INTERNET RESEARCHERS' CONFERENCE 2017

IRC 17

Programme

IIIT Bangalore, March 03-05

http://cis-india.org/raw/irc17

Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC) is a conference series initiated by the **Researchers at Work (RAW)** programme at the **Centre for Internet and Society (CIS**) to create an annual temporary space in India for internet researchers to gather and share experiences.

The second edition of the Internet Researchers' Conference, or **IRC17**, is organised by the **Centre for Information Technology and Public Policy, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B)** and the **CIS**.

It is held during March 03-05, 2017, at the IIIT-B campus, 26/C, Electronics City, Hosur Road, Bangalore, 560100.

Contents

Internet Researchers' Conference 2017

Two critical questions that emerged from the conversations at the previous edition of the Conference (IRC16 [1]) were about the digital objects of research, and the digital/internet experiences in Indic languages. As we discussed various aspects and challenges of 'studying internet in India', it was noted that we have not sufficiently explored how ongoing research methods, assumptions, and analytical frames are being challenged (if at all) by the becoming-digital of the objects of research across disciplines: from various artifacts and traces of human and machinic interactions, to archival entries and sites of ethnography, to practices and necessities of collaboration.

We found that the analyses of such digital objects of research often tend to assume either an aesthetic and functional uniqueness or sameness vis-à-vis the pre-/proto-digital objects of research, while neither of these positions are discussed in detail. Further, we tend to universalise the English-speaking user's/researcher's experience of working with such digital objects, without sufficiently considering their lives and functions in other (especially, Indic) languages.

These we take as the key provocations of the 2017 edition of IRC:

- How does the becoming-digital of the research objects challenge our current research practices, concerns, and assumptions?

- How do we appreciate, study, and theorise the functioning of and meaning-making by digital objects in Indic languages?

- What research tools and infrastructures are needed to study, document, annotate, analyse, archive, cite, and work with (in general) digital objects, especially those in Indic languages?

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[1] See: http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16.

Day 01, Friday, March 03

09:00-09:30 Breakfast (Bhaskara)

09:30-10:00 Introduction

10:00-11:30 Session 01

#DigitalIdentities - The Translation of Digital Identities into, from, and between Kannada, Hindi, Assamese, and English

Master class room #106
Dr. Anjali K Mohan, Harish Boya, Dr. Janaki Srinivasan, Khetrimayum Monish Singh, and Dr. Sarita Seshagiri

The key focus of the session is to explore the relationship between digital identities and language from the perspectives of users. "Digital identity" is often a cohesive term, subsumed in debates on privacy, data mining and/or surveillance but identity is diverse, fragmented and performed, even more so linguistically. How are interpretations of digital identities constructed in different Indic languages; how do they morph between these languages and how are they interpreted both by the interviewer working in this area, and by the interviewee sharing their thoughts and behaviours on digital identity? Are there differences between languages, and if so what are they?

We will kick off the session with a discussion of findings from ongoing research on the creation and use of government ID and other platforms, including Aadhaar in Karnataka and Delhi, and the NRC database in Assam. We will also examine what the designers and implementers of initiatives focused on 'the digital' see as the role of language in their work. The rest of the session will be organized through multiple break out groups that will explore how language shapes users' constructions of their identities in the digital space, including both state-based and private social media platforms. An important question we will discuss is how users and researchers have interpreted 'identity' in various languages.

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 Sessions 02 + 03

#IndicLanguagesAndInternetCohabitation

Class room #102
Dr. Anjali K Mohan, Mohan S Rao, Pranay Kotasthane, Ranjeet Kumar, Sreedhar Kallahalla, and Vasant Shetty

This session seeks to explore challenges and opportunities that the internet poses to the survival, growth and / or reach of Indic languages (script and dialect included). We believe that the language one thinks in, shapes our modes and manner of communication. With the preponderance of the written word the value of oral traditions specific to Indic languages, become key in valuing traditional knowledge. Oral traditions are not merely lesser forms of literate systems. They are often completely different ways of creating, sharing

and valuing knowledge itself. Specifically, each language is a repository of traditional knowledge and the decline and death of a language is not merely a loss to linguistic diversity, but an irrevocable loss of this body of knowledge.

The advent of internet has led to several debates; believers argue that the internet has opened opportunities for integrating Indic languages with other languages of the world, especially English. Historically, knowledge creation in Indic languages didn't match that of English or acquire the nature of, say, Chinese-Mandarin (which did not cede its place to English), leading to knowledge asymmetries. Digital medium, it is argued, can bridge this gap. Skeptics, on the other hand, argue that the hegemony of dominant languages is likely to kill the so-called minor languages. We argue that these debates, while valid, remain superficial. In this context, this session raises the following provocations:

1. Does the digital world offer solutions or is it yet another obstacle in the survival of our languages?

2. More specifically, how does one capture oral histories and traditional knowledge systems that are embedded in our languages?

