

IFLA INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE 2010

DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND ACCESS TO NEWS AND VIEWS – A REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The IFLA International Newspaper Conference 2010 on the theme of *Digital Preservation and Access to News and Views* was hosted by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi from 25 – 28 February 2010. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates and invited speakers from over 10 countries including participation from the leading national libraries and newspaper libraries and archives from India, USA, UK, Australia, Finland, Germany, France, Canada and Singapore.

The conference deliberated and discussed on a number of vital issues focused on the main theme, such as, archival preservation and conservation of newspapers, policy issues and strategies, digital preservation of traditional and born digital newspapers, online newspapers, digital access to news and views and other related subjects.

The conference comprised of an **inaugural session, one special session, seven technical sessions and two panel discussions, a valedictory session**. Besides these thematic sessions, alongside the Conference, a number of commercial presentations and exhibitions from various digitisation solutions providers were also organized for the benefit of the participants.

INAUGURAL SESSION

Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Conference Director, Librarian & Head-Kala Nidhi, IGNCA, welcomed all the dignitaries, invitees and delegates of the Conference. In his welcome address he spoke about the relevance of theme of the conference to the national libraries, newspaper libraries and archives and hoped that, this event may lead to a continuous dialog between these organizations for knowledge sharing and exchange. He also thanked IFLA for giving an opportunity to IGNCA to host the conference.

While introducing the Conference Mr. Frederick Zarndt, Chairman, IFLA Newspapers Section, briefed the role of IFLA Newspaper Section and its activities in the professional development of newspaper libraries, archives and other agencies such as National Libraries that provide access to news based information sources. He pointed out that it is very important that the cultural heritage organisations and newspaper organisations should work together in order to preserve the past history for the future generations to come. He also briefly outlined the objectives of the conference, theme and sub-themes and hoped that the conference will surely offer a professional platform for all delegates to share their experiences, expertise and views and learn from each other.

After the inauguration of the Conference, in his special address Prof. Joytindra Jain, Member Secretary, IGNCA Trust, spoke about the importance and power of knowledge as it empowers everyone and how the knowledge can be shared by news organisations, effectively for the

betterment of the society. He suggested that as newspapers are one of the major sources of historical information, preserving them for the future, using all latest digital & media technologies is a must and a conference such as this is a timely help to all those who are involved in the process of preservation and facilitating access.

The Keynote Address on the topic '*Newspaper Resources in transition: Digital Preservation and Access*', was delivered by Mr. Reinhard Altenhoener, Head, IT Department, German National Library, Frankfurt, Germany. In his thought provoking talk, Mr. Altenhoener reiterated the importance of newspapers as historical and cultural resources and why they need to be preserved for the use of future generations. He briefly touched upon the growth of newspaper industry in general and the changing scenario in particular with regard to online newspaper and e-papers. Mr. Altenhoener further elaborated the topic by sharing his experiences in various digitisation projects that are being implemented at the German National Library. He laid a particular emphasis on the importance of standardizing metadata schema in all digitisation projects and went on to mention about a number of strategic issues in digitisation projects, such as indexing, ensuring permanent access to digital resources and validating the authenticity of the resources and also suggested a number of measures to tackle such issues.

The inaugural function came to a close with a formal vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Dharam Vir, Chief Librarian, *Hindustan Times*, India.

SPECIAL SESSION

The inaugural session was followed by a special session, in which two invited papers were presented with a special focus on newspaper preservation activities in the digital environment, based experiences from Germany.

The special session was chaired by Ms. Marilen Daum, Director Library & Information Services, South Asia, Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi. In her introductory remarks, Ms. Daum touched upon the importance of preserving newspapers in digital form and highlighted some of the benefits of digital preservation.

The first paper in this special session was presented on the topic '*Digital News: 2010 in 2110*', by Michael Seadle, Director, Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany. The speaker elaborated the subject of his presentation with a futuristic approach on key areas such as the reading experience, technical issues, standardization of tools and techniques, authenticity of contents, cost of digitising, copyright issues, cultural issues etc.

