

## **Information Infrastructure of Social Science Research in India**

A two-day international conference on *Information Infrastructure of Social Science Research in India* organized by IDSK in collaboration with ICSSR was held on 02 and 03 March 2023. The coordinators were Sanjoy Kar and Ashok Pal. The conference aimed to explore the challenges and opportunities related to information infrastructure of social science research in India. In the last few decades, we have experienced a substantial increase in the volume of scientific literature related to social science research and a trend is expected to continue. This opens up fundamental challenges including information infrastructure and representation of scientific knowledge, thereby making those scholarly resources accessible to social scientists. Eminent academics, scholars and information professionals from India and abroad participated in this offline conference. There were 37 papers presented and keynote address was delivered by Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Emeritus Professor of IDSK. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for researchers, academics and practitioners to exchange ideas and knowledge on social science research infrastructure and related topics. The plenary, technical and parallel sessions covered a diverse range of themes, offering new insights and approaches to data curation and stewardship, access to information resources and services, democratization of knowledge, digital landscape, and sustainable research ecosystem. The participants discussed the challenges of digitization, data quality assurance, and the digital divide in education and society. The conference also explored the opportunities and challenges of interdisciplinary research in the age of big data. The technical sessions provided an opportunity for researchers to present their research and engage in discussions with other scholars.

Scholars from IDSK, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Madras, University of Hyderabad, University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University (Kerala), Madurai Kamaraj University (Tamil Nadu), British Council Kolkata, IIM Calcutta, ISI Kolkata, University of Kalyani, Vidyasagar University, University of North Bengal, and from University of Calcutta presented, and actively participated in the discussion.

The speakers in the conference included J. Dennis Rajakumar (EPW Research Foundation, Mumbai, India), Saibal Kar (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India), A.R.D. Prasad (Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru, India), Mary K Shenk (Pennsylvania State University, USA), Dorothea Stricker (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay (University of Kalyani), Durga Sankar Rath (Vidyasagar University), Sabuj K. Chaudhuri, (University of Calcutta), Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Achin Chakraborty, Saswata Ghosh, Subrata Mukherjee, and Monalisha Chakraborty (IDSK).

One of the highlights of the conference was the panel discussion on "Issues in Scholarly Communication" held on March 03, 2023. The discussion was moderated by Professor Achin Chakraborty (IDSK). The session included panellists from renowned institutions in India and the USA who explored various challenges facing the scholarly communication landscape, such as IPR, monopolization of the publishing industry, predatory publications, scientific misconducts, and artificial intelligence (AI) in scientific writing and its implications for the future of research and communication. The discussion also explored possible solutions, including open access and open publishing models, and emerging trends such as "one nation, one subscription" for

accessing scholarly literature. One can watch it in full at the link provided - <https://youtu.be/yIAQWAUKknw>