

Report on Two day workshop on Information Delivery Systems for Academic and Research Institutions (IDSARI)

(at ICFOSS office on 22nd and 23rd April, 2016)

Introduction

ICFOSS has organized a 2 day workshop on Information Delivery Systems for Academic and Research Institutions (IDSARI), at ICFOSS, Technopark, Trivandrum on 22nd and 23rd April 2016. This programme was directed at the staff of Educational and Research institutions in general, and Programme Officers/Course Co-ordinators, Teachers, Librarians and students in particular, to equip the participants with knowledge of modern information storage, delivery and management systems such as Moodle and DSpace. Besides theory sessions on the basics of relevant FOSS-based server platforms and software, the programme also had hands-on sessions by which participants could directly install and manage those softwares. There were 20 persons from different organisations participated in the programme.

Resource Person

The resource person for the programme was Mr. Binu.A, Head of the Department, Department of Information Technology, Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, Cochin. He is a trainer and expert for Learning Management Systems and Institutional Repositories in various Academic Institutes. He earned M.Tech Degree in Software Engineering from the Department of Computer Science,CUSAT. At Present he is doing Ph.D. in the Department of Computer Science CUSAT.

Areas Covered

The following areas will be covered in the workshop and hands on practical training will be given in these areas:

Course Management System

- Create a Course
- Assign Teachers & Students
- Management Course Activities
- Course Announcements
- Lecture Plans
- Assignment Submission
- Youtube Videos sharing
- Comprehension followed by Questions
- Online Quiz

- Feedback Sessions
- Surveys
- Grading
- Virtual Classrooms
- Virtual Labs
- Chat

Institutional Repositories

- Metadata and Metadata Standards
- Introduction DSpace Software
- DSpace Installation & Configuration
- DSpace Users& Groups: Anonymous, Members & Authors
- DSpace Administration & Customization
- DSpace Workflow & Submissions
- Backup, Export and Import in DSpace
- Unicode and Indian Languages

Deployment and Management of people websites using Open Scholar

The sessions include lectures, demonstrations and practices on the topics mentioned above.

Day One

The programme commenced at 9.30 am with the registration of participants. There was an Introduction on Moodle followed by a hands on session for the Management of Course Activities using Moodle. Moodle is a free and open-source software learning management system written in PHP and distributed under the GNU General Public License. It is used for blended learning, distance education, flipped classroom and other e-learning projects in schools, universities, workplaces and other sectors.

The activities done under Course Management System using Moodle can be the following.

For the first time a course has to be created by an Admin in the Moodle. The Admin has to assign logins for teachers and students. The teachers can enter the activities of course for distribution. They can make course announcements, Lecture Plans, Assignment submission, Youtube video sharing, Comprehension and questions, Online quiz, Feedback sessions, Surveys, Grading, Virtual class rooms and Labs, Chats etc. In the hands on training the above activities have been made to be carried out by the participants with the guidance of the Resource Person.

Day Two

The programme commenced at 9.30 am with the registration of participants. There was an Introduction on Institutional Repositories, Meta Data Standards&Overview of Dspace. DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and published digital content. While DSpace shares some feature overlap with content management systems and document management systems, the DSpace repository software serves a specific need as a digital archives system, focused on the long-term storage, access and preservation of digital content. There was a hands on session in which the activities to be carried out using Dspace were demonstrated. This session focused on creating an Institutional repository. First one is the installation and Configuration of Dspace. Then we can create Dspace users and groups such as Anonymous, Members and Authors. We can do the Administration, Customisation, Institutional Workflow and Submissions. There is facility for backup, Export and Import in it.

The Final session of the day two is Management of Open Scholar websites. OpenScholar is a platform that makes it possible to create ones own website using web browser.. We can post our biodata, publications, a blog, photos, class materials, and a calendar in the website. The participants were made to create their own Websites and the resource person reviewed the websites made by them.

Conclusion

The workshop was very informative and interesting for the participants. They have shown much interest in the hands own sessions as well as in lecture classes. The participants in the programme were provided with food. The fee for participation in the programme was Rs.1000/- for Professionals and Rs.500/- for students. The resource person was a well experienced and his presentation in the workshop impressed all participants. He has been provided with accommodation, travel and remuneration.

The programme concluded at 4.30 pm.