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DIGITAL CULTURAL RESOURCES IN LEARNING COMMONS: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO ASSAM

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ABSTRACT
Learning Commons has become an important topic in the literature of Library and Information Sciences. This paper tries emulating a feasibility aspect of digital cultural resources of Assam as a component of virtual Learning Commons.
KEY WORDS: ***Multimedia Cultural Resource, Community Virtual Library, Assam.***

INTRODUCTION

"Where is the life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in Knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?''
---Thomas Stearns Eliot, the Rock (1934).

In the knowledge hierarchy, the zenith entity wisdom seems to be based on qualitative levels of Data, Information, and Knowledge. As a key stack-holder in the scholarly communication ecosystem, libraries and information centers play an important role in terms of brokerage, access, curation of information and dissemination of the same. As practicing librarians, we often seek to improve library footfalls through various means and methods. The adoption of technology in the planning and management of library affairs is one of them. This has benefited the library operation in two ways: One can save time and effort and disseminate the processed information in an effective manner. The phenomenon of automation in library operations began in the late 20th century. Dr. Hans Peter Luhn, a German information scientist at IBM, and Henrietta Davidson Avarm, an American computer programmer, took the early initiative to preserve inventory data in a machine-readable format. This was just the beginning from prototypes to today's embedded application scenario.

The exponential growth of scientific data in various fields has led scientists to think about alternative ways of information management. This has affects the library sector in two ways: on storage/preservation and accessibility to the information. In adjacent to the process, great care has to be taken to ensure that the physical and logical stuffing of the information architecture is not manipulated. In addition, there is also to look into the legal aspect of doing the job and complying with the issues of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Many western philosophers of library and information science, now often question the feasibility of physical spaces for providing library and information services to the user community, which has makes the information professionals to think of new innovative service oriented collaborative space for instructional support, research and learning; literally moving into an information commons. Indeed, it would be a technology indebted space with a variety of data processing and productivity (maker) equipment along with a supportive milieu, where the users inspired to feel like creative place-making for diverse aspects of social characteristics of the neighborhood. Additionally, the concept of metaverse has been evolved to obliterate the stripe between virtual and real world, which has incorporates the elements of cultural intelligence.

Let's take the example of a digital native. Their behavior in their infotainment approach is very different from that of their counterparts. This new way of consuming information could be a means of optimizing access to the cultural richness of Assam and northeast India. Assam is a cultural rendezvous with many unique elements of the people who inherit it. Even one single tribe has so many unique traditions and cultural objects that need to be mapped for easy access by tech-savvy information seekers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In positive parlance, academic users are tempted to settle for information that satisfies the "three F" requirements (fast, fastest, full text). It means that users are looking for information in an easy way in all inclusive form. To address this situation, academic libraries have experimented with new ways of combining information resources, technology, and research support. Reconfiguring physical spaces and redesign services to meet new challenges, adopting the idea of a central location to provide information to the communities with various forms of information resources and staff assistance (MacWhinnie).The Internet has also played an important role in ethnography

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research, transforming the traditional textual discourse scenario into a digital communication platform in terms of green content. Web 2.0 is a crusader in the theater of digital content mapping and optimization and a catalyst for science communication (Kavanaugh & Maratea). Overcoming the complexities of data ideologies of different cultural backgrounds, there is a need of digital infra (structuring) of Data to bridge the gap across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society (Poirier & Fortun et al.)

DISCUSSION

Assam is a plethora in much cultural diversity. The state inherits both tacit and explicit knowledge management issues of cultural resources that require proper documentation and digital archiving. Still, creating a metadata component for each visual object is a very costly affair and requires a good SWOC analysis to intervene in the process. Nevertheless, during the preparatory phase, open scientific and technology solutions can be helpful to take up the job. Even in some cases, social media platforms, embedded applications, podcasting media and some open source repository can be taken for freelance and for the purpose of discovery, access and use of information. For oral literature and history, cloud based apps such as Spotify could become viable tools for podcasting. Even YouTube can be a useful platform for multimedia narrative. Other interoperable platforms like Wix. , Bloggers can be used for the purpose as well. However, if the content (textual & pictorial) is published on the open web, crawlers may be confined within static pages and may not be able to index accurate and defined resources. In a larger context, adhering data ideology of the region a community virtual library could be developed based on autonomous technology, revealing multimedia cultural content.

CONCLUSION

Learning commons can become viable tool in terms of lifelong learning process. It also gives the opportunity to collective participation in the process of knowledge creation and dissemination. Step by step initiation can be a feasible aspect for enhancing the credibility of particular information content in various domain knowledge.

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