

# 09-10 ANNUAL REPORT

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# The Centre for Internet & Society Annual Report:

1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

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# highlights



- The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) and the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam entered into a collaboration to produce a Reader titled **Critical Point of View** on the Wikipedia and to build a Wikipedia knowledge network. The first of the three events WikiWars was hosted on 12 and 13 January 2010 at The Energy and Research Institute, Bangalore. The second event was held in Amsterdam on 26 and 27 March 2010. The events brought together scholars, researchers, academics, artists and practitioners from various disciplines to discuss the emergence and growth of Wikipedia and what it means for the information societies we inhabit. Thirty four participants from 15 countries made presentations about Wikipedia and the knowledge ecology within which it exists. The events marked the beginning of the process that hopes to produce the first critical reader – **Critical Point of View** that collects key resources for research and inquiry about Wikipedia.
- CIS in partnership with Hivos published a report, **Digital Natives with a Cause?**, which documents the scholarship, research, practices and policies to identify the knowledge gaps in understanding potentials for social transformation, political participation and sustained livelihood in the youth – technology practices in emerging information societies in the Global South.
- CIS also entered into research collaborations with the Centre for Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore for **The Networked Higher Education Initiative**, a project on technology and education. Three projects are being considered under the NHEI. These are the Pathways Project, the India Archives Project and the Institutional Repositories for Learning.
- Under the Histories of Internet, CIS initiated new projects. These include **Revolution 2.0** by Dr. Anja Kovacs, **Gaming and Gold** by Arun Menon, **Internet, City and Public Space** by Pratyush Shankar and **Queer Histories of the Internet** by Nithin Manayath and Nitya Vasudevan.
- CIS designed and taught courses at the Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Women's Studies Centre, Pune University, Christ University, Bangalore, Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, Shanghai University and the New Media Lab, Jadavpur University.
- CIS is a co-organiser of the nationwide **Right to Read Campaign**. It was initiated in Chennai and taken up in other metro cities like Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. The campaign was taken up to accelerate changes in the provisions of the Indian Copyright Act, 1957 and garner support for the WIPO Treaty for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled.
- CIS created a Wiki on Accessibility using Wikipedia technology and standards for the National Internet Exchange of India.
- CIS is a strategic partner of Inclusive Planet in the policy aspects of furthering an agenda of inclusion in access for education through ICT. CIS also powers the content database for Inclusive Planet's portal for Visually Impaired Persons. It has more than 2000 registered users across 75 countries, and 14,300 books.
- CIS campaigned for educating Indian software professionals and companies on the problems created by software patents via a campaign involving 10000 handbills, 250 posters, and a meeting to debate the utility of software patents and numerous postings in various online fora and viral marketing via Twitter.
- In response to the US Special 301 Report, Consumers International brought out an IP Watch List. CIS contributed the **India Country Report** for the Watch List.
- CIS also was the main organiser of **Maps for Making Change: Using Geographical Mapping Techniques to Support Struggles for Social Justice in India**. This was a five-month project that provided activists and supporters of movements and campaigns for progressive social change in India with the opportunity to collectively debate and explore in detail the potential of digital mapping as a tool to support their work. Two workshops were held. The first one was in New Delhi and the second in Ahmedabad.

# researchers at work



**RAW** is a multidisciplinary research initiative. CIS believes that in order to understand the contemporary concerns in the field of Internet and society, it is necessary to produce local and contextual accounts of the interaction between the Internet and socio-cultural and geo-political structures. To build original research knowledge base, the RAW programme has been collaborating with different organisations and individuals in order to focus on its two year thematic of Histories of the Internets in India. Under this programme, five projects which were initiated since September 2008 are now coming to a completion:

## **Asha Achutan**

**Affiliation:** Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

**Project:** **Rewiring Bodies**



This project was conceived in an attempt to prepare the ground for the field of critical technology studies in India, thus providing better purchase points than hitherto available for an adequate response to technology, both in the form of policy and critique.

It began with the porosities of the present, visible in preliminary understandings of digital technologies, and has been looking through that lens at the history of technology. It uses the women – technology relationship as a unique entry point of investigation. Kavita Philip (University of California), Irvine and Sanil K. (Department of Philosophy at IIT, Delhi), have agreed to write the preface and introduction to the monograph. A curriculum developed from this research has been accepted to be taught at the Women's Studies Centre at the Jadavpur University as a pilot project. The final monograph is put up for public review.

## **Rochelle Pinto, Aparna Balachandran and Abhijit Bhattacharya**

**Affiliation:** Department of English, University of Delhi, Department of History, University of Delhi and Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Kolkata

**Project:** **Archive and Access**



This project is an attempt to look at the ways in which the notion of the archive, the role of the archivist and the relationship between the state and private archives has undergone a transition with the emergence of Internet technologies in India.



Laying out a theoretical review of the history of technologies of archiving in the country, the project aims at building case studies of public and private archives in the country and the needs for a local capacity building network of historians, archivists, technologists and state bodies which exploits the digital and Internet technologies for building new archives of Indian material. Noted historian Shahid Amin has agreed to write the preface for the monograph.

The project has found further support from the Dorabji Tata Trust, where funds

have been made available to do capacity building and training workshops over a period of one year, under the rubric of Public Archives to build digital catalogues and repositories across 20 different private collections and archives.

**Event Organised:** A workshop was organised at the Centre for Culture and Society. Librarians and archivists from 20 institutions across the country participated in the event.

### Zainab Bawa

**Affiliation:** Centre for the Study of Culture and Society

**Project:** **Transparency and Politics**



In this project, Zainab Bawa visualises the emergence of Internet technologies, the rise of e-governance initiatives and the ways in which the rhetoric of 'transparency' has informed different ways by which the relationship between the state and the citizen in India have been imagined.

The project produces case-studies of various e-governance models that have been variously experimented within India, to see how the Internet technologies through their material presence, through different paradigms of interaction, and through the imagination in policy have brought about a significant change in the state – citizen relationship. The project lays out a review of practices, policies and scholarship in the field of e-governance in India and aims to produce demonstrative case-studies of failed and successful e-governance initiatives in the country.

**Event Organised:** As a part of the project, a round table seminar titled Of Transparency – When the State Watches Itself was organised at CIS, inviting stake-holders like Barun Mitra, Peter Griffith and Dina Mehta.

### Namita Malhotra

**Affiliation:** The Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore

**Project:** **Pornography and the Law**



This project provides a historical overview of the public and legal imagination of the Internet as promoting obscenity, pornography and Western behaviour within the Indian society. Drawing from different discourses and media forms, it foregrounds the relationship that technology has with the construction and imagination of pornography to emphasise the neglect and making invisible of the affective value of pornography – pleasure in this discourse.

Looking at pleasure and the socio-legal constructions of pleasure and how it is situated in the discussions around Internet and pornography, the project offers insights into ways by which Internet pornography can be de-demonised and dealt with as a socio-cultural phenomenon. Namita's project also feeds into a parallel investment in the production of a documentary film on Censorship and Surveillance in Asia which is supported by the Open Net Initiative. An excerpt of the documentary was aired at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and can be accessed on CIS.

### Ashish Rajadhyaksha

**Affiliation:** CIDASIA, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore

**Project:** **Re-thinking the Last Mile Problem**



The project proposes that the 'last mile' is a communications term which has a specific Indian variant, where technology has been mapped onto developmentalist – democratic priorities which have propelled communications technologies since at least the invention of the radio in the 1940s. For at least 50 years now, the 'last mile' has become a mode of a techno-democracy, where connectivity has been directly translated into democratic citizenship. It has provided rationale for successive technological developments, and produced an assumption that the final frontier was just around the corner and that Internet technologies now carry the same burden of breaching that last major barrier to produce a techno-nation.



Beginning with an inquiry into the pre-digital technology-state relationship, the project hopes to provide a history and an analysis of the contemporary history by looking at various state initiatives for producing digital/Internet identities to argue that the theory of the ‘last mile’ has been founded on fundamental (mis) apprehensions around just what this bridge constitutes. The project is to result into a book. Nokia was one of the partners for the course called Digital Classroom, which was taught at Christ University in Bangalore.

**Anja Kovacs**

Affiliation: Fellow, Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore

Project: **Revolution 2.0?**



This project explores the emerging field of online activism in India. Although they may attract the largest numbers of activists offline, the many so-called ‘new’ social movements that have emerged since the 1970s and which remain important actors pushing for social change seem most conspicuous by their relative absence online. Instead, middle-class actors addressing middle class audiences on middle class issues seem to be the flag bearers of Internet activism in India.

By mapping the actors, audiences, messages and methods privileged by online activism as it is emerging in India, this research hopes to make a beginning to understanding the ways in which such activism reconstitutes received notions of activism and activists in the country. As online activism, in the process of its materialisation, reworks master narratives, and refashions what are seen as ‘appropriate’ processes, methods and goals for political engagement, what are the new contours of the public sphere — of which the larger landscape of struggles for social justice in India, too, is part — that emerge?

**Pratyush Shankar**

Affiliation: Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad

Project: **Internet, Society and Space in Indian Cities**



The project concentrates on exploring the relationship between city spaces and the rise of Internet technologies in India. With a team of students from the fields of architecture and urban design, Shankar investigates how the aesthetics, mechanics and politics of IT affect the built form of the globalised cities in India. In the introduction to the project, he lays out the theoretical and practice based frameworks that inform contemporary space-technology discourses in the above mentioned fields. The proposal articulates the concerns, the anxieties and the lack of space-technology debates in the country despite the overwhelming ways in which emergence of Internet technologies has resulted in material and imagined practices of people in urbanised India.

The project draws variously from disciplines of architecture, design, cultural studies and urban geography to start a dialogue about the new kinds of public spaces that inform the making of the IT City in India. The project also has a comic strip visual introduction.

**Arun Menon**

Affiliation: Research Consultant, Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore

Project: **Gaming and Gold**



The project aims to examine ‘attention’ as a conduit for material and non-material transactions within and outside of game worlds. This includes the internal market in the game world as well as the secondary market which operates outside of the game world. The possibilities of transaction in ‘attention currency’ and the intricacies of the ‘attention economy / gaming economy’ in the game world is explored through a series of posts.



## **Nitya Vasudevan and Nithin Manayath**

**Affiliation:** Centre for the Study of Culture and Society and Mount Carmel College, Bangalore

**Project:** **Queer Histories of the Internet**



Through this project, Nitya Vasudevan and Nithin Manayath bring forth the relationship between queer identity and technology. The Internet is treated as a site of knowledge and practice, involving not just the imagined individual with his or her personal computer but as physical spaces, categories of subject formation, ways of knowing, aesthetics and modes of identification. The project will theoretically interrogate the relationship between techne/technology on the one hand and identity (sexual or otherwise) on the other where technology and identity are defined in a broad fashion.



