0. Background of the Organisation

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), a pioneer research organisation on arts is now known for its immense contribution on the research, documentation, dissemination and preservation of all forms of arts with special reference to Indian arts. The arts are here understood to comprise the fields of creative and critical literature, written and oral; the visual arts, ranging from architecture, sculpture, painting and graphics to general material culture, photography and film; the performing arts of music, dance and theatre in their broadest connotation; and all else in fairs, festivals and lifestyle that has an artistic dimension. Pertaining to the use of interactive multimedia to document cultural resources, the Centre has created a new independent wing called “Cultural Informatics Lab (CIL). The CIL unit employs an integrated method to develop applications to access diverse media on all fields relating to arts through multi-media and digital technology. It also seeks to demonstrate the virtual reconstruction of fragments of India’s cultural past by using interactive multi-media technology. The IGNCA has been working now from more than 10 years to make its projects, books, workshops, exhibitions, films, audios, photographs, sketches, animations, etc., available on the website for the easy access to the net users around the world. The laurels and appreciations, it has been receiving from the net users are the true indicators of it’s success.

1. Background of the Project

Under the TDIL programme of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, the project entitled CoIL-Net- “Cultural Heritage Digital Library in Hindi with Special Focus on Hindi Speaking Region” has been initiated at IGNCA. The main idea behind launching this project is to disseminate the vast resources material for the wider use of the net and web users in Hindi for the Hindi speaking region and to the people who are comfortable and creative in Hindi and using it as mother tongue or the link language. The Indian states covered under this project are: Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. Under this project we identified several cultural pockets and started collecting information accordingly on the basis of a draft of Guidelines prepared by IGNCA, Co-Investigator, IGNCA. The format of Guidelines was prepared on the basis of serious interaction with the IGNCA scholars and also on the basis of a two-day workshop on “Cultural Content: Exploration Finalisation” held in the month of December 2002. The format of guidelines is given below:

Guidelines for CoIL-Net Project on “Cultural Heritage Digital Library” in Hindi with special focus on Hindi Speaking Region

(A) Common Heritage of the People
(B) Poetic and Literary Heritage
(C) Architectural Heritage
(D) Natural Heritage
(E) Miscellaneous Information

(A) Common Heritage of the People

i. Land and People

ii. Myths, Legends, Archaeological findings, history, etc.

iii. Fairs and festivals (Make a cycle of festivals before giving the details)

For easy use, one example of Festival cycle based on Maithili culture beginning from the first month the Hindu Calendar is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Festival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asarh</td>
<td>(i) Ardara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawan</td>
<td>(i) Nagapanchami;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Madhushravani;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Rakshabandhana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhadav</td>
<td>(i) Chauthichandra;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Kushiamavasluja;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rites associated with males
- Rituals before marriage
- Rituals during the time of actual marriage ceremony
- Rituals after marriage ceremony is over

Death rites

v. Folksongs
- Folksongs related with rites
- Devotional folksongs
- Folksongs of love, emotion and patriotism
- Lamenting songs
- Wisdom songs
- Other songs

vi. Folk narratives
Folk narratives can further be divided into many subheadings. Some of them are given below for the ready reference of the research scholars.
- Narratives said and recited during ritual ceremonies
- Narratives explaining the moral and educational values
- Narratives based on religious epics and morals
- Any other type

vii. Pilgrim Centres

viii. Agricultural activities
Before writing the details of agricultural activities one annual calendar is advised to be designed with
every possible detail. A sample annual calendar is given below)

**Annual calendar of agricultural activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of month</th>
<th>Calendar of Agricultural activities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Vernacular</td>
<td>For which crop is taken place</td>
<td>Swan</td>
<td>Weeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept-Oct</td>
<td>Ashwin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-Nov</td>
<td>Kartik</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-Dec</td>
<td>Agahan</td>
<td>Wheat, Jaw</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-Jan</td>
<td>Puja</td>
<td>Wheat, Maize, Sweet Potato</td>
<td>Wheat, Maize, Barley, Sweet Potato</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb</td>
<td>Magh</td>
<td>Garri(Moong), Ured, Sweet Potato</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-March</td>
<td>Yagnya</td>
<td>Cherti(Moong)</td>
<td>Wheat, Maize</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March-April</td>
<td>Chait</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-May</td>
<td>Balasah</td>
<td>All crops</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>Jeth</td>
<td>Paddy, Madua</td>
<td>Paddy, Madua</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June-July</td>
<td>Awarth</td>
<td>Madua, Paddy</td>
<td>Madua</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-August</td>
<td>Shashwam</td>
<td>Ured, Kurji, Madua, Paddy</td>
<td>Madua, Ured, Paddy</td>
<td>Madua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August-Sept</td>
<td>Shaker</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>Madua</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once it is done brief details of cropping pattern can also be written.

