Annual Report

2010-11

CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Researchers @ Work programme distributed for peer review five monographs on the *Histories of the Internet in India*: Re: Wiring Bodies by Asha Achuthan, Pornography and the Law by Namita Malhotra, Archive and Access by Aparna Balachandran and Rochelle Pinto, The Last Cultural Mile by Ashish Rajadhyaksha and Internet, Society and Space in Indian Cities by Pratyush Shankar.

- The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), Frontier Foundation, Academia Sinica, The African Commons Project, The LINK Centre at Witts University, Rising Voices Project, Biblioteca de Santiago and Hivos partnered for *Digital Natives with a Cause?* Three workshops were organised in Taipei (16 – 18 August 2010), Johannesburg (6 – 9 November 2010) and Santiago (8 – 10 February 2011). Participants from the workshops are continuing their dialogues and discussions online. The developments will be consolidated into a book and an info kit to be published later in 2011.

- The *Digital Natives with a Cause? Thinkathon* summit was held at Hague Museum for Communication (6 – 8 December 2010). CIS and Hivos jointly organised it and published the Position Papers.

- In collaboration with G3ict and International Telecommunications Union and with support from Hans Foundation, CIS published the e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities. Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development released the book during the Enabling Access to Education through ICT conference held in New Delhi from 27 to 29 October 2010.

- CIS joined hands with IIT, Kharagpur, Daisy Forum of India and Inclusive Planet to do a project for the print disabled. About 200 college level books in English, Hindi and five regional languages were identified for conversion into Daisy and distributed through CDs and a website to universities around the country.

- Nirmita Narasimhan was awarded the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Government of India. The award was presented by Smt. Pratibha Patil, President of India under the Role Model category.

- Pranesh Prakash prepared the Special 301 Report examining the numerous flaws in Special 301 from the Indian perspective.

- A report on Open Government Data in India was prepared by Glover Wright, Pranesh Prakash, Sunil Abraham and Nishant Shah. The report looks at some of the landscape relevant to open government data (OGD) in India, starting from the current environment in government, the state of civil society, the media, the policies that affect it from the Right to Information Act, the standards related policies, e-governance policies, and the copyright policy.

- CIS, iCommons and Open Video Alliance with support from Ford Foundation published the Online Video Environment in India. The survey report gives a detailed analysis of the online video environment in India and the opportunities the new medium presents for creative expression and civic engagement.

- CIS in partnership with Privacy India and Society in Action Group organised two workshops on 'Privacy Matters' in Kolkata at the WB National University of Juridical Sciences on 23 January 2011 and in Bangalore at the TERI Southern Regional Centre on 5 February 2011.

RESEARCHERS AT WORK

Researchers@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 Internet in India. Two new monographs, [*Inquilab 2.0?* (*Revolution 2.0?*)], by Anja Kovacs and *Queer Histories of the Internet* by Nithin Manayath and Nitya Vasudevan and one research paper *Gaming and Gold* by Arun Menon were initiated in 2010. Five monographs: *Re:Wiring Bodies*, *Archive and Access*, *Pornography and the Law*, *Rethinking the Last Mile Problem* and *Internet, Society and Space in Indian Cities* were distributed for peer review.

MONOGRAPHS

Asha Achutan (Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISC), Bangalore)
Re: Wiring Bodies
Asha's monograph is a historical research inquiry to understand the ways in which gendered bodies are shaped by internet imaginaries in contemporary India. Tracing the history from nationalist debates between Gandhi and Tagore to the neo-liberal perspective based knowledge produced by feminists like Martha Nussbaum, Asha's research offers a unique entry point into cyberculture studies through a feminist epistemology of science and technology. The monograph establishes that there is a certain pre-history to the Internet that needs to be unpacked in order to understand the digital interventions on the body in a range of fields from social sciences theory to medical health practices to technology and science policy in the country. By positing the body as the central site of examination, Asha's analysis opens up ways of looking at internet technologies as not mere tools but as mechanics of shaping bodies, identities and the politics that surrounds them. The monograph was sent for peer review in December 2010.

Aparna Balachandran (Department of English, University of Delhi) and Rochelle Pinto (Department of History, University of Delhi)
Archive and Access
Aparna and Rochelle's research is a material history of internet archives. It examines the role of the archivist and the changing relationship between the state and private archives for looking at the politics of subversion, preservation and value of archiving. By examining the Tamil Nadu and Goa state archives, along with the larger public and state archives in the country, the monograph looks at the materiality of archiving, the ambitions and aspirations of an archive, and

why it is necessary to preserve archives, not as historical artefacts but as living interactive spaces of memory and remembrance. The findings have direct implications on various government and market impulses to digitise archives and show a clear link between opening up archives and other knowledge sources for breathing life into local and alternative histories. Three workshops were held in [Bangalore](#), Mumbai and Chennai. The monograph was sent for [peer review](#) in November 2010.

Zainab Bawa (Centre for the Study of Culture and Society)
[Transparency and Politics](#)
In this monograph, Zainab looks at the emergence of internet technologies, the rise of e-governance initiatives and the ways in which the rhetoric of 'transparency' has informed different means by which the relationship between the state and the citizen in India have been imagined. It documents case-studies of various e-governance models that have been variously experimented within India to see how internet technologies by 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.
Blog Entries
- [The Responsive State — Introduction to the Series](#)
- [Of the State and the Governments — The Abstract, the Concrete and the Responsive](#)
- [A History of Transparency, Politics and Information Technologies in India](#)

Namita A Malhotra (The Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore)
[Pornography and the Law](#)
Namita's legal inquiry into the relationship between technologies and the law finds a new point of entry into existing debates by looking at the legal construction of pleasure through different technologies of mass consumption in order to revisit the arguments around pornography and obscenity effect in recent times. She produces a comprehensive overview of different debates, both in the West and in India, to concentrate on how the visual aesthetics of pornography, the new circuits of pornographic consumption and the privilege of affect over regulation lead to possibilities of interaction and negotiation with heteronormative power structures in the country. The monograph demonstrates how the grey zones of pornography and the law's inability to deal with it, offer new conceptual tools of understanding the spaces of digital interaction and identity.

A documentary film, shot in the frames of Chat Roulette, dealing with the same topic, supported by the Open Net Initiative was officially released.

Ashish Rajadhyaksha (CIDASIA, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore)
The Leap of the Rhodes or, how India Dealt with the Last Mile Problem – An Inquiry into Technology and Governance
Ashish's research inquiry is informed by the 'last mile' which has emerged as a central area of discussion in the domains of technology and governance from the 1940s in India. Starting from mapping technology onto developmentalist–democratic priorities which propelled communication technologies beginning with the invention of radio in India, the monograph conceives of the 'last mile' as a mode of techno-democracy, where connectivity has been directly translated into democratic citizenship. Giving a comprehensive overview of the different histories of technology mediated governance structures in India it explores how the new state–citizen–market relationships get radically restructured with the emergence of internet technologies in India. Ashish provides an analysis of the contemporary debates on policy, pedagogy and practice by offering a new prism to explore instances like the unique identity project without falling into older partisan positions that these projects often inspire.

Anja Kovacs (Fellow, Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore)
Inquilab 2.0? (Revolution 2.0?)
Anja's research explores the emerging field of online activism in India. Although they may attract the largest number 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?

Teaching
   ▪ School of Development Studies and School of Human Ecology, 9 November 2010,

Ambedkar University, New Delhi. Anja Kovacs made a presentation on 'Inquilab 2.0? Or Why the Revolution in India Has Not (Yet) Come Online'.

