

Intellectual Infrastructure Development in the Era of Information Society

Amit Tiwari¹ and Udaya Varadarajan²

DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore

¹ amittiwari@drtc.isibang.ac.in, ² udayav@drtc.isibang.ac.in

ABSTRACT



To build an information society, there has to be progress from the traditional infrastructure (transport, communication) to the non-traditional infrastructure (environmental and intellectual infrastructure). Brett Frischmann defines intellectual infrastructure as “non-rival input into a wide variety of outputs.” The need for the intellectual infrastructure in any organization arises when any of the traditional organizing technique fails to retrieve the relevant answers. Any organization consists of three major infrastructural hierarchies. Top-level is the technology which deals with computer systems, servers, applications and programmers. Below is the organizational which involves business unit, project groups, policies and administration and so on. The final is the intellectual infrastructure which contains information, knowledge, vocabulary, authors, editors and librarians. Studies have found that half of the professionals spend more than 2 hours per day looking for the right and relevant information rather than using them. Here comes the need of a strong infrastructure to assist the professionals or intellectuals in getting the relevant information fast. The role of librarians and libraries is to facilitate intellectual sharing. This makes the libraries and information centres themselves as intellectual infrastructure. In any academic institutions, intellectual infrastructure has to be based on the foundations of free inquiry and free debate. It plays a role in the faculty development program (FDP), capacity building program (CBP) and so on by giving the training and arranging the workshops and conferences. Intellectual infrastructure will pave a path towards research and development activities in any domain as well as in an institution.

Keywords: Intellectual infrastructure; FDP; CBP; Portals; Mashups.



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