The second paper in this session entitled '*Changing preservation tasks for the German National Library: Some insights and preliminary remarks*' was presented by Reinhard Altenhoener, Head, IT Department, German National Library, Frankfurt, Germany, focused on the aspects such as how the newspaper collection is being preserved in the DNB (German National Library), the evolution of online newspapers, features of online newspapers, e-papers etc. He further elaborated

about kopal - Co-operative Development of a Long-Term Digital Information Archive project and e-paper collection development in the DNB among the other things.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

In the seven technical sessions, that were held during the three days, in all about 40 talks and presentations were made by speakers from India and abroad on a range of topics related to the theme and the sub-themes of the Conference. The session-wise report is as follows:

SESSION I: PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS

The session Chairperson Ms. S. P. Singh, HOD, DLIS, University of Delhi, while introducing the sub-theme of the session, spoke about the importance of physical preservation of newspapers in hard copy as well as microfilm format and how such initiatives can benefit library staff as well as the users groups in the long run.

In this session, the theme paper on '*Physical preservation of newspaper resources (hardcopies archives, microfilm archives, etc) as a result of practice at the Bibliotheque Nationale de France (BNF)*' presented by Else Delaunay, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, touched upon the issues such as, handling of hardcopies, preservation issues, maintenance of holdings, best storage facilities, restoration of hard copies, producing and preserving microfilm copies, image accuracy in originals, producing master negatives, inter-negatives, reference service positive copies to be kept etc. She also touched upon the present microfilming scenario in France National Library. During her presentation she also explained the advantage of microfilm collection and inconveniences of their use etc. She suggested that shared preservation of Microfilms as one of the cost saving measures for National Libraries.

The next paper titled '*Media archives-cum-national reference library on the North-East (India): promotion and marketing*', was presented by Alka Buragohain, Honorary Director, Media Archives, Guwahati, highlighted the profile of the project. Apart from presenting an overview of the project, the author also touched upon the aspects such as resources covered, infrastructure used, marketing of the services, preservation and digitisation activities etc.

'*Newspaper section of the National Library, Kolkata: physical preservation and access to news*' was the topic of the next presentation that was made by Gopa Ghosh, National Library, Kolkata, Nivedita Bhattacharyya, Department of Library and Information Science, Vidyasagar University, Avijit Chakrabarti, Barasat College, and Biplab Chakrabarti, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, described historical background of the newspaper collection of the National Library, Kolkata. Apart from presenting the current status of preservation and conservation activities, the paper also elaborated the challenges faced by National Library and briefed its future plans for the preservation of its news resources. Further the paper suggested that the National Library should build up the necessary digital infrastructure to enable the access to whole newspaper collection for the benefit of the user community at large.

The next paper entitled '*Bengali newspapers and their preservation techniques: an overview*' by Pritam Gurey , Visva-Bharati, Central Library, Santiniketan and Avijit Chakrabarti, Barasat College , shared their experiences in this area. The paper highlighted the preservation status of Bengali newspapers and discussed the problem of access to information, both online and offline.

'*Preservation of newspapers: A case study of JNU users*' was the topic of the next paper, by M. Natrajan, and Payal Biswas NISCAIR New Delhi' reviewed and explored the methods and techniques used for newspaper preservation (physical as well as digital form) at the JNU Library, by covering the aspects such as, collection details, selection of resources, physical preservation of hard copies, storage, digital preservation, bibliographic control etc.

SESSION II - PRESERVATION OF NEWSPAPERS: POLICY PERSPECTIVES

This technical session was chaired by Mr. M.C. Ragavan, Former Librarian IIPA, New Delhi. In his introductory remarks he touched upon the necessity of having a well thought-out strategies and policies in place for newspaper preservation projects

The theme paper '*Preserving newspaper content in a digital environment: an argument for continued microfilm preservation and printed newspapers at the Library of Congress*' was presented by Georgia M. Highley, Serial & Government Publications Division, Library of Congress (LC), Washington, USA, discussed the points in detail such as Microfilm within LC's digital environment, Developing LC's newspaper collection, history of newspaper collection development in LC, the present day newspaper collection, growth of the foreign collection, emerging preservation issues, cost of preservation, cooperative preservation programme, national digital newspaper program (NDNP) etc.

'*Role of National Library of India in the preservation of Indian newspapers*' was the topic of the next paper, by K. K. Banerjee, National Library of India, Kolkata, was presented by his colleague Dr. R. Ramachandran. The presentation discussed about, the history of the National Library of India, acquisition, conservation, preservation of newspapers in the National Library, microfilming and microfilm preservation of newspapers, challenges faced, future plans and strategies with regard to newspaper preservation..