3. Within Indic languages, does or can the internet crowd out dialects in favour of scripts?

The session is structured as a panel of four who think in a major or minor Indic language. Proposed as an interactive session, the organizing team will initiate the panel discussion by articulating the provocations. Each panel member is given five minutes to respond to these provocations following which audience are encouraged to participate in the language in which they think. Translators are sought from within the audience. The session concludes by the organizers bringing together the various debates in 5-10 minutes. The session will deploy oral and audio-visual modes as a means of documentation. The session will be video graphed and uploaded with subtitles.

#SelfiesFromTheField

Class room #103
Abhilash Maradwar, Dr. Anuradha Rao, Ishan Sharma, Kavitha Narayanan, Oindrila Matilal, Onkar Hoysala, Priyanka Ivatury, Dr. Sachit Rao, Shubham Mallade, Sreelakshmi R., and Sugandha Sehgal

Our session focuses on *research methods to study and document* work on Internet Mediated Interactions (IMI). We define IMI as any interaction enabled by the Internet. The session provides a platform to share experiences and challenges faced in *doing* research of IMI. The speakers in the session are early-career researchers and students pursuing research of IMI.

The session will engage with ideas and practices informing research design, such as choice and selection of field sites; accessing these sites and participants, given the nature of these interactions, especially since the boundaries of the online and the offline are commonly blurred; transforming the way tools/methods of research get applied/used; along with raising pertinent ethical questions around informed consent, privacy, and the role of the researcher. While the session focusses on IMI, we hope that the learnings from this sessions would be of use and relevant across different methodological approaches and research domains.

The session will comprise of five presentations of ten minutes each, followed by a panel discussion:

- Abhilash Maradwar, Ishan Sharma, Shubham Mallade, and Dr. Sachit Rao - *Evaluating Twitter as a Feedback Mechanism for Addressing Customer Grievances*

- Dr. Anuradha Rao - *Methodological Challenges and Choices in the Study of Internet Mediated Interactions (IMI): Ethnographic Experiences from Bangalore*

- Priyanka Ivatury - *Conducting ethnographic research on online healthcare platforms*

- Sreelakshmi R - *Mobile Apps and Urban Commuting*

- Sugandha Sehgal - *Aesthetics of the non-normative female body in contemporary digital visual culture: Gender and Instagram*

The session is organised and will be moderated by Kavitha Narayanan, Onkar Hoysala, and Oindrila Matilal.

13:15-14:30 Lunch (Bhaskara)

14:30-16:00 Session 04

#HookingUp

Master class room #106
Akhil Kang, Christina Thomas Dhanaraj, Dhrubo Jyoti, and Gowthaman Ranganathan

If there has been one tangible imprint of the so-called digital revolution, people say, it is in the realm of recasting the articulation and fulfillment of desires for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT+) people. But how much of this is true, especially when dealing with fundamental markers of identity such as caste?

The proposed session offers to look at the various new and intermingling modes of articulating desires: political, sexual and social – from a queer lens and explore how and whether the advent of the digital has changed anything, and for whom –by narrating our own experiences, looking at maps of Delhi and talking to Dalit women and queer folks.

We also take that queer lens to look at growing online anti-caste activism and how they are breaking away from historically mainstream-set modes of research and production of knowledge/narratives in many Indian languages, not just academic English.

The discussion will be in an open-house format driven by narratives with invitees from outside to share their experiences. The aim will be to understand, empirically, what technology does to caste, gender and sexuality.

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00 Open Session 01

Day 02, Saturday, March 04

09:30-10:00 Breakfast (Bhaskara)

10:00-11:30 Session 05

#DotBharatAdoption

Master class room #106
Dr. Amit Prakash, K.A. Dayanand, Dr. Srinivasan Ramani, Dr. V. Sridhar, and Vivek Pani

In 2014, The Government of India unveiled DotBharat country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD), which is available in Devanagari script and covers eight languages Hindi, Dogri, Maithili, Bodo, Marathi, Konkani, Nepali and Sindhi. The other Indian languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odiya are also in the process of being included. Domain names are to some extent windows to the Internet and have socio economic impacts for individuals and organizations alike. The Chinese and Japanese language TLDs were opened up in 2007.

Though the number of TLDs are more than 1,300, apart from .com that contributes to about 50 percent of web sites, the adoption of non-English domain names is very poor. This session intends to cover the following:

1. What is the adoption rate/ level of non-English TLDs, especially those that were launched much ahead of DotBharat such as Japanese and Chinese TLDs?

2. Can the hypothesis that Indic language domain names will improve promotion of more Indic language web sites and their adoption be supported?

