Library& Information Science (LIS) Education In Moocs Platform: With Special Reference To SWAYAM

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Abstract

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is the recent changing agent of teaching and learning environment in this digital era. With the recent development in the LIS field, different library and Information Science courses are also offered in MOOCs platform. SWAYAM i.e Study Webs Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds is a programme of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India to provide an integral teaching learning platform in online mode to the academicians. In this study it is tried to present a brief discussions on MOOCs, LIS courses offered by MOOCs specially SWAYAM and Challenges faced by Library Professionals in facilitating MOOCs.

Keywords: MOOCs, SWAYAM, LIS Education.

1. INTRODUCTION

MOOCs is the new buzz word as per the recent trends in education system. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is becoming a reality for the dreamers irrespective of age, education background, social class and geographical location in fulfilling their dreams to pursue different courses from the prestigious institutions and universities of the world sitting at home. In 2012, MOOCs was being heard everywhere and the year was termed as the year of the MOOC by New York Times. Gradually it has become popular for its features of massive enrolment in different courses, global access, free course content, easy access, free or with nominal course fee etc. This new trend of education system has brought a world class education to many learners who even never thought of a degree from universities like Harvard, Princeton MIT etc. Some of the best MOOCs platform are Coursera, Udacity, edx, Future Learn, SWAYAM, Canvas Network etc. The influence of this new trend in education is seen across different discipline of study. LIS education is not an exception to this recent trend of education system. Different LIS courses are being offered by a good number of renowned institutions and universities today from all over the world which have helped the LIS professionals and new learners in getting up-to-date with the latest development in the LIS education and practice. MOOCs have opened smooth, time saving and cost effective way for continuing education for LIS professionals.

2. A BRIEF OVERVIEW ABOUT MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE (MOOCS)

Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) have throbbed the educational world by bringing revolutionary changes in teaching learning process. Initially it was developed by in the countries like USA, UK and other first world countries. The universities like Stanford, Harvard, MIT etc.

have opened the learning opportunity to unlimited number of students from the globe in different disciplines. Using Web 2.0 technology, MOOCs has made drastic changes in traditional education system by introducing features like campus free, massive and free enrolment, virtual teaching and learning, world of open access course materials etc. The term MOOCs was first coined by Dave Cormier, manager of web communication and innovations at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada in 2008. The first MOOC was the successful course on Artificial Intelligence by Sebastian Thrun and Peter Norvig from Stanford University in 2011. In this course more than 1,60,000 people from different corners of the world signed up to learn collectively which has created a history in offering a course to so many students at the same time.

MOOCs are basically of two types- cMOOC and xMOOC. cMOOC stands for connectivist MOOC. It is based on connectivist theory of education. The main principles of cMOOC is connectivism, openness and participatory teaching. In this type participants can share their views, resources on the topic and send to the instructor as well. The xMOOC stands for extended MOOC is an expansion of traditional teaching method, learning theories, course materials etc. in higher education. It is an alteration of campus learning system wherein video lectures and other resources are kept in the process of teaching and learning. In xMOOC the teacher student relationship is formal than cMOOC and students follow the path by the instructor.

3. A BRIEF OVERVIEW ABOUT SWAYAM

Inspired by the concept of "Digital India", "Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" (SWAYAM) is a joint initiative of Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India. It is an indigenous IT platform for delivering MOOCs in India. Its coverage is from school level to post Graduate level. It is visualised as one stop web and mobile based platform to provide to provide high quality learning facility using multimedia on anytime and everywhere basis. The system supports easy access, monitoring, certification etc. It is a learner friendly system where user can clear doubts by group interaction through discussion forum and web conferencing. The current SWAYAM platform is developed by Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and NPTEL, IIT Madras with the help og Google Inc. and Persistent systems Ltd. SWAYAM is designed especially for school or college dropouts, working professionals, researchers and students from remote areas.

