

Training program on 'Content Management Using Open Source Tool – Drupal'

With the advent of good number of internet resources managing electronic information has become both a challenge and boon for information professionals. Well designed organization portals are needed for dissemination of these resources to their user community more effectively and efficiently. Integrating of these authoritative web resources, open source or commercial, into a single window enhances information dissemination achieved through content management tools, to name a few Drupal, Joomla, OpenCMS, WordPress, etc. Making use of the in-house expertise in Drupal, ICAST, CSIR-NAL organized a three days hands-on training program on 'Content Management Using Open Source Tool – Drupal' during 19-21 April 2011.

Drupal is an open source, platform independent CMS tool. Its features are simple, flexible, customizable, multiplatform, multilingual, web 2.0 complaint, web based administration, powerful report generation functionally and well organized browse and search facilities. Nearly 5000 registered websites are using Drupal across globe in various languages.

The participants (restricted to 30) mainly were from CSIR labs, ISRO, DRDO, Academic Institutions and Corporate Sectors from different parts of the country. The inaugural program a brief affair, was held on 19th of April 2011 at 9.30 am. Dr. A R Upadhya, Director, NAL and Mr. Shyam Chetty, Sc 'H', and Chairman, Library Advisory Committee consented to be the guests for the occasion. Dr. Poornima Narayana, Head, ICAST and Coordinator of this program welcomed the gathering and thanked the chief dignitaries for accommodating time amidst their busy schedules to address the gathering. She briefly gave an over view of the theme of the workshop. Mr. Shyam Chetty in his address appreciated ICAST's efforts in reaching out to its user community through its exhaustive resource collection as well as various value added initiatives in implementing IT applications. He added that the centre is quick to adopt the latest tools and technologies to provide effective, exhaustive and instantaneous service. Further, he lauded ICAST's unique methods of approaches through various out reach programs for NAL scientists especially in uploading documents to NAL's Institutional Repository and assistance in providing citations, citation analysis, journal impact factor, for publication in core journals and h-index values.

Two major latest initiatives, the Aerospace Portal 'AeroInfo', and 'Union Catalogue of CSIR-DST/ Aerospace Serial Holdings' were launched during the inaugural program. Incidentally, ICAST has designed the aerospace portal 'AeroInfo' the one of its kind in the country using Drupal with multiple content viz., links to aerospace sources, interactive discussion pages, etc., The valuable inputs towards content creation from Dr. L. Venkatakrishnan, Head, EAD, Dr. V. Mudakavi, Head, CTFD and Dr. G.K. Suryanarayana, Dy Head, NTAF was duly acknowledged. Regarding the second initiative,

