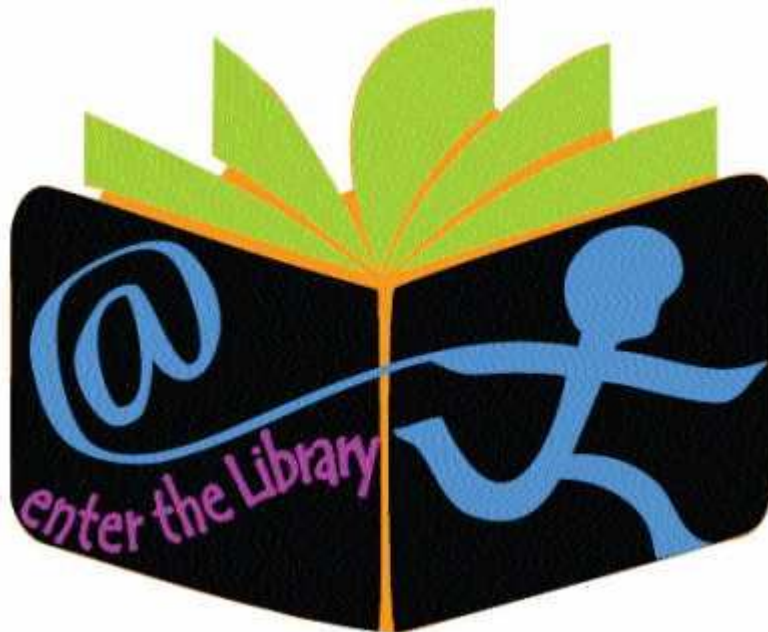


Open source software helps info centres for digitalization



→ Md Ahasan Habib

Digital library plays a significant role in establishing digital Bangladesh. The sparks of revolution in digital library started in our country from 2002. This initiative was taken by the private management, especially private university library and non-government organisations. North South University is the pioneer in this arena. They started the work with the help of customised software. Later, ICDDR,B library and information services unit set up institutional depository software “D Space” in 2005.

Open source software has gained popularity for digitalisation of library resources. With the help of D Space, BRAC University, Independent University Bangladesh, Northern University Bangladesh, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific and Daffodil International University also started using this software. Under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Mymensingh Agriculture University, Chittagong Veterinary University of Science and Technology, and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology launched it. The software succeeded in giving positive results.

Public universities in Bangladesh also nurture this digital library software for better and modern library services. Bangladesh Associations of Librarians Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID), Southeast University, BRAC University offers training of ‘D Space’ software. One of the D Space ambassadors and executive council member of BALID Kazi Farhad Noman says, “Since it is open source software, manual is available, user may customise D Space as per his or her wish. The software is becoming more and more popular nowadays. Only three days’ basic training is well enough to get to the know-how of this

software.” Now the question is why an information/library professional will set up this software in an information centre. Probable answers are:

1. Full text image of a book or partial text of a book
2. Own institutional publications like brochure, academic calendar, journals, magazines, flyers, handbook, course resources, news clippings, public records etc
3. Audio-visual items like photographs, images, event videos, audios
4. Official records, policies etc

Due to copyright issue publisher/author consent may be required to storage their items in the digital library. Indeed few confidential and official items should be password protected. Social media like facebook, twitter etc may be added for strengthen services and feedback of digital library. To keep automatic records of its uses we may add our particular digital library to Google analytics.

‘D Space’ is the most popular software in this field. With the initiative of EWU library team, backed by Waikato University, New Zealand, many Bangladeshi library professionals established Greenstone Digital Library Software after receiving training in 27-31 December 2010 at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) in Savar, Dhaka. They trained up more than 20 library and information professionals of the public and private sectors. After that Islamic University of Technology, Eastern University, East West University library, Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics library and documentation centre established Greenstone digital library management software. The important thing is that Greenstone is relatively easy to set up in library. Few addresses of the digital library of Bangladesh:

As per Google analytics and analysis of last four months IUT Digital Library hits more than 800 users of four contingents. Libraries/institutions have already appreciated this initiative glowingly. Present-day information revolution and ICT application definitely focuses on the institution by this web application. Many organisations worldwide are known by application of their recent ICT phenomena. If our institutions focus on application and services, we will also be focused globally. The government may emphasise establishment of digital archives in each sector. It is optimistic that many newspapers/magazines now deliver the goods as they have online versions that simply strengthen their value. Indeed, they store their depositories for future references. D Space can also play a pivotal role to this end. To sum up, proper education and training to library professionals, job status and their inclusion in cadre service may change the nation rapidly.

Source: http://www.daily-sun.com/details_Open-source-software-helps-info-centres-for-digitalisation_995_1_19_1_0.html

