E-Learning Initiatives in India

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Abstract: E-Learning is the extended form of traditional classroom teaching. The paper highlights concept, tools and initiatives taken by several and institutions and Library centers around the world and in India.

Introduction :- As Libraries have changed from the static storehouses to dynamic service centre. The internet has completely changed the way of storing, processing and retrieving information, it has also made its exhaustive effect on teaching and learning. The method of classroom teaching is transformed to E-Learning which played a major role in library science field.

E-learning is the online delivery of information, communication, education and training .It is an extended form of classroom teaching where learning is facilitated by the application of information technology. It is the process of education using computer, telecommunication, and network and storage capacity. In the word e- learning 'e' refer to electronic where it would in corporate all educational activities carried out online or offline i.e. synchronously or asynchronously via networked or standalone computers and other electronic devices . It is defined interactive leaning concept of e-learning in which the learning content is available online and provides automatic feedback to the students learning activities. It cover a wide set of applications such as web based learning, computer based learning, virtual classroom and digital collaboration. It include delivery of content in a internet, internet / extranet, satellite broadcast, interactive television, CD-Rom, DVD, audio and video tape etc.

E-learning in the new electronic mode of the experience of a classroom in mode of fundamental ways by augmenting traditional text book materials with online resources, lectures through use of rich multimedia and interactive content where a student feels that he actually is sitting in the classroom and can cover the topics missed by him and can extend his discussion beyond walls of classroom is a wide range of new communication platform supporting inter-classroom collaboration.

A)Scheduled Delivery Platform-This mode of delivery is provided through multicasts like video broad, remote laboratory access, virtual classroom etc can be accessed through network , unlike interaction between the teacher and students, it is restricted by time and place requirement.

B) On-Delivery Platform-Through this mode of delivery, information is provided 24X7 i.e. anytime, anywhere, round the clock. It include web based training classes, uniform resources and interactive CD-ROM service on demand.

Tools of E-learning- In e-learning method several kinds of tools are used apart from internet, intranet and network tools such as :

Blogging Tools-a blog is made in journal style and usually displayed in reverse chronological order. It spread and enable access to specific information it can be used by students as well as instructor to provide updated information.

E-mail:-E-mails as well as email based discussion forums are useful in delivering contents as well as communication about e-learning.

News group:-A user can read and post message to central space which then copies it to individual and other news group.

Bulletin Boards:-Bulletin board is a public discussion area where messages can be sent electronically without sending them to anyone's e-mail and these messages could be read by anyone who enters that area.

Web forms:- Web forms are used as a means for providing references service to the users in e-learning environment discussion under various topics but not in real time.

Polling:- Polling enables us to setup a survey /questionnaire and obtain feedback from a wide range of people.

Wikis:- Wiki is a set of web pages that can be easily updated by any one who is allowed access..

Instant Messaging:- Instant Messaging is the real time communication between two more people based on typed text. It is used for multiple purposes such as simple request & responses; scheduling face to face meetings etc.

Online discussion:- Online discussion allow users to post messages to a known location where other participant can read and respond to them, while video conferencing tools let the user see and hear one another .

White board:- It stimulates the communication that occurs when instructor draws on a wall mounted white board & then invites a student to contribute to drawing.

Course Management System:- This system help in the creation and management of course material such as lesson/course ware assignments glossaries, citation to the other recourses etc. also known as virtual learning system, learning management system etc.

Internet telephony:- In this tool a user can make calls by using internet. An individual can make distance phone calls through the computer and the internet without playing long distance phone changes.

E-learning Initiatives in India:- Uses of e-learning applications can raise the level of education, literacy and economic development in under developed and developing countries .In India development of e-learning is more successful in corporate segment where it is seen as a means of achieving business goals. Indian government helps always given preference to the use of ICT'S as means of mass education.

In 1984, a project named CLASS (Computer Literacy And Social on Schools) started to make a computer literacy as compulsory project for class XI and XII by the Indian government.

In the 7th five year plan and 8th five year plan 2598 school and 2371 schools respectively started computer literacy having foundation step towards e learning in India.

During year 2003, with the aim to take at leaving to schools in every district across the country, a project was started which will cover 6,00,000 school in India.

University Grants Commission Higher Education Project was launched by UGC in collaboration with INSAT named CONTRY WIDE CLASSROOMS in 1984 to upgrade and enrich quality of education .

The 1st online education enterprise Net varsity with private initiative was taken by National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) in 1996

In 1991, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGN0u) started telecasting educational programmes on Doordarshan . In 1999, it started to virtual campus initiative with to programmes the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) and Advance Diploma in Information Technology (ADIT) (in collaboration with Edexel, UK, and India)

Gyandaeshan education channel was started in 2000 to telecast educational program round the clock in joint collobration of Govt of India, Prasar Bharti and IGNOU

Indian institute of management Banglore (IIM-B) used E-Learning face to face teaching.

UGC organized a dialogue on "Enhancing Higher Education Through E-learning" in collaboration with commonwealth of learning CCOL) vancover from M-19 November 2003 at Delhi.

World's first educational satellite was started in India in 20th September 2001 named EDUSAT to provide education to millions of people at their door step. It enables information to be broadcasted in local language and dévoted to long distance learning in India.

E-Learning Initiatives in LIS:- As ICT today has its impact in every field whether it is educational or business. So. in the field of LIS also it has its own impression and has given this field a new image with great advantages . Several library and information and science institution have started e-learning projects:-

SLA(Special Libraries Association) : SLA arranges web based seminars for library professionals which are made available live through video conferencing , it also provide replay of video conference.

NELINET:- NELINET is a network of public , academic and special Libraries in six new England States. It has developed customised countries web based training for its members.

IMARK:- Information Management Resources Kit, a partnership based E-Learning initiative to train individuals and support institutions and network world wide in the effective management of agricultural information.

LEAD :- Library Education At Desktop started by library division of Texas state library and the university of North Texas school of library science jointly to develop e-learning Course.

ACRL:- Association of College and Research Libraries, had taken initiative to develop e-learning course of three week duration.

YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) :- YALSA form ALA offer continuing education program for young librarians through elearning.

RUSA (Reference and User ServicesAssociation):- RUSA offer e-learning courses of 5 weeks duration on subjects such as reference interview, reader advisory services and business reference services etc.

In India, Distance education is spreading very fast. There are number of institution offering distance education in LIS. These institutions of distance education are 1st to adopt e-learning in LIS. Unlike IGNOU and other state Universities, some traditional universities are imparting education through e-learning such as Vidya online, an upcoming e-learning program, a venture of Vidya Sager University and Librarians Digital University developed by DRTC.

Conclusion:- E-Learning has a potential to provide practical online education to the distant learners. It is commonly referred to international use of networked information and communication technology in teaching and learning . It has gain faster acceptance and application in the world but yet to be developed in terms of quality and standard in India specially in the field of Library Science Education .

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