

Workshop on ICT for Information Management in S&T Institutions - Report

The application of ICT in libraries today is indispensable. It enlarges the scope of acquisition, processing, organization and dissemination of information and knowledge; it raises speed, reduces cost and over comes space, time, language and media barriers. It links knowledge sources with researchers and creates knowledge networks. The librarians in academic and research institutions have to apply the tools and techniques of ICT to meet the changing requirements of the users by innovating its procedures and systems.

The Workshop on ICT (Information-communication technologies) for Information Management in S&T (Scientific and Technical) Institutions organized by the Central Library, IIT Bombay from 16-20 May 2005 was a step in that direction. The main objective of the workshop was to expose participants to the state-of-the art in library systems and services and how ICT can transform it into a more efficient, knowledge sharing organization facing new challenges and fulfilling aspirations of its users. Prof Ashok Misra, Director IIT Bombay while inaugurating the workshop lauded the efforts of the Librarian and his team for organizing such a workshop. He said, "we are in the era of knowledge economy and those who are able to achieve faster access to information and knowledge, will remain ahead of others." Librarians can play a significant role in ensuring that their users get the latest information as quickly as possible. The workshops like this offer an opportunity not only to acquire new skills but also to share the experiences and knowledge, and develop future collaborations. Mr D Jotwani, Librarian while welcoming the participants and the chief guest, gave a brief introduction to the workshop. He mentioned that the Central Library had organized a two days workshop on "Optimal Use of e-Resources" in May 2004 for INDEST member institutions so that they are able to make optimum use of the information resources. Since quite a few of such workshops have already been organized, it was considered appropriate to expand the scope of the workshop to not only cover the resources available through INDEST, but also to highlight the newer technologies that can help libraries improve their services, visibility and image. Prof D K Sharma, Convener Library Committee and Dr J Arora, Coordinator INDEST Consortium also addressed the gathering.

The important topics covered during the workshop include :

?? Overview of ICT applications in the libraries	- Prof G Sivakumar, Head CSE, IITB
?? Scientific & Technological Libraries by 2020	- Prof D B Phatak, Head, SOM, IITB
?? Web designing, development of library website	- Mr Shashi, ASC, IITB
?? Changing face of the library	- Mr D Jotwani, Librarian IITB
?? Introduction to Linux	- Mr Pradeep, Computer Centre, IITB
?? INDEST Consortium - future directions	- Dr J Arora, Coordinator INDEST, IITD
?? Development of digital library	- --do--
?? Open archives, Eprints	- Mr Filbert Minj, IISc, Bangalore
?? Dspace,	- Prof A R D Prasad, DRTC, Bangalore
?? RFID	- Prof Sridhar Iyer, Kresit, IITB

Besides presentations by experts and few vendors, participants got an opportunity for hands-on training of Eprints and Dspace software for setting up open archives / institutional repositories.. They also gained first hand information and knowledge of the technologies being used in the IIT Bombay Library.

42 participants from 36 organizations (IITs, NITs, other engineering colleges, scientific and technical institutions) participated in the workshop that were given certificate of participation by Prof Dipan K Ghosh, Deputy Director, IIT Bombay during the valedictory function held on 20th May 2005.