Blog Entries
- What's in a Name? Or Why Clicktivism May Not Be Ruining Left Activism in India, At Least for Now
- Inquilab 2.0? Reflections on Online Activism in India

Pratyush Shankar (School of Architecture, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad)
Internet, Society and Space in Indian Cities
Pratyush's research examines the making of IT Cities and public planning policies that regulate and restructure the city spaces in India with the emergence of internet technologies. Moving beyond the regular debates on the modern–urban it deploys a team of students from the field of architecture and urban design to investigate how city spaces — the material as well as the experiential — are changing under the rubric of digital globalisation. Placing his inquiry in the built form, Shankar manoeuvres discourse from architecture, design, cultural studies and urban geography to look at the notions of cyber-publics, digital spaces, and planning policy in India. The findings show that the relationship between cities and cyberspaces need to be seen as located in a dynamic set of negotiations and not as a mere infrastructure question. It dismantles the presumptions that have informed public and city planning in the country by producing alternative frameworks of users' interaction and mapping of the emerging city spaces. A visual introduction to the central argument of the project is available as a comic strip. The monograph was sent for peer review in February 2011.

Blog Entries
- The Binary: City and Nature
- City in the Internet1: Geography Imagined (Part 1)
- City in the Internet1: Geography Imagined (Part 2)
- From the Stock Market to Neighbourhood Mohalla
- Transforming Urbanscapes: ATM in Cities

Nithin Manayath (Mount Carmel College, Bangalore) and Nitya Vasudevan (Centre for the Study of Culture and Society)

[Queer Histories of the Internet](#)

Nitya Vasudevan and Nithin Manayath bring to light the relationship between queer identity and technology in this research. 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 researchers trace the arguments to tease out cultural specificities of the nature of the questions being asked and the contours of the possible answers. For this they follow the case study approach, i.e., including citations and judgments.

Blog Entries
- [Queer Histories of the Internet: An Introduction](#)
- [Separating the 'Symbiotic Twins'](#)
- [Sexuality, Queerness and Internet technologies in Indian context](#)
- [A Detour: The Internet and Forms of Narration: A Short Note](#)

RESEARCH PAPER

Arun Menon (Research Consultant, Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore)

[Gaming and Gold](#)

Arun's research paper 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.

Blog Entries
- [The Attention Economy - A Brief Introduction](#)
- [Attentional Capital in Online Gaming : The Currency of Survival](#)

DIGITAL NATIVES

One of the most significant transitions in the landscape of social and political movements is how young users of technology, in their interaction with new and innovative technologised platforms have taken up responsibility to respond to crises in their local and immediate environments, relying upon their digital networks, virtual communities and platforms. In the last decade or so, the digital natives, in universities as well as in work spaces, as they experimented with the potentials of internet technologies, have launched successful socio-political campaigns which have worked unexpectedly and often without precedent in the way they mobilised local contexts

and global outreach to address issues of deep political and social concern. But what do we really know about this Digital Natives revolution?

A [scouting study Digital Natives with a Cause?](#) was published in 2009, where certain knowledge gaps were identified. Due to the age bias and the dependence of a large section of digital natives around the world, on structures of authority, there has always been a problem of power that has restricted or reduced the scope of their practice and intervention. For younger digital natives, parental authority and regulations from schools often become a hindrance thwarting their ambitions or ideas. Even when they take the initiative towards change, they are often stopped and at other times their practices are dismissed as insignificant. In other contexts, because of existing laws and policies around internet usage and freedom of expression, the voices of digital natives get obliterated or chastised by government authorities and legal apparatuses which monitor and regulate their practices.

In order to address these knowledge gaps, regional workshops were designed that used crowd-sourcing principles to engage the digital natives from different countries in the Global South to [form a knowledge network and document new stories and ideas arising from their region](#). They were then put in conversation with the stakeholders in the field, thus starting a dialogue, not only between the stakeholders but also between the subjects of research and the researchers.

TALKING BACK

CIS in collaboration with Hivos, the Frontier Foundation and Academia Sinica held a three-day workshop [Talking Back](#) from 15 to 18 August 2010 at the Academia Sinica in Taipei (Taiwan). The workshop dealt with questions of youth, technology and social change. Twenty-two participants from ten countires – Kyrgyztan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, China, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Moldova and Thailand discussed about the circuitous routes and ways by which digital natives have managed to circumvent authorities in order to make themselves heard, the nature of being political in the information age, and the relationship between being digital and having a social cause. Nishant Shah and Hasina Hasan participated in this workshop.

Blog Entry
[Political is as Political does](#): Nishant Shah wrote a blog entry about his experiences at the Talking Back Workshop in Taiwan.

MY BUBBLE, MY SPACE, MY VOICE WORKSHOP — PERSPECTIVE AND FUTURE

CIS in collaboration with Hivos and the African Commons Project held a three day workshop "My Bubble, My Space, My Voice" from 6 to 9 November 2010 at the Links Centre of Witts University in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nishant Shah and Samuel Tettner participated in the workshop. Twenty-one participants from eight African countries – South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Morocco, Egypt and Kenya who engage with digital technologies in interesting ways discussed about how online communities across blogs, social networking systems, role playing games, discussion forums and others can be used to make interventions – both online and offline – to respond to problems, crises, or needs. The conversation centered around inquires on three focus areas: practice, politics and ideology. Post the workshop; participants shared their perspectives, stories and anecdotes on the Digital Natives website.

FROM FACE TO INTERFACE

CIS in collaboration with Hivos and Rising Voices held a three day workshop, "From Face to the Interface" from 7 to 10 February 2011 at the Library of Santiago, in Santiago, Chile. Twenty-two participants from 14 countries – Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, Trinidad, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil who engage with digital technologies in interesting ways discussed about the interplay between the digital and the non-digital. Nishant Shah and Samuel Tettner participated in this workshop.

Participants in Santiago

Blog Entry
Digital Natives with a Cause? – Workshop in Santiago – an Afterthought: Samuel Tettner wrote a blog entry about the workshop in Chile.

DIGITAL NATIVES WITH A CAUSE? THINKATHON

CIS and HIVOS organised the *Digital Natives with a Cause? Thinkathon* workshop in the Hague

from 6 to 8 December 2010. Sunil Abraham and Nishant Shah participated in the workshop. The Digital Natives with a Cause? research inquiry seeks to look at the potentials of social change and political participation through technology practices of people in emerging ICT contexts. In particular it aims to address knowledge gaps that exist in the scholarship, practice and popular discourse around an increasing usage, adoption and integration of digital and internet technologies in social transformation processes. The Thinkathon aimed to reflect on these innovations in social transformation processes and its effects on development, and in particular to understand how new processes of social transformation can be supported and sustained, how they can inform our existing practices, and provide avenues of collaboration between digital natives and "analogue activists".

The workshop examined three questions to guide this inquiry:
- What is the role of digital natives in social transformation processes?
- What is the role of more traditional actors in these changing environments?
- How can processes of support and avenues of collaboration be sought and supported?

These questions were addressed by creating a dialogue between different stakeholders, and by jointly producing and sharing knowledge. At the workshop everyone was asked to co-create and document their thoughts and experiences as new frameworks of knowledge and processes of producing and documenting knowledge are essential to understanding the role that digital natives play in processes of social change.

The programme had three main components. The first was to incorporate the users (often young, but not always so) as stakeholders in the construction of policies and discourse which affect their lives in very material ways. The second was to capture, with a special emphasis on change, different relationships with and deployment of technologies and in different parts of the world. The third was to further extend the network of knowledge stakeholders where scholars, practitioners, policy makers and the digital natives themselves, come together in dialogue to identify the needs and interventions in this field.

Position Papers from the conference are online.

DIGITAL NATIVES INTERNSHIP

Maesy Angelina works as a programme officer at Hivos, Jakarta on gender, women and development while exploring research initiatives on digital natives in Indonesia. She spent a month at CIS, working on her dissertation, exploring the Blank Noise Project under the Digital Natives with a Cause framework. She produced the following blog posts:

1. Beyond the Digital: Understanding Digital Natives with a Cause
2. First Thing First
3. Talking Back without "Talking Back"
4. Taking It to the Streets
5. The Digital Tipping Point
6. Diving Into the Digital
7. The Class Question
8. The Many Faces Within
9. Activism: Unraveling the Term
10. Reflecting from the Beyond

DIGITAL NATIVES — NEWSPAPER COLUMNS

Nishant Shah authored a fortnightly column on 'Digital Natives'. The columns were featured in the Sunday Eye, the national edition of Indian Express, Delhi, from 19 September 2010 onwards. Daily News & Analysis and Divya Bhaskar also carried one story each.