3. Who can be the potential users of these domain names?

Prof. Amit Prakash will moderate the session. Dr. V. Sridhar will introduce the context of the panel and provide some empirical evidence of the adoption of non-English domains. The speakers will be Dr. Srinivasan Ramani, K.A. Dayanand, and Vivek Pani.

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 Sessions 06 + 07

#DigitalPedagogies - 'Bad Request or Filename': Approaches towards an inclusive research practices for digital media studies

Class room #102
Dr. Ashutosh Potdar, Nidhi Kalra, Dr. Ravikant Kisana, and Dr. Maya Dodd

The coming of new online resources and digital platforms has fundamentally transformed traditional classroom approaches and research practices.

Teachers and researchers across disciplinary lines now freely borrow from internet sources to add onto their material in order to learn, to teach and to research. In several cases, there have also been instances of researchers expanding the scope of their traditional realm by adding a 'digital' component to bring their curriculum to contemporary times. It has also created opportunities for researchers to push the boundaries of their pedagogy and push students to create 'live projects' with the aid of digital platforms. While English has become normalized as the language of research, documentation, archiving and reproduction, new conversations are opening up in other Indian languages to see sections of this scholarship can be reimagined or expanded beyond the boundaries of English.

The panel attempts to bring all these myriad conversations under the larger ambit of trying to arrive at a meta-structural approach for curricular agenda and research strategies. Currently, there are several diffused nudges at trying to 'incorporate the digital' into traditional research and pedagogy. However, our panel is trying to complicate this understanding by underlining that perhaps a new epistemology needs to be explored.

#MaterializingWriting

Class room #103
Dr. Dibyadyuti Roy, Dr. Indrani Roy, Dr. Padmini Ray Murray, and Puthiya Purayil Sneha

Bhurjapatra (birch bark) and CD-ROMs, *tamra-patra* (copper plates) and online blogs: acts of materializing writing have always already been contingent on the materialities through which writing is made. However, current debates about the "becoming-digital" of writing often elide the contingence of digital writing on materiality; largely due to the growth and development of disciplines such as Digital Humanities (DH), new media theory and multimodal writing scholarship in Eurocentric epistemic settings. Such scholarship ignores how any written artifact is deeply embedded within materiality and embodiment, which are themselves mired within complicated belief systems and locational limitations. Not surprisingly conversations about the multi-layered technological and media landscape in India—also in a state of transition from the analogue to digital—provide several instances of discursive slippages that occur as new materialities engender unique writing practices. Therefore, tracing the materialities of writing in Indic languages can potentially offer vital insights into how digital cultures and objects can contribute to meaning-making within the sphere of digital humanities and electronic literature, especially in the postcolonial sphere.

This session transgresses beyond the "modern and archaic" dispute and allows us to examine and identify challenges, obstacles, cul-de-sacs, possibilities and overlaps, which lie at the intersection of Indic language materialities and its digital writing counterparts.

This session will be structured in the form of a discussion, with each speaker presenting some key observations/provocations on different aspects of the topic. These include the following: How do we chart the intersections between writing and materiality? How are questions about digital writing practices

inseparable from those about access and agency? Do artifacts that have been produced in Indic languages allow us any special insights into this relationship? Indeed, how does studying, annotating, analyzing, and digitally archiving Indic language artifacts contribute to questions about the movement from analogue to digital? Does the emerging discourse around digital objects inform ideas/concerns about materiality and new forms of writing?

13:15-14:30 Lunch (Bhaskara)

14:30-16:00 Session 08

#RenarrationWeb

Master class room #106
Anuja Mirchandaney, Deepak Prince, Dinesh, Shalini, Dr. Srinath Srinivasa

Over the last few centuries, reading and writing have mostly defined what the world considers as transferrable knowledge while oral traditions and storytelling have taken a back seat. With recording devices, via smart phones, becoming commonplace the wheel is likely to turn again towards storytelling as the primary manner in which history will be recorded in the future. This is easily imaginable when we realize that even today, where with aeons of effort towards educating the peoples of the world, a large majority can only be considered a slow-literate. Even among the literate, only a small percentage can be considered to be enthusiastic readers/writers and more so when it comes to cross cultural and cross linguistic barriers. While a comeback of the oral tradition in an all new manner begs us to visit how a narrator refers to others and constructs a narrative, a specific case would be when one renarrates it for a new audience. We need a way to model the realization of a web of conversations on the Internet.

The idea of renarration will be situated using traditional and contemporary examples and the context will help us reflect on the state of the Web as we know it. Drawing from a recent literary work 'In Search of Shiva' by Mukunda Rao, the practices of renarration, its meaning in the lives and imaginations of people, and its function as away of moving beyond the authority of a text will be discussed,raising the question of web technology's potential as an agent of renarration. The current work of W3C Working Group on Web Annotation and the significance of this for the future Web and for ideas like that of renarration is introduced. Panelists will present tools for storytelling based on renarration, the renarration story of the minimum wages act, a tool developed for renarrating the bio-cultural protocols as part of the Follow the Sheep work, tools for story comparison and a peek into the future of spatial navigation for location interpretation interest. We look forward for audience participation and interaction with a number of tools. [2]

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00 Open Session 02

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[2] For details, please see the article titled "Renarration for all": http://bit.ly/iiitbpress1.