The courses on SWAYAM are presented by following organisations/ Institutions

Organisation/ Institution	Name of Learning Path
NCERT & NIOS	School Education
IGNOU	Out of the School Students
CEC	Under Graduate Education
UGC	Non- Technical Post Graduate Education
NPTEL	Engineering
IIMB	Management Studies
NITTTR	Teacher Training Programme

Table 1: Institution offering SWAYAM Courses

3. MOOCS IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Different courses in Library and Information Science like Library Automation, Information Retrieval, ICT application, digital library, Library and Information Services, Preservation and Conservation of documents, LIS education, Library management etc. are conducted by different institutions and universities through MOOCs. In the discipline of Library and Information Science, courses in MOOCs are very useful to the LIS professionals and learners. As being a library

professional it is very difficult for them to attend such courses physically or traditionally due to shortage in library staff in most of the libraries and also at times due to the lack of support from the authority in getting permission to attend seminar, training, workshop etc.

Following are some major benefits of MOOCs in LIS education

a) In Indian context, most of the academic libraries are running with an inadequate number of professional staff. MOOCs courses in different areas of LIS education will give an opportunity to the library professionals to learn new things without hampering in rendering library service.

b) MOOCs in LIS education have given a cost effective way of learning to the LIS professionals working in different libraries.

c) MOOCs in LIS will facilitate new learners and working professionals a time saving way of learning.

d) Discussion is an important part of learning. Different problems emerge in day to day library works which are now possible to solve somehow less effortlessly by raising query, questions, suggestions etc. in the discussion forum of MOOCs courses.

e) MOOCs help the LIS professionals who can't go outside for different reasons including financial and personal problems.

f) LIS community development is one of the major benefits of MOOCs in LIS course.

g) As course materials are given in digital format, it will be beneficial for future reference. It is also a learner centric way of education.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

a) To know the concept of MOOC's
b) To find out the major MOOCs providers in LIS domain.
c) To explore the courses offered by SWAYAM in LIS and related topics.
d) Identify the Challenges for Library & Information Professionals in facilitating MOOC's

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A web-based survey of the websites of MOOCs providers was conducted to collect different data. Google was employed to browse the web resources of the websites. A variety of MOOCs providers have been found who offer LIS related courses, but most adequately, five major MOOCs providers were taken for this study. The authors found a total 31 courses related to LIS domain in SWAYAM website.

6. LITERATURE REVIEW

Stephens (2013) has adapted Hyperlinked library, at San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science (SJSU SLIS) in order to explore how LIS Professionals can use emerging technologies and participatory practices to server their communities. The study revealed that MOOCs provide a transformative learning environment for LIS professional development.

Pujar and Bansode (2014) said MOOCs are revolutionizing higher education. It provides a new learning opportunity for aspiring students, faculties in many disciplines including LIS education.

Kauchik and Kumar (2016) defined Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as an learning model where anyone can participate virtually in any course through computer and internet connection.

Kaushik (2016) asserts MOOCs became a hot topic and spread over all subject domains. The researcher expresses that MOOCs explore: the basic ideas; features for online learning and endeavor to solve all the education related problems. The researcher adds MOOCs also can play a vital role in LIS education for knowledge acquisition.

Pujar and Tadasad (2016) listed some potential areas where MOOCs can collaborate with LIS education. This collaboration would bring greater diversity to courses taught at LIS schools university and prepare both the faculty and students to meet the challenges posed by the knowledge society.

Kanjilal and Kaul (2016) revealed that India is grappling with the problem of low Gross Enrolment Ration (GER) in higher education and lack of quality

Kaushik and Kumar (2016), defined Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as an online learning model where anyone can participate virtually in any course through computer and internet connection.

Sibbu (2018) has discussed the characteristics and advantages of MOOCs. Many research studies have addressed the issue of how MOOCs can improve the quality of LIS education.

Borrego (2019) explained the impact of MOOCs on Library and Information Science (LIS) education and discussed the characteristics, types and disruptive nature of MOOCs.

Hasan and Naskar (2020) highlighted the importance of Annual Refresher Programm es in Teaching (ARPIT) for professional development in LIS by using MOOCs platform called SWAYAM of the government of India. ARPIT helps LIS professional to upgrade their knowledge skills and help in career progression.

