Digital Content Creation at TISS
A case study

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Abstract:

Digital Libraries are the systems providing users the organised information access to repository of information and services at knowledge base. Ultimately, it is the demand for high quality content and ease of access and use that will drive the initiation and development of digital libraries. The digital Library project at TISS is one of the most ambitious projects the Library has undertaken. This mammoth effort involved implementation of the project in phased manner within three years span of time. The major objectives and advantages of digital library have been narrated with applied knowledge system at TISS library. The functional components of the Digital Library have been presented as a model for the information services of the library. Some of the digitisation works that are carried out by the library and procedures are also discussed here.

Introduction

Digital libraries were viewed as systems providing a community of users with coherent access to a large, organized repository of information and knowledge. One group made the provocative proposal that this organization of information was characterized by the absence of prior detailed knowledge of the uses of the information. The ability of the user to access, reorganize, and utilize this repository is enriched by the capabilities of digital technology; the Multimedia group provided particularly vivid examples of these possibilities.

Digital libraries are for the foreseeable future need to span both print and digital materials and that the central issue was to provide a coherent view of a very large collection of information. In this sense, an emphasis on content solely in digital format is too limiting. Really, the objective is to develop information systems providing access to a coherent collection of material, more and more of which will be in digital format as time goes on, and to fully exploit the opportunities that are offered by the materials that are in digital formats. Additionally, the comprehensiveness and value of the collection accessible through a digital library system can be strengthened by the ability to integrate materials in digital formats that have not been well-represented, easy to access, or effectively usable

in traditional library collections, such as multimedia, geospatial data, or numerical datasets.

Advantages of Digital Library

The potential advantages of a digital library over a paper library are similar to those of any digital database over its paper counterpart:

- faster addition to the data collection with better quality control,

- improved search functionality and faster access to information found, but also more freedom and reduced bureaucracy for individual users.

- For materials stored digitally, users operate on exact images of the original works stored in their local computers.

- Separating usage from the original in this way, digital technology affords multiple, simultaneous uses from a single original in ways that are simply not possible for materials stored in any other form.

- Digital technology also yields additional, effective means of access.
- In full text documents, a reader can retrieve needed information by searching for words, combinations of words, phrases or ideas.

- Readers can also manipulate the display of digital materials by choosing whether to view digital materials on a screen, store them on their computer or external media, or to print them.

Establishment of Digital Library at TISS

The **Tata Institute of Social Sciences** is one of the premier Institute in the country in the field of Social Sciences and has been recognized as one of the progressive centers of learning catering to the educational and research information needs of academic and scientific community for excellent teaching, research and development work carried out by the faculty members, research scholars and students. The University has been viewed as the harbinger of positive social change in view of the tangible improvements it has brought about in the fields of intellectual awareness, aptitude for learning and pursuit of scientific endeavor. Considering the progress and achievements the university could accomplish in the last two decades, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore has accredited the institute with FIVE Stars.

The work of implementation is at its peak. The project is to be completed in three phases. Entire Digital Library setup has been located in the area of 2500 sq. ft in the II Floor of the Library. The lab has been fully furnished with latest P IV computers (35 Nos), LAN with 100 mbps speed, High bandwidth (2mbps) Internet connection to access online full text databases, and dedicated staff to help and train the users for the maximum utilization.

Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library is a unique Knowledge Center which offers essential and specialized information resources and services to meet the growing information needs by;

      i)   Developing user-based resources,
      ii)   Organizing information resources
      iii)   Providing human and technologically moderated access to information; and
      iv)   Aiding and facilitating users to identify, locate, obtain and evaluate information.

Mission

   The main mission of the Digital Library is to create such a study environment in the library so that researchers and students in various university environments across the country and around the world can make the most effective use of library materials preserved in digital form. And also to advance the use and utility of   digital technology for preserving and improving access to intellectual works of national and international importance.

Goals

The project's sole aim is to provide seamless access to social science information to users in a networked environment by Creating Digital Content in the field of Social Sciences.

