsibilities needs to be adopted by library community as team leaders.

- To design and implement the capacity building for the staff's and any other member of the institute in terms of user oriented services;
- To set standards and ensure those standards are maintained at all the levels of library and information resources;

- To develop databases of resources available in the library (Internal and External);
- Develop innovative tools and methods to enhance training and teaching process;
- To systematic assessment of needs of the particular user. (2)

Digitization: A Concept

Digital library is common word now. Every library professionals know and understand the term. Let us have a look at some of the experts in the library and information science field, who have defined this term. According to Dr. M.T.D. Gandhi "The actual meaning of the digital library means remote access from any point of the work at library content and services, combining bibliographic news, electronic texts, image banks and all kinds of information by means of computer network".(3)

Digitization means acquiring, converting, storing and retrieving the standardized and organized manners, with the help of modern technological gadgets.(4) Three most fundamental obstacles impending the transformation and modernization of information services in developing countries like India are mainly: the volume of materials published, its limited publishing in local language, its unlimited publication in print and electronic form, and various barriers to come out.

All such barriers are leading libraries and information professionals to build up professional capabilities of manpower from unskillful to skilled and skilled to multiskill, information literacy, development of infrastructure and networking of libraries and information centres. Among all barriers information literacy is the most dominant element in capacity building. Martin has rightly been pointed out

clearly that, "Information literacy is the interest, attitude and ability of individual to appropriately use digital technology and communication tools to access, manage, integrate and evaluate information, construct new knowledge and communicate with others in order to participate effectively in information society" (5)

SDTML INITIATIVES IN CAPACITY BUILDING

The present case study basically describes how TISS has applied various tools and techniques to develop a modern skilled and capable Library and Information Science Professionals in the digital environment.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has identified the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) as a centre of excellence to conduct Refresher courses in Library and Information Science. SDTML TISS has conducted two refresher courses for developing capacity building for Librarians and Information Professionals.

- UGC sponsored Refresher course on "New Challenges in Information Management: Issues and opportunities for Librarianship" TISS, Mumbai, from 1-21 September, 2003.
- UGC sponsored Refresher course on "IT for Librarians", Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, TISS, Mumbai, September 6-26, 2004.
- BOSLA/TISS organized one day seminar on "Resource Management" on 8th Nov. 2003. This seminar guided imparting knowledge to prove that the age old notion of ownership has transferred into an era of access to information by all irrespective of location, distance, time and also economic status.
- Two days workshop on "Information, Communication

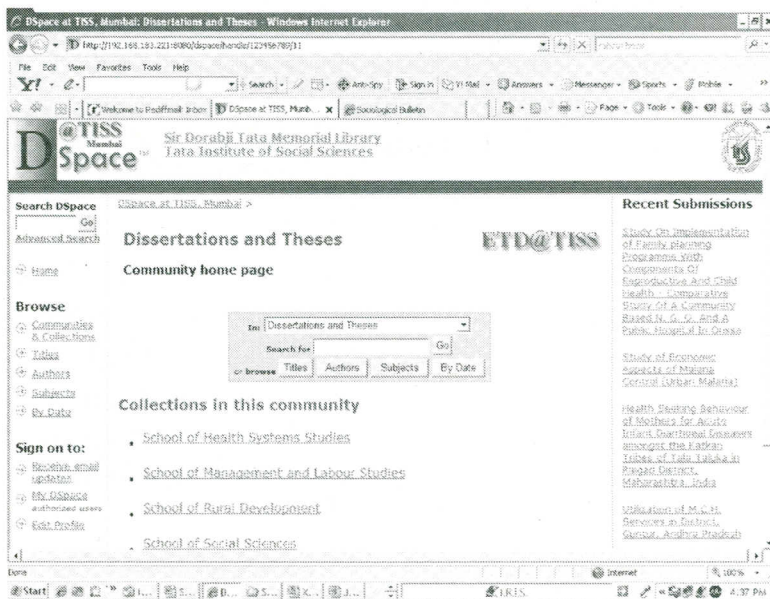
Technologies for Librarians” was held from 15- 16 Oct. 2004 to empower library and information professionals to update the importance of ICT , which play a vital role in striking a balance between IT related role modern technologies and the traditional one. ICT provides one –stop-shop for all kinds of information, be it a catalogue, various databases, electronic journals, and e-books etc.