The next was an interesting talk on '*Quality assurance in microfilming of newspapers*' by Amit Roy, Library of Congress, New Delhi. This talk covered the key elements in maintaining quality control in the production of newspaper microfilms, right from selection of original newspaper sources, using best microfilming camera equipments, film rolls to be used, image resolution quality, better selection and utilization of chemicals for processing of negatives and positives, required temperature control and environment for preservation of the microfilms and finally training and developing quality manpower for such projects.

In the next talk '*Strategies for preservation and increased access to newspapers: an institutional reflection*'; by Usha Mujoo Munshi, IIPA, New Delhi, presented a case study of how the newspapers resources and press clippings have been preserved in physical as well as electronic form and how the news resources are used by IIPA Library users. She has also highlighted some of the issues in managing the newspaper collection, the use of ICT applications, future plans etc.

The topic for the next presentation was '*Microfilming of records by National Archives of India*' by N. S. Mani, National Archives of India, New Delhi, covered the history of the Archives, collection development, coverage, long term preservation activities, security microfilm production programme, microfilm preservation, modern technology applications in preservation of archival resources, Archival Information Management System (AIMS) software developed by the National Archives, ongoing digitisation projects, standards and formats used etc.

SESSION III: DIGITIZATION OF NEWSPAPERS

This session was chaired by Ms. Cathy Pilgrim, Digitisation and Photography Branch, National Library of Australia. Apart from chairing the session, she has also presented the theme paper entitled '*National Library of Australia's newspaper digitization program*'. This presentation spelt out objectives of the programme, discussed the contents coverage, funding, selection of resources for digitising, digitising process, metadata indexing process, software development process, newspaper content management, storage and retrieval system, authentication of user access, and various issues faced, lessons learnt from the project etc.

The next paper was on '*Newspaper digitization in South Africa*' by Patricia Liebetrau, DISA, University of KwaZulu-Natal, King, Durban, South Africa, elaborated the objectives of the programme, its various activities, collection development, development of local expertise, the importance of adhering to international standards in digitisation projects, metadata indexing, searching and retrieval, quality control in using source microfilm rolls for digitisation etc. She also spoke about some of the issues faced in newspaper digitisation projects such as, funding, manpower, copyright protection etc.

'The silver bullet? The implications of digitization for the preservation of existing newspaper content – a talk' by Deborah Novotny. The British Library, UK, covered points such as, strategy for storage and preservation of newspaper collection, collection management process, microfilm to digital collection development process, copyright policy, cost of storage in digital as well as in microfilm formats, legacy issues, etc. The speaker suggested that as digitisation is a powerful and exciting tool, it should be used judiciously in preservation of newspaper resources by keeping the original sources intact.

'Improving Access to Digitized Historical Newspapers with Text Mining, Coordinated Models, and Formative User Interface Design, was the topic of the next talk presented by Robert B. Allen, College of Information Science and Technology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA. This paper dealt with how to enhance improved access to digitised historical newspaper collection, best practices that can be followed in text processing and OCRing process, metadata

indexing, moving beyond traditional approaches in developing information storage and retrieval systems etc.

The next paper entitled '*Greenstone software for newspaper digital libraries, long term archiving and press-clipping services*' by M. G. Sreekumar, IIM, Kozhikode, highlighted the features of the Greenstone open source package and its applications that can be used in developing newspaper digital archives. The paper also covered the features of some of the successful Greenstone based digital archiving projects, namely New Zealand National Library, Singapore National Library and with some examples from his own experiences in developing local digital archives at the IIM, Kozhikode Library.

SESSION IV: DIGITAL PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL AND BORN DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS

This session was chaired by Mr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. Mr. Arora in his opening remarks touched upon the importance of the digital preservation of traditional and born digital newspapers. He also hinted that the advantage of latest technological developments that can be used extensively in digital preservation of published contents.

The first paper of this session entitled '*Categorized news service using online news feeds*' presented by Devika Madali, DRTC, ISI, Bengaluru, covered the features and functions of online news feeds and how such services can be used in disseminating news information. The presentation elaborated the points such as, online media, classification of online news contents, cultural diversity, selection of audience, multiple domain news resources, application of RSS feeds etc.