1. [The geek shall inherit the earth](): [Indian Express, 26 September 2010]
2. [The silent rise of the Digital Native](): [Daily News & Analysis, 2 October 2010]
3. [You are Here](): [Indian Express, 10 October 2010]
4. [Change has Come to All of Us](): [Indian Express, 24 October 2010]
5. [Just Where We Like It]() [Indian Express, 21 November 2010]
6. [Play Station]() [Indian Express, 5 December 2010]
7. [Make a Wish]() [Indian Express, 19 December 2010]
8. [Wiki changes the world]() [Indian Express, 3 January 2011]
9. [Is That a Friend on Your Wall?]() [Indian Express, 9 January 2011]
10. [A FLASH of Change]()[Indian Express, 6 February 2011]
11. [Pull the Plug]() [Indian Express, 20 February 2011]
12. [Watson knows the Question]() [Indian Express, 6 March 2011]

DIGITAL NATIVES NEWSLETTER

Links in the Chain is a bi-monthly publication which highlights the projects, ideas and news of the "Digital Natives with a Cause?" community members. It includes opinion posts by participants from the three workshops —[Talking Back]() (Taipei, 15 – 18 August 2010), [My Bubble, My Space, My Voice]() (Johannesburg, 6 – 9 November 2011) and [From Face to the Interface]() (Santiago, 7 – 10 February 2011) as well as the facilitators, interviews with them, comics and cartoons highlighting current issues affecting the community, as well as current news and discussions happening at the project website, [www.digitalnatives.in](). The knowledge dialogue and the experiences shared by the digital natives community will be consolidated into a book which will be released later in 2011 at the IGF.

- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 1), 15 December 2010
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 2, Issue 1), 15 January 2011
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 2, Issue 2), 30 January 2011
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 2, Issue 3), 15 February 2011
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 3, Issue 1), 1 March 2011 [in English]
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 3, Issue 1), 1 March 2011 [in Spanish]
- [Links in the Chain]() (Volume 3, Issue 2), 15 March 2011

DIGITAL NATIVES — TEACHING

- American Studies, Hyderabad Central University: Nishant Shah gave a lecture on [Of Cute Cats and Dancing Babies: Digital Natives with a Cause?]() on 8 September 2010.

DIGITAL NATIVES — EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- [Digital Natives with a Cause?]() (Republica, Berlin), organised by Newthinking Communications and Spreeblick Verlag, 15 April 2010. Nishant Shah made a [presentation]() on Digital Natives with a Cause?
- [Youth and New Technologies]'() (Global Voices Online Summit, Santiago), organised by Global Voices, 6 – 8 May 2010. Nishant Shah participated in the unconference on Digital Natives and Network Building.

- [Hivos' Knowledge Programme Summit](#), The Hague, organised by Hivos, 29 September – 1 October 2010. Nishant Shah participated in the summit.
- [Exploring Children's Digital Safety in Developing Nations](#) (Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts), 4 – 5 October 2010. The conference was organized by the Youth and Media project at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, in collaboration with the Digital Media and Learning Hub. Nishant Shah presented the work done in the Digital Natives with a Cause? project.

PATHWAYS

The Pathways Project for Learning in Higher Education is a joint venture of the Centre for Study of Culture and Society and CIS. Ford Foundation is funding it. Nine under-graduate colleges, the SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Ahmednagar College, Ahmednagar, UC College, Aluva, Newman College, Thodupuzha, Farook College, Kozhikode, Vidhyavardhaka College, Mysore, Dr. AV Baliga College, Kumta and St. Aloysius College, Mangalore from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka were identified to provide special skills in livelihood, knowledge and technology to underprivileged students.

A two-day workshop in New Technologies and Social Media was designed and implemented in various colleges participating in the project last year. About 20 to 25 students from each college, selected on the basis of state defined categories of under-privilege and exclusion, along with local factors, participated in the workshops. The workshops introduced them to various everyday digital technologies and worked on the principle of open spaces, thus encouraging peer learning, production and collaboration. A faculty training workshop to sensitise the faculty towards questions of social justice and also introducing them to new technology mediated pedagogic structures was also organised in Bangalore. Sunil Abraham was the facilitator for the first two workshops.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES FOR LEARNING

The Networked Higher Education Initiative 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.

PATHWAYS

Pathways Faculty Training Workshop (CSCS, Bangalore), 28 February – 1 March 2011. Nishant Shah attended the workshop organised by CSCS as a facilitator and conducted a training session on "Thinking Digital: How to Translate Online Learning's into Offline Classrooms" for faculty members from the participating colleges.

DIGITAL LEARNING & PEDAGOGY

a) School of International Communication, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27 September, 2010: Nishant Shah conducted a six hour seminar module for post graduate students on "Locating Technology in a Globalisation Complex". The lecture was organised by the University of Amsterdam.

b) Center for Media, Communications and Culture, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 26 – 30 December 2010: Nishant Shah taught a 30 hour contact course on "Bodies of the Internet" to post graduate students. The lecture was organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

c) Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University, 1 – 5 January 2011: Nishant Shah taught an introductory ten hour module on 'The Space of Internet' to post graduate students.

d) Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad, 18 – 22 February 2011: Nishant Shah taught a course, 'Internet Technologies and the Public Sphere'. The lecture was organised by MICA.

e) Workshop on Art & Social Media, Delhi, organised by Arthink SouthAsia (ATSA), 9 March 2011: For the second year, CIS was invited to teach art practitioners, designers, curators and managers from South Asia, at the ATSA summer school organised by Goethe Institute and Khoj Studios in Delhi. The one day six hour teaching module looked at the politics of archiving and the ways in which contemporary art and knowledge practices can be located within a globalisation complex.

f) Shristhi School of Art Design, Bangalore, March 2011: Nishant Shah and Hans Verghese Matthews taught graduate students from the DAI Amsterdam, Srishti School of Art Design and Karnataka Chitrakala Parishad Bangalore, and Shantiniketan Art School, Kolkata, a module in their course titled "Space: The Final Frontier".

OTHER EVENTS ORGANISED

- Rick van Amersfoot Lecture (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 15 May 2010). Rick van Amersfoot, a researcher from Amsterdam gave a lecture about his work at Buro Jansen & Janssen, in the Netherlands and Europe.
- From Archive to Application (and Back): A Workshop with Pad.ma, 1 Shanti Road, Bangalore, 16 – 18 July 2010. The first workshop Open House and Participation followed by weekend workshops at CIS.
- Bar camp on technologies of archiving with Pad.ma at Jagaa (Bangalore), 16 July 2010.
- Technology for Blended and Distributed Education (Christ University, Bangalore), 18 – 20 August 2010.
- Identity, Identification and Media Representation in Video Game Play: An Audience Reception Study (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 27 November 2010).

OTHER EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- Open House Workshop (1, Shanti Road, Bangalore), 17 – 18 July 2010. Nishant Shah participated in the Pad.ma workshop.
- PICNIC '10 (Amsterdam), 23 September 2010. Nishant Shah participated in the conference

organised by European Journalism Centre and gave a lecture on Citizens in the Time of Database Democracies: Information Ecology and Role of Participatory Technologies in India. Nishant Shah was also part of a special panel on the Future of Journalism. The presentations were archived and live streamed.

- Godrej Cultural Labs Event (Mumbai), 15 January 2011. A new think-tank started by the Godrej Companies Pvt. Limited, the Godrej India Cultural Labs. At the inaugural seminar with Dr. Homi Bhabha as the key-note speaker, Nishant Shah made a presentation on "Technologies of Enchantment". Event was organised by Godrej India Culture Lab.
- Rethinking Cultural Studies: The Indian Experience, (Mumbai), 28 January 2011. Nishant Shah gave a lecture on Slacktivism and Change: Digital Natives with a Cause. The event was organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Science, Technology and Society, Indore (organised by Indore Christian College and sponsored by Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Bhopal), 12 – 13 March 2011. Samuel Tettner was invited as a keynote speaker and made a presentation titled "Icare: Emergent Forms of Technology Activism".

