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NEWSLETTER

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FROM PUBLISHER'S DESK

A very useful webinar on Research Data Management (RDM) Services in Libraries - An Overview was conducted on 21st January 2023.

The resource persons were Dr. Bhakti Gala of Central University of Gujarat & Mr. T R Manu of IIT - Delhi. RDM is a term that describes the organisation, storage, preservation & sharing of data collected in a research project. It involves decisions about how data will be preserved & shared after the project is completed. Now this valuable scholarly product can be shared, reused and also reanalysed.

An interesting and thought-provoking online program on Joy of Reading for the Reading Deprived was organised on 4th March 2023. ADINET collaborated in this webinar which was initiated by the IIT-Gn Library. Mr. Satyanarayanan Mundayoor an educationist & social activist working in the northeast region was the resource person. Library Professionals do know the immense

value of reading and how important it is to inculcate reading habits in children. Mr. Mundayoor has been doing excellent work in the remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

This is truly challenging since there is poor connectivity, very little facilities and a highly scattered population. In spite of all these challenges he has done commendable work by not only inculcating reading habits, but also by conducting interactive innovative programs. The model developed by him can be implemented elsewhere.

WEBINAR ON RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN LIBRARIES OF 21ST CENTURY: AN OVERVIEW: A REPORT

The poster features the ADINET logo and title at the top. Below the title, it lists the speakers: Dr. Bhakti Gala (Science, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar) and Manu T R (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi). A 'Welcome Address' section mentions Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, Hon. Director, ADINET, Ahmedabad. The date is 21 Jan. 2023, and the time is 11:00 to 12:00. The webinar URL is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82395408257>. At the bottom, there are links to the website (<https://www.alibnet.org/>) and email (alibnet@gmail.com).

ADINET organized the webinar on the “Research Data Management (RDM) Services in Libraries of 21st Century: An Overview” on the 21st January 2023.

The speakers of the webinar were Dr. Bhakti Gala, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, Central University of Gujarat – Gandhinagar and Manu T R Assistant Librarian, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi - New Delhi. Ms Rhoda Bharucha, Honorary Director of ADINET welcomed the attendees and gave a brief introduction about webinar topic and its importance. Ms. Sangita Bhatt introduced both speakers and their expertise. The speakers of the webinar gave an in depth overview of RDM giving the importance of RDM and presenting how libraries can offer RDM services in detail. Dr. Bhakti Gala gave a brief introduction about research, research data, RDM and FAIR data principles and Manu T R shared in detail the RDM Stakeholders, Services, Tools and Technologies, Research Data Repositories, RDM Policies by Publishers & Funders, Benefits, RDM Services in Libraries of S&T institutions in India, Skill & Competencies and RDM Challenges. Research Data Management Services in libraries is an emerging trend and widely accepted library support services for research activities. Since a decade RDM services have been growing rapidly. Professional associations and networking bodies like OCLC, RCUK, European Union, Association of European Research Libraries, ACRL, ARL, United States National Science Foundation (NSF), Australian Research Council (ARC) and others have been involved in producing the best practices of RDM services in libraries.

Research Data Management

Covers the planning, collecting, organizing, managing, storage, security, back-up, preservation and sharing data. It ensures that research data are managed according to legal, statutory, ethical and funding body requirement.

It deals with data collection methods, best practices and implementations of infrastructure and services to archive, preservation, and access research data. It also addresses the full range of information needs include data storage, data security, preservation, compliance, quality of data and data sharing. RDM is part of research process cycle, and it aims to make efficient research process and meet the requirements of universities, institutions and research funders.

RDM Benefits

- * To funders: make optimal use of publicly funded research; maximize return on investment; avoid duplication of data collection
- * To the scholarly community- maintain professional standards of open inquiry; quality improvement from verification, replication and trust; develop long time series of data; promote innovation through unintended, new uses of data; study documentation for research design and teaching;
- * To research participants- allow maximum use of their contributions; minimize data collection on the hard-to-reach
- * To the public-production of high-quality findings with social value; advance science to the benefit of society; compliance with laws and regulations; adoption of emerging norms – ‘open access publishing; seen to be open and accountable.

RDM Stakeholders

In a university/institution structure, it is necessary to involve all the top management, support team and researcher to successfully establish the RDM practices in the campus.

Research

support unit(s), the library, information technology support unit(s), administrative office(s), designated data manager(s), colleagues in own unit/department will play the major role the RDM. Four major categories of stakeholders identified are data creator, facilitator, government at large and users. Individual stakeholders have their roles and responsibilities at the large in developing RDM best practices.

RDM Services in Libraries

Research Data Services are valuable for future library services, and it involves the management of research data throughout research life cycle. Research data services include data management planning, digital curation (selection, preservation, maintenance, and archiving), and metadata creation and conversion.

Library can play a major role by offering research data services to their research community.