7. MOOCS PLATFORM ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS) DOMAIN
7.1 SWAYAM
Study Webs on Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is a project of the MHRD, Government of India (GOI). It is associated with 9 national coordinating institutes including 203 partnering institutions. It offers free enrollment to various diploma and certificate courses under different disciplines. Now more than 500 courses are available in SWAYAM.

7.2 NPTEL
The national Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is also a project of MHRD, GOI. It started functioning from 2003 with seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and started offering open online courses under different courses from 2014 with verified certificates. It also became one of the most subscribed Youtube educational channels with 1.5 million subscribers. In 2019, SWAYAM and NPTEL were integrated together. Presently it is also known as SWAYAM-NPTEL course. In terms credit transfer , universities and colleges are approving it for academic record if the students complete the course successfully.

7.3 edX
Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) found a classy free online learning platform named edX in 2012 through Open edX (an open source learning platform). It certifies all the successful learners for completing courses. Presently, edX has quite 20 million learners with 2500 plus accessible courses coordinated by 140 institutions and approximately 87 million enrolments.

7.4 Coursera
Coursera was founded by two Stanford professor Daphne Koller and Andrew Ng in 2012. Learners can pursue several courses (more than 2700 active courses) for specializations, professional certificates and master track certificates. It offers more than 4100 courses from various subject domain by partnering with Yale, University of Pennsylvania, Google and IBM etc.

7.5 Udacity

Udacity was an experimental approach at Stanford University where Sebastian Throne and Peter Norvig offered an online course i.e. " Introduction to Artificial Intelligence" for everyone at free of cost. Udacity offers nanodegree programs in data science, artificial intelligence, programming, autonomous systems and cloud computing etc. It has more than 160,000 enrollments from 190 countries.

Name	Website URL	Country	Found in
SWAYAM	https://swayam.gov.in	India	2017
NPTEL	https://nptel.ac.in	India	1999
edX	https://www.edx.org/	US	2012
Coursera	https://www.coursera.org	US	2012
Udacity	https://www.udacity.com	US	2011

Table 2: Major MOOCs providers in LIS domain

8. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS) EDUCATION IN SWAYAM
Some important LIS courses which are offered by SWAYAM are discussed briefly in below:

8.1 Digital Library
This course is hosted by Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC). It is cover in-depth knowledge about the digital library and their rules and regulations. It also includes the intellectual Property Rights, Copyright, Legal issues, digital rights and access management, planning and evaluation. For this course 30% for in course Assessment and 70% for end term exam.

8.2 Sr. Secondary Library and Information Science
It is a basic introductory course at the school level about the library and information science which help to know about the library services and functions. It also helps to introduce another option for further studies and hence taking up Library and Information Science as a profession.

8.3 Koha Library Management System
This is an AICTE approved FDP course. It is a tutorial course that covers the 21 audio-video spoken tutorials. It helps to know practical knowledge about the Koha library management system. This course very helpful for all the professionals in library management.

8.4 Information Sources and Library Services
It is a diploma base course that provides a basic introduction to the library information sources and library services.

8.5 Libraries: An Introduction
This is the preliminary course which offers a basic concept of Libraries and Society. It briefly discusses the role of libraries in society. Duration of this course cover 12 weeks. This course contains 4 course credit in CBCS.

8.6 ICT in Libraries
This ICT in Libraries course is the part of IGNOU online programme certificate in Library and Information Science. The main objectives of this course is to train up the working professional in the modern ICT tools in the library environment. In 2020, enrollment of this course is 2009 learners. It is a diploma base course for library professionals.

8.8 Document Processing and Organization

This is a post-graduate level course that provides a basic concept of library classification, cataloguing and filing and shelving.