It will also locate the arguments in a specifically Indian context to tease out cultural specificities of the nature of the questions being asked and the contours of the possible answers and follow the case study approach including cases of events and judgments. Debates shall be conducted to explore how the question of technology (or its lack thereof) is implicated in being and acting queer, and to look at how a queer history of the Internet as technology would read or understand such an event or an occurrence.



# digital identities



**CIS** has interest in developing **Digital Identities** as a core research area and looks at practices, policies and scholarships in the field to explore relationships between Internet, technology and identity.

## **Digital Natives with a Cause? A Knowledge Survey and Framework by Nishant Shah and Sunil Abraham**

**Y**outh are often seen as potential agents of change for reshaping their own societies. By 2010, the global youth population is expected to reach almost 1.2 billion of which 85 per cent reside in developing countries. Unleashing the potential of even a part of this group in developing countries promises a substantial impact on societies, especially now when youths thriving on digital technologies flood universities, work forces, and governments and could facilitate radical restructuring of the world we live in. So, it is time we start listening to them. Although there is much attention for the potential impact of youth as e-agents of change, there is limited knowledge about the subject and this knowledge is mostly focused on Western societies.



As younger generations growing up in emerging information societies learn to engage with their geo-political and socio-cultural environments, a form of technology-mediated identity, popularly dubbed as 'Digital Native' has been at the heart of a growing public and intellectual debate. Moving beyond the existing research in this area, which originates in the North Western countries and takes the perspectives of ICT development or adult-centric concern, we seek to construct a developmentalist perspective that aims to explore the larger field of youth, technology and engagement with specific questions at hand: What constitutes a Digital Native Identity and how do we theoretically and conceptually understand this new form of technology-mediated identity? What are the implications for the same? What is the form of current knowledge in this area and what new questions need to be posed in order to look at youth and technology interaction towards social transformation and political participation? What are the knowledge

gaps in existing scholarship and practice that need to be bridged to articulate a nuanced and contextually sensitive approach towards understanding Digital Natives and their lives? **Digital Natives with a Cause?** first maps the popular characteristics of Digital Natives that have been

at the centre of all discourse in the field...the review also considers some of the most influential models of theorisation and conceptualisation from various disciplines that have contributed to the understanding of the Digital Native, and offers a more nuanced way of dealing with their identities, rather than merely with their actions.

Hivos is particularly interested in the systemic changes that these Digital Natives, as e-agents of change, induce in their socio-cultural and political environments and has partnered with CIS to assess the state of knowledge on the intersection between youth, ICT and engagement worldwide and with a specific attention for developing countries.



Youngsters are all attention during the workshop

### **Children's Forum on the Internet and New Media**

At a local level, for a pilot intervention, on 28 August 2009, CIS partnered with the Rangashankara Theatre, IT for Change and theatre person Kirtana Kumar Reddy, to host a day-long workshop for digital natives in Bangalore which resulted in an open-floor discussion between 28 young users of technology and other adults on the changes that the Internet technologies are ushering in their lives.

### **The Promise of Invisibility – Making of an IT City**

Nishant Shah spent seven months on this research project, which was funded by Asia Scholarship Foundation, Thailand, in Shanghai University, from January to July 2007. The paper, **Promise of Invisibility – Making of an IT City**, which emerged from this project, has been accepted for publication in the Asia Scholarship Foundation's annual peer-reviewed journal. The research has also been turned into a course on Imagining the Asian IT City. This was taught at the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Shanghai University, China.



# digital learning and pedagogy



CIS has entered into a collaboration with the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam, to produce a Reader on the Wikipedia titled Critical Point of View. Three conferences will be held. The three events will bring together researchers, practitioners, artists and stakeholders from around the world, to build a Wikipedia knowledge network, and feed into the Reader. The first of the three events, WikiWars was hosted in Bangalore on 12 and 13 January 2010. The second event was held in Amsterdam on 26 and 27 March 2010, it built upon the debates and discussions that were initiated at the first event.

## **Critical Point of View: WikiWars 12 & 13 Jan '10, Bangalore**

CIS and the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam hosted WikiWars – an international event that brought together scholars, researchers, academics, artists and practitioners from various disciplines on 12 and 13 January 2010. Thirty four participants from 15 countries made presentations about Wikipedia and the knowledge ecology within which it exists. Eight panels across two days dealt with four major thematic areas: Education, Pedagogy and Knowledge; Resistance, Diversity and Representation; Politics of Free, Open and Exclusion and Collaboration and Production and Design. Shunling Chen, Stuart Geiger, Beatriz Martin and Dipti Kulkarni spoke on the Wiki Theory, Mark Graham, Alok Nandi and Dror Kamir spoke on Global Politics of Exclusion and Linda Gross, Heather Ford, Elad Wieder and Nathaniel Tkacz spoke about Critique of Free and Open in the final session on the first day.

On the second day, Usha Raman, Nupoor Rawal and Srikiet Tadepali spoke on Wikipedia and Education, William Buetler, Eric Ilya Lee, Tawileh and Zona Yi-Ping Tsou spoke on Wikipedia and the Place of Resistance. Johanna Niesyto, Eric Zimmerman, Stian Håklev and Han Teng Liao spoke on Wikipedia and Critique of Western Knowledge Production. Finally, Scott Kildall and Nathaniel Stern and Rut Jesus and Anne Goldenberg presented Wikipedia and Art.



CIS and the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam join hands for WikiWars

## Critical Point of View: WikiWars 26 & 27 Mar '10, Amsterdam

The second event was held on 26 and 27 March 2010 at the Public Library in Amsterdam near the Amsterdam Central Station. It was again co-organised by CIS and the Institute of Network Cultures. The event built upon the debates and discussions initiated at the WikiWars that launched off the knowledge network in Bangalore in January 2010.



Ramon Reichert, Jeanette Hofmann, Mathieu O' Neil and Gerard Wormser spoke on Wiki Theory, Joseph Reagle, Charles van den Heuvel, Dan O'Sullivan and Alan Shapiro spoke on the Encyclopaedia of Histories, Scott Kildall, Patrick Lichty and Hendrik-Jan Grievink spoke on Wiki Art, Felipe Ortega, Stuart Geiger, Richard Rogers and Hans Verghese Mathews were the speakers for Wikipedia Analytics, Andrew Flamiglietti, Teemu Mikkonen, Florian Cramer and Lawrence Liang spoke on Designing Debate and Mayo Fuster Morell, Amit Basole, Maja van der Velden, Athina Karatzogianni were the speakers for Global Issues and Outlooks.

## Networked Higher Education Initiative (NHEI)

Continuing its efforts at exploring new pedagogic practices influenced by networked campuses and the rise of ubiquitous connectivity, CIS collaborated with the HE Cell at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), to explore the incipient and informal learning and knowledge production practices in undergraduate colleges and networked campuses in the country. The initiative has a research component that explores the education – technology policies in the country and builds a database of e-education programmes and models available. The implementation component, which shall be spearheaded by the HE Cell, looks at building of institutional repositories for the students and faculty to publish and disseminate their own research and scholarship to feed into curriculum development in social sciences in India. The projects being considered under the NHEI are:

**Pathways Project:** HE Cell's initiative on social justice, in collaboration with CIS, has initiated the **Pathways Project** for Learning in Higher Education. It is supported by the Ford Foundation. Under this project, nine under-graduate colleges in different parts of India will be identified to provide special skills in livelihood, knowledge and technology to underprivileged students in those colleges. Workshops, training, faculty development, curriculum building and setting up of institutional repositories for knowledge are all part of this three year project.

The **Pathways Project** had its first orientation at CSCS on 19 and 20 February 2010. Nine participating colleges from the three states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala sent two professors each. St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, Dr. A.V. Balinga College, Kumta, and Vidhyavardhaka College, Mysore, all from Karnataka, St. Xaviers College, Mumbai, SIES, Mumbai and Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar, all from Maharashtra, and Farook College, Kozhikode, Union Christian College, Aluva and Newman College, Thodupuzha, all from Kerala participated in the orientation.

**Institutional Repositories for Learning:** The NHEI aims to build a consortium of educational institutions, academic organisations, universities and undergraduate colleges in social sciences in India, to promote the establishment of Open Access Institutional Repositories that host a combination of peer reviewed and openly published research and academic material, to inform new curricula building and pedagogic practices in institutions of higher education in India. The first step for this project was the formulation of a 'digital classroom' course designed and taught at the Christ University, in collaboration with the CIDASIA Programme at the CSCS, supported by Nokia Labs. A closed-door, day-long workshop on Understanding Institutional Repositories was also hosted at the CSCS, where potential partners from organisations like the INFLIBNET, One Laptop Per Child, Indian Institute of Science, M.S. Swaminathan Foundation and Christ University were invited to understand and decide on IR structures and models for the future.



## Other Events Organised

- **Experimental Economy Camp** (Centre for Internet and Society, 22 November 2009). N.E.W.S. contributors Renée Ridgway, Stephen Wright and Prayas Abhinav presented certain ideas, seeking counter-points, information and queries, which lend different perspectives to the questions at hand, in order to outline possible strategies and targets.
- **Preserving Digital Memories: A Patrimonial Approach: A Talk** by Dr. Bruno Bachimont (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 10 December 2009). CIS co-organised the event along with CSCS.

## Events Participated

- **Inter Asia Cultural Typhoon Conference** (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo (Japan), 3 – 5 July 2009). Nishant Shah presented the 'Digital Natives Report'.
- **Asian Digital Cultures Conference** (Academia Sinica, Institute of Ethnology, Taipei (Taiwan), 7 July 2009). Nishant Shah presented a paper titled 'Of Pranksters, Jesters and Clowns: Digital Natives and Political Engagement in Asia'.
- **Digital Avatars: The Post-human Question** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (India), 21 August 2009). Nishant Shah gave a public talk as part of the Culture Cafe series at the Centre for Media, Culture and Communication.
- **Conference on Creating a Lexicon for New Research and Practice in Our Times** in collaboration with N.E.W.S., a Dutch organisation (Periferry, Guwahati (India), 30 September 2009). Nishant Shah participated in a workshop 'Unspeakably More: Naming, Deframing a lexicon for contemporary curatorship (Art after Space)'.
- **Shadow Search** (28 October – 15 November 2009). CIS in collaboration with N.E.W.S. conducted an open call for proposals to explore the use of natural language search algorithms that are able to find people and activities that embody the self understanding of the kind of art we are seeking without specifically using the word 'art' or a related vocabulary.
- **The Future of Moving Image** (Media Lab, Jadavpur University, Kolkata (India)). Nishant Shah presented a research paper at the international seminar on the Future of Celluloid.