- TISS/ICSSR workshop: ICSSR sponsored training workshop on “Exploring Social Science Information in Digital environment on 27-30 May, 2002. The workshop examines the information resources and enormous advantage of digital technology.
- Special lecture on “Future of Librarianship: the road ahead”. Jointly organized by BOSLA and TISS on 10th May, 2008.
- Two day workshop on “Creating Digital Libraries, using Dspace” Jointly organized by BOSLA and TISS on 11-12 Aug, 2007.
- International workshop on “Democratization of information with focus on Libraries” TISS, Mumbai on 18th Jan, 2004.
- International conference on “Knowledge for all: role of Libraries and information centers” held on 12- 15 Nov. 2008, in collaboration with TISS and ILA.

After conducting these seminars, workshops, training and user awareness programmes, all library professionals have developed the skill and capability to take-up the digitization projects in the TISS library.

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**DIGITIZATION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS
(DSpace PORTAL)**

SDTM Library has set up a DSpace archiving facility for the TISS research community, using the DSpace open source software developed by the MIT libraries & Hewlett-Packard. This service enables the Institute community to archive their reprints, post prints and other scholarly publications. In keeping with the objectives of the open access movement, TISS expects this service to facilitate the institute researchers in self archiving and long-term preservation of their scholarly publications. To provide easy access to these publications world wide and improve impact of their research, dspace@tiss can be accessed by anybody after submission of documents to this archive. This service is limited to the TISS research community and the faculty members.



Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs)

UGC INFONET: E-SERVICES

TISS library professionals have developed the Cyber library to provide one point information services to the users.

UGC-Infonet E-journals Consortium has established a seamless link between the UGC and the universities. It's a major step towards the establishment of network of all Indian universities and is brought under one roof. A MoU has been signed by the UGC, *INFLIBET*, *ERNET India*, and the host University. Under this initiative UGC is modernizing the University Campuses with State-of-the-art campus wide networks and setting up its own nationwide communication network.

TISS Library is one of the first institute to implement the *UGC-Infonet* programme with 4 mbps high bandwidth Internet connectivity in the campus. Access to the following full-text e-journals databases has been provided through the campus intranet.

Project Muse, JSTOR, Wiley Interscience, Springer link, Cambridge Journals Online, Oxford University Press, Taylor and Francis Journals, ISID Online and JCCC@GUC-Infonet.

Sage Journals online, Emerald Management Extra, India Business Insight Database, ABI/INFORM Dateline, ABI/INFORM Global, ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry, Indiastat.com, and World Bank Databases.

E-Books

The library acquired "GVRL e-Books to e-resources collection. Gale Virtual reference library is a database of encyclopedias and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research. These reference materials once were accessible only from the library. But now can access

them online from the library intranet website. There are 53 e-books available in the library. Access to e-Books can be from: <http://192.168.10.11>