**ix. Dress pattern**

(a) Men, Women and Child
(b) Ritual dress
(c) Dress for widows and pujaris
(d) Change in dress pattern

**x. Ornaments**

For men (Child and adult)

For female (Child, adult and widow)

Description about ornaments worn by the people in everyday life as well as on ritual occasions can be given first in the tabular form before giving the details. One such example is given below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ornament</th>
<th>Material used for Preparation</th>
<th>Part of body where it is worn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anan</td>
<td>Gold, silver, and cotton thread</td>
<td>Arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angutha (Ring)</td>
<td>Gold, silver, Copper</td>
<td>Finger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhaluband (Armlet)</td>
<td>Silver, Gold</td>
<td>Arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball (Ear ring)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathia (Necklace)</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahia</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Fingers of feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churi (Bangles)</td>
<td>Gold, silver, In bracelet etc.</td>
<td>Wrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dikka (Wrist’s chain)</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Wrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hansuli</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathana</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Wrist and palms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kara (anklet)</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathia (wrist bell)</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Wrist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payal</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft (Necklace)</td>
<td>Gold, silver</td>
<td>Neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manika</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Forehead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**xi. Food habits**

General food, festival food, medicinal foods, ritual food etc.,

**xii. The men and women who are known to the people for their contribution.**

**xiii. Art and Handicrafts**

Paintings, Musical instruments, Classical Songs, Classical families (gharanas) weaning, needle work, Bamboo works, folk dramas, folk-puppets and puppeters

**(B) Poetic and Literary Heritage**

i. Poeties and literature created in Hindi by the people of the specific regions

ii. Poeties and literature in regional languages and dialects.

**(C) Architectural Heritage**

i. Architecture

ii. Sculpture

iii. Paintings

iv. Landscape

v. History
2. The Project Team

The IGNCA team has been working for this project under the guidance and leadership of Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri, Member Secretary, IGNCA.

3. The Activities

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology assigned two major responsibilities to IGNCA under CoIL-Net Project:

A) To design and develop a website “Cultural Heritage Digital Library” in Hindi mainly focusing the Hindi Region covering Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar.

B) To design and develop Interactive Multimedia Tools, to be shared by other resource centers of CoIL-Net.

- To enhance the access to cultural resources using digital technology.
- Having user-friendly web enabled multimedia heritage library in Hindi for Hindi speaking population and other Hindi knowing persons in India & Abroad.

- A Hindi based web enabled digital library offering carefully selected, thoughtfully hyper linked and highly integrated multimedia content on cultural heritage, folk literature and lifestyle of Hindi speaking region. Following output is targeted.

  - Approximately 10,000 textual pages in Hindi in different dialects e.g. Avadhi, Angika, Magahi, Maithili, Braj, Bhojpuri, Majhi, Santhali, Chattisgarhi, Bagheli, Marvari and other Rajasthani dialects.
  - Approximately 5,000 digital images.
  - Approximately 100 hours of audio and video recording of dance, ritual, music, festivals, theatre, lifestyle, interviews and lectures etc.
  - English summary of selected portions
  - Contextual references to be carefully evaluated in websites

- The studies and documentation on Cultural Zones like Braj, Varanasi, Gaya, Nathdwara, Pushkar, Ajmer, Bundelkhand, Kurukshetra, Kumaon, Garhwal, Munger, Rajim, Amarkantak, etc.

- The work related to Model design of Website has been completed. The model is designed keeping in mind the following objectives in mind:

- The following sections have been included in the guidelines for Scholars, and subject experts to provide content on:

  - Common Heritage of People
  - Poetic and Literature Heritage – include the works of poets and writers such as Vidyapati, Kabirdas, Surdas, Tulsidas, Mira, Raskhan, Rahim, Keshavdas, Jayasi, Chandavardai etc., with selected multimedia renderings.
  - Architectural Heritage
  - Natural Heritage
  - Miscellaneous
Design Model of the Web site “Cultural Heritage Digital Library”

The left menu given below, help user in navigating the content from Hindi Region

Cultural Heritage,
Traditional Literature
Digital Images
Oral Epics
Folk Literature
Geographical Class
Documentation
Audio
Video
Books
Poets and writers
Articles
Lectures etc.

e.g. Documentation section cover documentation completed by the scholars/subject experts with visuals from the Hindi region.

Like this every option has first level links under each section shown in the left menu for selecting the topic desired by user.

For example, if user select option like Agra and Fateh Pur Sikri, a detailed content list is provided to user for exploring about Agra and Fateh Pur Sikri. User is also allowed to view digital Images in various sets of the documentation chosen by him/her.

Every section shown in the left menu has the first level links about the topic and then further subcontent list is given to user on the topic selected by the user. The detailed web pages in Hindi are linked with the sub-content list with visuals and other multimedia components.

Keeping in mind the guidelines prepared by Co-Investigator of this project, the following content has been implemented which include Text, Images, Animations, Audio and Video part. The tools developed by IGNCA for CoIL-Net are also linked from the Digital Images option.