## Teaching

CIS designed four courses and also taught them at the following spaces:

- Centre for Advanced Training in Free and Open Source Software (CATFOSS), Ernakulam: Sunil Abraham gave a lecture on **Open Source Software to CATFOSS** students on 13 August 2009. CATFOSS is an initiative of CDIT.
- Centre for Media and Culture Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai: Credit Course on **'Introduction to Cybercultures: An Internet and Society Perspective'**. The course was taught by Nishant Shah and Sunil Abraham to the final year students at the centre, who produced blog-posts exploring various questions as their final assignment from 19 to 21 August 2009.
- Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad: **'Metaphors and Narratives of the Internet'** was taught by Nishant Shah from 24 to 26 August 2009. The course was offered as an elective to final year students in the Communications School. It was attended by 30 students who wrote research papers on the changing practice in communications studies and industry due to the rise of the Internet Technologies.
- Christ University, Bangalore: **'Digital Natives: Participation and Pedagogy'**. The course was taught by Nishant Shah on 27 August 2009. It was co-designed with the Higher Education Cell, CSCS, Bangalore. The course, which was co-taught with the HE Cell at the CSCS, involved the students in conducting qualitative surveys that help articulate the concerns, anxieties and imaginations of the digital classroom within a social sciences higher education campus in India.
- Women's Studies Centre, Pune University: **'Technology and Gender in Asia'**. The course was taught by Nishant Shah. The two day workshop held on 24 and 25 September 2009 was attended by 40 students from different departments in the University, to look at the relationship between Internet technologies and gender in Asia. The workshop was also attended by six faculty members from different disciplines as a capacity building exercise for them to teach this course in their own departments.
- Christ University, Bangalore: Nishant Shah gave a lecture on **'Technology for Social Change'** on 12 December 2009.
- Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad: Nishant Shah taught on **'Metaphors and**





# accessibility

**The Constitution** of India guarantees all its citizens the fundamental rights to life, dignity, speech, expression and information, including the Right to Read. The ability to seek, receive and impart information and ideas is vital to ensure that all persons are able to participate productively in the cultural, scientific and economic life of the country. It is estimated that India has approximately 70 million disabled persons who are unable to read printed materials due to some form of physical, sensory, cognitive or other disability. This includes persons with blindness, learning disabilities such as dyslexia and cerebral palsy and persons who do not have full control over their limbs.

For these people, the material needs to be converted into alternate formats such as Braille, audio or electronic formats (for ex .txt, Word or PDF) which they can access using assistive technologies. Since publishers as yet do not provide accessible versions of their books readily in the market, very few books are available for those who are unable to read print. The percentage of available accessible books is as low as 0.5 per cent in India and 5 per cent in developed countries around the world. Under the present legal regime, the conversion and use of printed material in alternate formats requires the permission of the copyright holders that is more often than not, cumbersome, highly cost ineffective and extremely lengthy. CIS campaigns for change in this area:

## **Right to Read (R2R) Campaign**

A nationwide campaign was co-organised by CIS along with the Daisy Forum of India and Inclusive Planet to highlight the lack of content in accessible formats and support copyright reform for the blind, visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. The campaign is affiliated with the global R2R campaign started by the World Blind Union in April 2008. Many more national and international organisations have lent their support to the campaign to form a strategic national right to read alliance. The campaign kicked off in Chennai and was taken up thereafter, in other cities, namely Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai. The chief objective of the campaign is to accelerate change in the provisions of the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, which presently does not permit the conversion of books into accessible formats for the benefit of persons with print impairment.

## **Right to Read campaign launched in Chennai**

This was the first major event with respect to the Right to Read campaign. It was held at Loyola College, Chennai on 26 September 2009. The audience included students, social activists and visually challenged people. About 400 students from 100 colleges around Chennai and 150 NSS volunteers attended from outside and an almost equal number of students participated from within Loyola College to make this a very large gathering of almost 800 – 1000 persons. The event was organized by students of the Department of Sociology at Loyola College, Chennai

in collaboration with the campaign managers. Sreekumar Verma (Writer, Social Activist and Professor of Creative English and English literature) was the chief guest. Other dignitaries who honoured the event were Dr. N. Raja Hussain (Programme Coordinator, NSS, University of



**Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD, Govt of India, receives invitation for the R2R campaign**

Madras), Dipendra Manocha (President, Daisy Forum of India) and Chandrasekar (Treasurer, National Association for the Blind). All of them spoke about the need for the amendment and importance of spreading awareness about the issue. The launch was followed by a signature campaign where a banner supporting the campaign was signed by the dignitaries and other participants of the event.

### **Right to Read Campaign in Delhi**

The Delhi Right to Read campaign was organised in Lal Chowk, Pragati Maidan on 30 January 2010. About 300 – 400 persons with disabilities from around Delhi gathered to protest against the inadequacy of copyright laws in India. This included persons with blindness and deafness as well as persons having cerebral palsy, and other cognitive and sensory disabilities. Well known persons like Chris Friend (World Blind Union Representative and Chairman of the Global Right to Read campaign), G.R. Raghavender (Registrar of Copyrights, Ministry of Human Resource and Development), Javed Abidi (Convener of the Disabled Rights Group), Manas Saikia (Head, Cambridge University Press in India), Vivek Mehra, (Managing Director and CEO of Sage Publications) and Dinesh Kaushal participated in the campaign.

### **Right to Read Campaign in Kolkata**

The second event of the National Right to Read Campaign was held at the National Institute of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) Calcutta on 7 November 2009. Eminent persons like Dr. Suranjan Das (Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University), Chandrima Bhattacharya (Telegraph) and others participated at this event.

### **Right to Read for the Print Impaired and Copyright Challenges**

This event was held on 11 November, 2009 in New Delhi. It was co-organised by CIS along with the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped and Daisy Forum of India in honour of the visit of the Director General, WIPO. It sought to raise awareness on the needs of the Indian disability community with respect to availability of accessible books. Leaders from the disability community attended and voiced their support for the Treaty for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled which is currently under discussion at the WIPO. The Director General of WIPO also took this opportunity to express his support for the cause and said that WIPO would be open to funding small projects for the Visually Impaired community in developing countries especially in India.

### **National Policy for Electronic Accessibility**

CIS is working with the Department of Information and Technology (DIT), National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People and other civil society and industry organisations around the country to formulate and implement a new policy to ensure that all Indian information and communication technologies and electronic infrastructure (including the Internet) and research which is publically funded, is accessible to persons with disabilities. It has been involved right from the first meeting in January 2008 and has presented research findings to the Department of Information and Technology (DIT) in order to understand the possible scope and application of the policy, attended meetings, engaged in consultations, and helped with drafting the policy. Nirmita Narasimhan was part of the policy drafting committee.

A meeting on draft National Policy on Universal Electronic Accessibility was held on 17 August 2009 in E-Governance Hall, First Floor, Electronics Niketan, CGO Complex in New Delhi. Sunil Abraham and Nirmita Narasimhan attended this meeting.

### **National Conference on ICTs for the Differently-abled/ Under Privileged Communities in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship**

CIS along with Loyola College, Chennai organised a three days National Conference on





ICTs for the differently-abled/under privileged communities in education, employment and entrepreneurship from 1 to 3 December, 2009. The conference was split into three tracks:

- Presentations on Technology and Research,
- Web Accessibility for Web Developers, and
- Capacity Building for Visually Impaired Students

Sudhir Krishnaswamy (Professor, NUJS) and Rajen Varada (Moderator, ICT Solutions Exchange) were amongst the speakers. Members of the OCR consortium and developers of Indian Text to Speech software for different languages presented their work in this area and sought feedback and suggestions as to the future course of their work. More than 50 blind students participated in the third track which included module on confidence building and communication skills which was conducted by Enable India, a civil society in Bangalore.

### **Wiki on Accessibility**

A grant of INR 2, 00,000 was sanctioned by the National Internet Exchange of India for this project. CIS has created a website on accessibility using Wikipedia technology and standards. About 125 articles have been uploaded on the site.

### **G3ict and CIS Collaboration**

Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict) is a flagship advocacy initiative of UN-GAID, the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development. G3ict and CIS have collaborated on a White Paper comparing Internet accessibility policies and legislative frameworks of 17 countries across the world. The paper seeks to identify initiatives which different countries have taken to make the Internet more accessible. It has been published on the G3ict website and e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities. The paper is part of the e-accessibility toolkit for policy makers, which was jointly published by G3ict and the International Telecommunications Union. CIS has contributed to other sections of the toolkit as well and Nirmita Narasimhan was a member of the editorial team.

### **Call for Comments for Paper on Copyright Law and the Print Impaired**

CIS commissioned a paper on Copyright and Exceptions to the Visually Impaired in India and submitted it to the Ministry of Human Resource and Development to appraise it of the needs of the print disabled community.

### **Response to Call from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for Review of the Copyright Act**


FICCI had constituted a Consultative Working Group to analyse various issues in the Copyright Act. This has the approval of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Rahul Cherian (Advocate, Indojuris) and Nirmita Narasimhan submitted a report on the provisions of the Indian Copyright Act, 1957 with respect to the limitation for print disabled persons. The Report was submitted in the form of a letter to Sheetal Chopra (Senior Assistant Director and Head, IPR Division) in July 2009.

### **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Treaty for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled Persons**

In November 2008, CIS had organised a nationwide signature campaign to support the Treaty for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled proposed by the World Blind Union to the WIPO. CIS sent another letter to the Department of Higher Education, Ministry for Human Resource and Development, petitioning it to support the WIPO Treaty for the reading disabled. In December 2009, Nirmita Narasimhan attended the meeting of the SCCR Standing Committee Meeting on the WIPO in Geneva and presented comments on the issues of the Broadcasting Treaty and the Treaty for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Other Reading Disabled. Nirmita Narasimhan also gave reply comments to the US Copyright Office's Call for Comments on the proposed WIPO draft proposal to facilitate access to copyrighted works for persons who are blind or have other reading disabilities, in response to the Federal Register Notice of 13 October 2009.

### **Inclusive Planet**

CIS is a strategic partner of Inclusive Planet in promoting electronic accessibility for the disabled and conducting the Right to Read campaign to amend copyright law. CIS also powers the



content database for Inclusive Planet's portal for Visually Impaired persons. The portal has over 2000 registered users at the moment spread across 75 countries, and 14,300 books. At present, three staff members of Inclusive Planet, Anant Gopal (Head, Product Design), Ujjvala Ballal (Manager, Marketing and International Relationships) and Kumar Ray (Head, New Products) are working out of the CIS office.

## Other Events Organised

- **Third National Workshop on Web Accessibility** (Christ Nagar International School, Thiruvananthapuram (India), 25 and 26 September 2009). The third National Workshop on Web Accessibility for Web developers was organised in collaboration with (Society for Promotion of Alternative Computing and Employment (SPACE) and Kerala State IT Mission.
- **Second National Workshop on Web Accessibility** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore (India), 5 – 7 June 2009). The trainers were Rahul Gonsalves, Dinesh Kaushal and Dr. Ajay Kolhatkar.
- **Bookshare.org Seminar** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore (India), 1 July 2009). A demonstration on bookshare.org (an online digital library for people with print disabilities) was held in CIS.
- **Access India Meet-Up** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore (India), 16 May 2009). More than 30 members of the Access India mailing list gathered at the CIS office on Cunningham Road. Presentations were made by AreaPal, 3I Infotech and iVolunteer. Inclusive Planet, the largest online portal for the disabled in India was introduced.