Cyber Library 24x7

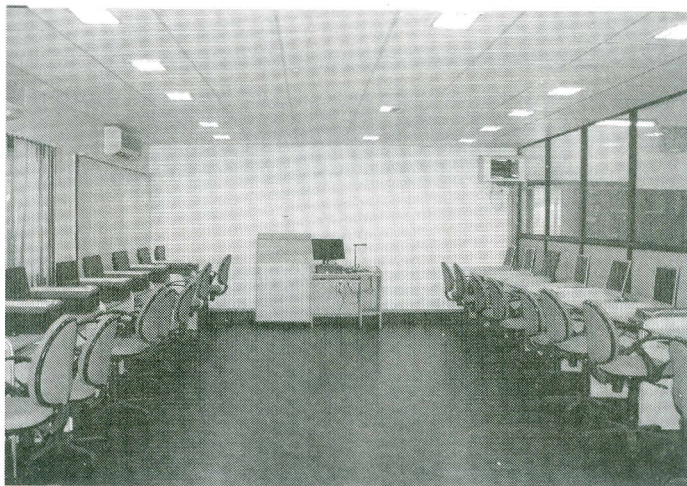
A Cyber library is set up(SDTML) with the financial assistance from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust to facilitate students, faculty members to access knowledge resources in world wide web, and in libraries of partner universities and institutions. Some databases like Project Muse, Springer link, JSTOR, Blackwell provide access to full text journals through UGC-Infonet E-Journals consortia, 24X7 On-line journals and resources of partner libraries, self operated laser printing and Xeroxing facilities, reading and computing facilities are also available at this library.



SDTM Cyber Library

M. K. TATA MEMORIAL LEARNING CENTRE FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

M. K. Tata Memorial Learning Centre has been setup at Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, TISS in 2008 to provide innovative teaching techniques and philosophy that continues to have far-reaching effects on the lives of visually challenged, and taking them to new heights of independence. M. K. Tata Trust, Mumbai has funded the project. Ms. Pilloo Tata, Chairperson, M. K. Tata Trust has inaugurated the centre on 7th May, 2008, during the Institute Convocation function. The Centre has acquired latest technologies to assist visually challenged students and faculty members. For the first time, partially sighted people can now read for long periods of time without tiredness. It is an unique computer reading facility for visually challenged impaired members with a congenial classroom environment. The Centre is aimed to provide, barrier free access and independent reading room to library resources. The Centre believes that, with proper training and opportunity, visually challenged people can compete on terms of equality with their sighted peers.



M.K. Tata Memorial Learning Centre for Visually Challenged

Air conditioned lab with 20 HP computers loaded with many software's like JAWS Pro 9.0, Kurzwell, Magic Magnification Software Pro, OBR Braille software, Teachers Talking Pro, Pen Friend word prediction software, Spell Well etc. The centre also equipped with Prisma, Zoom-Ex and Sara text reading systems which enhance significantly the reading experience for users who are partially sighted.

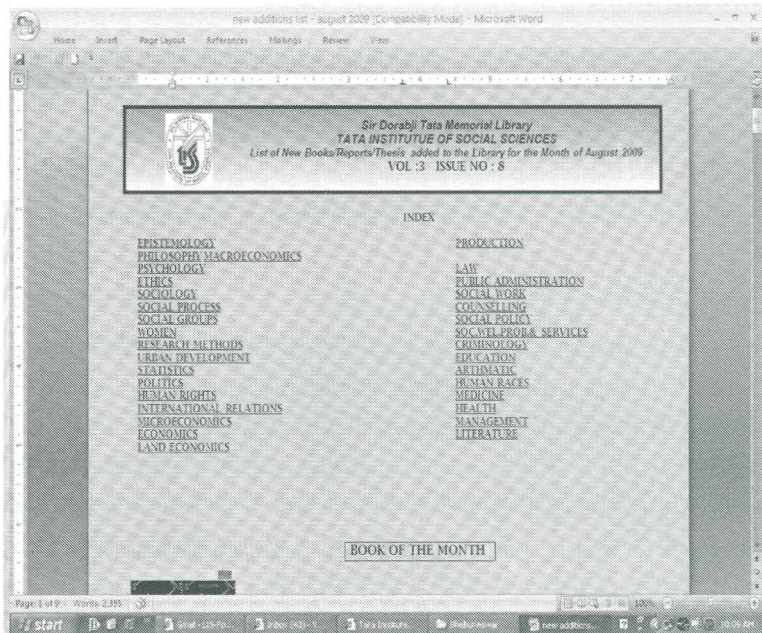
InfoMail

'InfoMail' is one of the much appreciated services provided by the Library. This service is provided by means of email to inform the students, research scholars and faculty members of the Institute. The content of this informative 'InfoMail' service is categorized into three parts viz, Events/Announcements, Information Sources, and Informative Website.

