SWAYAM COURSES FOR LIS PROFESSIONALS

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Abstract : SWAYAM is emerging learning opportunity for students/researcher and faculties *in higher education.the paper discusses about swayam, special features, national Co-ordinator of swayam and learning path,course subjectsand different swayam courses in Library and information science.*

Keywords : Swayam, Swayam Courses, LIS Professionals,E- Learning, Online Education, MOOC

1. Introduction

In the present era, online learning become one of most demanded format of learning among users due to its fruitful benefits such as anywhere and anytime learning through internet connectivity and a electronic devise only. Globally, the new concept of E- learning through various online courses like swayam is set to redefine the concept of higher education. These developments in education will change the learning orientation of students, faculty, institute and library. Similarly, this new environments of participatory and transformative learning offer the potential for LIS professionals to test emerging technologies, experiment and play with new roles, and self-select teams

2. SWAYAM

The full form of SWAYAM or Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. Swayam is India's national Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform is developed by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning(NPTEL), IIT Madras with the help of Google Inc. and Persistent Systems Ltd. It is capable of hosting 2150 courses taught by 1300 instructors from over 135 indian universities. And cover learning : covering school, under-graduate, post-graduate, engineering, law and other professional courses.

Swayam enables Teachers includes professors and faculties of centrally funded institutions like Indian Institute of Technologys(IITs),   Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs), Central University Of Haryana which offer online courses to Indian Citizens. . Swayam is free online education was developed by Ministry of Human Resources and Development(MHRD), Govt. of India and All India Council of Technical Education(AICTE) with the help of Bill Gate's Microsoft. It offers hundreds of courses with transferable credits.[2] The all courses are offered free of cost under this programme, however nominal fees are levied in case the learner requires a certificate.

Swayam is India's national MOOC platform, designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of India's Education Policy: access, equity and quality. Class Central has been keeping track of SWAYAM's progress since the platform was first announced back in August 2014. Since its beta launch in July 2017, the platform has enrolled over 10 million learners. At the rate it's growing, in a few years, Swayam could become the world's largest MOOC provider, offering courses in a wide variety of disciplines from prestigious Indian institutions such as IITs and Central Universities.

The basic objective is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. Swayam seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. This is done through an indigenous developed IT platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses taught in classrooms to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to the residents in India.

In the first phase, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), IIM Bangalore, IIM Calcutta, Banaras Hindu University, alone as well as with the help of faculty from foreign universities will be offering courses in areas of engineering education, social science, energy, management, basic sciences. At least one crore students are expected to benefit in 2 to 3 years through this initiative.[3] India has become one of the few countries in the world which has its own online interactive learning platform that provides not only video lectures and reading material but also assignments/quizzes that could end up in securing credits after completing the assessment system. Ex-President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee launched the SWAYAM and Swayam Prabha, the 32 DTH channels operationalised for telecasting educational content free of charge using the GSAT-15 satellite transponders..

In July 2019, Swayam's homepage and course catalog were revamped, included all courses offered by NPTEL, a group comprising some of India's most prominent Engineering institutions. These all courses can be taken for free. Students can also choose to pay a small fee to sit a proctored exam in an examination center in India to earn a certificate of completion. These certificates may, in turn, be used by students enrolled in India's higher education to earn academic credit for completing Swayam courses earmarked as credit-eligible by their universities. In India, MOOCs Are now part of the Education System.

3. SPECIAL FEATURES OF SWAYAM
- Courses that are taught in classrooms from 9th class till post-graduation.
- The courses hosted on SWAYAM is in 4 quadrants
- video lecture
- specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed

- ✍ self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and
- ✍ an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts.
- ✍ Categories of courses include - Engineering, Science, Humanities, Management, Language, Mathematics, Arts and Recreation, Commerce, General, Library, Education.
- ✍ Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners.
- ✍ Students wanting certifications need to register and shall be offered a certificate on successful completion of the course, with a little fee.
- ✍ At the end of each course, there will be an assessment of the student through proctored examination and the marks/grades secured in this exam could be transferred to the academic record of the students. UGC has already issued the UGC (Credit Framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM) Regulation 2016 advising the Universities to identify courses where credits can be transferred on to the academic record of the students for courses done on SWAYAM.

4. NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF SWAYAM

SWAYAM is a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time. All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to any learner. More than 1,000 specially chosen faculty and teachers from across the country have participated in preparing these courses.

The courses hosted on SWAYAM are in 4 quadrants –

(1) video lecture,

(2) specially prepared reading material that can be downloaded/printed

(3) self-assessment tests through tests and quizzes and

(4) an online discussion forum for clearing the doubts. Steps have been taken to enrich the learning experience by using audio-video and multi-media and state of the art pedagogy / technology.

In order to ensure that best quality content is produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed. They are as follows.

- ✍ AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) for self-paced and international courses for Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching for faculty of the Engineering/University/ Institutions.
- ✍ NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) for Engineering
- ✍ UGC (University Grants Commission) for non technical post-graduation education
- ✍ CEC (Consortium for Educational Communication) for under-graduate education
- ✍ NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) for school education

- NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) for school education
- IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) for out-of-school students
- IIMB (Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) for management studies
- NITTTR (National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research) for Teacher Training programme

Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners, however learners wanting a SWAYAM certificate should register for the final proctored exams that come at a fee and attend in-person at designated centres on specified dates. Eligibility for the certificate will be announced on the course page and learners will get certificates only if this criterion is matched. Universities/colleges approving credit transfer for these courses can use the marks/certificate obtained in these courses for the same.

5. COURSES IN SWAYAM

The Swayam platform is specially designed for benefit students from remote/backward area, working professionals, college dropouts. The levels of courses are Certificate, Diploma, Graduate, Postgraduate and Languages of Courses are Hindi and English.

The courses on Swayam are presented by faculties of national coordinators from the below mentioned organization/institutes :

S.N.	Learning Path	National Co-ordinators
1	School education	NCERT & NIOS
2	Out of School student	IGNOU
3	Under-Graduate	CEC
4	Postgraduate	UGC
5	Engineering	NPTEL
6	Management Studies	IIMB

Table 1. Learning Path in Swayam Courses

5.1 Subjectwise Classification of Swayam Courses

Swayam courses are : AICTE-NITTT Course, Architecture and Planning, Annual Refresher Program in Teaching, Education, Engineering and technology, Humanities and Arts, Law, Management & Commerce, Maths and Science. School .

The subject wise numbers of courses is given below table.

S.N.	Subject	Numbers of Courses
1	Engineering	155
2	Science	108
3	Business	7
4	Social Science	54
5	Computer Science	38
6	Humanities	47
7	Mathematics	34
8	Education and Teaching	24
9	Art and Design	12
10	Programming	19
11	Health and Medicine	16
12	Personal development	10
13	Data Science	7

Table 2. Subjectwise Classification of Swayam Courses

5.2 Swayam Courses in Library science
At present Online Courses in Library science conducted by swayam are :

S.N.	Courses of Library Couses	Duration	National Co-ordinator
1	Digital Library	15 weeks	CEC
2	Emerging Trends and technologies in LIS	16 weeks	ACTE
3	Information Sources and Library Services	12 weeks	IGNOU
4	Library Automation and Digitisation	12 weeks	IGNOU
5	Sr. Secondary : Library and Information Science	24 weeks	NIOS

Table 3. Swayam Courses in Library Science

Presently there are five courses of library and information science. Anyone who wish to do any library related course; he/she has to first create his/her profile and then has to register for the course. After selection of a particular course; he/she has to follow the schedule and according to the schedule one can pursue the course.

5.3 Access to Swayam Courses
Swayam course can be accessed on web or mobile phones after registration on swayam app or swayam portal. One can access the SWAYAM portal on the web https://swayam.gov. in or SWAYAM mobile apps for - Android and iphone Operating System

6. Conclusion:

Swayam Courses are really great boon to all kinds of persons including remote/backward area, working professionals, college. Keeping in the mind of educational progress, Government of India started Swayam for the benefit of students/researcher and faculties for gaining more knowledge and continuing education. It also will provide great opportunity to Indian students to learn without fearing from failure. Library and information science professionals can complete their usable courses as they are well acquainted with the information technology and use of ICT in most effective way. Library schools where there is shortage of teachers, funds, skill levels, availability of resources and infrastructure; they can be benefitted with these swayam courses. Thus it is an opportunity for librarianship in improving the LIS education and skills of library professionals.

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