## Events Participated

- **Seminar on Exceptions and Limitations in Copyright** (organised by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Kochi (India), 14 and 15 May 2009). Lawrence Liang presented a paper titled 'Exceptions and Limitations in Copyright Law for Education: An Assessment', Rahul Cherian presented comments on Madhukar Sinha's paper titled 'Limitations and Exceptions in Copyright Law for the Visually Challenged in the Digital Context' and Achal Prabhala presented comments on G.R. Raghavender's paper titled 'Use of Works for Social and Cultural Purposes in the Indian Copyright Act, 1957'. Nirmita Narasimhan from CIS chaired the session.
- **Workshop on Mainstreaming ICT Technologies for Disabled Persons in the Asia-Pacific Region** (Bangkok (Thailand), 24 – 28 August 2009). The event was organised by G3ICT and ITU. Nirmita Narasimhan presented a paper titled 'Policy Formulation for Persons with Disabilities'.
- **19th WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights** (Geneva (Switzerland), 18 December 2009). Nirmita Narasimhan attended the meeting.
- **Civil Society Summit, 2010** (Bangalore (India), 26 January 2010). Nirmita Narasimhan and Sunil Abraham made presentations on two different days in the event.

## Other Articles

- **Web Accessibility as a Government Mandate:** Brian Wesolowski has written an article on Web Accessibility as a Government Mandate. Wesolowski examines this in light of the steps taken by ictQATAR to make its website accessible to W3C standards, and hopes that eventually all other Arab nations will follow suit and make Web accessibility much more of a mandate. In this article he refers to the comparative study jointly published by CIS and G3ict on global electronic accessibility policies.
- **DFI and Cambridge University Press Join Hands for Getting Print Access to the Print Impaired:** CIS helped to facilitate an agreement between CUP and DFI for enabling conversion of CUP books into accessible formats. This agreement is to be the global agreement for CUP in around 60 other countries.
- **Reading Options for Persons with Print Disabilities:** Dipendra Manocha (President, Daisy Forum of India) has guest blogged on the reading options available for the blind.
- **Copyright v Fundamental Rights:** Rahul Cherian guest blogged about the legal and ethical framework around the issue of copyright in relation to converting materials into accessible formats for the print impaired.



# intellectual property rights

On the Internet the most important components of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are: copyrights, patents and trademarks. The divide between the closed nature of IPRs and the open nature of cyberspace have been discussed in great detail by many scholars, activists and practitioners. CIS believes that access to knowledge and culture is essential, and that such access promotes creativity and innovation, and helps bridge the differences between the developing world and the developed in a positive manner. Towards this end, it is campaigning for an international treaty on copyright exceptions for print-challenged people, advocating against laws (such as the **PUPFIP Bill**) that privatise public-funded knowledge, calling for the **WIPO Broadcast Treaty** to be restricted to broadcast, questioning the demonization of 'pirates', and supports endeavours which explore and question the current copyright regime. The endeavour has resulted into the following:

## **Consumers International IP Watchlist**

Pranesh Prakash prepared the India survey report for the Consumers International IP Watchlist, which is a ranking of countries by the fairness and balance of their copyright regime, created in opposition to reports (such as the USTR's Special 301 Report) that solely promote increased IP protection and enforcement.

## **National Coordination Meeting on IP & Development, New Delhi**

This meeting brought together like-minded Indian groups critiquing IP from a Southern perspective, including those from the areas of access to knowledge (including free software), access to medicines, seeds and agriculture, while looking at issues related to copyright, patents, trademarks, plant varieties, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural exceptions.

IP and Development: CIS attended a series of workshops in this area:

- **World IT Forum 2009** organised by the Commission on Social, Ethical and Legal Issues in Hanoi, Vietnam on 26 August 2009. Pranesh Prakash made a brief presentation on intellectual property rights, how ill-suited they are to be considered 'property' rights, and how they have been imposed on the developing world.
- **Third World Network Meeting on Intellectual Property Rights and Development in Geneva** between 18 and 21 September 2009. Sunil Abraham attended the meeting.
- **Fifth South Asia Conference on Trade and Development** on 24 November 2009 in New Delhi. Pranesh Prakash spoke on Intellectual Property and Development.
- **ART Workshop on Art and Social Media** held in Bangalore on 16 and 17 January 2010. The workshop was co-organised by Art, Resource and Training and CIS. Anita Garimella along with Pranesh Prakash took a session on Copyright, Art and Culture Industry in the Age of Social Media.



## Protection and Utilisation of Public Funded Intellectual Property (PUPFIP) Bill

The PUPFIP Bill is a new legislation being considered by the Parliament of India. It was introduced in the 2008 winter session of the Rajya Sabha. It is an Indian version of the American Bayh-Dole (University and Small Business Patent Procedures) Act of 1980. As per its statement of objects and reasons, it seeks to promote creativity and innovation to enable India to compete globally and for the public good. It aims to do so by ensuring the protection of all intellectual property (meaning copyright, patent, trade mark, design, plant variety, etc.) that is the outcome of government-funded research. The IP rights will be held by the grant recipient or by the government if the recipient does not choose to protect the IP. If introduced, this law would shift the focus of research. Researchers will concentrate their efforts on issues of interest to industry which can have immediate benefit. This will force vital fundamental research into neglect since it cannot be commercialised with ease. It will also have chilling effects on scholarly communications and promote secrecy.

The Bill has requirements of non-disclosure by the grantee and the researcher to enable the commercialisation of the research, and requires researchers and institutions to inform the government before all publication of research and lead to our pillars of learning and research becoming like businesses. Further, the Bill assumes — erroneously that intellectual property is the best and only way to promote creativity and innovation. CIS believes that the commendable aim of ensuring knowledge transfer can be accomplished much better if all of us refrain from giving away to private corporations (whether pharmaceutical manufacturers or publishers) exclusive rights to the product of publicly-funded research. Scientists and researchers can be encouraged to be consultants to various industrial projects, thereby ensuring that their expertise is tapped. Importantly, open access publishing which helps to ensure wide distribution and dissemination of knowledge is surely more desirable. CIS participated in a series of meetings:

- Conference of Indian Bayh-Dole: (NUJS Auditorium, Salt Lake, Kolkata, 12 September 2009). Praneesh Prakash made a presentation on ‘Deficiencies in the PUPFIP Bill: Open Access and Academic Freedoms’.
- Lawyers Collective on PUPFIP Bill and A2M: (Bangalore, 2 – 4 October 2009). Praneesh Prakash attended this meeting on the PUPFIP Bill, and presented on CSIR patenting statistics.
- Planning Meeting on the PUPFIP Bill: (New Delhi, 22 December 2009). This meeting was co-organised with the Centre for Trade and Development (CENTAD). Eighteen participants attended to coordinate advocacy and research strategies around the PUPFIP Bill.
- 97th Indian Science Congress (Thiruvananthapuram, 3 – 5 January 2010). Praneesh Prakash attended this annual congress to meet top scientists and science policy people from the Government for the PUPFIP Bill campaign.
- Meeting with Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Science on the PUPFIP Bill (Delhi, 7 February 2010). Praneesh Prakash was invited to present his suggestions on the PUPFIP Bill, after which a consensus document was created for the Minister of Science and Technology.

## Learning to Floo

Anand Ramachandran, a graphic artist and videogame industry consultant, was contracted to produce a serialized comic book. **Learning to Floo** is a comic that paints a grim future. This is best captured in the stanza, “You can’t even hum a tune, or quote from a book, or have a single original thought without paying a licensee fee.”



## Events Participated

- **Democracy Biennial** (Turin, Italy, 22 – 26 April 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in the discussions and expressed previously unpublished views on piracy, attribution and the IP regime in a panel discussion on Internet and Deliberative Democracy with Philippe Aigrain (Sopinspace), and Prof. Mario Losano (Jurist, Univ. Piemonte Orientale) moderated by J.C. De Martin (NEXA Centre for Internet and Society) at the Democracy Biennial, Torino 25 May 2009.
- **First Edition of the Biennale Democrazia** (Turin, 22 – 26 April 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in the panel discussion on 'Housing the Democratic City' featuring Bill Dunster and Cino Zucchi. Sunil Abraham replied to the questions on the role of democracy in contemporary urban form.
- **Panel on India** (Turin, 22 – 26 April 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in the panel discussion on 'Democracy and India' with Prof. Federico Squarcini.
- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Stakeholders' Briefing Meeting on the WIPO Broadcast Treaty**, (New Delhi, 8 May 2009). Pranesh Prakash made a presentation on webcasting, highlighting the differences between webcasting and broadcasting, and arguing that webcasting should not be part of the WIPO Broadcast Treaty.
- **Annual Congress of the International Communications Association Pre-Conference on India and Communication Studies** (Chicago, 21 May 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in a panel discussion on Media, Technology and Governance.
- **Third Annual Conference on Counterfeiting and Piracy** organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 19 to 20 August 2009). Pranesh Prakash attended the event, and made interjections from the floor.
- **WIPO International Forum on the "Creativity Inventions - A Better Future for Humanity in the 21st Century"** (New Delhi, 11 – 13 November 2009). The event was co-organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Department for Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Pranesh Prakash attended this meeting, intervened from the floor, and participated on the last day as part of the sub-group on IP and National Policy.
- **National Conference on Copyright Law Limitations and Exceptions**: Pranesh Prakash assisted Lawrence Liang for the paper titled 'Education Exceptions' and Nirmita Narasimhan assisted Rahul Cherian for the paper titled 'Exceptions for Visual Disabilities'. CIS is at present preparing the response paper on Social and Cultural exceptions.

## Other Articles

- Achal Prabhala has written an article on **Access to Online Information and Knowledge – Advancing Human Rights and Democracy** in the Global Information Society Watch 2009. The article was published on the CIS website.
- Siddharth Chadha was contracted to produce ten blog entries. The published ones are: **Are You Game?, Of My Struggle With A Broadband Connection, Steal this Film and the Pirate Bay Trial, Cable TV Technology for Dummies, The Grey Market Deficit, Interview with a Cable Operator, Interview with Jamie King and Peter Mann, At the End of the Niche Optical Pirate, Enforcement of Anti-Piracy Laws by the Indian Entertainment Industry and Piracy Studies in India.**
- Ajay Narendran, the architect of Vidya and former Content Manager and Webmaster, Amrita University has blogged on the CIS website. His blog entry, **The Project Vidya Story: 'Study Locally, Learn Globally'** attempts to capture the experience of building an Intranet archive at Amrita University, Coimbatore.