8.9 Library Automation and Digitization

This course provides Library Automation and Digitization of library housekeeping operations. Some other LIS courses which are offered by SWAYAM are listed in a table as given below:

Sl No	Name of the Course	Author	Credits
1	Management of Libraries and Information Centres & Knowledge Centres	Dinesh Gupta	5
2	Digital Libraries	Jagdish Arora	4
3	Library Automation and Digitization	Uma Kanjilal	4
4	Information Source and Library Services	Archana Shukla	0
5	Digital libraries	Jagdish Arora	5
6	Bibliometrics and Scientometrics	I.K.R Rao	3
7	Information Storage and Retrieval	Devika Madali	3
8	Knowledge Society	KS Raghavan	0
9	Information Sources Services and Systems	Renu Arora	5
10	Information and Communication Technologies for Libraries	Usha Munish	5
11	Document Processing and Organization	Jaideep Sharma	4
12	Database and Content Organization	VV Subrahmanyam	4
13	Sr. Secondary Library & Information Science	NIOS	0
14	Koha Library Management System	AICTE	0
15	Information Sources, System and Services	Archana Shukla	0

Table 3: Courses available in SWAYAM

Source: SWAYAM official website https://swayam.gov.in/explorer

9. THE CHALLENGES FOR LIBRARY & INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS IN FACILITATING MOOCS

9.1 Copyright and Intellectual Property Right Issue

Due to the usage of massive number of students, the MOOCs can have massive copyright and other intellectual property right violation, librarian's awareness about the copyright, fair use, plagiarism, licensing and IP issues are to be tackled in the best way. As librarians need to satisfy users demand, keeping in mind the right balance of law and user demand. Thus, as MOOCs evolve, one role librarians may have to assume, how to provide access to copyright and licensed e-resources for MOOCs learners around the world.

9.2 Licensing

Libraries are catering the educational needs of the learners ever since its beginning. Libraries must adopt technologies to manage and monitor the usage of library resources so they can control access and tighten Internet safeguards. Typically, libraries give walk in patron access to resources but restrict remote access to users. So libraries should have to develop new licensing model that can safely open up their resources in the MOOCs platform.

9.3 Technology Assistance

Librarian continues to help patrons and other users in handling the technology. MOOCs use their own technology and system for delivering the courses. Librarian or library professionals need to work together with faculty, in teaching the course, to create and provide links to resources needed as part the class as well as with organizational technology.

9.4 Instructional Support

Librarians who are now assuming more instructional roles may also be called upon to help faculty members to teach MOOCs courses as well as to provide resources to thousands of students.

9.5 Data Storage and Control

Librarians can take an opportunity to design a structure to preserve MOOC content before the amount of content is too overwhelming to handle. Studying and adopting technologies to manage and monitor MOOC usage of library resources will be essential to controlling access and tightening Internet safeguards.

9.6 Delivering Remote Service

Learners may be accessing and posting content twenty four hours a day due to time zone differences (and may post requests for assistance out of hours). Learners need background to understand how to search, analyze, and remix learning content ethically may be of concern. This challenge may be tackled by that library once enrolled students, it is important to remember that MOOC learner numbers may be in excess of tens of thousands, and this will undoubtedly have an impact on library services.

9.7 Influencing Faculties

One of the biggest challenges as a librarian will be influencing and supporting faculties with the creation of MOOCs. Discussion with the faculties is fundamental to the successful development of MOOC. To ensure that those factors usually seen as the remit of the library service to lead on, such as copyright, licensing, digital, and information literacy are taken into consideration.

10. CONCLUSION

MOOCs in India are seen to be in rapidly growing stage of development. Different institution and organizations have been conducting different MOOCs in almost all disciplines of study. A good number of LIS courses are also running through MOOCs by some esteemed institutions from all over the world. In Indian scenario SWAYAM has been offering the LIS courses with the help of some experts in LIS field from renowned institutions. The LIS professionals may pursue these MOOCs courses from SWAYAM as well as from other MOOCs platforms. Pursing MOOCs in the university level may be made compulsory for obtaining degrees. Students, research scholars and working professionals of LIS may be encouraged to get enrolled in the MOOCs courses through which they may gather the study materials which are treasure of knowledge as well as to get a certificate.

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