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TIA LIBRARIANS ATTEND A CERTIFICATE COURSE ON TOTAL SOLUTION FOR INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM & INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY IN CHENNAI - INDIA

Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative, two librarians from the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) headquarters recently traveled to India to complete a completely supported short training session. Thirty participants from eighteen different nations attended the two-week study program at the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR) in Chennai, India, from February 28 to March 12, 2024.



Group photo including NITTTR Director Prof. Usha Natesan (middle), ITEC Director Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel (left), and Course Coordinator Dr. R. Ravichandran (right) together with all participants

Aims and Objectives of the course

Aims:

- To develop appropriate competencies and skills of Library and Information Faculty / Professionals in using Open Source Software
- Managing and developing Integrated Library System (ILS) and Institutional Repository.

Objectives:

- To introduce the LINUX operating system to the LIS professionals
- To create awareness of the benefits of Open Source Software solutions
- To acquaint the participants with the installation of KOHA on Linux
- To provide hands-on experience on various modules, operations & customization
- To understand the Institutional Repository and its use
- To acquaint the participants with the installation of DSpace on Linux
- To provide hands-on experience on various operations & customization of DSpace and
- To strengthen the Library & Information Professionals to face the technological challenges

Detailed Course Content

This short course was about Integrated Library Systems and Institutional Repository, with an important underlying focus being to identify the skills required for efficient library service delivery and gather information aiming to improve library services.

The individuals pursued a certificate program in Total Solution for Integrated Library Systems with the intention of enhancing their native libraries. The curriculum was designed to assist librarians in broadening their perspectives on library operations

and events, making the most use of available resources, and providing patrons with top-notch services.

The curriculum also sought to build the necessary competencies and skills for maintaining and developing websites, including traditional resource collections, services, and facilities, in the context of the digital age for library and information sciences.



Participants from Tanzania posing for a photo

By the time the program ended, librarians should have gained new knowledge and abilities in communication within the context of library practice, as well as an understanding of how library services have evolved globally and organizational strategies.



Class session with Course Coordinator, Dr. R. Ravichandran

Additionally, by using open source LMS and digital library tools, the training aimed to empower librarians to articulate information needs, recognize different kinds and formats of potential information sources, and apply competencies and knowledge that are critical for providing, managing, and designing information services in various information environments.

The goal of the program was to equip librarians with the skills necessary to manage a range of online and offline information retrieval systems and techniques, use the internet for communication, storage, and information access, and maintain online resources for efficient usage.

In-depth discussions of e-learning platforms were also anticipated from participants in order to better inspire students to do research utilizing suitable online research tools, like a variety of databases, in order to obtain the most current, accurate, and pertinent material to enhance learning in institutional libraries.



TIA participants with ITEC Director Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel

The participants followed the most updated programme recently being used worldwide in academic libraries, such as;

- Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) using Open Source Software - Ubuntu Basics – ILMS – KOHA – features, installation, configuration and customisation – Integration RFID (Demo)
- Digital libraries – digital initiatives – types of digital collections – digital library software (DSpace) rules of cooperation in building and using digital collections – institutional repository – digital preservation – economic, legal and management issues related to digital libraries . Copyright and IPR issues
- OER Basics – Open Licenses and OER Repositories – OER Tools for Librarians – Explore various OER initiatives. Locate and evaluate OER
- Basics of Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights – Literary and artistic works – Copyright Law – plagiarism/types of plagiarism – Predatory Journals – UGC Regulations 2018 – Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions – Value of Creative Commons – Create a proper attribution for a creative work that uses Creative Commons Licensing



Some of participants posing with Course Coordinator Dr. R. Ravichandran immediately after mini graduation.

Conclusion

We express our gratitude to the Indian High Commission for providing us with the chance to complete this short course in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India; our Government, through the Public Service Management and Good Governance Ministry under the President's Office; and the management of our institution for enabling us to participate in this professional course.