## Teaching

- A lecture on **'Legal and Technical Control and Resistance on the Internet'** by Sunil Abraham at the International School on Digital Transformation in Porto (Portugal), organised by the University of Texas on 24 July 2009.
- Guest lecture by Pranesh Prakash on **Intellectual Property and Development** at Christ University on 9 March 2010.



# openness



**CIS** believes that innovation and creativity should be fostered through openness and collaboration. The advent of the Internet has radically redefined what it means to be open and collaborative — just try to think of projects such as the Linux kernel or Wikipedia having been developed without the Internet. Even the Internet itself is built upon open standards and free/libre/open source software. Hence, CIS is committed towards promotion of open standards, open access, and free/libre/open source software and its involvement has resulted into these:

## Software Patents

By creating legal gridlocks around various technological innovations harm the free and open source software movement and endanger open standards. In India as per the patent law



“computer programs per se” are not patentable. However, the patent office sometimes still (unlawfully) grants pure software patents. Additionally, various software MNCs have sought to get the Indian law on software patents changed. To counter this CIS sought to educate Indian software professionals and companies on the problems created by software patents via a campaign involving 10000 handbills, 250 posters, a meeting to debate the

utility of software patents and numerous postings in various online fora and viral marketing via Twitter.

### Events Organised

**Mozilla Open Web Talks** (The Energy and Resources Institute, 16 December 2009). The event featured a 20 minute talk by Mozilla’s Mark Surman on Drumbeat: You and the Open Web.

**Mozilla Developer’s Day** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 27 February 2010). Pranesh Prakash made a presentation on ‘Software Patents and the Open Web’.

### Blog Post

Pranesh Prakash has written a blog post on Arguments against Software Patents in India. In this post he looks at the philosophical, legal and practical reasons for holding such a position in India.

## Open Video Summit

CIS organised the Open Video Summit to discuss the possibilities, potentials, mechanics and politics of Open Video. This workshop modelled after a similar meeting in October 2008 at Yale University drew together experts from tech, art, film, NGOs and businesses to explore the future of online video. Nishant Shah summarised the impressions and ideas that ensued in the day.

## Second Response to Draft National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance

CIS sent its comments to the draft version 2 of the National Policy on open standards for e-governance which was released by the National Informatics Centre.

## Free & Open Source Solutions (FOSS) Community Network India Meeting (FOSSCOMM)

FOSSCOMM is a civil society alliance of organizations and individuals working to promote the adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in India. Sunil Abraham and Pranesh Prakash from CIS attended the second FOSSCOMM meeting held in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi on 4 July 2009. The meeting discussed the background and gave updates of the previous Bangalore meeting held in June 2009, it was decided that the proposed Open Standards Policy will be applicable on all e-governance projects of DIT. Other things discussed included FOSS in education and what the FOSS community can do in this, software patents and other legal issues and building a political consensus around FOSS as India's best bet for development. The FOSSCOMM Karnataka meeting was held on 15 January 2010. Pranesh Prakash participated in this meeting.

## Letter to Education Secretary, Government of Karnataka

CIS was a signatory to a letter sent to the Education Secretary, Government of Karnataka, advocating the adoption of FOSS at state IT academies.

## Interview with Arjen Kamphuis

CIS conducted an e-mail interview with Dutch FOSS activist Arjen Kamphuis.

## Free Access to Law – Is it Here to Stay?

CIS partnered with the South African Legal Information Institute and LexUM, Montreal to examine the sustainability of open access legal publishing online through a comparative focus on initiatives throughout Asia, Africa, Canada and Australia. CIS will be overseeing research in the Asian region, including one research in India, Indonesia, Hong Kong and the Philippines respectively.



The project is funded by the Open Society Institute and the International Development Research Centre. The Centre will receive a total of USD 50,000 to accomplish this work over eighteen months. Grace Armstrong, an intern at CIS from Yale University has visited Manila, Jakarta, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur to identify potential researchers. Sunil Abraham and local researcher for India, Prashant Iyengar also travelled to Johannesburg for the orientation meeting. Recently in November 2009, Prashant Iyengar travelled to Durban for a Methodology Meeting.

A research methodology guide was developed and circulated to local researchers, preliminary research reports on the legal publishing environments were prepared and a methodology workshop has been planned for 13 March 2010, bringing together the four local researchers from each respective country to review project goals, directions, and to overall build team research capacity.



## The National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT)

A one billion dollar fund was allocated by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to produce the Open Educational Resources. Professor Arunachalam is a special invitee to the NMEICT working committee meetings.

## Setting up of Open Access Portal

As a result of Professor Arunachalam's advocacy, the Indian Academy of Sciences has agreed to set up an open access portal to provide free access to the full text of all papers by all fellows.

## Initiation of Open Access Repository

Upon the request of Professor Arunachalam, an open access repository for Madras Diabetes Research Foundation was initiated.

## Journals from NISCAIR

As a result of Professor Arunachalam's advocacy, all the 19 journals published by NISCAIR (CSIR) are now open access.

## Other Events Organised

- **An Introduction to Chinese Wikipedia:** Talk by Ting Chen: (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, (India) 19 September 2009). Ting Chen, a Trustee on the Wikimedia Board gave a talk about the Chinese edition of Wikipedia.
- **ICT, Transaction Cost and Development: The Flip Side:** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, (India) 25 November 2009). Prof. Pradoshnath from NISTADS gave a presentation on ICT, Transaction Cost and Development: The Flip Side.
- **Free Culture Roadshow:** (IIT-B, TISS, Anna University, IIT-M, Mount Carmel College, NLS, CEPT, India International Centre, Delhi and Jadavpur University, (all in India) 7 – 22 December 2009). CIS in association with different institutions across India co-organised this event. The talk explored how various conceptions of “freedom” have shaped the social movements for free software, free culture, and free knowledge, and how this ideology has manifested itself in real action. Elizabeth Stark, Dean Jansen and Ben Moskowitz were the speakers.
- **Creative Common Salon:** (Jaaga, Bangalore, December 2009). CIS co-organized this meeting of artists, copyright lawyers, and Creative Commons enthusiasts. Jon Phillips of Status.Net (and formerly with Creative Commons) spoke on the ideas behind Creative Commons.
- **Opening India's Spectrum:** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 14 January 2010). Robert Horowitz, director of Open Spectrum Foundation gave a talk about his preliminary findings.

## Events Participated

- **OAL Methodology Workshop:** (Johannesburg (South Africa), 28 – 30 April 2009). Sunil Abraham and Prashant Iyengar attended the event organised by LexUM, Canada and the South African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII).
- Public Knowledge Project 2009 Conference (Vancouver (British Columbia), 8 – 10 July 2009). Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam participated in the conference and spoke on '**Scholarly Communication in the Age of the Commons: A Southern Perspective**'.
- **Eighteenth Meeting of the SAC to the Cabinet** (27 August 2009). Professor Arunachalam was invited by Dr. R Chidambaram (Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India). He provided his views on intellectual property rights in publicly funded research.
- **Second Round of Paris Accord II** (Paris (France), 23 – 24 October 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in software track of this ongoing attempt to get creators and consumers together for a dialogue on IP issues.
- **Global Conference on Open Source** (Jakarta (Indonesia), 25 – 29 October 2009). Sunil Abraham participated in the conference and made a presentation on 'Making Open Source the Driver for Development'.
- **NUID Conference:** (Bangalore (India), 23 November 2009). Sunil Abraham, Pranesh Prakash and Malavika Jayaram attended a meeting on the NUID scheme organized by the NUIDA.





- **Software Principles for the Public Sector, with Focus on Public Education** (Bangalore (India), 1 – 2 February 2010). Pranesh Prakash attended this meeting which was co-organized by IT for Change and UN Solution Exchange, and was attended by a number of bureaucrats.
- **iTech Law Conference** (Bangalore (India), 5 February 2010). Pranesh Prakash presented ‘Arguments against Software Patents in India’ at a panel on software patents.
- **Meeting at National Institute of Open Schooling on Open Educational Resources** (New Delhi (India), 9 – 12 February 2010). CIS is acting as a consultant for the NIOS-Indian Consortium for Educational Transformation (I-CONSENT) project on developing Open Educational Resources and deploying them via pilot courses.
- **Workshop on Wiki Academy** (Mangalore (India) 22 August 2009). Hari Prasad Nadig of sampada.net organised this event.

### Wikipedia | Wikimedia Meet-ups

Wikipedia | Wikimedia meetups are opportunities to make friends with other Wikipedians, discuss Wikipedia-related topics, and exchange knowledge and experiences from the universe that is Wikipedia – an online collaboration by millions of users around the world.



Thus far, these many have been held at CIS:

- **Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up** – 16 August 2009
- **Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up** – 13 September 2009
- **Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up** – 11 October 2009
- **Wikipedia Sanskrit Academy Meet-up** – 23 January 2009
- **Wikipedia Malayalam Academy Meet-up** – 21 March 2009

### Other Articles

- **Second Response to Draft National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance** CIS sent its comments to version 2 of the draft of the National Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance.
- **Impaired Social Mobility:** Leading e-mail providers like Gmail and Yahoo Mail have introduced open protocols for copying e-mails offline through Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird but popular social networking websites like Facebook, Myspace, etc., generally do not allow the user to backup their own data. Sunil Abraham through this article points out that if competition and technological development do not rectify the situation then the government needs to intervene for the sake of its citizens.
- **Open Content and Access in the Knowledge Society:** Madanmohan Rao had written an article in KM Chronicles on open content and access. This is published on the CIS website as a blog entry.

### Publications

- **‘Open Access: A Giant Leap towards Bridging Health Inequities’** (Leslie Chan, Subbiah Arunachalam and Barbara Kirsop, Bulletin of the World Health Organization).
- **‘The Chain of Communication in Health Science: From Researcher to Health Worker through Open Access’** (Leslie Chan, Subbiah Arunachalam and Barbara Kirsop, Open Medicine, Vol 3, No 3, 2009).



### **Blog posts by Rebecca Schild**

- **Does the Social Web Need a Googopoly?** In this blog post, Rebecca posits that Buzz highlights two privacy challenges of the social web. First, the application has sidestepped the consensual and contextual qualities desirable of social spaces and second, Google's move highlights the increasingly competitive and convergent nature of the social media landscape.
- **The (in)Visible Subject: Power, Privacy and Social Networking:** In this blog entry, Rebecca Schild argues that the interplay between privacy and power on social network sites works ultimately to subject individuals to the gaze of others, or to alternatively render them invisible.
- **Reconceptualizing Privacy on Social Network(s) Sites:** In this blog entry, Rebecca Schild argues that as social platforms become sites for diverse forms of 'networking', privacy must also be popularly conceptualized as control over personal data flows.
- **Is Copyright Law Censoring the Art World?** In this blog entry, Rebecca Schild examines that although artists are becoming more rights conscious, the increasing copyrightability of art today is compelling many artists to critically rethink the role of law in the art world.
- **After 15 Years, Is Free Access to Law Here to Stay?** In this blog entry Rebecca Schild points out that free access to law study will provide future initiatives and existing LII networks with proven and adoptable best practices which will support the continued growth of the legal information commons.
- **The Role of ICT in Judicial Reform – An Exploration:** Rebecca Schild has written an article about a seminar held by Communications and Manufacturing Association of India which explored the role that information and communication technology can assume in the process of India's judicial reform efforts. Whether technology will be harnessed to actually facilitate much needed transparency and access to the justice system, or be simply used to improve efficiency within the judicial branch still remains unclear, says Rebecca in her blog entry.

