

e-Resource of Experts

Background

The current evolution in information technology brings major changes in the way of information communication. Technological developments have opened up new avenues to create and use e-resources for different purposes in a big way.

The IGNOU, following the principle of sharing the available resources and manpower, wants to take the benefit of the services of the experts in different areas for different purposes. Keeping it in view, NCIDE has designed and developed a web based application for creating a comprehensive database of experts in different fields who may be interested to be associated with the various educational activities of the University.

Need of the Innovation

While developing the question bank for On-Demand exam in the university, we required subject experts for developing questions for different courses. The database of the experts available with the concerned division was very limited and in that too, many experts were not willing to come to the University for different reasons. Thus, in order to identify more experts in different subjects, it was decided to create a huge database of experts not only for question paper generation, but for all other academic activities like Unit writing, editing, translation, evaluations, etc. For that purpose an idea of designing and developing a software named as 'e-Resource of Experts' came up. Thus, an innovative application named as e-Resource of Experts was developed and hosted on the server. Main purpose of the electronic resources was providing current and up-to-date information about the experts in different subjects for different purposes.

Description of the Innovation

IGNOU's **e-Resource of Experts** has three modules – Data Entry Module, Data Access Module and Data Editing Module.

Data Entry Module gives a facility for Login to the experts from anywhere anytime. It is open for all. Any subject expert who thinks that he/she can contribute for the IGNOU as Course Writer, Editor, translator, Question Paper Setter, Moderator and/or Evaluator, can submit his/her profile online. An important feature of this module is that the experts can edit their profile, if there is any change in their credentials.

Data Access Module has restricted access for IGNOU officials only. The authorized IGNOU faculty and staff can log in and access the e-Resources of Experts to search for an expert by name, subject area, specialization or location, etc.

Data Editing Module has restricted access for the administrator only for generating different types of lists of the experts. The administrator can add, edit and update profile of an expert from time to time. Different types of reports can also be generated by the administrator.

All the profiles received can be scrutinized by the concerned faculty and the approved list of experts is made available to the concerned staff and faculty. All the experts willing to be the part of the e-Resource of Experts should ensure that the information they provide is accurate. IGNOU reserves the right not to consider an expert for any work in IGNOU and also to remove anyone from the Database if we have good reason to believe that their details are inaccurate or misleading or not suitable for us.



Innovative Features of the Innovation

The main features of the e-Resource of Experts are as follows :

- It is highly user friendly for the experts, faculty, staff and the administrator.
- Anybody anytime from anywhere can upload his/her profile.
- It provides a facility to search for an expert by name, subject area, specialization or location.
- The profile of an expert can be updated from time to time by the expert as well as by the administrator.
- It also gives a quick view of subject wise list of experts.
- Complete profile of an expert can also be viewed and printed through advance search.

Achievements

The application e-Resource of Experts was implemented on pilot basis in 2010-11. The link of the application was given on the home page of the IGNOU Website. Within a short time of about six months more than thousand experts from all over the world registered and submitted their complete bio-data online as per the given format. Some of these experts were involved for the Question Bank Development for On-Demand Examination in the University. But because of the non-availability of the space on server for its hosting, it was discontinued. If it is again made functional and hosted on server, it will certainly help in creating a huge database of the experts for different academic activities of the University.

Applications and Uses of the Innovation

A number of experts from this database were involved in the process of question bank development and evaluation of the answer sheets of On-Demand Exam.

It is expected that the database of experts will be useful for the faculty of IGNOU as well as for the experts. In other words this database promotes global participation of experts in different activities of the university. On one hand many of the specialists in different subject areas from all over the world may be having interest to be associated with the

IGNOU for different purposes. Whereas on other hand IGNOU is always in search of experienced subject experts for different academic activities. This application connects them at one platform.

Way Forward

In future the e-Resource of Experts may be officially announced and publicized for its wider reach. The selected subject experts may be involved in other activities of the University like Unit Writing, Editing, Translation, etc. It can also be extended to capture and manage the database of other functionaries of the University like Academic Counselors, Coordinators of Study Centres, Evaluators, etc.

Coordinator and Innovator

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