ACCESSIBILITY

The right to access information and communication technologies, which was recognized as a basic human right under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one which needs to be addressed urgently across the world, as also in India. This is more so since it cuts across the ability of persons with disabilities to enjoy all other rights and fundamental freedoms in the information age – be it education, employment, independent living or social participation. CIS has been working to promote access to digital technology and content through policy reform and awareness-raising at the national and global levels. CIS was involved in the drafting process for the National Electronic Accessibility Policy originating from the Department of Information and Technology. The policy will come into force once it gets its final approval.

Another vital area of CIS engagement since its inception has been to lobby for copyright reforms to permit persons with print disabilities to be able to convert materials into accessible formats without the need to obtain copyright permissions. Over the past one year, CIS continued its advocacy and submitted several representations even when the matter was before the Standing Committee of the Parliament of India.

FEATURED RESEARCH

e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities

CIS published the '[e-Accessibility Handbook for Persons with Disabilities](#)' in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technology (G3ict) and support from the Hans Foundation. Nirmita Narasimhan compiled and edited the handbook. It contains articles from over 60 eminent global experts in the field of accessibility, ICT and telecommunications. Dr. Hamadoun I. Toure, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union wrote the preface and Dr. Sami Al-Basheer, Director, ITU-D and Axel Leblois, Executive Director, G3ict wrote the introduction and foreword. The book is based on the online e-accessibility toolkit for policy makers. The handbook is accompanied with a Daisy version of its content in a CD.

It explains the basic principles of accessibility in different ICT areas such as electronics, websites, broadcasting and telecommunications, explains the digital dispositions under the UNCRPD and covers relevant priority areas for policy makers such as assessment frameworks, public procurement, technical standards, identification and engagement with stakeholders, identification of policy gaps in different programme areas and suggested solutions, capacity building and training, promotion of universal design in development of assistive technologies and solutions for different ICT platforms and concludes with an analysis of policy initiatives in a few countries which promote e-accessibility for persons with disabilities. The book has been sent to Ministries of Information and Technology and Telecom Regulatory Authorities in all ITU member countries.

Exploring ICT Enabled Education Initiatives for Persons with Disabilities in the Asia Pacific Region

Article 24 of the UNCRPD recognises the right of persons with disabilities to education and life-long learning without discrimination and promotes inclusive education. However, there is very little documented information on how and to what extent ICT is being used around the world to enhance the learning experience for persons with disabilities. [CIS prepared a report](#) for UNESCO which analysed the policy frameworks in different countries in the Asia Pacific region and documented 30 cases of good practice in this area. The report covered all levels and types of education such as primary and secondary education, higher education, non-formal education, vocational training and issues like capacity building of educators and collaborative knowledge creation and sharing platforms, with a special focus on technologies, platforms and content which are open.

Accessibility in Mobile Phones and Services for Persons with Disabilities

CIS was commissioned by the International Telecommunication Union to prepare [a report on best practices in mobile accessibility for persons with disabilities](#). The report looks at assistive features and services which are available around the world for persons with different disabilities, analyzes challenges and business opportunities, reviews initiatives undertaken by regulators in other countries and concludes with a review of the market and policy framework in India with

respect to availability of accessible handsets and services and recommendations to the Department of Telecommunications, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of India and the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

Connecting Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Mobile Phones in Rural India

CIS prepared a concept note and call for proposals for the Universal Service Obligation Fund of India to initiate pilot projects for access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities in rural areas. The report documents initiatives under the universal service funds of other countries, draws attention to present challenges obstructing the growth of mobile phones as a tool of independent living and communication for persons with disabilities in India and concludes with specific recommendations on what steps the USOF should take in this regard.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act

CIS, in collaboration with Inclusive Planet and the Centre for Law and Policy Research has been constantly giving feedback on the different drafts of this legislation coming out over the past one year. Specifically, two legal notes were prepared: one for a January draft and one for the present draft which came out in February 2011. The first note analyzed the extent to which the January draft exceeded its mandate by touching upon provisions of other disability legislations such as the Mental Health Act and the National Trust Act. The second note analyzed the chapter on legal authorities upon specific request from members of the disability sector. The focus of the note was to see whether the chapter in its present form would be practically and effectively implementable, and if changes should be made, what kind of changes were required.

COLLABORATIONS

NMEICT Book Conversion Project for the Print Disabled

CIS is a part of the three organizations overseeing the conversion of higher education books into Daisy formats. CIS is overseeing conversion for Tamil and Marathi books. The total budget of the pilot project is approximately Rs. 53 lakhs, the total number of books to be converted is approximately 200, out of that 25 each is to be converted into Marathi and Tamil. Other two partners in this project are IIT, Kharagpur and the Daisy Forum of India. This project is funded by the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT) fund under the Ministry of Human Resources Development. This pilot project will conclude by the end of 2011.

Inclusive Planet

CIS is a strategic partner of Inclusive Planet in promoting electronic accessibility for the disabled and leveraging ICT to create community based solutions for the print impaired. CIS powers the content database for Inclusive Planet's portal for visually impaired persons. Inclusive Planet's Web based community initiative is the fastest growing community for the print impaired to share accessible content, conversations and friends. The platform has over 4200 members across 75 countries, and 14,300 books and this growing community has created content, work and life solutions for the print impaired. Sachin Malhan and Ujjvala Ballal work from CIS office.

EdICT 2010

Enabling Access to Education through ICT (EdICT 2010) was organised by CIS, in collaboration with G3ict, UNESCO, ITU, WIPO, The Deafway Foundation, DEF and SPACE and with the

support from Hans Foundation and the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, New Delhi, from 27 to 29 October 2010. Smt. Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development inaugurated the conference and released a copy of the book e-Accessibility Policy Handbook for Persons with Disabilities. Other speakers included Dr. Indrajit Banerjee, Director, Information and Communications sector, UNESCO and Andrew Tu from WIPO. Twenty-nine experts made presentations on a variety of topics, ranging from discussing challenges and solutions in educational institutions, to technology development and policy formulation and implementation. The conference was attended by 77 participants. Sunil Abraham, Nirmita Narasimhan, Ajoy Kumar and Abul Hasim attended the event.

EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- Right to Read in the European Parliament, organised by European Blind Union and the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue, Europe, 13 May 2010. Nirmita Narasimhan participated in the conference and spoke in the panel on 'How the Blind Read: Problems and Solutions'.
- G3ict Solutions Salon on ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities during the GAID Global Forum 2010, organised by G3ict, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 5 – 6 December 2010. Nirmita Narasimhan participated in the meeting.
- G3ict-GW Global Policy Forum: "ICT Accessibility: A New Frontier for Disability Rights, organised by G3ict, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., U.S.A, 15 – 16 November 2010. Nirmita Narasimhan spoke in the panel on 'Successful Treaty Implementation: Key Factors of Success and Obstacle'.

NIRMITA NARASIMHAN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Nirmita Narasimhan was awarded the [National Award](#) for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Government of India on 3 December 2010 on the occasion of the World Disability Day. The award was presented by Smt. Pratibha Patil, President of India under the Role Model category. The award function took place at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi from 11:00 to12:30 and was telecast live on Doordarshan.

Blog Entries

- [Accessibility at CIS – Looking back at 2010](#)
- [Right to Read: Campaign Updates](#)

ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Ensuring access to knowledge and preserving the sanctity of the public domain is emerging as a critical issue in copyright, trade mark and patent law reforms. With rapid development of technology, the debate around these issues only deepens and gains greater importance, especially in the context of developing countries. CIS believes that access to knowledge and strengthening the public domain is essential for greater innovation, creativity and development. It believes that an approaching intellectual property rights within the framework of greater access to knowledge, openness and sharing resources is integral to causing meaningful legal and policy reform. To this end, CIS had advocated for copyright exceptions for the print impaired and campaigned against laws which privatise public-funded knowledge. This year, CIS has continued its robust efforts towards A2K reform in India by campaigning for copyright exception that makes foreign books including educational ones accessible affordably in the Indian market, sensitising the government, industry and the public about the commons-based approach to knowledge creation and the harmful impact of software patents on innovation (software patent opposition), advising other countries on bringing about an openness approach to their national policies on ICT and assisting the Government of India in determining India's stand as a party to international treaties.