# internet governance

**A**lthough there may not be one centralised authority that rules the Internet, the Internet does not just run by its own volition: for it to operate in a stable and reliable manner, there needs to be in place infrastructure, a functional domain name system, ways to curtail cybercrime across borders, etc. The Tunis Agenda of the second World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), paragraph 34 has defined Internet governance as “the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.” Within the larger field of Internet governance, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue forum that was instituted by the WSIS processes and that is their only formal outcome, has fast emerged as one of the key institutions.

As the definition quoted above indicates, a unique feature of the field of Internet governance is that, unlike many other governance spheres, it does not only involve governments. Historically, not only governments but also the technical community and private players have played a crucial role in the development of the Internet. In the context of the IGF, that role is not only explicitly acknowledged but also institutionalised as the IGF formally brings together governments, private players and civil society actors from all areas of and organisations involved in Internet governance. Moreover, now that the open and egalitarian potential of the Internet is increasingly under attack, this unique nature of the IGF, in addition to its WSIS roots, has made it a prime venue to remind stakeholders in all areas of Internet governance of the commitment they have made earlier to building a “people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society” (WSIS Geneva Principles, para 1). During the past year, CIS’s involvement in the field of Internet governance has therefore, taken the following shape:

## **CIS at the Internet Governance Forum in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**



**Sir Tim Berners-Lee speaking at the event co-organised by CIS**

CIS participated in the 2009 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in a number of ways:

- Sunil Abraham was a panellist in the main session on ‘Emerging Issues: Impact of Social Networks’, along with Rachel O’ Connell (Chief Security Officer, Bebo), Grace Bomu (Manager, Actor and Policy Advocate, Kenya), Rebecca MacKinnon (Open Society Institute Fellow) and Sergio Suima (Prosecutor from Brazil).
- Anja Kovacs spoke on behalf of the civil society during the closing ceremony of the IGF. Other speakers included Sha Zukang (United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and

Social Affairs), Raul Echeberria (Latin American Network Information Centre), Herbert Heitmann (SAP and International Chamber of Commerce) and Nitin Desai (Chairperson of the IGF).

- Anja Kovacs and Sunil Abraham were included in the civil society delegation to Under-Secretary General Sha, to discuss civil society's views on the desirability of the continuation of the IGF as part of the IGF's official review process.
- Anja Kovacs was also a panellist in the workshop on 'Transnationalisation of Internet Governance'.
- Nirmita Narasimhan was a speaker at the workshop on 'Global Internet Access for Persons with Disabilities'.
- Pranesh Prakash spoke at the workshop 'Global State of Copyright and Access to Knowledge'.
- Sunil Abraham spoke at the workshop on 'Open Standards – A Rights-based Approach', which CIS co-organised with Knowledge Ecology International. Other panellists included Sir Tim Berners-Lee (W3C), Renu Budhiraja (India's DIT), Steve Mutkoski (Microsoft), and Rishab Ghosh (UNU-MERIT) while Aslam Raffee was the moderator.
- CIS also co-organised the workshop on 'Content Regulation, Surveillance and Sexuality Rights – Privacy, Agency and Security', together with the Association for Progressive Communications, Women's Networking Support Programme and the Alternative Law Forum.
- Sunil Abraham moderated the meeting of the Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards (DCOSS). CIS is now also part of the DCOS secretariat.
- In December 2009, Anja Kovacs was re-elected as a steering committee member of the Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition (IRP DC).

### **CIS was also active in Pre-IGF events:**

- Finally, CIS has been part of a number of civil society initiatives that have provided inputs into the IGF process before and after the yearly meeting. Thus, CIS joined other civil society organisations in submitting, in August 2009, a comment on the Draft Programme Paper of the fourth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) calling on the IGF to pay greater attention to human rights. In February 2010, CIS joined the Internet Governance Caucus (IGC) in suggesting network neutrality, a development agenda for Internet governance and Internet rights and principles as themes to be taken up in the 2010 IGF. During that same month, CIS also supported the submission by the IGC of an Open Letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, urging the Secretary General not to bypass the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in the IGF's review process.
- Pre-IGF Meeting - India in Delhi on 4 November 2009. This meeting was called by the Department of Information Technology. Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.

### **Primer on the New IT Act and Comments on the Draft Rules under the Information Technology Act**

Chennai-based advocate Ananth Padmanabhan was commissioned by CIS to provide comments on the draft rules under the new IT Act. In the form of a citizens' dialogue he has provided an exhaustive analysis on how the IT Amendment Act and the Rules sought to be promulgated fail to achieve the objective. Internet and webhosting service providers, online payment and auction site, and cyber cafes are all examples of 'intermediaries' under this Act. The Government can force any of these to cooperate with any interception, monitoring or decryption of data in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India. The State has even been given unbridled power to block access to websites, vested with power to authorize the monitoring and collection of traffic data and information transmitted. Also if out of anger you send an e-mail causing 'annoyance' or 'inconvenience', you may face jail. Further, if a journalist, for example, gains unauthorized access to a computer where information regarding corruption by certain members of the judiciary is stored, she becomes a 'cyber terrorist'. In his comments on the Draft Rules published by the government under the Information Technology Act, Padmanabhan highlights the problems with each of the rules and presents specific recommendations on how they can be improved. These comments were sent to the Department of Information and Technology.

### **The ICANN-US DOC 'Affirmation of Commitments' - A Step Forward?**

On 30 September 2009, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) signed an Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) with the US Government's Department of

Commerce. Anja Kovacs in her blog entry assesses whether the new arrangement is a step forward for those of us who are concerned that the Internet should serve the global public good. It was also posted on the ning-site of ICANN's Non-Commercial Users Constituency.

## Letter to ICANN on NCSG

CIS sent a mail to ICANN regarding their attempt to impose their own charter for a Non-commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG), instead of accepting the one drafted by the Non-commercial Users Constituency (NCUC).

## IT Act and Commerce

Rahul Matthan (Partner, Trilegal) and widely rated as one of the leading experts on information technology law in India has guest blogged on the CIS website. In this post, Matthan looks at the provisions in the amended Information Technology Act of interest to commerce, namely electronic signatures and data protection.

## Other Articles

- When Whistle Blowers Unite: Sunil Abraham has written an article in which he points out that leaking corporate or government information in public interest through popular Web service providers is risky but Wikileaks.org is one option that can be tried out.
- Information and Livelihoods: Global Information Society Watch 2009 carried an article, Information and Livelihoods by Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam. This has been uploaded on the Internet Governance section of the CIS website.
- IPv6 in India: The Promises and Challenges: In this short piece, Pranesh Prakash gives a lay person's introduction to the IPv6 Internet which we will be entering into soon and what it means for the public.
- Access beyond Developmentalism: Technology and Intellectual Life of the Poor: Lawrence Liang had written an essay in response to A Dialogue on ICTs, Human Development, Growth and Poverty Reduction. The article which was published in the Publius Project is uploaded on the CIS website.
- 'Value Added Services of Information & Communication Technology: Mobile Telephony for Farmers Benefit': G Raghunatha (State Manager, IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd., Bangalore and Secretary, Institution of Agricultural Technologists, Bangalore) has written an article on how ICT-Mobile Technology can be used for farmer's benefit.

## Other Events Organised

- Financial Speculation as Urban Planning: A Talk by Prof Michael Goldman (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 2 June 2009).
- Pass the Packet, Please? Talk by Ashwin Jacob Mathew (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 17 July 2009).
- Community Informatics: Talk by Dr. Michael Gurstein. Successfully Applying Information and Communications Technologies as a Support to Local Economic and Social Development (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 25 February 2010).

## Events Participated

- E-India Conference (Hyderabad, (India) 26 to 28 August 2009). This event was co-organised by the Centre for Science Development and Media Studies (CSDMS) and the Department of Information Technology (DIT). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition (IRP DC) Meeting (Geneva, (Switzerland) 13 September 2009). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting as a member of the IRP DC Steering Committee. The meeting was organised by the Coalition.
- European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EURODIG) Meeting (Geneva, (Switzerland) 14 and 15 September 2009). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- Internet Governance Forum Planning Meeting (Geneva (Switzerland) 16 and 17 September 2009). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- APC Internet Public Policy Networks Project Advisory Group Meeting (Geneva, (Switzerland) 7 and 8 February 2010). Upon invitation, CIS joined the Advisory Group of this initiative of the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) that seeks to build stronger coalitions among civil society actors in Internet governance. Anja Kovacs attended the Advisory Group's first meeting, organised by APC.
- Internet Governance Forum Planning Meeting (Geneva, (Switzerland) 9 February 2010). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.

# other projects



CIS undertakes also undertakes other social projects which do not fall under any of the categories like accessibility, intellectual property, or Internet governance:

## **Maps for Making Change: Using Geographical Mapping Techniques to Support Struggles for Social Justice in India**

CIS organised this with Tactical Tech. Maps for Making Change is a five-month project that provides activists and supporters of movements and campaigns for progressive social change in India with the opportunity to collectively debate and explore in detail the potential of digital mapping as a tool to support their work. Participants in the project reflect the rich diversity of India's struggles. They include grassroots activists, NGO workers, artists and researchers working on a wide range of issues which include tracing the mobility trajectories of migrant workers constructing the metro rail in Bangalore, mobilizing slum dwellers to critically engage with Mumbai's new development plan, monitoring human rights violations by the state in Chhattisgarh and mapping services for sex workers in Delhi. The project consists of three workshops which all participants attend, with time in between for participants to reflect and develop their own mapping projects, and to start implementing these. Participants in Maps for Making Change included Manish Kumar (Ant, Assam), Arati Chokshi (People's Union of Civil Liberties, Bangalore), Sumandro Chattapadhyay, (Independent Researcher from Shantiniketan), Devanshi Kumar, (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action in Mumbai), Sebastian Rodrigues (Mand-Gakwed, Goa) and Ponni Arasu (Housing and Land Rights Network, Delhi). To communicate in between workshops, participants use the Wiki and two email lists:

Participants explore the possibilities of various digital mapping techniques during the Maps for Making Change workshop in Delhi »

### **First Maps for Making Change Workshop**



The first Maps for Making Change workshop was held at the India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi on 3 December 2009. Participants in the Maps for Making Change project explored the political significance of maps in India and elsewhere, the ethical and political concerns involved in mapping, and the new possibilities provided by digital mapping technologies. They also fine tuned their own projects accordingly, and drew up a road map for them to follow in preparation for the next workshop. The special guest during the workshop was Jai Sen from CACIM, who shared his own experiences on

mapping with vulnerable communities from the 1980s onwards.