The core activities involved in RDM are preparation of the RDM plan, research data curation, research data literacy, advocacy and advisory services, awareness & training program, research data storage, research data sharing & access, research data repository development and research data citation & management.

Tools and Technologies

RDM tools and services are available on various types based on nature of data management plan, organisation, active management, preserving and sharing.

There are a variety of open source and proprietary tools, technologies, and resources accessible to provide successful RDM services, and librarians who are capable and have sufficient abilities and competencies to use the tools and technologies listed above can readily implement RDM practices.

RDM Challenges

Implementing national-wide RDM practices in India, would be a challenging role for library professionals, institutional, management, policymakers, and competent government authorities.

The major challenges that can anticipated during implementation are resources challenges, fundamental challenges, technical challenges, research data governance, skills and competencies, collaborative effort, cultural changes, researcher openness, low motivation, research ethics, limited staffing and funding / cost.

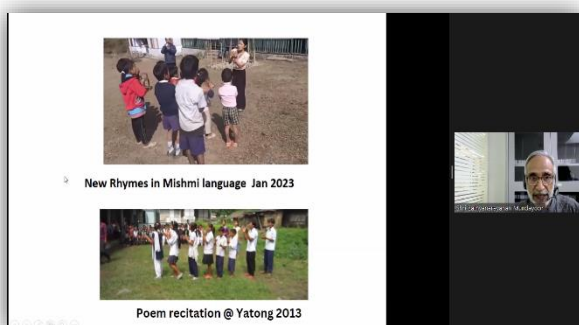
Conclusion

Libraries being a central place of the university/institution, they are the right agencies to offer RDM services and they also coordinate with

university/institute management and researchers. RDM is a fundamental prerequisite for efficient data sharing and effective long-term preservation of research data. RDM services in libraries will address data management lifecycle including data management planning & designing, data collection, data curation, metadata creation, data sharing, preservation, publishing and reuse. It will continue to play a significant role in fulfilling future needs of the researchers and faculty. The webinar ended with a highly interactive Q & A session from the audience. Prominent librarians from leading R & D institutions showed their interest in implementing RDM and also shared the challenges faced by them.

The webinar has created an opportunity to initiate these discussion and implementation of RDM in Gujarat.

A VIRTUAL TALK ON “JOY OF READING”: A REPORT



On 4th March 2023, Library at IITGN, in collaboration with Advance Information Network of Libraries in Gujarat (ADINET), organised a virtual talk on “Joy of Reading for the reading-deprived: Journey of a youth library movement in Arunachal Pradesh” by Shri Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor, fondly known as Uncle Moosa.

Shri Sathyanarayanan Mundayoor is an educationist and social activist working in Northeast India. He is the recipient of Padma Shri award in 2020. Born in Kerala, he has been working in Arunachal Pradesh for the last 43 years.

The event began with an introduction by Ms. Rhoda Bharucha, Director, ADINET, who warmly welcomed the speaker. She then described the role that ADINET plays and paralleled that beautifully with the Lohit Youth Library Movement. Next, Dr. Kumbar introduced the speaker to the audience and set the context for Sathyanarayananji to take over. Keen to build reading habits among children, Sathyanarayananji explained how he has been addressing the local reading challenges in Arunachal since 1979. Arunachal Pradesh, like many other Himalayan regions, is a mountainous area, with poor connectivity and a population highly scattered. The state has 26 major tribal communities who speak script-less, often mutually distinct languages. The Govt after independence has therefore chosen English as the medium of instruction in schools, along with Hindi.

However, the introduction of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2001 saw a rapid increase in the number of day scholar Govt schools across remote areas, but with poor facilities and ill-equipped teachers, severely depleting reading opportunities and habits especially

among rural Arunachal youth. Deeply concerned by the steep fall in the quality of educational standards in the state, a group of committed book lovers started working to spread the joy of reading in the eastern Dibang and Lohit valleys of Arunachal. Thus, the Lohit Youth Library Network (<http://www.lohit-libraries.org/>) came into being in 2007. Through the hand holding of NGOs, youth groups, patrons, and committed district officials, the movement is now a network of youth libraries managed by local groups and volunteers, conducting regular reading campaigns across the region to reach out to the reading-deprived. Its motto has been "If readers can't come to books, books must go to the readers. "The Library Network, with a vibrant team of youth reader-activists, has won hearty appreciation from book lovers across the world and the state leadership over the last 16 years.

Lohit Library Network has also emerged as a model replicable by any state. He went on to show how the Library volunteers took help from All India Radio to keep up the spirit of reading during COVID times.

Through several videos and photographs, Sathyanarayananji took the audience on a wonderful journey through the mountains and valleys of Arunachal, accompanied by the delightful performance and enthusiastic participation of local community members.

The event concluded with the souls of the LIS professionals stirred, realizing the importance of reading and how simple initiatives can make long lasting effects. Furthermore, it was a reaffirmation that libraries have a greater role to play in our societies.