In the next presentation on '*Preservation archiving solutions*' Keith Rajecki, Sun Microsystems Inc., USA, highlighted the features of Sun Oracle archiving preservation solution systems. He covered the points such as, challenges in archiving process, requirements and design criteria for developing technical solutions, physical architecture design, Sun Storage Solutions that can be used for digital content archiving, archiving solution and their benefits.

In the next paper entitled '*Digital preservation and access to print media resources: experiences at the Times Archives, India*' by R. Venkata Kesavan, Shankar Marathe, Salila Sreesan, Times Archives and Knowledge Centre (TAKC), Mumbai and Prof. Vijaya P. Rajhansa, University Librarian & Head, DLIS, University of Mumbai, presented a case study of how the various print media resources such as, newspapers, press clippings, photographs and cartoons are preserved in digital as well as physical forms and how the user access is being facilitated to these digital archives at the TAKC. Besides, the paper also highlighted some of the best practices, benefits and advantages of digital preservation and also shared some ongoing issues in this process.

The next presentation on '*LIFE3: Predicting digital preservation costs for newspapers*' by Brian Hole, British Library, UK, highlighted the overview of the LIFE (Life Cycle Information for E-Literature) project, LIFE3 newspaper case studies such as Burney Digital Newspapers collection, costing inputs, project integration plans, technological developments, strategic issues, and long term preservation planning of newspaper collections.

In the next presentation on *'Training programmes for newspaper library professionals in India'* Dr. G. Sivaprasad, Lecturer in Library Science, MVGRR Degree college, Andhra, highlighted importance of specific training programmes for LIS professionals working in newspaper libraries. He also presented the profiles of the various institutions and organisation that offer such training programmes in India, such as NISCAIR, IFNLIBNET, DRTC, TISS etc. with specific programme details.

SESSION V: ONLINE NEWSPAPER

Ms. L. Suzanne Kellerman, Head, Digitization & Preservation, Penn State University, USA , was the Chairperson of this session.

In this session the theme paper entitled *'24 X 7 Digital Access to newspapers: National Library Board of Singapore's experience'* by Ngian Lek Choh, National Library, Singapore, shared her experiences from the NLB Singapore, right from planning stage through the implementation of project. Through the presentation she highlighted the various steps that the project has gone through. She also spoke about the innovations done, issues connected with remote access to rights management handled, besides sharing some of the learning points from the project, best practices that have worked for the NLB and feedback from the users for digital access to newspaper collection.

The paper titled, *'Access to online newspapers from India: problems and prospects'* by Avijit Chakrabarti, Barasat College, Kolkata, touched upon the points such as, the presence of online newspapers in India, content coverage, usage, readership and advantages of online newspapers, problems in accessing online newspapers, information overload etc.

In the next paper *'Access to online newspapers of India: an overview'* by R.Chandra, Former Scientist, INMAS, New Delhi and O.N. Chaubey, IGNSA, New Delhi, based on their own survey have presented the distribution pattern of online newspapers in India. They have also presented a panoramic view of various other surveys conducted by professional agencies on the influence of online newspapers in India.

The next paper, on *'Growth and development of online newspapers with special reference to India'* by Dr. Sumeer Gul, DLIS, University of Kashmir, Srinagar and Tariq Ahmad Shah, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Pulwama, an outcome of a research study, covered the aspects such as, global development of online newspapers, the growth scenario, coverage and archiving policy. The paper through its findings has suggested that studying the needs of online newspaper users will help in designing and developing a better online newspaper system for the future.

The next paper on *'Online Bengali Newspapers in India : a comparative study'* was presented by Ashis Biswas, Gurunanak Institute of Dental Science and Research and Mayuri Das Biswas,

Adamas International School, Kolkata, covered the impact of online Bengali newspapers on news and newspaper markets in the Bengali speaking region of India as well as on the Bengalis living abroad. The paper also has compared the various features on Bengali online newspapers and presented the advantages and disadvantages of these news resources.

The next paper titled '*Online Newspaper reading habits among Ph.D students and faculty members of Aligarh Muslim University*' by Naushad Ali P.M and Mohamed Musthafa. K. , AMU, Aligarh, discussed the features, advantages and disadvantages of online newspapers with regards to their usage by Ph.D students. Based on the findings of the study the paper has concluded that the instant news updates makes the online newspaper more attractive.