### **Second Maps for Making Change Workshop**

The second Maps for Making Change workshop was held at the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad from 1 to 3 February 2010.

Participants brainstorming in small groups on how to take forward their own projects during the Workshop in Ahmedabad »



Henry Addo (Ushahidi), Hardeep Singh Rai (Guru Nanak Dev College for Engineering, Ludhiana) and Alagesa Pandian (MapUnity, Bangalore).

This workshop allowed participants to step-by-step develop their own mapping projects in practice, thinking through questions of information design, and ethical and rights issues while exploring hands-on different technologies, with the help from digital activists and technologists from within and outside India. Facilitators included Lars Bromley (American Association for the Advancement of Science),

## Other Events Organised

- **Using Social Media for Mobilisation:** Panel Discussion with Dina Mehta and Peter Griffin (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 19 June 2009).
- **Dialogue Systems in Education and Learning:** A Talk on Dialogue Interfaces for Intelligent Tutoring Systems (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 12 June 2009). Srinivasan Janarthanam, a Ph.D student at the University of Edinburgh, UK, gave a lecture.
- **ICTs for Improving Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods:** (Institute for Agricultural Technologists, Bangalore, 28 August 2009). Michael Riggs (FAO) lectured on Information and Communication Technology and e-Agriculture and how Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture can benefit from ICTs.
- **Agriculture, ICT and Community:** (Institution of Agricultural Technologists, Bangalore, 21 September 2009). Sampada Foundation in collaboration with CIS organised this event. Nagesh Hegde's e-book was launched and Addoor Krishna Rao gave a talk on 'Transformations in Agricultural Sector'.
- **Citizen 2.0:** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 23 November 2009). A presentation by Minna Aslama on exploring research questions, frameworks, and methods.
- **10 Tactics for Turning Information into Action** (Centre for Education and Documentation, Bangalore, 9 December 2009). CIS along with Tactical Technology Collective and Alternative Law Forum announced the Bangalore launch of TTC's newest tool kit.
- **Improving Collective Intelligence** (The Energy and Resources Institute, Bangalore, 20 December 2009). CIS in collaboration with iMorph, Inc and Program for the Future organized a tweetup to increase the awareness for 'improving collective intelligence'.
- **The Cultural Politics of Neo-Pentecostalism in India:** (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore 24 February 2010). Pradip Ninan Thomas gave a lecture on his study of Christian fundamentalism and Communications in India.

## Events Participated

- Workshop on Social Media for Non-Profits (Sarai Foundation, New Delhi, 21-23 December 2009). This workshop was organised by Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT). Anja Kovacs attended the workshop.

# telecom / broadband



The growth in telecommunications in India has been impressive. While the potential for growth and returns exist, a range of issues need to be addressed for this potential to be realized. One aspect is more extensive rural coverage and the second aspect is a countrywide access to broadband which is low at about eight million subscriptions. Both require effective and efficient use of networks and resources, including spectrum. Given the importance of communications facilities as essential enabling infrastructure because of the learning and productivity gains, it is imperative to resolve these issues in the common interest of users and service providers. CIS efforts in this area are to facilitate this resolution.

## India Study Tour - Report: The South African Telecommunications Sector: Poised for Change

CIS in collaboration with the LINK Centre, Graduate School of Public and Development Management, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa and in association with different institutions across India organized a lecture tour by Sagie Chetty from 19 to 30 October 2009. Presentations were held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai and IIT, Mumbai, the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bangalore, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS) and Jamia Millia Islamia University – all based in Delhi. The visit concluded with meetings with officials from the Telecoms Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

## Articles by Shyam Ponappa

Shyam Ponappa is a Distinguished Fellow at CIS. He has published a series of articles on Telecom which are published on the CIS website:

- **Managing Spectrum:** In this article, Shyam Ponappa points out that fragmented spectrum holdings reduce efficiency, and broadband growth and availability have been abysmal. Therefore, the policy alternatives evaluated should include ways to maximise utility through conserving resources and facilitating broadband Internet. The Empowered Group of Ministers goal therefore, should be nothing short of a broadband revolution. The article was published in the Business Standard on 5 November 2009.
- **Developments in spectrum sharing:** Shyam Ponappa's article was published in the Business Standard on 3 December 2009. In this article, Ponappa says that new ways to share spectrum can revolutionise broadband in India.
- **Plan and Execute for Results:** In this article published in the Business Standard on 7 January 2010, Ponappa says that good SOPs are a starting point but there is more under the surface that will affect results.
- **Alternative Scenarios:** In this article published in the Business Standard on 4 February 2010, Ponappa says that only 48 per cent of India is covered by the telecom network with only 20 per cent rural coverage. He points out how alternative approaches may enhance extensive coverage.







- **Understanding Spectrum:** In this article published in the Business Standard on 4 March 2010, Ponappa examines what is spectrum and how government and commercial decisions on this scientific phenomenon affect public facilities and costs.

Shyam Ponappa also carried out an extensive study to provide a detailed response to the Telecom Authority of India:

**Response to TRAI Consultation paper No. 6/2009:** Shyam Ponappa provided a detailed response to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's Consultation paper No. 6/2009 'Overall Spectrum Management and Review of License Terms and Conditions'. Ponappa suggested that the TRAI approaches the telecom policy in a manner which will facilitate greater user access and, more generally, be designed to serve the public interest in the long-term.

He pointed out that the public needs are good services for Internet, voice and SMS at reasonable prices, for example, comparable pricing for television and broadband and in accessible form to most households. He also suggested policy goals/objectives (based on needs) which would be to adopt the criteria of long-term net benefits in the public interest for decisions, eschewing short-term cash collections from auctions and fees, adopt approach to policies for telecommunications services (not for broadcasting) that limits the number of operators per service area in line with international experience, because of the economics of networks, provide to broadband (to be defined as at least 512 kbps in keeping with international norms) at all feasible locations in the country for all users, developing incentives and penalties favouring good rural service provision, with the emphasis on broadband, exploring ways to structure policies to reduce costs/maximize utility through facilities and resource sharing, so that prices can be reduced while maintaining good scope for investment from growth and profits and monitor operations online and intervene actively where revenues (the totality of rates/tariffs) are far above total costs, i.e., profits are unreasonable. This is a necessary adjunct to accepting a monopolistic/oligopolistic market structures.

## Event Organised

- **Mobile Tech 4 Social Change:** (Mother Tekla Auditorium, Bangalore, 4 September 2009). CIS co-organised this event along with Mobile Active, Women's Learning Partnership and Mobile Monday Bangalore. The Bangalore camp was a one day event. It was an exploration of mobile technology to advance social development and social change goals. Around 80 people attended this event.

# media coverage



- Wiki's worth, on a different turf (Livemint, 13 January 2010) by Sunil Abraham
- Drawing maps for change (The Hindu, 3 January 2010)
- Native plays (Time Out, Bangalore)
- Pushing Buttons (The Hindu, 1 January 2010)
- Wired state of mind (DNA, 28 December 2009)
- When the virtual world gets a room (The Hindu, 22 December 2009)
- Newspapers should empower citizen journalism (DNA, 21 December 2009) by Sunil Abraham
- Want to bring social change? This map shows the way (Silicon India, 8 December 2009)
- Watch what you read on that website (DNA, 9 December 2009)
- Techies mapping change (Bangalore Mirror, 7 December 2009)
- Books shut by law blinkers (The Telegraph, Kolkata, 6 December 2009)
- Present, tense: Future classrooms (Teacher Plus, 5 December 2009) by Nishant Shah
- Bridging the Divide (NDTV Hindu, 1 to 3 December 2009)
- Lawyers get socially involved: The Right to Read (legallyindia.com, 3 December 2009)
- Mumbai no longer 'meri jaan' (Livemint, 20 November 2009)
- Copyright obstacle for Braille, audio books (Times of India, 7 November 2009)
- The disabled also grapple with copyright issues (The Hindu, 3 December 2009)
- Shanty home (Time Out Bengaluru Magazine, November 13-26 2009)
- Copyright Access for the Disabled and Collaborative IP Policy (SPICY IP, 18 November 2009)
- Right to Read, Kolkata (CBR Forum E-News Bulletin, November 2009)
- Reading For All (Kolkata Mirror, 14 November 2009)
- UN Official pledges support to tackle Copyright Challenges for the Visually Impaired (UN News Centre, 11 November 2009)
- WIPO Director General Pledges Support for India's Visually Impaired Community (WIPO website, 11 November 2009)
- Control shift? (Down to Earth, 15 November 2009) by Pranesh Prakash
- Copyright obstacle for Braille, audio books (The Times of India, Kolkata, 7 November 2009)
- Open Debate (Frontline, 7 November 2009)
- IPv6: The promises and challenges (DNA, Mumbai, 4 November 2009) by Pranesh Prakash
- Open Source Peluang tidak Terbatas Industri TIK (GCOS 2009) (Media Indonesia.com)
- Youth light up lives, one book at a time (Deccan Chronicle, 10 October 2009)
- The Option To Read (thinkopotamus.blogspot.com, October 2009)
- Internet sceptic? Go get a life (Down to Earth, 15 October 2009) by Nishant Shah
- Print Impairments and Copyrights (Spicy IP, 1 October 2009)
- Nishant Shah spoke on web based consciousness (BBC, October 2009)
- Reading a closed book (Livemint, 29 September 2009)
- 'Right to Read Campaign' launched (The Hindu, 29 September 2009)
- 'Right to Read Campaign' launched – Fighting against copyright regulations (Deccan Herald, 28 September, 2009)
- Right to Read Campaign (NDTV Hindu channel, 26 September, 2009)



- Tara Textreader, a boon for the visually-challenged (The Times of India, 26 September, 2009)
- A fight for the Right to Read (DNA, 24 September 2009)
- Handy origins of the winds of change (DNA, 6 September, 2009)
- Class attendance rises after restriction on Internet use (Hindustan Times, 6 September 2009)
- Now online books for disabled persons (Deccan Herald, 6 September 2009)
- Highest wiki taker (Time Out Bengaluru)
- Pushing buttons for social change ( The Hindu, 1 September 2009)
- Deconstructing Internet Addiction ( The Hindu, 30 August 2009)
- Change is coming thanks to the mobile (DNA, 29 August 2009)
- Govt accepts panel report against narrowing of Indian patent law (Business Standard, 18 August 2009)
- Internet, first source of credible information about A(H1N1) virus (The Hindu, 16 August 2009) by Nishant Shah
- Piracy boils down to convenience (DNA, 15 August 2009)
- On the Internet, how much is too much? (The Hindu, 5 August 2009)
- N.C.P.E.D.P. and BarrierBreak Technologies put forward National Policy on Electronic Accessibility (Disability News and Information Service, 15 July 2009)
- Is NASSCOM anti-Open Standards? (Techgoss.com, 10 July 2009)
- Measuring the effectiveness of online activism (The Hindu, 21 June 2009)
- Online interest in Advani rises (The Hindu, 15 May 2009)
- Does India need its own Bayh-Dole? (The Indian Express, 24 April 2009) by Pranesh Prakash



# credibility alliance norms compliance

## Identity and Values

CIS was founded and registered as a society in Bangalore in August 2008. As an independent, non-profit, research organisation which is involved in research on the emerging field of the Internet and its relationship to the society, CIS brings together scholars, academics, students, programmers and scientists to engage in a large variety of Internet issues like governance, privacy and freedom of expression, etc. CIS works in the areas of histories of the Internet, digital natives, and a reader on the Wikipedia, enhancing higher education for the downtrodden, and accessibility for the disabled, openness, telecom and Internet governance, etc. CIS also runs different academic and research programmes and is receptive to new ideas and collaborations, projects and campaigns for the public.