COPYRIGHT

The proposed amendment to the Indian Copyright Act, 1957 intends to amend section 2(m) of the Act to allow for literary works published outside India which have been lawfully purchased

to be imported into India without the permission of the copyright holder of such work. If parallel import is not legalised, consumers, libraries and disability rights organisations, etc., will not be able to buy books and other copyrighted materials from outside India (whether online or via friends). It will also prevent students from procuring latest editions of foreign textbooks at affordable prices in Indian markets.

In order to protect 'parallel imports' CIS reached out to consumer rights organisations, libraries, second hand bookstores, publishers and publisher associations to sensitise them about the impact of failure to legalise parallel imports in India.

Submission
- Civil Society Submission on Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010: CIS analysed the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010, from a public interest perspective to sift the good from the bad, and point out what crucial amendments should be considered but have not been so far. This analysis of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010, was submitted to the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee on HRD on May 31 by a collective of 22 civil society organizations.

Newspaper/Magazine Articles
- We've All Got Some Baggage by Lawrence Liang (Tehelka Magazine Vol. 7, Issue 45, November 13, 2010).
- Exceptions and Limitations in Indian Copyright Law for Education: An Assessment [by Lawrence Liang in the Law and Development Review Vol. 3: No. 2, Article 7].

Blog Entries
- Why Parallel Importation of Books should be Allowed?
- Indian Law and Parallel Exports
- Thomas Abraham's Rebuttal on Parallel Importation
- Exhaustion: Imports, Exports and the Doctrine of First Sale in Indian Copyright Law
- Technological Protection Measures in the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010

WIPO
Statement/Comments

Comments to the Ministry on WIPO Broadcast Treaty
As a follow up to a stakeholder meeting called by the Ministry of Human Resources Development on the WIPO Broadcast Treaty, CIS provided written comments on 16 April 2007 emphasising the need for a signal-based approach to be taken on the Broadcast Treaty, and making it clear that India should continue to oppose the creation of new rights for webcasters.

Statement

Statement of SCCR on the Work of the Committee in the 21st SCCR: The twenty-first session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights was held in Geneva from 8 to 12 November 2010. Nirmita Narasimhan attended the conference and represented CIS.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Featured Research

[A Guide to Key IPR Provisions of the Proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement](#): CIS presents a guide for policymakers and other stakeholders to the latest draft of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement, which likely will be concluded by the end of the year and may hold serious ramifications for Indian businesses and consumers. CIS sent an analysis of the IP sections, particularly copyright on both India–EU Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement CEPA as well as the India–Japan CEPA to the DIPP and the Ministry of Commerce.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Featured Research

[Consumers International IP Watchlist Report 2010](#)
Pranesh Prakash prepared the India survey for the Consumers International IP Watchlist. India was once again rated as the fairest country with regard to balance in copyright law; a position which he notes in his conclusion is possibly threatened by some of the suggested provisions of the amendments to the Copyright Act.

[Comments on the Draft Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011](#)
The Draft Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011 ("Bill") is a Bill to provide for delivery of government services mandatorily through electronic means by phasing out manual delivery of services. It is heartening to note that the bill shifts the approach to electronic delivery of services by government agencies to one as part of the citizens' right to service delivery through electronic means rather than a luxury or benefit doled out by the government. The bill introduces bodies exclusively accountable for ensuring that electronic delivery of services by the government at the state and central levels. CIS felt that it was a welcome move and shared its comments.

FILM

[When Copyright Goes Bad](#)
This film by Ben Cato Clough and Luke Upchurch is about how [copyright](#) has become one of the most important consumer issues of the digital age; why corporate lobbying risks criminalising the actions of hundreds of thousands of people; and what the future holds for the fight for fairer copyright laws. The film features Sunil Abraham from CIS along with some of the key players in the copyright debate, including: Fred Von Lohmann from Electronic Frontier Foundation, Michael Geist from the University of Ottawa Law School, Jim Killock of Open Rights Group and Hank Shocklee who is the Co-founder of Public Enemy. The film has been viewed 31,890 times on YouTube.

Blog Entry
- [The 2010 Special 301 Report Is More of the Same, Slightly Less Shrill](#)

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 license fee."

News

Intellectual Property Rights as seen in a graphic novel (TimeOut Bengaluru)

EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- CI Global Meeting on A2K organised by Consumers International, Holiday Villa Hotel, Subang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 21 – 22 April 2010: Pranesh Prakash was invited by Consumers International to present on access to knowledge and consumer rights. He gave a detailed presentation on the pitfalls and limitations of Technological Protection Mechanisms (TPMs). It included some recommendations on some principles a country should follow if it insists on protecting TPMs in its copyright law.
- Medianama Forum organised by Medianama and Google, 27 May 2010, Bangalore: Sunil Abraham and Pranesh Prakash participated in a discussion on copyright amendments.
- ACTA Conference, Washington DC organised by ACTA, 16 – 18 June 2010: Pranesh Prakash spoke on the politics of ACTA in developing countries.
- Workshop on Copyright in Publishing organised by IPDA and ALF, Bangalore, 24 June 2010: Pranesh Prakash participated in the workshop and spoke in the session on session on Emerging Copyright Regimes – The Copyright Amendment Bill 2010 and its Implications for Book Publishing.
- Workshop on 'Spreading the Word' at UTC organised by UTC, 25 June 2010: Sunil Abraham, Glover Wright and Pranesh Prakash participated in the event. Pranesh Prakash presented on Technological Protection Measures.
- National Law School of India University–Centre for Intellectual Property Research and Advocacy Conference organised by National Law School, July 2010, Bangalore: Pranesh Prakash attended the conference and made presentations on Provisions Related to Access for Persons with Disabilities in the Copyright Amendments and Provisions on Technological Protection Measures in the Copyright Amendments.
- WIPO Asia Pacific Regional Seminar on Copyright and the Digital Environment with focus on Environment organised by WIPO, 15 – 16 July 2010: Pranesh Prakash attended the seminar.
- Creating High Impact & Sustainable Digital Initiatives in India, organised by JSTOR with support from the Ford Foundation, Bangalore, 8 – 10 December 2010. Krithika Dutta Narayana was a speaker and presented on "Accessibility in Archiving and Libraries: Copyright Implications".

- National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Aspiration Document Meeting organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi, 23 – 24 December 2010. Pranesh Prakash attended the meeting.
- Indo-German IPR Conference, New Delhi, organised by FICCI, 11 March 2011. Pranesh Prakash spoke on consumer rights and software and service licences in the session titled 'End User Licenses and Consumer Protection'.
- Third National Convention on Right to Information, Shillong organised by Meghalaya Right to Information Movement, 12 – 13 March 2011. Pranesh Prakash attended the conference. CIS was part of the working group on new information regimes.

MEDIA

- Livemint Podcast: Pranesh Prakash was interviewed by Mint for its Playcast podcast, and spoke about ICANN's decision to allow for internationalised domain names.

TEACHING

- Jamia Milla Islamia University, New Delhi, organised by Jamia Milla Islamia University, 10 – 11 March 2010. Pranesh Prakash taught a module on 'Alternative Models of Media Production' at Jamia Milla Islamia as part of a Masters course on Network Governance.

PATENT

Indian law does not allow patenting of software. Section 3(k) of the Indian Patent Act, 1970 excludes "a mathematical or business method or computer programme (sic) per se or algorithms" from the scope of patentable subject matter. However, software continues to be granted patent in the guise of patenting a machine/process. Around 200 software patents have been granted till date (the applications have been filed from 1999 till date). About 1000 patents have been granted for inventions which are described using the term "computer" in the abstract.

This is a disturbing trend from the perspective of an open society providing for access to knowledge. Granting patents to software and thus, monopoly over a computer program for 20 years stifles innovation and development in an industry which grows in a matter of a few months. CIS, as part of its commitment to open access and access to knowledge is working on filing oppositions to software patents filed for and/or granted in India.