Day 03, Sunday, March 05

09:30-10:00 Breakfast (Bhaskara)

10:00-11:30 Session 09

#ArchivesForStorytelling

Master class room #106
Aliyeh Rizvi, Bhanu Prakash, Dinesh, Malini Ghanathe, and Venkat Srinivasan

In the oral history realm, where history is recorded based on oral accounts and typically via interviews, we can imagine that each storyteller has many different stories, each story has many different storytellers, each story has many different themes and vice-versa, and so on. Moreover, each personal history might be related to others based on common entities (eg. people and organizations), objects, time and space (eg. events, geography), and other conceptual objects that the accounts may comprise of. For example, is a given story referring to an event that someone else may also talk about in a seemingly unconnected way?

While WWW itself is a gigantic source of material, archives have existed for millennia at various institutions and with individuals. We discuss here the relevance of modeling archives for today by discussing the knowledge bank of Indian Digital Heritage and NCBS@25 exhibit by presenting the work done towards storytelling using these archives.

A recent work on developing story streams from an institutional archive is juxtaposed with a traditional folk narrative that is a representation of the intangible cultural heritage of the Vijayanagara Empire. These are discussed with questions that are brought forth regarding the related archival material that would help bring about development of visual versions of that story online. The role of social networking and curation as part of this archival information is also discussed. The work on creating the stories of NCBS for its 25th year anniversary will be used to illustrate the archives work done to help in the rendition of stories relevant to such an anniversary.

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45-13:15 Sessions 10 + 11

#ObjectsOfDigitalGovernance

Class room #102
Khetrimayum Monish Singh, Rajiv K. Mishra, and Vidya Subramanian

Digital objects are becoming interesting sites of analysis with the growing importance of data centred models of governance, and social network interactions. The general idea of this session would be on thinking about digital objects as socio-technical artifacts with politics, and to try and deconstruct their materiality. In this, the attempt would be to reconcile sites and trends

that are linked through infrastructures, data and objects which shape techno-political practices. Our arguments are based on ongoing case studies related to database politics of UID/Aadhaar (Delhi, Jharkhand) and the National Register of Citizens update (Assam); and the consumer-user-citizen at the centre of the 'social network'. For this, we discuss relevant STS approaches and methodologies followed by open discussions.

Through STS perspectives of Large Technological Systems (LTS), infrastructures analysis and digital governance, the first two case studies on database politics hope to explore the various 'sociotechnical imaginaries' of state directed interventions in identification and development practices. The third presentation will explore the dimensions of a new project, still in it's infancy, that attempts to study the user-consumer-citizen at the centre of the 'social-network' of the nation, and the internet. The session therefore hopes to address the first key provocation of IRC17: *how the becoming-digital of research objects challenges our current research practices, concerns and assumptions.*

#OpenAccessScholarlyPublishing
#digitalinfrastructures/paratexts/architecture

Class room #103
Dr. Abhishek Shrivastava, Dr. Dibyaduti Roy, and Dr. Nirmala Menon

"What *research tools and infrastructures* are needed to study, document, annotate, analyze, archive, cite, and work with (in general) digital objects, especially those in Indic languages?" Before we get to this core question in the research arena we need to confront the fundamental gap in the conversation- that there are as yet very few digital objects that are created, developed and preserved in Indian languages. Shodhganga and the National Digital Library, both extraordinary projects are still limited to works that are primarily written in English. This is especially unfortunate in literature research as literature departments across universities in the country have a robust scholarship agenda and have some niche publications that focus on the works of different languages. What is missing is a bridge or a platform that enables a conversation between the scholarships in these languages. University department structures that usually do not have a department of Literature under which one can envision comparatist conversations have to take some responsibility for this lack of conversation. So we do need specific digital tools that recognize and fill this gap.

At the Open Access Scholarly Publishing project at IIT Indore, we have tried to identify and fulfill what we see as two scholarly imperatives: 1) a commitment to open access environment as crucial for research accessibility and 2) provide a platform for multilingual scholarly production with an emphasis on Indian languages. The Digital Humanities and Publishing Research Group at IIT Indore has a two pronged approach to what we see as a fundamental infrastructure problem: an absence of a polyphonic platform for a scholarly kitchen! We will be a consciously multilingual publishing house soliciting (and specifically targeting) scholarly monographs and translations in Indian languages and also inviting scholars to host journals in multiple languages. In this session, we would like to discuss some of the technological challenges of the project and

possible solutions with an emphasis on collaborations across institutions and scholars in India.