'*Googling news and views online*' was the topic of the next paper, presented by D. R. Gupta, IGNC, New Delhi, dealt with the growth of online newspapers, online information in the present age, planning and architecture of the online media in the context of Google News and other such online resources, financial aspects, advantages and disadvantages of online newspapers. The paper concluded that the increasing user population in the Net has attracted the traditional newspapers and magazines to publish their online editions and more and more users will move to online news sources.

PANEL DISCUSSION I: “RELEVANCE OF NEWS-CLIPPINGS IN DIGITAL ERA”

This first panel discussion of the Conference on the topic '*Relevance of news-clippings in digital era*' was chaired by Prof. P B Mangla, Former Dean and Head –DLIS, University of Delhi. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Mangla has opined that in the present era, the journalists have varied impressions about the LIS professionals' role in their journalistic work. Therefore, the library professionals should think and analyze their relevance in the changing scenario in media organizations and find out in what best possible manner that they can help their parent organization by offering relevant services. With this note, he had invited the first panelist to start the discussion.

The first panelist Ms. Kalpna Dasgupta, Former Librarian, National Library of India, mentioned that in the present scenario the services rendered to media people are in 24 x 7. She was of the opinions that even though the information seeking patterns of the journalists have changed, but still clippings service takes a prime place among the media library services. However, she felt that sooner or later the access to press clippings will move into digital form. She concluded the print and electronic resources will continue to exist in newspaper libraries and therefore, the hybrid libraries are still the order of the day.

The second panelist Mr. Subhash Deshmukh, University Librarian, IP University, maintained that the relevance of relevant news clippings in media libraries will always be there stay. He also stressed upon on the importance and need of newspapers as they are one of the vital sources of information for people from all walks of life. He also spoke about the impact of Google News

type web based resources in the declining use of newspaper clippings in libraries. He further pointed out that in the interest of user community, digital preservation of clippings, particularly selected the form older collection and offering e-library service will be beneficial.

The last panelist of the session, Mr. Dharam Vir, Chief Librarian, *Hindustan Times*, opined that in the present era, the LIS professionals are playing a vital role in media organizations and using the modern ICT applications, they are able to deliver better services to their clientele. He emphasized the importance of continued role of library professionals, in media library services, which should be proactive in nature. Touching on the topic, he stressed that even in the digital era newspaper clippings continue to play a major role. However, he stated that in order to offer efficient services to users, digitising newspaper clippings and offering online services is the need of the hour. Therefore, he concluded that the media libraries should focus on digitisation projects and ensure the authenticity of clippings services without violating copyright of the original sources.

The session Chairman Prof. Mangla concluded the discussion by suggesting that as the users community's information seeking pattern in media organizations are constantly changing, the newspaper libraries must understand such needs and offer value-added services, including digital clippings services and other online services to remain relevant in the future. He also suggested that a state-of-the-art-report on media libraries can be prepared keeping the above suggestion in mind and circulated among the newspaper libraries, archives and information centers. Finally, Prof. Mangla thanked the organizers and panelist for their contributions.

TECHNICAL SESSION VI: NEWSPAPER AS DIGITAL RESOURCE

This technical session was chaired by Ms. Cathy Pilgrim, Director, Digitization and Photography Branch, National Library of Australia.

The theme paper of the session titled '*Newspapers as a digital resource: National infrastructure and newspaper publishers-New Delhi 2010*' was presented by Majlis Bremer-Laamanen, The National Digitisation Centre - Centre for Microfilming and Conservation, The National Library of Finland. She spoke about the National Library's collection, access to news resources, National Information Society Policy in Finland, preservation, conservation, digitization activities, the National Digitisation Centre and its activities, funding of national library digitisation projects, microfilm production etc. She has also highlighted the features of Finland's historical newspaper collection 1771-1900, e-newspaper collection and access to digital library news resources.

The next paper in this session entitled '*Building of 24X7 newspaper digital library and archives, Case study of DNA –Daily News & Analysis*' was presented by Anita Pujari, DNA, Mumbai. This paper was a case study of the DNA's Newspaper Research and Archives centre (RNA). The paper focused on, information management and services, content management in DNA's digital asset management system, content syndication business initiatives and various facilities for

offering information services for the in-house users and marketing contents for the commercial external users and feedback from the users.

'Open access, libraries, and newspapers: new roles and convergences' was the next paper, presented by Ajit Pyati, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario London, Canada. This presentation covered the aspects such as libraries, newspapers, and the "public sphere" in general, open access resources and their benefits, challenges and drawbacks, some of the crises affecting both libraries and newspapers, and what kind of new partnerships between libraries and newspapers can be made to facilitate better access to news information resources to users groups.

