

CAPACITY BUILDING WITH PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYABILITY: LIS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Abstract: - *Capacity Building of the LIS Professionals is a key issue for any LIS school. Here, in this paper it is well demonstrated by offering a new course of study after the MLISc degree. It shows the justification for the new skill development for LIS Professionals, its established need recognized by NKC, and initiation of the DLIS with its outcome with the creation of Institutional Knowledge Repository.*

Key Words: Digitization Skill, LIS Syllabus - PGLN&DT, Innovative Programme, Institutional Knowledge Repository.

INTRODUCTION:

The trends and advancements of storing, processing and disseminating Information is now turns from real to virtual or physical to digital environment. The Global Libraries and Information systems tend to cope up with these turbulent situations by engaging themselves more and rigorous solutions. The change in total information scenario is obvious and ubiquitous in the practice as well as in teaching of Library & Information Science courses at different level.

In these transition periods of time, reference to maturity level of 'Virtual Information Infrastructure', LIS sector is coming out with its own efforts to handle, manage and operate the

term 'Information'. Digitization and /or Born Digital are two notions of Digital Library world which deals greatly in the preparation and presentation of current day dress up for the LIS professionals. Many more training programs, workshops, seminars, symposia, conferences are organized to address and discuss the issues regarding the domain of Digital Information Handling and so on. Even though, there is an urgent need to provide a skilled and trained manpower suitable for the upcoming areas opened up with the new and changing roles and responsibilities of Libraries & Information Centers.

The Recommendations of National Knowledge Commission clearly indicates the capacity building of LIS professionals looking to the emergence of Digital working environments of Libraries and Information Centers. In which, new and challenging areas are identified to strengthen the present operation of LIS sector in the country;

Revamp LIS Education, Training and Research Facilities ... Commission on Libraries must assess as soon as possible the manpower requirements of the country in the area of LIS management, and take necessary steps to meet the country's requirement through LIS education and training. To keep the LIS sector abreast of latest developments, necessary encouragement should be given to research after evaluating the research status in this field. Establishing a well-equipped institute for advanced training and research in library and information science and services would provide the necessary impetus to this task. (NKC, Report to the Nation, p. 31)

It suggests the mixture of new role of LIS professionals such as - Navigator, Digital/Institutional Repository Manager, Aggregator, Web Design and Maintenance Manager which requires the skills of Networking and Digitization of Information. It emphasizes the Digitization Skill development among the students, to create Digital and/Institutional Repository for the preservation and access purpose at different levels of the institutions of higher learning and research.

The Department of Library & Information Science, Sardar Patel University also realized these alarming demands from the LIS Profession and accepts the challenges and started one specialized course to meet that demand by offering **Post Graduate in Library Networking & Digital Technology (PGLN&DT)**. The course started from the year 2009 with the generous Grant from the Government of Gujarat under the 'Innovative Programme' with a fund of Rs. 45, 25,000/- (Forty Five Lacks Twenty Five Thousands Only). The Department Frame out syllabus dividing it in Two Semester and covering Library Networking, Digital Technology in Theory and Practice for the Digitization of Resources as well as one Project based on Digital Technology and Networking. The Eligibility Criteria decided for the admission in the course is MLISc with the background of Information and Communication Technology.

The Department is engaging to produce a new breed of LIS Professionals which is needed by most of the libraries in their advanced role deployment. In this one year advanced course, students are able to learn and gain the theoretical skill and technicality required for the digital collection creation and its IPR issues, storage medium and its scalability, organization of the collection and its value addition. The planning space of whole syllabus is kept open, while framing it, to analyze under the revision process required from time to time.

Syllabus of PGLN&DT is revised in the year 2010, only after the one year of

commencement covering Three Theory Paper Two Practical Paper and One Digitization Project of 100 marks each. Divided in External – 70 marks and Internal – 30 marks as shown as under:

POST GRADUATE IN LIBRARY NETWORKING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

**SYLLABUS [2010-2011]
SEMESTER- I**

PAPER NO	Title of the paper	Ext.	Int.	Practice	Total
LN 01	Foundation, Administration and Management of Library and Information Network	70	30	=	100
LN 02	Network Technology (Theory)	70	30	=	100
LN 03	Network Technology (Practice)	70	30	=	100
TOTAL		210	90	=	300

SEMESTER- II

PAPER NO	Title of the paper	Ext.	Int.	Practice	Total
LN 04	Digital Library & Digital Technology (Theory)	70	30	=	100
LN 05	Digital Technology (Practice)	70	30	100	100
LN 06	Digitization Project*	=	=	=	100
TOTAL		140	60	100	300

* Digitization Project is a part of the study which covers the Digitization Process itself with the help of Digital Scanner specially installed for that

which includes – Capturing the Image, Cropping and Editing, Indexing and Locating in the Image, Converting in to PDF, Uploading the Image in to Institutional Knowledge Repository, Metadata Allocation, Clubbing in to Collection and Make accessible through the Network support.