Objectives

➢ To create Digital Content: Digitization of Thesis, Dissertations, Project Works as well as technical reports and other documents of rare character.
➢ To enable users access these digital collections, regardless of their location, language or formats,
➢ To create an environment for more productive teaching –learning process by providing a highly interactive electronic network giving access to digital library resources.
➢ To establish a world class training Center for training Social Scientists and Library Science professionals in the field of digital Content Management and dissemination.

Phase I : Internet Centre & Access to Online Full (2003)   Text Databases

     The world of libraries and Information Centres has been witnessing a sea of changes due to its development and deployment of information and communication technologies have not only changed the way information is generated, organized, stored and distributed but more importantly they have become indispensable tools for teaching, learning and research. Since the new technologies are forever redefining the model of delivering instruction and service to keep pace with the technological advancement in Information and Communication Technology to meet the expectations of the users. Library is making sincere effort to establish a modern hi-tech library.

The Internet – an electronic treasure trove has been the most important inventions of the millennium, provides a great potential to the academic and research community as an instrumental tool; research tool and communication tool that extend the content of the curriculum, enrich class room discourse, remote communication and enhance learning opportunity.

What Internet Centre will offer for TISS users ?

> The library is also having world's leading CD-ROM databases in its collection which are to be renewed regularly. The library is planning to set up a Digital Library which enable effective and efficient dissemination of social sciences information. Library is planning to subscribe online fulltext databases like EBSCO Host's Academic Search FullTEXT International, UMI's Social Sciences Index/Fulltext, Informatics J-Gate for scholarly journals etc. These databases can be accessed through Internet/Intranet. Being a premier institute in the field of social sciences in India, these databases will be centrally made available to all major social sciences institutions.

- The Internet users Lab under networked environment with 20 computers using a dedicated leased lines will enrich the knowledge of the user community by providing any information on their finger tips.

- Access to Full text online journals through subscription to some of the worlds best online databases in social science field like **Proquest Social Sciences Plus Text from UMI, USA** (Current year + previous 3 years CD-ROM Backup)**, J-Gate (** an electronic Gateway to 9200+ e-journals) from **Informatics (India) Ltd., Academic Search Fulltext International from EbscoHost, etc.** with CD-ROM back up

- As an Internet Librarian's, a comprehensive directory of web sites of interest on discipline-wise for different information sources will be prepared for references.

- Separate appendix of free journals and Databases available on the net will be created and thus, enabling the developing world to be on par with the developing world in terms of access to journals.

Phase II : Digital Content Creation at TISS (2004-2005)

1. Parsee Literature Digitization

150 years old Parsee literature of some 10,000 pages has been digitzed and made it available for the reference in CD-ROM format. The literature was in Gujarathi script and the language was Parsee. Entire 32 volumes have been accommodated in three discs.

Funding Agency   : Tata Education Trust

Status   : Completed

1. Digitization of Specious Documents

The work of digitisation of some of the specious documents of the institute has been undertaken which are of archival value.

Eg. 60 years old Service Book

Status : **Started**

2. Digitization of Theses and Dissertations

Apart from the general collections, the library also holds a good number of Dissertations and Theses submitted to TISS covering diverse subjects of social sciences. It is this rich valuable collection that's made the library unique in its own way. The main purpose of digitization here is to preserve, store and make available doctoral theses and dissertations.

TISS Library has approximately 1000 theses. Each these has approximately 150 pages. *It is required to digitize around 1,50,000 pages.*

Status : **200 theses have been digitized up to Abstract level and access has been facilitated using Winisis.**

3. Project Reports /Monographs/Technical Reports brought out by Faculty

All the project reports, monographs, course material brought out by the faculty members can be digitized and hosted on web server for instant access from anywhere, anytime. We may be required to digitize approx. 100 monographs of each having 150 pages. *We will be required to digitize 15,000 pages.*

Status : **Yet to begin**

4. Publication Unit

i) Books

The Publication Unit at TISS has published over a 100 books since 1940.All theses can be digitized to convert them into e-books. Each book is of an average 300 pages. *We will be required to digitize 30,000 pages.*

Status : **Yet to begin**

ii) Indian Journal of Social Work

Tata Institute of Social Sciences being the premier institute in the field of social sciences fulfils the mandate of producing knowledge and its dissemination in the field of social work and social development through several publications. One of the major achievements of the institute is uninterrupted publication of its refereed journal "Indian Journal of Social Work"(*IJSW*), since 1940.