The next presentation was on *'Archiving news in a university using open source software'*, presented by Surendran Cherukodan and Sheeja N.K., Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin. This talk was devoted to how to create an archive of news and views in a University library set-up, using an open source software, the strategies to be adopted, how DSpace software can be used for this purpose etc. The talk also touched upon the benefits and challenges in news clippings and digital archiving process.

TECHNICAL SESSION VII: ACCESS TO NEWS AND VIEWS

The last and seventh technical session of the conference was chaired by Ms. Christiane Barylá Director, IFLA PAC, France

The theme paper on *'Connecting the dots: how researchers use their library's news resources'* was presented by Debora Cheney, The Larry and Ellen Foster Communications, The News and Microforms Library, The University Libraries, The Pennsylvania State University, USA covered the aspects such as, news resources at Penn State, use of international sources, use of online newspapers, major trends in the use of library news resources, challenges for libraries and how to re-establish the library as a the place for news-based research etc.

The next paper entitled *'Collection, preservation, and access for born digital newspapers'* was presented by Frederick Zarndt, IFLA Newspaper Section, USA (this paper was shifted from *Technical Session IV to Session VII*), covered the details of born digital newspapers access in various international and university libraries, features of born digital newspapers, the work-flow process in digital newspapers preservation, copyright issues, how to facilitate access to born-digital newspapers and the costs factors involved.

The next paper entitled *'Newspaper database management at MICA's Knowledge Exchange & Information Centre'* was presented by Shailesh R. Yagnik, Niraj R. Patel and Lavji N. Zala, Mudra Institute of Communications, (MICA) Ahmedabad, dealt with history and development of newspapers, strength and weaknesses of newspapers as information sources, the need for newspaper clippings databases, the kinds of newspaper database developed and used at MICA Library, users feedback on news clippings database and services etc.

This was followed by the paper entitled '*Press clippings service of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library : A case study*' presented by Mahesh Chand, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was dedicated to the need for Press Clippings Information Service at JNU, the scope of the service, the details of collection coverage, the features of the services offered, the usage of such services, the status of digitisation of press clippings collection and the software used.

The next paper entitled '*Examining two Media through the lenses of reader's*', by Rachita Srivastava, Journalism Department Agrasen College , Raipur was based on a research study focused on Internet users and by comparing the attitudes of reader's towards newspaper (print and online).

This was preceded by the last paper of the Conference entitled '*Concept Analysis of News for Mining Strategic Information*', presented by Sumit Goswami, Dept. of Management Information System & Technology (MIST) New Delhi and V Senthil, Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), DRDO, New Delhi, has dealt with issues connected with newspaper concepts analysis, content analysis, concept learning, news visualization, text mining etc. Using the concept structure of all science, technology, and defence related news events reported in major newspapers in India in year 2008 the paper elaborate these concepts.

Besides, during the conference some poster presentations were made by some of the delegates, whose papers could not be included in the technical sessions.

PANEL DISCUSSION II: “CENTRALIZED PRESERVATION AND ACCESS TO NEWS & VIEWS”

The second panel discussion of the Conference on the topic '*Centralized preservation and access to news & views*' was Chaired by Dr. H. K. Kaul, Director, DELNET. In his introductory remarks Dr. Kaul stressed the need for creating a national plan for creating centralized preservations of newspapers archives, as the national archives and libraries of India have their own limitations to fulfill such needs. Then he invited the first panelists to share his views.

The first panelist, Mr. Shekhar Ayyar, Journalist, *Hindustan Times*, said that the library professionals working in news and media organisations should focus on selecting and preserving quality news contents based on the merits of the contents published. He opined that it is not possible for a single agency to select, collect and preserve newspapers in a centralized location, as all news items published may not be authentic and relevant for future generations. He also warned that as the newspaper publishing business is getting and more and more commercialized, it would be difficult for people to verify the authenticity and genuineness of the some of the news items published in such newspapers.