CIS has prepared a confidential strategy document titled "Software Patent Opposition in India" extensively studying the existing patentability laws, standards and tests in India in addition to elucidation of the various aspects of filing a software patent opposition in India. CIS commissioned Intepat Patent Services for a prior art search report. The pre-grant patent opposition incorporating inputs from the Software Freedom Law Centre, Bob Joliffe and Knowledge Commons, is ready for filing.

EVENT ORGANISED

Seminar on Software Patents and the Commons in Delhi

CIS along with Software Freedom Law Centre and Society for Knowledge Commons, Delhi organised the Software Patents and the Commons on 1 September 2010 at Lecture Hall, India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi. Red Hat sponsored the conference. Prabir Purkayastha, Chairperson, Society for Knowledge Commons, Dr. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Eben Moglen, Professor of Law and Legal History at Columbia University, Venkatesh Hariharan, Corporate Affairs Director, Mishi Choudhary, SFLC, India, Dr. Zakir Thomas, Project Director, Open Source Drug Discovery, TC James, Director, National Intellectual Property Organisation, Prof. Sudhir Krishnaswamy and Pranesh Prakash were the speakers. The discussions stressed on the harmful effects of software patents on innovation and development in industry, the need to oppose software patents being granted and filed for in India and how the use of free and open source software especially in education is of growing importance to bridge the digital divide and promote access to knowledge and distribution of information affordably for public welfare. Mishi Choudhary made an announcement about the expansion of SFLC's activities to India including software development, legal services to the FOSS community, legal consulting, public education, and software patent opposition and licensing. Sunil Abraham, Pranesh Prakash and Krithika Dutta Narayana represented CIS.

Access to Knowledge Seminar, 31 July 2010, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Auditorium, Guindy, Chennai: Consumers International, Kuala Lumpur and Consumers Association of India in association with Madras Library Association and CIS organised a seminar on Access to Knowledge. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu Department of Information Technology was the chief guest. Former Central Vigilance Commissioner N. Vittal gave the keynote address. Prof Subbiah Arunachalam, Nirmita Narasimhan and Pranesh Prakash made presentations. Prof Subbiah Arunachalam spoke on open access, Pranesh Prakash spoke on copyright and access to knowledge and Nirmita Narasimhan spoke on access to knowledge for persons with disabilities. CIS co-sponsored this event.

Blog Entries
- First Post-Bilski Decision - Software Patent Rejected
- The Bilski Case - Impact on Software Patents

Submission
- CIS Submission on Draft Patent Manual 2010 The patent office released a revised version of the Draft Manual of Patent Practice and Procedure. Section 8.03.06.10 of the Manual deals with patenting of computer programmes. There were many improvements

in this draft from the previous version. CIS made its submission along with a few suggestions that it thought would make the document better.
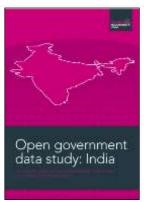
Other Activities
- Feedback on Strategic Priorities of Digital Bangladesh
  Krithika Dutta Narayana gave her comments on 'Strategic Priorities of Bangladesh', a document prepared by the Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh as part of their Access to Information programme. The document outlined the vision for Bangladesh to go digital with Information and Communication Technologies playing a key role in all aspects of governance, administration and day to day life of the citizens.
- CIS, in association with Society for Knowledge Commons, Red Hat and Software Freedom Law Centre formed a working group for Software Patent Opposition. The idea is to pool resources and bring together institutions and individuals working for the same cause to ensure that there is no duplication of work and that there is space for many ideas to come together.
- CIS filed RTI applications in August 2010 in all patent offices in India raising questions about the working of the patent offices, specifically from the viewpoint of software patents.

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.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Report on Open Government Data in India
The Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TAI) made a grant of Rs. 8, 96,000 to CIS to produce a study on Open Government Data (OGD) in India. A report was written by Glover Wright, Pranesh Prakash, Sunil Abraham and Nishant Shah. Pranesh Prakash and Glover Wright, an intern from Columbia University did the primary research. The report looks at some of the landscape relevant to open government data (OGD) in India, starting from the current environment in government, the state of civil society, the media, the policies that affect it from the Right to Information Act, standards-related policies, e-governance policies and the copyright policy along with a few case studies from government, civil society organisations (CSOs) and public-private partnerships, and profiles some civic hackers. The report looks at some of the landscapes relevant to OGD in India starting from the current environment in government, the state of civil society, the media, the policies that affect it from the Right to Information Act, the standards-related policies, and the copyright policy. A few case studies from the government, civil society organizations, public–private partnership and profiles

of some civic hackers are also examined. Finally, the report lays out some recommendations and concludes by noting that OGD in India must be looked at differently from what has been understood so far in countries like the UK and US, and provide some constructive thoughts on how we should think about OGD in India. The findings of the report were presented by Glover Wright at the Innovate/Activate conference in New York City on 24 and 25 September 2010 and by Sunil Abraham at the TAI donors' conclave in San Francisco.

Free Access to Law — Is it here to Stay? An Environmental Scan Report

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 is overseeing research in the Asian region, including one research in India, Indonesia, Hong Kong and the Philippines respectively. A report was prepared by the researchers of the "Free Access to Law" research study. The report aims to highlight the trends, as well as the risks and opportunities, for the sustainability of Free Access to Law initiatives in each of the country examined. The project is funded by Open Society Institute and the International Development Research Centre.

Online Video Environment in India: A Survey Report

With funding from iCommons and the Open Video Alliance, CIS initiated a research project which sought to survey the online video environment in India and the opportunities this new medium presents for creative expression and civic engagement. CIS commissioned a video artist and researcher, Siddharth Chadha, to work on a report which seeks to define key issues in the Indian context and develop a short-term policy framework to address them. The report charts out the terrain of video online in India, questions the received notion of "openness", and elaborates it beyond the strictly technological and legal aspects and thereupon provides some policy recommendations. The report was presented by Siddharth Chadha at the Open Video Conference, New York, 1–2 October 2010, and was distributed among the attendees.

OPEN ACCESS

Seminar on Open Access for Scientific Information

CIS co-organised this conference with UNESCO on New Delhi, 16 March 2011. Armoogum Parsuramen, Director and UNESCO Representative, New Delhi, Dr. Indrajit Banerjee, Director, Information Society Division, UNESCO Paris, Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Shankar Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Dr. Sanjaya Mishra, Open Access Program Specialist, UNESCO Paris, Paola Gargiulo, Open Access Specialist, CASPUR, Italy, P Jayarajan, Former Head, British Council Library, New Delhi, Dr. Devika Madalli, Associate Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore, Iryna Kuchma, Open Access Program Manager, Electronic Information for Libraries, The Netherlands, Abel Packer, Open Access Specialist, SciELO, Brazil, Harshini Dissnayake, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Md. Nazim Uddin, Senior Manager, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, Dr. Angel Mager, Executive Editor, Journal of Nepal Medical Association, Nepal, Dr. D K Sahu, Chief Executive

Officer, Medknow Publications Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, Dr. A Ratnakar, Training and Education Consultant, Informatics India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Dr. Jagdish Arora,Director, Information and Library Network Centre, Ahmedabad, Prof. Ram Ramaswamy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Dr. Zakir Thomas, Project Director, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam, Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, Dr. Shalini Urs, Executive Director, International School of Information Management, Mysore; Madhan Muthu, Manager, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi - Arid Tropics, Andhra Pradesh and Dr. Tapaswi, Librarian, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa spoke at the conference. Sunil Abraham participated in the conference. Iskra Panevska, Adviser for Information and Communication Sector, UNESCO, New Delhi gave the closing remarks.

Open Access to Science and Scholarship - Why and What Should We Do?
The National Institute Advanced Studies held the eighth NIAS-DST training programme on "Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Science, Technology and Society" from 26 July to 7 August 2010. The theme of the project was 'Knowledge Management'. Dr. MG Narasimhan and Dr. Sharada Srinivasan were the coordinators for the event. Professor Subbiah Arunachalam made a presentation on Open Access to Science and Scholarship.