To sum up, this panel will have a conversation/discussion about three things: 1) The infrastructure gap in scholarly publishing in India 2) Need for this to be addressed with a focus on multilingual publishing and 3) The technological challenges specific to a project that is ambitious but long term. Ancillary to the above questions will inevitably include discussions on digital preservation and the transforming and transformative role of technology in that process.

13:15-14:30 Lunch (Bhaskara)

14:30-17:00 Roundtable

17:00-17:30 Break

Speakers

Abhilash Maradwar is currently pursuing his M.Tech at International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B). He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Engineering from PVG's COET, Pune.

Dr. Abhishek Shrivastava is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore and is interested in the technological challenges of developing software in Indic languages. He is also interested in the interdisciplinary area of Digital Humanities.

Akhil Kang is a lawyer, researcher currently based in New Delhi. He graduated from Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad in 2015 and is currently working at Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, TISS on exploring discrimination of non-normative gender and sexuality. He also works/writes on caste-sexuality and is associated with the Queering Dalit collective.

Aliyeh Rizvi is a researcher-writer, storyteller and founder of Native Place, Bengaluru where she works with stories, memory and imagination to explore new ways in which to engage people with their present day historical and cultural landscapes. Her experience in working with information (maps, guides and design collateral) and experience (culture walks-tours, storytelling for product, technology and retail) design, oral histories, and building locality based narratives through community engagement has helped create the 'Embedded Histories' project that involves devising story collection and sharing formats and devices as well as building story interpretations and insights. She is also a contributing writer on travel, heritage and culture for the National Geographic Traveller magazine.

Dr. Amit Prakash is Associate Professor at the Centre for IT and Public Policy at IIIT Bangalore, India. His research and consulting interests lie in the area of information systems and public policy. He has worked extensively on advisory assignments related to public policy and governance during his prior employment at Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and, on design and deployment of large digital systems for the government while at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). He has a graduate degree in engineering from IIT Roorkee and a doctoral degree in information systems from IIM Bangalore.

Dr. Anjali K Mohan is an institutional expert with a doctorate in e-governance. Her broad areas of practice and research include public policy, organizational and institutional frameworks, governance and ICTD. Her work with governments is largely informed by stakeholders who think and operate in Indic languages.

Anuja Mirchandaney has worked at the Alternative Law forum for around nine years largely focusing on labour law research and looking at laws that apply to the unorganized sector. In that connection she has also collaborated with NGOs who worked for the upliftment of such sectors of workers and was a resource person at their workshops. She wrote socio legal articles that looked at the wages situation of the workers be they domestic workers or garment workers in Bangalore. One of my more

important works while at ALF was the writing and publishing manuals of different laws that apply to unorganized sector workers, for Minimum Wages and Workmen's Injury compensation. After having left ALF she discontinued her legal work, and have worked in a traditional handicrafts gallery briefly and more recently, worked for four years in a school managing their library programme through which she was responsible to teach primary level children, English through reading and library based activities.

Dr. Anuradha Rao's research interests relate to the relationship between information and communication technologies (ICTs), urban civil society and socio-political change in India. Her PhD dissertation examined the perceptions and use of the Internet by civil society actors for civic and political engagement activities in Bangalore. She obtained her PhD in 2015 from the Department of Communications & New Media (CNM) at the National University of Singapore (NUS), under the supervision of Prof. Mohan Dutta. After completing her Postdoctoral Fellowship at CNM in December 2016, Rao has started on a writing project while teaching part-time at the department. She obtained her MA degree in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, and has previously worked for Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a not-for-profit organisation in Bangalore.

Dr. Ashutosh Potdar has published his research work on drama and literature in English and Marathi in various journals and presented papers in national and international conferences. He has one-act and full-length plays, poems, short fiction and scholarly essays in Marathi and English to his credit Recipient of a few awards, Ashutosh's plays are being performed through different national and international festivals and venues in India. After holding teaching positions for twelve years at under-graduate and post-graduate levels, Ashutosh has worked with India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore leading the New Performance programme. Currently, he teaches literature and drama at FLAME University, Pune as an associate professor.

Bhanu Prakash has been working on developing front end tools for delivering visual stories from archives. He has worked with the NCBS@25 project of delivery stories from the history of NCBS and also on methods to render the folk stories of Vijayadashami into visual stories on the Web.

Christina Thomas Dhanaraj

K.A. Dayanand (Director, Department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka) has managed a large number of projects for the Kannada and Culture department of the Government of Karnataka and was instrumental in completely digitizing all activities in the department.