This was followed by, the next panelist, Mr. S.Sircar, IIMC, New Delhi, expressed his views on the theme, stating that it is not possible for a single organisation ever to preserve all the newspapers in a centralized locations because of the diversity of the language of the newspapers and the volume of collection thereof. He also opined that as the future generation has a right to

know the history as it has happened, there is a need to preserve the news resources for posterity. He further suggested that the solution lies in developing a national level newspaper preservation strategy with a plan for decentralized preservation with involvement from all stakeholders. However, he opined that the responsibility of preservation of newspapers has to be shared by Newspaper publishers, national libraries and the cultural organizations that are responsible for the preservation of history for the future generations.

Dr. Kaul concluded the discussion stating that even though there is a need for centralized preservation of newspapers exists, it is ideal to develop a national level framework, that would spell out the strategy with long term plan for preservation and dissemination of news based information resources including newspapers.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

During this session Dr. Ramesh C.Gaur, Conference Director, once again welcomed the dignitaries and delegates and presented a brief overview of the progress that has been made during the Conference.

Mr. Frederick Zarndt, Chairman, IFLA Newspaper Section, USA, using the opportunity thanked the Governing Council of the IGNCA Trust, Dr. Ramesh Gaur and his team and for successfully hosting and managing the Conference.

Mr. R. Venkata Kesavan, Rapporteur General of the Conference & AGM, The Times of India Group, Mumbai, presented a report summarizing the important points discussed, deliberated and suggestions made in about 40 presentations that were made and two panel discussions that were held during the Conference. He also presented a summary of recommendations from the Conference.

In his valedictory address, Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, spoke about the important role of cultural organizations such as, National Libraries, National Archives and other Public Libraries in preserving and providing access to newspaper resources for posterity. A conference like this was only a starting point for such a long-term initiative, he also suggested that all these cultural heritage organizations, media organizations and newspapers libraries, should come together and make a formal Forum or a Professional Body, that would come out with National level strategies and set-up standards for digital preservation, develop tools and mechanisms to facilitate the process and train and develop suitable manpower to handle such vital tasks in future.

Vote of thanks during the concluding was also proposed by Dr. Ramesh C.Gaur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As expected the Conference has not only provided a professionally rewarding experience to all the delegates but also offered a number of suggestions and recommendations for future course of actions. The following are the emerging recommendations from the Conference:

1. As digital preservation and providing online access to news and views are the order of the day and will continue to be in demand in future, the newspaper libraries, archives and other public libraries and national institutions, which provide access to news resources should collaborate effectively to share their experiences and expertise in these areas.
2. As the information needs and information seeking behaviours of the journalists are constantly changing, in order to remain relevant in future, a state-of-the-art report should be prepared after studying the present status of newspaper library systems and to be shared with all media organizations.
3. It is also proposed to form a framework for launching a National Level Programme for Centralized Digital Preservation of News Information Resources in India.
4. As there is a growing need for Media Libraries to create a formal professional forum at national level to address the professional development needs of library professionals working in these areas, this idea may be taken forward by all such libraries and related agencies with a focus on national level planning, setting-up standards for digital preservation, developing tools and mechanism for facilitating the process and training and developing suitable manpower to handle digital preservation projects in future.
5. The Govt. funded institutions such as the IGNCA, National Libraries, State Public Libraries, etc. may try to share their technical resources, digital archiving software, if any developed by them with newspaper libraries, particularly the smaller libraries, which can't afford to buy such commercial software packages.
6. It is also recommended that the IFLA Newspaper Section, after a careful evaluation, may come out with list of open source digital archiving software packages, that would meet the specific requirements of newspaper libraries and other organisations involved in preserving and providing access to news resources.
7. It was further recommended that the IFLA Newspaper Section may compile an online directory of newspaper libraries, functioning world-wide, with country specific listings and contact details, which would help the professionals working in the industry to be in touch with each other for sharing professional expertise and experiences and learn from each other.
8. Besides publishing a comprehensive volume of Conference Proceeding, it was also further recommended to upload all the presentations and full-text papers of the Conference on the ILFA Newspaper Conference 2010 website as well as on the IFLA Newspaper Section website for the benefit of professionals, who could not attend the conference.

TRADE PRESENTATIONS

With an exhibition through exclusive stalls as well as formal interactions during the conference intervals, the following companies / agencies / vendors have made commercial presentations and brought in awareness about the various technological solutions that are available for the media organisations to choose for the digital preservation projects.

- Planman Technologies, New Delhi, India
- HTC Global Services Pvt. (Ltd.), Chennai, India
- M/S AEL Data, Chennai, India
- Proquest, USA