DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA:
A PROPOSAL FOR OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING

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INFORMATION IS POWER

- Information – crucial for Power & wealth – very crucial for Economic & Social Development
- India Digital Libraries – Mostly Govt. funded
- Problems, Challenges and Issues in design & development of DL
OBJECTIVES:

- To study the initiatives of the Government and others in India on digital libraries.
- To examine the challenges and problems faced in the digital library initiatives, and
- To propose a digital library initiative for the ODL institutions in India.
DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES – GLOBAL SCENARIO:

- Started in early 1990s
- 1992 - Cornell University, USA
- 1992 - Yale University, USA
- 1994 - US Digital Library Initiatives launched
- Late 1990s – Initiatives launched in UK

Initiatives in Open Universities:

- Open University of Hong Kong
- UK Open University
- ICDL
DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA:

- Thought process has begun in mid 1990s
- Archives of Indian Labour
- Digital Library of India
- Digital Library of art Masterpieces
- Down the Memory Lane
- Indian National digital Library in Engineering Science & Technology
- Kalasampada
DIGITAL LIBRARY INITIATIVES IN INDIA:

- Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library
- Mobile Digital Library (Dware Dware Gyan Sampada)
- Mukhtabodha Digital Library and Archiving Project
- National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore
- National Mission for Manuscripts
- National Resource Centre for Women
- Parliament Library
- Vidyanidhi
DIGITAL LIBRARIES-
PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

- National Policy
- Compatibility of Software and Hardware
- New technological advancements
- OCR Facilities
- Non-standardized technical activities
- Skilled personnel
- Management’s policy
- Preservation policy
- Intellectual Property Rights policy
- Publishers’ policies
SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS:

- National Policy on Digitization
- Sustainability Issues
- Digital Divide
DISTANCE EDUCATION IN INDIA:

- 1962 - Distance learning programmes introduced
- 1982 - Establishment of First Open University in the Country
- 106 Dual Mode Institutions
- 14 Single Mode Open Universities
- DEIs through 40 conventional Universities
ODL – its approach and framework stand on three pillars.
ROLE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL:

- An authority of IGNOU to regulate the Distance Education
- Co-ordination and Maintenance of Standards in DE
- Support to Open Universities and other Correspondence Course Institutions
- Technical and Financial Support for development of infrastructure
- Institutional Reforms
- Professional Development and Training
- Students Support Services
- Computerization and Networking
DIGITAL LIBRARY – A PROPOSAL FOR ODL IN INDIA:

- Constraints of Distance Learners in accessing libraries
- Special features of Distance Learners
- Digital Library most suitable for Distance Learners
- Consortium for the benefit of distance learners
- Digital rights management system
- Avoiding duplication of resources
PROPOSED DIGITAL LIBRARY NETWORK OF ODL

Distance Education Council

- Distance Education
- Research
- Technology Transfer

State Open Universities

Net working of OPEN UNIVERSITIES

- For sharing & Exchange of Information
- For avoiding duplication subscription

END USER

Through Intra and Inter Net
ROLE OF NODAL AGENCY:

- Online databases;
- Online electronic journals
- ‘Research in progress
- Linking to all the related ODL institutional digital repositories;
- Expertise

EXPECTED SERVICES:

- Digital / virtual reference service
- Information service through e-mail
- Access to OPACs
- Powerful search tools
EXPECTED BENEFITS:

- Easy Networking and sharing of resources
- Cost effective solutions to libraries
- More information
- No travel from long distances
- Continuous updatation
- Collaboration and exchange of Information
- Improved preservation of resources
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Need for coordination and concerted efforts in digital library initiatives.
- Need for continuous financial support & also proper planning for continuity.
- There is an urgent need to recognize 'the need for continuing education programmes is ever increasing.'
- ODL will have its crucial role in educating the masses in thickly populated country like INDIA.
- The proposed consortium of ODL digital libraries would certainly go a long way in making the INDIAN WORKFORCE the best of its kind in the world.
THANK YOU