Other Activities
- Thanks to the advocacy of CIS, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is going ahead with a system-wide plan for making research papers available through open access repositories.
- Open Access to International Agricultural Research: Subbiah Arunachalam and 15 other open access advocates wrote to the top management of CGIAR, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, requesting them to mandate open access to all research publications from all CGIAR centres. The letter was addressed to Dr. Carlos Pérez del Castillo and Dr. Katherine Sierra and it was copied to the Director Generals of all the 15 CGIAR centres.
- CIS has also made some headway with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Some ICAR laboratories (for example, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have already set up their own institutional repositories with the help of Muthu Madhan whose participation in a workshop on open access held at Amsterdam was supported by CIS.

OPEN STANDARDS

Comments on the Interoperability Framework for e-Governance (Phase I): In November 2010, the Central Government released the Draft 0.6 of the Technical Standards for the Interoperability Framework for e-Governance (Phase I), requesting comments by 27 January 2011. CIS submitted its comments.

OPEN KNOWLEDGE

Critical Point of View
Wikipedia Research Initiative

The Critical Point of View, a critical Wikipedia research initiative, started by the Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore and the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam, organised two conferences in early 2010. The two conferences in Bangalore and Amsterdam consolidated knowledge and started dialogue between experts from around the globe on various issues like education, art, knowledge production, representation, globalisation, design, analytics, theory, etc. The proceedings from the two conferences are documented in video formats: [1] and [2].

As a result of the two conferences, a third German Language conference in collaboration with the Central University Leipzig was organised on 15 – 16 September 2010, where the contemporary debates around Forking of the Wikipedia community in Germany, the structure of politics and hierarchies in Wikipedia and the relevance of Wikipedia to new knowledges were discussed. Video proceedings and programme of the conference can be found here.

A critical reader drawing from these conferences is now being assembled as collaboration between CIS and INC. The Reader has invited contributions from leading Wikipedia scholars, theorists, practitioners and scholars to give a comprehensive view of the questions, concerns and debates on Wikipedia from around the world. The reader is due for publication in June 2011.

Wikipedia|Wikimedia Meet-ups

The Wikipedia Bangalore meet-up is a monthly get-together of wikipedians (contributors and users) to meet up, discuss, share experiences, reach out and advocate for Wikipedia and Wikimedia. These meetings were sponsored / held in CIS from April 2010 to March 2011:

- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (11 April 2010). Bishakha Datta, newly appointed WikiMedia Foundation Board Member attended this meeting.
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (16 May 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (13 June 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (18 July 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (15 August 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (12 September 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (24 September 2010). Barry Newstead, Chief Global Development Officer, Wikimedia Foundation addressed the Wiki community.
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (10 October 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (14 November 2010)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (12 December 2010)
- Wikipedia Meet-up in TERI (18 December 2010) [sponsored by CIS]
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (9 January 2011)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (17 February 2011)
- Wikipedia Bangalore Meet-up (25 February 2011)

Civic Hacking Workshop

CIS, with the UK Government's Foreign Office and the Cabinet Office Team for Digital Engagement, and Google India, organized a workshop on open data (or the lack thereof) and 'civic hacking'. The workshop discussed the problems of obtaining data, especially in India, the technological solutions that these various groups have encountered, the difficulties of technology as a mass-based civic solution, and the visions that these groups have for a more engaged civil society and the contributions they seek to make to the public. People who attended from India included Alok Singh (Akshara Foundation), Shivangi Desai (Akshara Foundation), Arun Ganesh (Geohackers / National Institute of Design), A. Pandian (Mapunity), Sridhar Raman (Mapunity), S. Raghavan Kandala (Mapunity), Thejesh GN (Janaagraha / Infosys), Sushant Sinha (IndianKanoon.com / Yahoo), Vijay Rasquinha (Mahiti), P.G. Bhat (SmartVote.in), and Raman Jit Singh Chima (Google). Participants from Britain included David McCandless (Information Is Beautiful), Harry Metcalfe (TellThemWhatYouThink.org / Open Rights Group), Tim Green (Democracy Club), Edmund von der Burg (YourNextMP) and Rohan Silva (Special Adviser to the PM).

DESIGN! PUBLIC

CIS in partnership with Centre for Knowledge Societies, Venkataramanan Associates, Centre for Law and Policy Research and LiveMint organised this workshop at Taj Vivanta, New Delhi, on 18 March 2011.

What do Designers do? How can Physical, Informational and Interaction Design Impact the Everyday Life of Citizens?

How Can the Government Best Use Designers and Design Thinking? How can Social / Media Promote Design and Governance Innovation? What institutional and organizational models can best foster Governance Innovation? Sunil Abraham and Pranesh Prakash participated in the workshop. Livemint covered the event.

EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- The Potential of Open Development for Canada and Abroad organised by International Development Research Centre, 5 May 2010, Salon Winter, Albert at Bay Hotel, Ottawa. The panellists included Sunil Abraham (Centre for Internet and Society, India), Michael Geist (University of Ottawa), Anita Gurumurthy (IT for Change, India), Ron Deibert (Citizen Lab, University of Toronto) and Yochai Benkler (Berkman Center, Harvard University). They discussed on "The Potential of Open Development for Canada and Abroad".
- Blaming the Messenger: Trends and Challenges in Intermediary Liability organised by GNI Live Issues Conference Call Global Network Initiative, 27 May 2010, Brussels. Sunil Abraham attended the event.
- Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Science, Technology and Society organised by National Institute of Advanced Studies, 26 July – 7 August 2010, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore. Dr. MG Narasimhan and Dr. Sharada Srinivasan were the coordinators for the event. Professor Subbiah Arunachalam made a presentation on Open Access to Science and Scholarship.
- CBGA Panel Discussion on Transparency organised by CBGA, 26 October 2010, New Delhi: Pranesh Prakash spoke on Open Government Data.
- Open Paradigms in Education organised by Acharya Narendra Dev College, New Delhi, 31 January – 2 February, 2011. Sunil Abraham participated in the conference and spoke in the session on Success Stories and Future Prospects. Pranesh Prakash spoke on Open Educational Resources.

Blog Entries

- [Withdrawal of Journal Access is a Wake-up Call for Researchers in the Developing World](): This article was published in Speaking of Medicine PLoS Medicine community blog on 17 January 2011. Subbiah Arunachalam was the co-author with Leslie Chan and Barbara Kirsop.
- Sunil Abraham and Pranesh Prakash wrote an article, '[Engaging on the Digital Commons]' in Common Voices, Issue 4.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Starting from March 2010, CIS began research into two projects related to privacy studies — Privacy in Asia and the Identity Project.

PRIVACY IN ASIA

On 24 March 2010, CIS entered into an agreement with Privacy International, United Kingdom and Society in Action Group, Gurgaon to do a two-year research and advocacy project on Privacy in Asia. A 'virtual entity' called Privacy India has been created with a separate website to provide a special branding to this project. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickok are the researchers who have been working on this project. The main deliverables are a country report on the state of privacy under Indian law, and the raising of awareness for privacy through holding of eight themed workshops on privacy across the country. The awareness phase began with regional meetings on privacy in Calcutta, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. Further meetings will be conducted in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Guwahati. CIS has also been engaging with government officials on the issue of privacy and its comments have been solicited on the drafting of a comprehensive privacy bill for the country. In addition, CIS has been regularly sending feedback and comments on government measures that it sees as having an impact on privacy, including, most recently, on the rules framed under the Information Technology Act.

Research / Policy Papers

[Privacy and the Information Technology Act] : This paper written by Prashant Iyengar evaluates the Information Technology Act, 2000 as a tool to preserve privacy. It begins with an analysis of the various provisions under the Act that could be used to resist intrusion either by the state or private parties. It then goes on to provide a hands on guide on how to use the IT Act as a tool to protect our privacy, and what kind of remedies one may expect.

[Consumer Privacy – How to Enforce an Effective Protective Regime?] – Elonnai Hickok and Prashant Iyengar through a series of questions look at the whole concept of consumer privacy at the national and international levels. The research places a special emphasis on Indian context, the potential avenues of consumer privacy in India and states the important elements that should be kept in mind when trying to find at an effective protective regime for consumer privacy. The research in particular looks at questions like who is a consumer, what is consumer privacy and how it may be breached, how consumer privacy is protected internationally, and in India.