The detailed information about the content included is given below:

**Text**

4 Books documentation Composed (completed)

- धारती और बीज from Brij Region 313 पृष्ठ
- बुद्धेखण्ड की लोक संस्कृति का इतिहास 475 पृष्ठ
- परिभाषक की डायरी 144 पृष्ठ
- हजारी प्रसाद द्विवेदी के पत्र 205 पृष्ठ
2 books are being prepared

- युगान्तर (अन्तर्यंत्र-वाता) 100 पृष्ठ
- अक्षर-अक्षर अभ्यास (अन्तर्यंत्र-वाता) 100 पृष्ठ

Articles included

- अध्ययन का अध्ययन असिस्ट-सपुरा - वीरंद्र बंगल
- कला यह वस्तु है जो जीवन को परिपूर्ण बनाती है - by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihar Bajpai
- शिलाओं पर कला - हिमानी पाण्डे
- डॉ. सुमित कुमार चट्टोपाध्याय स्मारक व्याख्यान प्रस्तुति : नातक द्वारा शिशु
- फरीदखाबाद - वीरंद्र बंगल
- धर्म और भीम एक विश्वविद्यालय - राजेन्द्र राजन चट्टौंडी
- दैनिक वेदान्त सिद्धांत - सातकहजु मुखोपाध्याय
- मुनेदरखा की लोक संस्कृति का इतिहास - नवंद्र प्रसाद गुप्त
- जनपद सम्पदा - प्रोफेसर वैज्ञानिक सरस्वती
- ज्ञानें सँग जीयन - विजय संकर शुकल

Lectures (Included)

- भारतीय परम्परा में भाषा संस्कृति एवं लोक की आधारणा तथा उनका प्रयोग अन्तःसम्बन्ध
- प्रक्रिया के रूप में भाषा और संस्कृति तथा लोक एक संतत प्रक्रिया

Documentation Completed and linked

- Built heritage of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri (Eng. Ver.) 300 पृष्ठ
- आगरा और फतेहपुर सीकरी (Hindi Ver.) 300 पृष्ठ
- Illustrated stories of Buddha (Eng. Ver.) 200 पृष्ठ
- छठीसगढ़ के आदिवासियों के बीच सामान्य जन का महिला कविता 350 पृष्ठ

7884 Images

Audio added approx. 2hrs
Video clips

Rock art 15clips

Masks performances 7clips

TOOLS Developed by IGNCA

The following multimedia tools have been developed and used in the CoIL-Net Project.

Sharing the TOOLS with others resource centers of CoIL-Net Project: A copy of CD-ROM having tools with guidelines is being handed over to each Resource Centre involved in this project for evaluation & use.

i. Image Browsing Tool – This tool will help users to randomly view the images by clicking on thumbnails after selecting the set of images from the Digital Images option. The links are given as per the topic or collections based.

Kirtan: This song crosses the boundary of language. It's text is mixture of Hindi, Maithili and Braj but the message is brilliant. Hence it is the message that keeps its significance because of the content note of the language. It narrates the way of honesty and immense faith in the existence of God for a true devotee to get the closeness of his/her Lord (God). (2:41)

Kirtan: It is a Vaishnav kirtan that explains the helplessness of a devotee to meet his/her ideal pair of Rama and Sita. (4:05)

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Kirtan: It is a Vaishnav kirtan that explains the helplessness of a devotee to meet his/her ideal pair of Rama and Sita. (4:05)
While viewing the digital images, the following Interactive Multimedia tools are available to be used for enhanced interactivity like:

- Slide Show
- Zoom All (View All)
- E-Greetings
- Z O O M Tool is linked with “Devnarayan” Documentation

ii. Slide show - This tool will help users in running the slideshow of the selected set of images.

iii. Show All images (View All) -- This tool will help user in viewing all the images in same window by using scrollbar. All images of the set for a particular topic are retrieved from the database and shown in the same window.

iv. E-Greeting Tool - of Digital Images available at the Website of CoL-N et (IGNCA Part) - User will be able to send e-greeting of any image which is being viewed by using the Image Browsing Tool. The main feature of this tool is that user can give
his / her own title for the selected image along with message.

Preview and Send option will allow user to view the card before sending it to receiver.

This tool will help user in sending the selected visuals of Cultural Heritage related Images from Hindi speaking region to others.

v. Zoom Tool - This tool will help user in viewing selected zoomed portion along with description from a large image (like Scroll paintings etc.), which cannot be displayed fully on the screen.

Two more tools are being developed, the same will be released soon.

- Hot spot viewer - This tool will help you to know if there are multiple objects within one main object.

- Cognition System - This tool will help user if they have multidimensional relationship in content. A cognitive map will help them displaying the relationship.

The Documentation on Devnarayan “Phar Tradition” demanded IGNCA to develop a Zoom Tool for displaying the characters and elements available in the 36 meter width and 8 meter height scroll painting which has over 500 characters and various stories.

This tool is linked with Devnarayan documentation and the same can also be used by other resource centers of CoIL-Net if they have such type of content available with them.

By clicking on the Devnarayan Zoom Tool link, a new window is opened where single image of Phar is shown and by clicking on the hotspots with in the big size image user is able to view the portion of the image in zoomed size with description.

The same set of tools are also made available at the Website of TDIL. www.tdil.mit.gov.in

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