
Popularizing DSpace in India

ARD Prasad

Documentation Research and Training Centre

Indian Statistical Institute

Bangalore, India

History

- 2002: One of DRTC faculty visited MIT, Cambridge, (DSpace launch week and had a demo) from HP folks
- Within a month we launched LDL (Librarian's Digital Library - <https://drtc.isibang.ac.in>)
- Since 2004, we shared our experience with Library professionals by conducting hands-on training courses and helping in installation

Background

- DRTC has the advantage of acceptability as leaders in Library and Information Science
- Other DL software were much talked about, but there were no production systems
- Library professionals in India are more keen on hosting Digital Libraries (DLs) than others
- Many DL conferences were held -- not covering technical know-how of Digital Libraries -- there was felt a need for practise based workshops for capacity building

Not so perfect statistics

- Repositories in India
 - DSpace about 30-50
 - EPrints about 8-15
 - GSDL uncertain

Organizations Using DSpace

- Major Universities (Available on Net)
- Research Institutes
 - Academic: Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management etc.(Available on Net)
 - Defense Labs (Not available on the Net)
 - Space Research Labs (Not available on the Net)
 - Other Research Labs (Available on Net)
- Press/TV channels: only one instance(Intranet)
- Software companies (Not available on the Net)

DSpace assistance to Institutions in other/Asian countries

- Sri Lanka
- Oman (Dubai)
- Singapore
- South Africa

Approaches in Popularization

- Bottom up approach
 - Training the implementation workforce
- Top down approach
 - Convincing the Bosses

Hands-on Training

- Conducted about 18 courses of 3-4 days across India, including one International
- Average number of trainees for each course - 25-40
- Trained a total of 400-500 from about 100 organizations

How they were funded?

- Registration fee from the users Rs. 2000-5000 (\$45-110)
- Some times the host organization providing either funding or facility

Topics Covered in Training

- ❑ Open Access to Information
- ❑ Digital Libraries Basic concepts
- ❑ Metadata formats
- ❑ Demo of Indian Languages
- ❑ Dspace
 - administration, Installation, workflow, Customization of screens, resource uploading, different metadata, Lucene Search Engine, interoperability
- ❑ 50% time for hands-on training
- ❑ Approach: first introduce admin module, then user modules, then reviewer workflow, customization and last Installation!

Training (cont...)

- Distribution of Course material - Lessons and presentations on CD
- Course material is supplemented with key by key how-to instructions/exercises for every module
- Print out of exercises for the trainees
- Making the course material available on LDL and website

Reasons for low outcome

- Getting support to attend a training course is easier than getting support to launch an IR
- Trained people might have failed to convince the authorities in launching a repository
- Apprehensions of the Bosses in terms of manpower, costs
- Innumerable excuses

Top Down Approach: DSpace Advocacy

- DRTC faculty has wider contacts and are members of many committees at the national level
- Convince the heads of organization on the importance of --
 - Open Access to Information
 - Institution Repositories
 - DSpace
 - Our technical support

India's Major Organizations

Organizations having institutes under them

- ❑ UGC - University Grants Commission (about 300 Universities)
- ❑ Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (about 50 labs)
- ❑ DRDO - Defense Research & Development Organization (about 40 labs)
- ❑ ICMR - Indian Council of Medical Research
- ❑ ICAR – Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- ❑ Many such like ICSSR, ICCR etc.

Our “Open Mantra”

- ❑ Open Access to Information
- ❑ Open Source Software
- ❑ Open Standards
- ❑ Open Courseware

* *Mantra in Sanskrit means 'chant' or 'spell'*

Why Open Access?

- Digital Libraries help in preventing plagiarism
- Visibility: Your institute will be known to the rest of the world
- We cannot download forever, we too should have something to offer!

Advocacy: Strengths of DSpace

- Free software (we do not use the term open source to Bosses)
- World-wide popularity
- Multi-lingual (India has 22 official languages)
- Compliant to International standards

DLRG – Discussion forum

- Digested User:289
- Non-Digested Users: 243
- Members from about 15 countries
- Mostly on
 - cost of setting up an IR
 - Migration
 - troubleshooting
 - Installation problems
 - announcement of new IRs
 - general information of Open access, forthcoming workshops etc.

DL Testbeds

- We created testbeds for
 - EPrints
 - GSDL
 - Fedora
 - CDS-Invenio

Help in installation & Migration

- installation software (shell script)
- customized programs for import of legacy data (java, perl)

Future

- Development activity
- Training and Support to other Asian Countries – esp. South & Southeast
- Training for advanced users

Thank You