The *IJSW* is widely used by teachers, researchers, professionals in the field and students and has played a facilitative role in social work education across the country. Research study findings and theoretical conclusions of research are regularly published in this journal. The IJSW completed 62 years of publishing this year. Each volume is of approx 700 pages. *We will be required to digitize approx.45,000 pages*.

Status : **Yet to begin**

Consultancy Services   to be availed

To carry out this digitization work in a professional manner, advice from the experts in the field of Social Science as well as Information Science will be sought. This consultancy will help in ascertaining the need in a better way and then modifying the digitization process to suit it.

Continuing Education Programmes for TISS Library Professionals

A different set of knowledge and skills are required to handle the digital content creation and management process. It is essential to build a team with expertise in handling digital content. Hence participation in National /International Conferences, Seminars is very much necessary.

Conducting Training Programmes for Social Scientists

TISS Library plans to act as a Training Center for Research Scholars from NGOs, Institutes involved in Social Science Research and Education. Training Programmes on digital sources will help social scientists in getting quicker access to information.

Million books to Web project:

A proposal for National Science Foundation , USA to support under the Indo-US Science and Technology Collaboration initiatives to establish of one of the 10 centres along with necessary infrastructure under the **"A million book to the web"** project has been submitted under the **Universal Digital Library programe.** Following is the list of Indian institutions participating in it.

- o Arulmigu Kalasalingam College Of Engineering
- o Goa University
- o Indian Institute of Information Technology - Allahabad
- o Indian Institute of Science
- o International Institute of Information Technology - Hyderabad
- o Shanmugha Arts,Science,Technology & Research Academy
- o Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams
- o Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation
- o University of Pune

Phase III : National Centre for Social Sciences
(2005-2006)   Information & Documentation

The TISS library with its valuable collections both in terms of quality and quantity in the field of social sciences, social work, health sciences act as a nodal centre of major source of information in the field of social sciences in India as well as abroad. The new proposed Nodal Centre for Applied Social Sciences Information, whose main mandate is to provide full range of documentation and information services in the area of social sciences apart from the core subject of Social Work, which will accept request from other user libraries via post, telephone, email or fax and delivers the information. The centre is also planning to provide 50 research students space for retrieving information, analysing data with all IT infrastructure from India and abroad with residential facility from the institute. The UGC has identified TISS library as a document delivery centre. In this whole enterprise of librarianship, the main job is to serve the users with appropriate information without loss of much time. It is not only the satisfaction of a user which is going to be important but it is also the satisfaction of the library professional in fulfilling his obligations which is going to remain a major challenge in the 21st century.

This Nodal Centre is going to work more as a:

- Training Centre for Research Scholars from NGO's, Institutions who are involved in Social Science Research and dissemination of information
- trainer in Information Technology for Library & Information Science professionals
- act as promoter of extension activities in regard to the creation of the database, publication of the multimedia and other documents and the distribution of documents
- Information professionals will cooperate to exchange information in a liberal way.
- This library will begin to be a part of the global information infrastructure.
- Library act as a master of acquisition of the world resources.
- Connectivity to all academic libraries in and around Mumbai
- On-line access to Union Databases and transfer of data between the libraries
- Access to Electronic Journals freely available on Internet by establishing links through the Library's homepage
- Facilitates access to other useful information such as Conferences, meetings and publications.

Conclusion

Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library develops and provides essential and specialised information resources and services to meet the growing information needs by; i) developing user-based resources, ii) organising information resources iii) providing human and technologically moderated access to information; and iv) aiding users to identify, locate, obtain and evaluate information.

The library is going to work more as a:

- disseminator of knowledge and trainer in information technology
- act as promoter of extension activities in regard to the creation of the database, publication of the multimedia and other documents and the distribution of documents
- information professionals who will co-operate to exchange information in a liberal way.
- part of the global information system to facilitate the communication among the academicians and research scholars all over the country

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