The 14th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking – NACLIN 2011 organised by DELNET in collaboration with the Central Library, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan from November 15-17, 2011 was inaugurated today at the Lipika Auditorium by the Chief Guest Prof. Swapan K Chakravorty, Director-General, National Library, Kolkata. NACLIN 2011 is supported by organisations including RRRLF, DIT, DRDO, 3M, Elsevier Publishing, Oxford University Press, Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd and Taylor and Francis Group.

Dr Subodh Gopal Nandi, Organising Secretary, NACLIN 2011 and University Librarian, Visva Bharati welcomed the delegates. He thanked DELNET for collaborating with Central Library, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan for collaborating in organizing the event on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

It was followed by the Introductory address by Dr H K Kaul, Founding Director, DELNET. He started the address by highlighting the role of Librarians as expressed by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore that Librarians should be conversant with the content available in their libraries, they should attract special circles of users to libraries and act as resource persons to bridge the gap between the users and the information. He added that this message of Gurudev was still valid today. He said that content was now scattered all over the world and the librarians had to cross the barriers to information and make best quality content available to users. He added that there were nearly 1,80,000 libraries in India that needed a great deal of improvement. He said that content was getting digitised and new digital content was also being published by the publishers. He said that content was being controlled by publishers under the provisions of copyright and IPR and users suffered a great deal as a result. According to him, the distance between the users and the content was getting widened with each passing day. Also that there was a growing trend among users to access content through the Web rather than through the libraries. Thus they were bypassing the libraries. He emphasized the need for developing tailored information packages for users by librarians to meet their information requirements. He also emphatically stressed upon the need to change the LIS curriculums and urged that UGC to seriously consider revising the syllabi of the Departments of Library and Information Science, keeping in view that the library professionals had to master content and become conversant with the universe of knowledge which was becoming interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross disciplinary in nature. He highlighted the role of DELNET in offering content, nearly records of 1,240,000 books, journals etc. available in 2200 member-libraries of DELNET.

It was followed by the Guest of Honour address by Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, former Director, National Library, Kolkata and Prof. of Botany, Visva-Bharati. He highlighted the role of Tagore family in promoting the libraries in West Bengal. He said that the first public library movement in West Bengal started 100 years ago in 1911. He opined that the libraries are the knowledge hub of the society and the greatest human thoughts are preserved in libraries in books and other documents. He also apprised the delegates that Thakur Rabindranath Tagore chaired in 1920 the first session of the Bengal Library Association.
Compiled by:
Dr Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager, DELNET & Rapporteur-General, NACLIN 2011

**Prof. Swapan K Chakravorty, Director-General, National Library, Kolkata delivered the address as the Chief Guest.** He highlighted the importance of networking. He referred to the theme of the convention “Libraries at the Crossroads”. He defined the meanings of crossroads and added that in the field of libraries crossroads should direct the librarians to move towards the ICT route as well as to traditional route which comprised of printed and published works, and the manuscripts. He gave examples of circulation libraries that are important for our people who can not afford access to online resources. He concluded by adding that the libraries would have to take a holistic route which was both modern as well as traditional.

**Prof. Swapan K Chakravorty, Chief Guest speaking at the occasion**

It was followed by the release of NACLIN 2011 publications by Dr (Col) Mani Mukut Mitra, Registrar, Visva-Bharati including the pre-conference publication containing 24 accepted papers of the 14th National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking, NACLIN 2011. The Souvenir was also released on the occasion.

**Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh at the Inaugural Function**

**Dr Parathasarathy Mukhopadhyaya conducting the tutorial**

A tutorial on Koha: an Open Source Integrated Library System was conducted by Dr Parathasarathy Mukhopadhyaya, Assistant Professor, DLISc., University of Burdwan, Burdwan. The software is having a great potential with its unique features and facilities to get implemented in the Libraries. The software has features including Acquisition, Circulation, Online Public Access Catalogue, Serials module, etc. The delegates were informed with the installation guidelines for installing Koha on Linux. It is very heartening to note that a number of participants showed a great interest in using the Koha software.

A tutorial on Joomla: Open Source Content Management System was conducted by Dr Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager, DELNET. She explained in details the features of Joomla and its advantages over other CMS. The installation of Joomla on Windows platform was also shown to the delegates.

A cultural programme was also organized on the occasion which had elated the mood of the participants.

**A glimpse of the cultural evening**

**Release of NACLIN 2011 publications by Dr (Col) Mani Mukut Mitra**

**Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Pro-Vice Chairman, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan delivered the Chairman’s remarks. He said that networking is a very crucial concept. He added that ‘Gyana’ was meant for distribution and the factors that were important in the process included social, cultural, linguistic, creativity-concerned issues, etc. He referred to the issue of controlling of content and felt that there were many claimants to it including the authors, librarians, publishers, translators and the readers. According to him, the paradigm of control had economic implications and needed to be seen with a line of suspicion. He stressed the fact that knowledge needed to distributed without any controls and barriers. It was important to see how that could be achieved.**

Dr Sangeeta Kaul, Network Manager placed vote of Thanks.

It was followed by the inauguration of NACLIN 2011 exhibition pavilion by Prof. Swapan K Chakravorty and Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh.

**Tutorials on Koha and Joomla**

A tutorial on Koha: an Open Source Integrated Library System was conducted by Dr Parathasarathy Mukhopadhyaya, Assistant Professor, DLISc., University of Burdwan, Burdwan. The software is having a great potential with its unique features and facilities to get implemented in the Libraries. The software has features including Acquisition, Circulation, Online Public Access Catalogue, Serials module, etc. The delegates were informed with the installation guidelines for installing Koha on Linux. It is very heartening to note that a number of participants showed a great interest in using the Koha software.

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A CD containing these open source software was also distributed to the delegates.

A cultural programme was also organized on the occasion which had elated the mood of the participants.

**A glimpse of the cultural evening**

**Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh at the Inaugural Function**