Deepak Prince is a PhD student at the Department of Sociology, Shiv Nadar university. His research work attempts to understand how humans live in a world of screens. He has recently been part of the Jallikattu protests and has been recording the many narrative practices of the event through the eyes of the State, police, media (print, TV and internet) and the dalits.

Dhrubo Jyoti is a journalist based in New Delhi who identifies as queer and Dalit. They is a part of the Queering Dalit collective.

Dr. Dibyadyuti Roy is a faculty member in the Department of Communication at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore. Dr. Roy's wide range of research and teaching interests include cultural studies, theories of gender and postcolonial masculinity, communication and critical management studies, video game studies and speculative fiction. In conjunction with the Electronic Literature Organization (ELO), he is currently involved in a project titled "Mapping E-Lit in India (MELI): A Survey and Analysis of New Media and Digital Writing Practices."

Dinesh is the Technical Director of Janastu(.org), a non-profit organisation. He has had various academic, research and industrial positions where he has worked on object-oriented programming, generation of software and courseware from specifications, structuring information for its use on the Internet and in creating visual stories from archives. As technical director of Janastu he works in Bangalore, India on issues like Web content accessibility for the low-literate, use of 3D methods for location interpretation, methods on using social semantic web concepts for storytelling and developing open source social platforms.

Gowthaman Ranganathan

Harish Boya is a postgraduate student in user experience design at the MIT Institute of Design, Pune. He has 5 years of industry experience as a designer & a developer. Harish's skill set includes design strategy, user research, visual design, Information architecture, user interface design, and usability testing. He leverages these skills to integrate user goals with business goals, to design and develop better solutions. Harish is currently working as a Research Intern at IIIT Banaglore for the Digital Identities project.

Dr. Indrani Roy is a government professional by trade and a scholar by choice. With a PhD in Sanskrit, Palaeography and Ancient History from Jadavpur University, she is deeply invested in exploring the nuances of Indology and its current implications. Dr. Roy recently published her book *Land grants: Documenting ancient India* and has previously translated the *Vayu Purana* from Sanskrit to Bengali.

Ishan Sharma is currently pursuing his M.Tech at IIIT-B. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Engineering from IET DAVV, Indore.

Dr. Janaki Srinivasan's research examines the political economy of information-based development initiatives. She uses ethnographic and archival research to examine how ideologically diverse entities deploy information and information technologies towards achieving their varied visions of development in India. Janaki is a lapsed physicist and has a doctorate in Information Management and Systems from UC Berkeley. She is currently a faculty member at IIIT Bangalore and is also leading the Digital Identities research project there.

Kavitha Narayanan is a Doctoral student at IIIT-B in the Information Technology & Society (ITS) domain. She has looked recently at mobile-based digital platforms in the transport sector, which was presented at SASE-2016 at UC Berkeley and at the Great Transformation Workshop 2016 at NIAS, Bangalore.

Malini Ghanathe is a faculty at Acharya School of Design, Bangalore and has worked in the area of Arts Management, Administration and Arts Research with interests in Art History, Design, textiles and crafts. For Indian Digital Heritage of Hampi project she has helped the IIT Delhi team to curate and develop content for "Ontology and Knowledge Bank: An Intellectual Exploration of the Girija Kalyana" narrative by exploring the at tangible and intangible aspects that makes the Narrative.

Dr. Maya Dodd received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Modern Thought and Literature. Subsequently, she received post-doctoral fellowships at Princeton University and JNU, India. She also taught in the department of Anthropology at Princeton University and in English departments at Stanford and the University of Florida. Currently, she chairs the department of Humanities and Languages and teaches Literary and Cultural Studies at FLAME University. Her research interests include Indian Law and Cultural Studies and her teaching is focused on the digital classroom and archiving practices in South Asian Cultural Studies.

Mohan S Rao is a Bangalore based environmental designer and landscape architect. His interests are natural environment and cultures and is specially interested in traditional knowledge systems and deploys these in his works when addressing contemporary challenges.

Khetrimayum Monish Singh is an independent researcher currently associated with The Centre for Internet & Society, New Delhi. He works on digital infrastructures and the impact of data-driven legislations, practices and analytics on individuals, communities, and groups, especially immigrants and marginalized populations, with regard to access, security, and welfare benefits schemes; and questions of identity and differential treatment of citizens/residents immanent in database infrastructures.

Nidhi Kalra has been a learning facilitator since 2008. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities at FLAME University, Pune. Prior to that, she has taught at the English Department in Savitribai Phule Pune University and Gargi College in the University of Delhi. Nidhi has received her MPhil in English Literature from the University of Delhi, for which she worked on problematizing Holocaust memoirs. Her research interests include Memory Studies, Trauma Studies, Oral History, Digital Humanities, and Children's/Young Adult Literature.

Dr. Nirmala Menon is an Associate Professor of Postcolonial Literature at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore India. She is the project lead for the Open Access Publishing KSHIP at the institute. She also heads the Digital Humanities and Publishing Research Group (DHPRG) at the institute.

