

Discussion and conclusion

Discussion

The ILCD indexed a total number of 3758 records of Indian publications and presentations. The vast majority of the documents are journal articles representing 91% of the total records in the database. The primary sources of these journal articles were the Journal of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing and the Journal of Indian Speech and Hearing Association, the two well-known peer-reviewed Indian journals on communication disorders. Identifying the Indian scholarly publications in communication disorders was an uphill task as there is no single source listing them. Like the Indian publications in other subject domains, many were published in print only format making it difficult to obtain the details online.

The ILCD was developed on DSpace, the most popular open-source software used by higher education institutions worldwide to create an online platform for organizing and disseminating scholarly information. The design and development of the database was focused on three aspects: (1) Resource organization, (2) User Management and Services (3) Resource searching and browsing

In DSpace, the digital contents can be organized into hierarchies. It consists of a top-level community followed by hierarchical sub-communities. The communities in turn, have collections. Inside the collection, the items are stored in the form of files and metadata. The above hierarchical system was customized to create a top-level community for the domain Communication Disorders with two hierarchical sub-communities, speech-language pathology and audiology. All the resources are organized under these two sub-domains for easy retrieval.

Though the DSpace software supports many user roles, only three roles were configured in ILCD: (1) Administrator who by default is the person responsible for managing the database (2) Author who can create an account and receive email alert on database update and submit materials to the database, and (3) Viewer, who needs no account creation and anyone who access the database is a viewer.

The ILCD is provided with extensive searching and browsing facilities. DSpace, the digital repository software used for creating ILCD, comes packaged with a search platform that enables searching and browsing of all the materials indexed in the database. Both the metadata fields and full-text are searchable.

Since many Indian publications on communication disorders are in print format, their preservation is a concern. We regard the ILCD as a good move towards the long-term conservation of Indian publications on communication disorders. Right now, only the bibliographic records are

created on the database because of copyright issues. The database will be upgraded to a full-text resource paving the way for total preservation in the future.

Settings were made in the repository to receive the publication records directly from the authors. Hopefully, this self-submission feature will enhance the number of records in the database when publicly available online.

The ILCD facilitates the quantitative analysis of Indian publications on communication disorders objectively. Author, publication year, subject, publication type, and discipline (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) wise publication output can be generated quickly.

Promotion and advocacy have to be undertaken to increase the visibility of the ILCD among the academic and research community in the field across the world. Upon making the database available on the Internet with an appropriate domain name registered, steps will be taken to increase the site's search engine visibility. The database's availability will be announced through professional forums on communication disorders, social media, and by sending email and postal communication to the academic and research organizations on communication disorders.

The sustainability and usability of a literature database depend on its currency and coverage of resources. Both can only be attained with the support of the researchers and professionals working in the field. Keeping this in mind, a provision was made on the database homepage for the researchers to share the details of their presentations and publications. Hopefully, the self-submit feature will enhance the number of items in the database.

The majority of the records in the database contain only the bibliographic details of the published works. Incorporating abstracts followed by full-text would contribute to its usefulness and elevate the database to a higher level of professionalism.

Also, the database's browse option is limited to author, subject, title, and year of publication fields. The non-availability of the contributors' institutional affiliation based search and retrieval is another drawback of the database. The records were created without the institutional affiliation of authors due to the time constraints of the project.

However, by facilitating centralized access to the Indian scientific literature on communication disorders, the ILCD, with all its limitations, will likely be a valuable source of information for researchers across the world in the field. Moreover, it will contribute to boosting the visibility and citation of scholarly works. In a study on developing open access repositories,

Jayakanth and others (2012) rightly pointed out that many Indian journals are not indexed in any of the reputed international databases resulting in low visibility and usage of Indian studies.

Concluding Remarks

The present project developed a literature database on communication disorders published and presented in India by the name Indian Literature Database on Communication Disorders (ILCD). The database is created on DSpace, an open-source digital library software used worldwide to build digital library applications. The database currently includes the articles published in Indian journals, books and book chapters, and conference papers. The ILCD is still in the early stage of development, and in the future, ILCD will be expanded to include other types of digital resources and advanced features. However, we firmly believe that the success of the ILCD depends on the voluntary contribution from professionals and organizations working in the field of communication disorders in the country.

Future Plans

1. Expansion of the ILCD collection with the support of speech and hearing professionals and organizations across the country
2. Inclusion of Indian studies reported in foreign journals, books and conference proceedings.
3. Inclusion of grey literature such as reports of doctoral and postgraduate research studies and funded research on communication disorders carried out in Indian academic institutions
4. Real-time updation of the bibliographic records of Indian journals on communication disorders and allied areas in collaboration with the journal publishers.
5. Adding abstracts to all the database content with the support of authors and professionals in the field.
6. Convert the database to a full-text resource in partnership with the Indian publishers in the field.
7. Linking the records to the affiliated institutions of authors