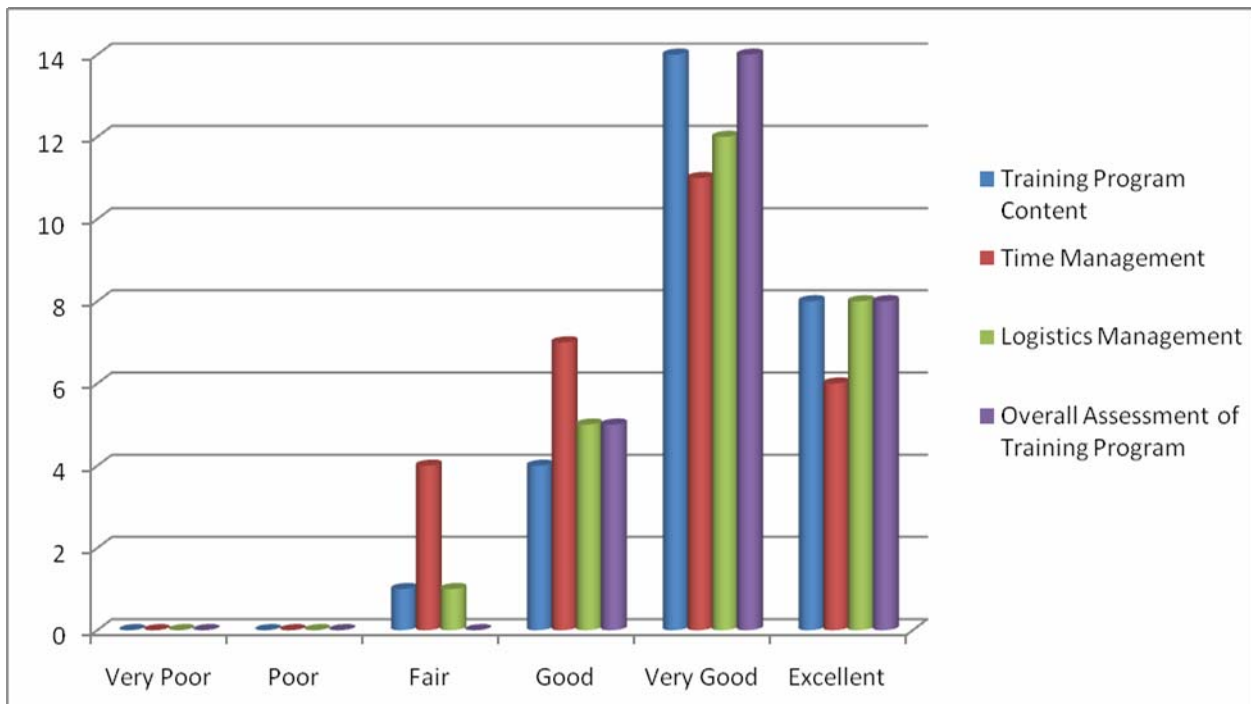
ICAST with a view to rationalize the ever escalating journal subscription with the growing needs of the NAL scientists has developed a dynamic 'Union Catalogue of Journal Holdings (p+e) of 63 CSIR-DST' institutions to facilitate resource sharing. This dynamic structured database has apart from browse, search facilities, unique automated online request form for faster dissemination of resource sharing.

Dr. A R Upadhya, Director, NAL in his address, though appreciative of the advances/development in information technology expressed his apprehension about the quick obsolescence of these tools and technologies. He opined that innumerable tools being available one has to be extremely cautious in selecting the right tool for implementation keeping in mind the related aspects like cost factor, features, adoptability and compatibility. He expressed his happiness about ICAST's service-minded attitude and its continuous strive to initiate innovative services incurring least expenditure by exploring open source softwares and CMS. In a lighter vein, he likened Drupal to 'Drupad' from Mahabharata whose daughter Draupadi was the motivating factor towards Pandavas' achievement. He quoted 'I feel privileged to mention that ICAST has been recognized as one of the most reputed and well-known information centres not only at the national level but also to the international community and thank the tireless efforts of the expertise available at the centre for advocating the Open Access Policies through its knowledge base Institutional Repository (one of the top ranking repositories in the world)'. Mrs. K P Sudhalakshmi of ICAST proposed vote of thanks.

The three day program covered exhaustively hands-on on Drupal salient features like installation (both Windows and Linux platform), configuration, modules, themes, views, custom content creation, report generation/ backup etc. The resource persons, Mr. B.S. Shivaram, Mrs. S. Jayashree and team ensured that the participants organize and build their institution web portal at the end of the program. It was heartening to note the enthusiasm and concentration of each participant in successfully completing the task, a befitting reward to the dedicated experts who whole heartedly imparted each and every aspect of Drupal's features meticulously. The feed back report received from the participants though encouraging had some suggestions/ observations also. The statistical figure shown along with indicates the overall feedback response from the participants in terms of content, time management, logistics management and over all assessment of training program which was indeed a great success.

Feedback Analysis

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Training Program Content	0	0	1	4	14	8
Time Management	0	0	4	7	11	6
Logistics Management	0	0	1	5	12	8
Overall Assessment of Training Program	0	0	0	5	14	8



- All participants have answered that they will be able to implement CMS system at their organization on their own
- Everybody wants to recommend similar training program to their colleagues and friends

(Dr. Poornima Narayana)

Head, ICAST.