Oindrila Matilal is a Doctoral Student at IIIT-B in the ITS domain. Her Master's dissertation studied Internet addiction among students at a university in India. Her broad area of research interest is ICT enabled home-based work.

Onkar Hoysala is a Master of Science by Research student at IIIT-B in the ITS domain. He has looked recently at mobile-based digital platforms in the transport sector, which was presented at SASE-2016 at UC Berkeley and at the Great Transformation Workshop 2016 at NIAS, Bangalore. He is currently studying the work practice of simulation designers in transportation.

Dr. Padmini Ray Murray runs the programme in Digital Humanities at the Srishti Institute for Art, Design and Technology. Her research interests and publications encompass comics and games studies, feminism and feminist protest, the history of the book as well as the role of cultural specificity in the digital world.

Pranay Kotasthane is a Research Fellow at the Takshashila Institution. His interest in Indic languages began with his addiction to Hindi comics. He can read and write in Urdu, Marathi, and Hindi. And has elementary knowledge of Kannada and Mandarin. He has contributed articles that have been published in Hindi and Kannada newspapers.

Priyanka Ivatury is a final semester student of the MSc. in Digital Society program at IIIT-B. She is currently working on her thesis where she will study the relevance of health records to patients at primary and community health centres and examine what the shift to electronic health records means for them. Her research interests are in the domain of ICT implementations in the public health sector.

Rajiv Mishra is a PhD Candidate at CSSP, JNU working on large technological systems and development, with the case of unique identity (UID/Aadhaar) and health informatics in India.

Dr. Srinivasan Ramani is Global Connector inductee in the Internet Hall of Fame 2014, and former Director of C-DAC (NCST), ERNET and HP Labs. Dr. Ramani proposed an Indian Academic Network in 1983, and this contributed to the launch of the ERNET project, involving a number of institutions that created R&D teams in networking. Earlier in his career, Dr. Ramani led a team to create communication software for an Indian-made computer in 1976-77, using it in the education field. He played a key role in connecting three cities in 1981 through an experimental satellite-based packet switching network, and co-authored a pioneering paper proposing a Low Altitude Equatorial Satellite for computer messaging in 1982. Dr. Ramani joined an elite rank of notable icons who have been inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame for their significant contributions to the advancement of the global internet in the year 2014. The Internet Hall of Fame inducted Dr. Ramani for his contributions to the growth, connectivity, and use of the internet in India. Dr. Ramani is also the first Indian to make it to the Internet Hall of Fame,

Ranjeet Kumar is a Bangalore based researcher, Spanish translator, linguist, humanist, atheist and leftist. He is a faculty of Spanish at the Bangalore University and currently enrolled for a PhD at the Mahatma Gandhi Hindi University, Wardha, Maharashtra. Ranjeet also teaches Spanish here. For Ranjeet, English is his fourth language after Magahi, Hindi, and Spanish.

Dr. Ravikant Kisana is currently teaching at the School of Communications, FLAME University, Pune. He has previously completed his FPM(C) from MICA, Ahmedabad. His doctoral research focused on the oral histories of Bollywood cinema in Kashmir, and its intersections with Kashmiri nationalism and resistance. His areas of research are centered around the sociology of cinema, gender & sexuality intersections with films & new media platforms, as well as investigations into the structural mores of cybercultures.

Dr. Sachit Rao is currently an Assistant Professor at IIIT-B. His interests are in using the wealth of tools developed in the area of Control Systems and Theory in diverse applications.

Dr. Sarita Seshagiri has over 10 years of experience in the corporate, having worked as a user researcher in Motorola Labs, Nokia Research Centre and Samsung Research and Development. Prior to this, Sarita did her Masters in Political Science from JNU, Delhi and Doctorate in Political Science from NUS, Singapore. Presently, she is a visiting faculty at IIIT, Bangalore and is involved in the Digital Identities project that is being undertaken jointly by IIIT-B and Caribou Digital Network.

Shalini has been working with a number of shepherds and participating in their network meetings. She is also developing apps that help track their nomadic tracks while also capturing the land use data.[3] She will be briefly discuss the bio-cultural protocols that some shepherding communities have put it in writing and the need and tools developed to help renarrate these.

Shubham Mallade is currently pursuing his M.Tech at IIIT-B. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Engineering from VIT, Pune.

Puthiya Purayil Sneha is the Programme Officer at Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore where she handles research, programme development and documentation as part of the RAW programme at CIS. Sneha has previously been associated with the Higher Education Innovation and Research Applications (formerly Higher Education Cell), Centre for the Study of Culture and Society Bangalore and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Sreedhar Kallahalla is based in Teerthahalli. An agriculturalist, architect and an activist, Sreedhar describes himself as a modernist who appreciates memories embedded in his heritage. Sreedhar is actively engaged in questions of culture, language politics and development. His chosen language of expression and engagement with the world is Kannada.