**Registration No.:** SOR/BLU/DR/57/08-09 dated 04-07-09

**Registered Office:** Centre for Internet and Society, #106, Vineyard Jasmine Apartments, Bank Avenue, 1st Main Road, Babusapalya, Banaswadi, Bangalore – 560043

**Bankers:** State Bank of India, Race Course Road Branch, 29/4, Race Course Road, Trade Centre, Bangalore – 560001

**Auditors:** Nath Associates

## Governance

Details of board members as on 31 March 2010:

Name and Gender	Position on Board	Occupation / Designation	Area of Competency	Charges (per month in ₹)
Sunil Abraham (Male)	Invitee	Computer Engineer	IPR Reform	1,40,000
Achal Prabhala (Male)	Invitee	Researcher	IPR Reform	Nil
Lawrence Liang (Male)	Secretary	Lawyer	IPR Reform	40,000
Nishant Shah (Male)	Invitee	Researcher	Cybercultures	96,000
Subbiah Arunachalam (Male)	Chairman	Scientist (retired)	Open Access and ICT4D	40,000
Vibodh Parthasarathi (Male)	Member	Associate Professor	Media	Nil
Atul Ramachandra (Male)	Member	Social Worker	ICT4D	Nil

## Staff, Travel, and Salaries

List of Staff:

Name	Designation
Sunil Abraham	Executive Director
Nishant Shah	Director-Research
Nirmita Narasimhan	Programme Manager
Pranesh Prakash	Programme Manager
Prasad Krishna	Publications Manager
Ajoy Kumar C.	Administrator
Radha Rao	Executive Assistant
Velankanni Royson	Office Assistant
Abul Hasim	System Administrator
Anisha Pucadyil	Research Assistant
Geeta	Housekeeper

List of Distinguished Fellows:

Name
Prof Subbiah Arunachalam
Lawrence Liang
Shyam Ponappa

List of Fellows:

Dr. Anja Kovacs
Selvam Velmurugan
Malavika Jayaram

List of Interns:

Name	University
Prashant Ramdass	Gujarat Law University
Grace Armstrong	Yale University
Rebecca Schild	University of Toronto
Asma Tajuddin	National Law School of India
Snehashish Ghosh	Christ University
Amlan Mohanty	National Law School of India

SI No	Name	Destination And Purpose	Total Amount Spent in ₹	Percentage Of Expenses
1	Sunil Abraham	Tajikistan and Third World Network Meeting on IPR, Geneva	81,935.00	OSI + TWN + KUSUMA
2	Sunil Abraham	A2K meeting, Geneva	24,744.00	KUSUMA
3	Sunil Abraham	Annual Congress of ICA Pre-Conference on India and Communication Studies, Chicago	66,854.00	OSI + KUSUMA
4	Sunil Abraham	OSI Project - London	38,364.00	OSI + KUSUMA
5	Sunil Abraham	Democracy Biennial, Torino	16,176.00	KUSUMA
5 (a)	Sunil Abraham	OAL Methodology Workshop, Johannesburg	61,850.00	OAL - LEXUM
6	Sunil Abraham	Hivos meeting, Amsterdam	101,048.00	HIVOS
7	Sunil Abraham	Speaking at International School of Digital Transformation, Portugal	46,958.00	UoT + KUSUMA
8	Sunil Abraham	IPR Conference, Beijing	37,788.00	KUSUMA
9	Sunil Abraham	PAN All Meeting in Penang	43,798.00	KUSUMA
10	Sunil Abraham	IGF - Egypt	55,242.00	KUSUMA
11	Sunil Abraham	Paris Accord	84,701.00	KUSUMA + TACD-Paris
12	Nishant Shah	FOSS conference in Jakarta	46,008.00	KUSUMA
13	Nishant Shah	Meeting with Hivos, Amsterdam	95,330.00	HIVOS
14	Nishant Shah	Board meeting (travel from Shanghai)	66,001.00	KUSUMA
15	Nishant Shah	Digital Cultures in Asia conference at the Academia Sinica, Taipei		ACADEMIA SINICA
16	Nishant Shah	Board Meeting (travel from Shanghai)	73,592.00	KUSUMA
17	Nishant Shah	Shanghai - Tokyo - Shanghai from the 14th June - 19th June 2009, for the Inter Asia Cultural Typhoon conference	46,644.00	INTER ASIA CULTURAL TYPHOON
18	Nishant Shah	Meeting with Hivos	90,758.00	HIVOS
19	Nishant Shah	Paris Round Table Conference and NEWS workshop	89,089.00	UNIVERSITY OF SORBONE + KUSUMA
20	Nishant Shah	Travel to Tokyo	27,000.00	-
21	Nishant Shah	CPOV: Amsterdam + meeting Digital Natives	105,566.00	KUSUMA
22	Pranesh Prakash	WITFOR, Hanoi	53,524.00	IFIP + KUSUMA

SI No	Name	Destination And Purpose	Total Amount Spent in ₹	Percentage Of Expenses
23	Pranesh Prakash	IGF-Egypt	39,361.00	COMMONWEALTH IGF + KUSUMA
24	Nirmita Narasimhan	ICT Conference for Disabled, Bangkok	22,193.00	ITU
25	Nirmita Narasimhan	IGF-Egypt	36,225.00	ITU + KUSUMA
26	Nirmita Narasimhan	WIPO meeting in Geneva	50,810.00	KUSUMA
27	Anja Kovacs	Geneva - IRP DC meeting, EURODIG and IGF planning meeting	76,749.00	KUSUMA
28	Anja Kovacs	IGF - Egypt	38,081.00	KUSUMA
29	Anja Kovacs	Geneva - APC Internet Public Policy Network	67,263.00	APC
30	Grace Armstrong	Lexum Project - travel to Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila & Kuala Lumpur	122,932.00	LEXUM
31	Rebecca Schild	Lexum Project - travel to Durban- November 2009	62,730.00	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
32	Prashant Iyengar	Lexum Project - travel to Johannesburg - April 2009	48,118.00	LEXUM
33	Prashant Iyengar	Lexum Project - travel to Durban - November 2009	76,517.00	LEXUM
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,080,056.00</b>	

Distribution of Staff according to salary as on 31 March 2010:

Salary plus benefits paid to staff ₹	Male	Female	Total
<5,000		1	1
5,000- 10,000	1		1
10,000 – 25,000	1	1	2
25,000 – 50,000	3	1	4
50,000 – 1,00,000	1	1	2
1,00,000 – 1,50,000	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

Monthly remuneration of three highest paid employees and lowest paid employee in ₹:

1,40,000	96,000	55,000	4,500
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Staff Gender Distribution as on 31 March 2010:

Gender	Full time	Part time	Consultants	Volunteers
Male	7			
Female	4			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>			

## Appeal

Please help us defend consumer / citizen rights on the Internet!

- Write a cheque in favour of 'The Centre for Internet and Society' and mail it to us at No. 194, 2nd 'C' Cross, Domlur, 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 71.
- Volunteer with us; get in touch by writing to Sunil Abraham at [sunil@cis-india.org](mailto:sunil@cis-india.org)

## Request for Collaboration

The Centre for Internet and Society invites researchers, practitioners, and theoreticians, both organisationally and as individuals, to collaboratively engage with Internet and society and improve our understanding of this new field.

To discuss research collaborations, visit <http://cis-india.org> and write to Nishant Shah, Director – Research, at [nishant@cis-india.org](mailto:nishant@cis-india.org).

To discuss advocacy-related collaborations, write to Sunil Abraham, Executive Director, at [sunil@cis-india.org](mailto:sunil@cis-india.org).

## Thanks & Acknowledgements

We at CIS, Bangalore, thank our donor, the Kusuma Trust, for its support for our work. We also thank our supporters, especially those who co-organised events with us and participated enthusiastically at our events and our friends in the media who brought the attention of their readers to our work and opinions.



## Event Organisers, Sponsors and Partners

- Anna University
- Bookshare.org
- Centre for Science Development and Media Studies
- Christ Nagar International School, Thiruvananthapuram
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Daisy Forum of India, Bangalore
- Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Department of Information Technology
- G3ICT
- Goethe Institute
- Hivos
- i Morph, Inc
- Inclusive Planet, Bangalore
- India International Centre
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam
- Institution of Agricultural Technologists, Bangalore
- International Telecommunication
- IT for Change, Bangalore
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Kerala State IT Mission
- Khoj Artist Collective
- LexUM, Montreal
- Liberty Institute, New Delhi
- Loyola College, Chennai
- Mobile Active
- Mobile Monday, Bangalore
- Mount Carmel College
- N.E.W.S
- National Institute of Open Schooling on Open Educational Resources
- Program for the Future
- Ranga Shankara, Bangalore
- Samarathanam Trust for the Disabled, Bangalore
- Sampada Foundation
- Shanghai University
- Society for Promotion of Alternative Computing and Employment (SPACE)
- South African Legal Information Institute
- Tactical Technology Collective, UK
- Women's Technology Partnership

## **Credits**

*Cover Picture* Michael Greenwood

*Photographers* Kiran Jonnalagadda  
Kishore Bhargava

*Chapter Pictures* Sidharth Kuruvila  
Gora Mohanty  
Sridhar Raman  
Deepak Jois  
Meghna  
Nonkululeko Godana

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Bangalore

*Editor* Prasad Krishna





THE internet  
CENTRE FOR & Society

#194, 2nd 'C' Cross, Domlur 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 071 Karnataka, India  
Tel +91 80 40926283 • Tel/Fax +91 80 25350955 • [contactus@cis-india.org](mailto:contactus@cis-india.org)