In the Events/Announcements part, the professional events such as seminars, workshops, conferences, MDPs, training programmes, call for papers, and fellowships/scholarships at national and international levels are included, the second part, 'Information Sources' is to cover the reading/reference materials received as gratis such as working papers, discussion papers, technical/trend reports, magazines, journal issues, booklets, etc. and third part I-Site to mention about the useful and informative website of their interest.

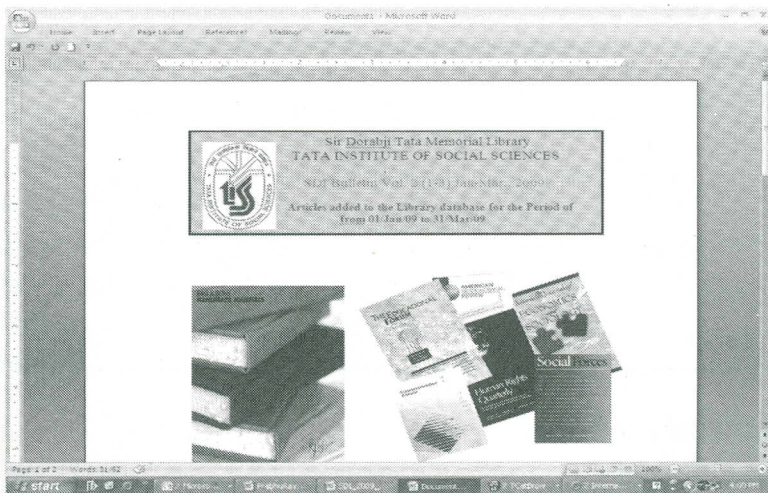
E-CAS

The library brings out current additions containing bibliographic entries pertaining to the document added to the library. It includes books, conference proceedings, reports and other documents added to the library. It is a monthly publication. The entries are arranged subject wise.



E-CAS

E-SDI



E-SDI

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This service gives the record of articles published quarterly in the journals. Selection of the article is done from the journal subscribed by the library. Subject coverage is according to the needs of research scholars and faculty user profile. This includes journal article, annual reports. All the articles entries are arranged according to subject wise.

RESOURCE SHARING

The library maintains excellent relations with a number of institutions and libraries, including American Resource Centre Mumbai, British Council Library, Indian institute of Technology, Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, International Institute for Population Studies, Nirmala Niketan, College of Social Work, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and Developing Libraries Network (DELNET).

Borrowing and lending requests in 2002 to 2008

Year	Total Number of loan requested received	Total Number of loan requested satisfied of which	%
2002-03	88	64	72.72
2003-04	168	148	88.09
2004-05	190	160	84.21
2005-06	120	99	82.50
2006-07	214	184	85.98
2007-08	170	155	91.17

FUTURE PLANS

SDTM library is ever trying hard to cater to the needs of its user community. It is aspiring to accomplish the below mentioned plans in near future:

- VPN Library has a future plan for providing Virtual Private Network (VPN) for accessing E-Resources from anywhere.
- Integrating information from the primary level, secondary and university level.
- E-modules preparation of E-Books for distance learning.
- Projecting the electronic resources, through the institutional archives.

CONCLUSION

SDTML (TISS) library has developed expertise for building the capacities of library and information professionals from semiprofessional assistants to the level of University librarian. The entire activities of the library have been revamped as part of restructuring exercise, keeping in mind the importance of ICT and its relevance to the present century.

By conducting various programmes in TISS and participation in seminars/workshops/conference at national and international levels has strengthened the knowledge of library professionals.

To create new generation of professionals with the infusion of ICT application, TISS is starting new Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Library management. This will be benchmark in 21st century library management education with focus on the user, particularly new generation of library and information students existing professionals.



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