Sreelakshmi R. is a final year student of the Master's Programme at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, majoring in Development Studies. Her final year dissertation is looking at the phenomenon of rideshare, among the more conventional options, for a comprehensive understanding of the impact that technological artefacts, i.e. mobile applications have on commuter behaviour in Bangalore. She is interested in working on policy making and governance.

Dr. V. Sridhar is Professor at the Centre for IT and Public Policy at the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, India. He is the author of two books published by the Oxford University Press: The Telecom Revolution in India: Technology, Regulation and Policy (2012), and The Dynamics of Spectrum Management: Legacy, Technology, and Economics (2014). Dr. Sridhar has taught at many Institutions in the USA, Finland, New Zealand and India. He has been a member of Government of India committees on Telecom and IT. Dr. Sridhar has a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, U.S.A. His work can be accessed at: http://www.vsridhar.info.

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[3] See: http://mitan.in/followsheep.

Srinath Srinivasa holds a PhD (magna cum laude) from the Berlin Brandenburg Graduate School for Distributed Information Systems (GkVI) Germany, an M.S. (by Research) from IIT-Madras and B.E. in Computer Science and Engineering from The National Institute of Engineering (NIE) Mysore. He works in the broad areas of web science, multi-agent systems, network analysis and text mining. He is a member of various technical and organizational committees for international conferences. Currently, he heads the Web Science Lab and is a founder member of the Center for Data Sciences.

Sugandha Sehgal has completed her M.Phil. and M.A. in English from the University of Delhi. She is currently teaching as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Jesus and Mary College. She is also a registered Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Visual studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Visual culture and gender studies constitute her areas of interest. For her doctoral research, she is working on digital cultures of gender and sexuality. Specifically, her work addresses the notion of 'imperfect' female bodies in social media cultures.

Vasant Shetty is a technologist who is involved with several language planning projects in Kannada. As a member of the Kannada Grahakara Koota, Vasant has worked on translating Facebook and Whatsapp interface from English to Kannada, building Wiktionary corpus in Kannada while also being involved in building a Kannada centric consumer movement in Karnataka. He was a columnist with Udayavani, a leading Kannada daily, earlier and an author of two Kannada books.

Venkat Srinivasan worked as a research engineer at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory; independent journalist/digital archiving. At SLAC, he worked with teams that develop instruments for use in experimental stations at the world's brightest x-ray source laser facility. He got interested in digital archiving when he started conducting oral histories with SLAC employees. He does journalistic work, mostly about the sciences. Educational background is in engineering and journalism. Recently he has worked on "History of NCBS, Exhibit and Online Narratives".

Vidya Subramanian has submitted her PhD at the Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP, JNU); and currently writes about and from within the many layers of interactions between technology and society for the Hindustan Times in New Delhi.

Vivek Pani (Co-founder and CTO of Reverie Technologies) is the key driver behind Reverie's language as a service platform and its consumer apps initiatives, and leads his teams towards the goal of delivering unparalleled language experience across devices. After graduating as an Electronics and Instrumentation engineer from CET, Bhubaneswar, India, Vivek began his language computing journey at the Center for Development of Advanced Computing, CDAC. Here he led the language computing team and pioneered several tools including the first free text transliteration from English to Indian languages for regular text and names.

About the IRC Series

The Researchers at Work (RAW) [4] programme at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) initiated the Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC) series to create an annual temporary space in India for internet researchers to gather and share experiences.

The IRC series is driven by the following interests:

- creating discussion spaces for researchers and practitioners studying internet in India and in other comparable regions,

- foregrounding the multiplicity, hierarchies, tensions, and urgencies of the digital sites and users in India,

- accounting for the various layers, conceptual and material, of experiences and usages of internet and networked digital media in India, and

- exploring and practicing new modes of research and documentation necessitated by new (digital) objects of power/knowledge.

The first edition of the Internet Researchers' Conference series was held in February 2016. [5] It was hosted by the Centre for Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, [6] and was supported by the CSCS Digital Innovation Fund. [7] The Conference was constituted by eleven discussion sessions (majority of which were organised around presentation of several papers), four workshop sessions (which involved group discussions, activities, and learnings), a book sprint over three sessions to develop an outline of a (re)sourcebook for internet researchers in India, and a concluding round table. A detailed reflection note on the IRC16 has already been published. [8]

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[4] See: http://cis-india.org/raw/.

[5] See: http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16.

[6] See: http://www.jnu.ac.in/SSS/CPS/.

[7] See: http://cis-india.org/raw/cscs-digital-innovation-fund.

[8] See: http://cis-india.org/raw/iirc-reflections-on-irc16.