In the syllabus of PGLN&DT it is kept in to the mind that it should comprise various topics which reflects the specific skill development which are demanded by Digital world of Information handling. Network Development, IPR – DRM, DCM and Digital Asset Management, HRM & HRD issues of Networked Digital environments are covered in the Paper LN-01. Network Technology, Topologies, Protocols, Configurations and Management, Client-Server Architecture, P2P applications, OSI Models, Data Communication, Internet and Network Server etc. are covered in the Paper LN-02. The Paper LN-03 covers the practical exposure of the Paper LN-02. In the Paper LN-04 Digital Library and its related Technologies framed out such as – Hardware and Software of DL, Mechanism & Process of Digitization of Born-Digital Resources and Digitized Resources, Creation of Storage and Access of Digital Material with Open-Source and Proprietary Software, Standard Backup Practices, Content Development & Management etc. The Paper LN-05 kept for Practical Exposure based on the Paper LN-04, While Paper LN- 06 Digitization Project offer as an outcome of the entire syllabus with the help of the University’s Publications.

Infrastructural Facility:

The Department has only Two Faculty Members at Present – One Professor & Head and One Assistant Professor in a full time capacity. For the said course, Department invites visiting faculty not only from the neighboring states but also from the National front.

For the specific purpose of the said course, Department has established one Digital Laboratory comprises One High-end “ATIZ Book Drive Pro™”, Two well configured computer system dedicated for the Digitization and Editing Process and a well established Computer Laboratory of having 25 clients and one server for storage and retrieval purpose. Moreover, the department has purchased one more Digital Scanner “Book eye 4™” as well as one more server with 1Tb Storage capacity

Creation of Institutional Knowledge Repository:

Due to digitization project of student the department has developed an Institutional Knowledge Repository. While creating a Institutional Knowledge Repository IPR issues are well thought out and only the University publications, with prior permission of the university, are selected to digitized which has ‘Informational Value’ & less chances for the reprint or revision. The Publication range of Sardar Patel University is spectacular starting from different subjects to the different formats as well as from Historic to Concurrent view point. The University has published an important and valuable encyclopedic work namely – “*Gyan*

Gangotri” divided into 30 volumes. It covers various subjects and its subdivisions such as – Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, History, Architecture, Agriculture, Literature etc. and Learned Scholarly Tri-Lingual Annual Journal *Prajna* in - Social Sciences, Humanities and Business Administration, Pure and Applied Sciences are digitized by the students. Some books are also digitized in all subjects either in English, Gujarati or Hindi Languages. The Repository created on the DSpace Open Source Software Platform and mounted on the website of the University (<http://www.spuvvn.edu/academics/> institutional knowledge repository). Submission in to this repository is a continuous process as it has been allocated among the students of PGLN&DT as well as MLISc as a part of their study.

Department thus, develop the digitization skill among all the students at one hand and develop a Digital Repository/ Institutional Repository of the valuable scholarly and academic work of the university for long term preservation and perpetual access on other hand.

Conclusion:

The department is thankful to Government of Gujarat for providing a generous grant for the ‘Innovative Programme’. Because of this forwarding Department is not only able to prepare the manpower to the LIS profession but also create and maintain the Digital/Institutional Repository for the effective scholarly communication.

Suggestions:

1) The UGC should take initiatives in this regard and supports such related courses by providing generous facilities in all manner

2) The Professional Associations should come forward to advocate the LIS Departments such as DLIS, Sardar Patel University, Gujarat in the appropriate power body to put forward the case for their full fledged structure recommended by UGC as well as NKC.

3) The University should take these sincere and hard working efforts as a 'Best Practice' and reward them by allocating appropriate resources.

References:

1. National Knowledge Commission (2005): Report to the Nation, p. 31
2. Department of Library & Information Science (2010): Syllabus for PGLN&DT
(*Unpublished Document*)