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to lecture on

Cultural Informatics : An Approach to Setting the Agenda for Research, Education, Policy, and Practice

by

Prof. Arkalgud Ramaprasad

Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, USA

Date   :   Tuesday 10 January 2017
Time   :   4:00 p.m.
Venue :   IGNCA Lecture Hall, Mansingh Road,
           New Delhi-110 001

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Cultural Informatics is an emerging discipline which combines the study of cultural artifacts with information science. It seeks to utilize modern information technologies to advance the four domains of research, education, policies, and practices about the artifacts. The technologies may range from simple digitization to virtualization of an artifact. For example, the technologies may help make a simple digital image of an ancient statue or help create a virtual reality simulation of the statue's entire known history. The ability to digitize the many tangible and intangible artifacts of culture affords the possibility of transforming all four domains in India and around the globe. Digitization can make the cultural artifacts: (a) widely available to many researchers with little risk of damage to the original, and (b) conveniently accessible to many educators, students, and other stakeholders for exploration and learning. Consequently, the policies and practices, for example on heritage and antiquities, must be redefined to utilize the opportunities and manage the risks afforded by the new technologies. Cultural informatics provides a path to leapfrog the traditional management of cultural artifacts and transform their understanding, use, and utilization. However, a systematic and systemic approach will be needed for an effective transformation. The presentation will discuss an approach to setting the agenda for research, education, policy, and practice for such a transformation.

Dr. Arkalgud Ramaprasad is Professor Emeritus of Information and Decision Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He has a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 1980; MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, 1972; and B.E. (Electrical), from the University of Mysore, Karnataka, India, 1970. His current research is focused on (a) ontologies to conceptualize a problem domain systematically and systemically, (b) ontological meta-analysis of research, policies and practices in the domain, and (c) ontological roadmaps for research, policies, and practices in the domain. His present work includes the following domains: management information systems, information systems design, design science, knowledge management, healthcare informatics, eGovernment, cultural informatics, technological innovation, healthcare policy, higher education policy, project management, political strategy, and public policy. He seeks to map and manage the combinatorial complexity of ill-structured problems using ontologies.