[Privacy and Telecommunications: Do We Have the Safeguards?](#) – Elonnai Hickok in this research examines the various rules and regulations under Indian law to guard privacy and confidentiality through the Indian Telegraph Act and Rules, the license agreements, TRAI regulations and directions, unsolicited commercial communications regulation, privacy and confidentiality direction and telecommunications in the EU and the United States. It concludes with two questions: will privacy legislation address data retention for the telecom sector and will it regulate the monitoring and tapping of phones?

[Privacy and Banking: Do Indian Banking Standards Provide Enough Privacy Protection?](#) – Banking is one of the most risky sectors as far as privacy is concerned due to the highly sensitive and personal nature of information which is often exchanged, recorded and retained. Although India has RBI guidelines and legislations to protect data, this research by Elonnai Hickok looks at the extent of those protections, and what are the areas that still need to be addressed. Examples of privacy violations in the banking sector are examined through several cases from Bank of America, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank. It also examines "what are the current privacy standards for the banking sector in India?" the customary/statutory banking law and Reserve Bank of India regulations, what legislation applies to data protection in the banking sector? and international regulation of privacy in banks.

[C.I.S Responds to Privacy Approach Paper](#) – A group of officers was created to develop a framework for a privacy legislation that would balance the need for privacy protection, security, sectoral interests, and respond to the domain legislation on the subject. Shri Rahul Matthan of Tri Legal Services prepared an approach paper for the legal framework for a proposed legislation on privacy. The approach paper was circulated for seeking opinions of the group of officers and was also placed on the website of the Department of Personnel and Training for seeking public views on the subject. The Privacy India team at C.I.S responded to the approach paper and called for the need for a more detailed study of statutory enforcement models and mechanisms in the creation of privacy legislation.

Blog Posts / Policy Papers
- [News Broadcasting Standards Authority censures TV9 over privacy violations](#) [by Prashant Iyengar, published in Privacy India].
- [4 popular myths about the UID](#) [by Prashant Iyengar, published in Privacy India].
- [The Privacy Rights of Whistleblowers](#) by Elonnai Hickok.

EVENTS ORGANISED

[DSCI Information Security Summit 2010](#)
On 2 and 3 December 2010, the DSCI Information Security Summit 2010 took place in the Trident Hotel, Chennai. The two day summit included a broad spectrum of speakers/panels and topics, ranging from securing data & systems to how to leverage the cloud. The key speakers were Gulshan Rai, Director General, CERT-In, DIT, Rajeev Kapoor, Joint Secretary, DoPT, Govt. of India, Vakul Sharma, Advocate, Supreme Court of India and Dr. Kamlesh Bajaj, CEO, DSCI. Sunil Abraham made a presentation. Elonnai Hickok also participated in the event.

Privacy Matters in Kolkata

A one-day seminar on Privacy Matters was held on Sunday, 23 January 2011 at the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) Law School in Kolkata. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickok participated in the event. This was the first of a series of eleven events on 'privacy' that Privacy India and CIS organised. Members of the Parliament, Sri Manoj Bhattacharya from the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and Sri Nilotpal Basu from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) CPI (M) spoke in the event.Students, the civil society and lawyers also participated in it. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, professor of law and governance. The conference was spread into three sessions.

Participants at the Kolkata Conference

In the first session Prashant Iyengar spoke about the challenges that India specifically is facing in shaping privacy legislation. Elonnai Hickok spoke on wire tapping, and the Nira Radia tapes. The second session of the conference focused on the UID Bill and privacy. Presentations from NUJS student Amba Kak and Sai Vinod raised concerns about the UID project and privacy. In the concluding session the floor was opened up to the public for questions and opinion sharing.

Privacy Matters in Bangalore

The second event on Privacy Matters was held at TERI, Bangalore, on 5 February 2011. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickok participated in this seminar. A number of issues including privacy rights of minorities, privacy and open government data, and privacy and identity were discussed. Civil society, lawyers, students, NGO's, and representatives from the IT companies discussed privacy issues in India, and the privacy legislation that has been proposed in the Parliament. Prashant Iyengar was the first speaker. He explained the mandate of Privacy India, which is to raise awareness of privacy, spark civil action, and promote democratic dialogue around privacy challenges and violations in India. Dr. Ashish Rajadhyaksha, senior fellow, Centre for the Study of Culture & Society gave the keynote speech. Zainab Bawa, CIS-RAW fellow spoke on Privacy and Open Government Data. Her presentation, on Property Rights, Privacy, and Open Government Data looked at how data by governmental agencies is handled.

Privacy Matters in Ahmedabad

The third event on Privacy Matters was organised by Privacy India in partnership with IDRC, Society in Action Group, and Research Foundation for Governance in India (RFGI) at the Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad on 26 March 2011 — to discuss the challenges of privacy in India, with an emphasis on national security and privacy. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickok participated in this event.

Participants of the Privacy India Seminar in Ahmedabad

The keynote speech, delivered by Usha Ramanathan, focused on links not often made between privacy and social phenomenon. Session I of the conference featured a judicial perspective of privacy and a presentation on the connections between privacy and the federal income tax regime in India. Session II of the conference focused on national security and privacy, and cultural conceptions of privacy. Session III of the conference focused on minority identities and privacy, prisoner rights, and cyber security. The concluding session was a time for discussion and opinion sharing on themes including regulation of ubiquitous surveillance in the name of national security', regulation over public display of names and personal information, the need to distinguish between identity and identifier, the need to protect an individual's identity while regulating the production and use of identifiers, etc.

EVENTS PARTICIPATED

- Regulating Privacy across Borders in the Digital Age: An Emerging Global Consensus or Vive la Difference', organised by American Bar Association Online, 10 November 2010: Elonnai Hickok attended the American Bar Association Online Privacy Conference and published a report.
- E-Diligence 2010 Conference organised by Chetty Law, Johannesburg, 11-12 November 2010. Pranesh Prakash participated in the meeting and made the Key Note Presentation.
- Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability Panel discussion on Transparency organised by CBGA, 22 – 24 February 2011. Pranesh Prakash attended the discussion.
- Asia Pacific Regional Privacy Workshop, Bohol, Philippines, 14 – 16 March 2011, organised by IDRC and Privacy International, UK. Prashant Iyengar and Elonnai Hickock attended the two-day workshop and information sharing session.
- International Digital Economy Accords (IDEA Project), organised by the Aspen Institute, Brussels, 23 – 24 March 2011. Pranesh Prakash participated in the meeting.

IDENTITY PROJECT

The Identity Project is supported by the Ford Foundation and managed by CSCS. It seeks to inquire into the consequences of what we have called databasing identity — or viewing the individual properties of human beings through a capacity to collate disparate data about them. The project originated as an inquiry into the several massive databases that the Government of India is in the process of assembling. The most talked about Aadhaar and UID project, and the several databases under the NATGRID, and the National Population Register. Malavika Jayaram, Elonnai Hickok and Nishant Shah are the main researchers.

Unique Identity (UID) Project

The Unique Identification project was initially conceived by the Planning Commission of India as an initiative that would provide identification (Aadhaar numbers) and use biometric data for the de-duplication of residents and the real time authentication of identity. The project spearheaded by Nandan Nilekani has potential implications for privacy, civil liberties, the confidentiality and security of data and raises several legal, technical, political and socio-economic questions.

CIS submitted a series of Open Letters to the Finance Committee for the UID project. These were written by Elonnai Hickok and they are online:

Open Letters

SCOSTA Standards

This open letter compares the SCOSTA standard with the Aadhaar biometric standard, and explains why we believe the SCOST standard should replace the Aadhaar biometric standard for the authentication process in the UID scheme.

Finance and Security

This open letter explores the three connections between finance and security and demonstrates the cost implications of operating a centrally designed identity management system as proposed by the UID. In doing so, it shows how the monitoring, storing, and securing of transactional data in a centralized database fall short of meeting the project's objectives of authentication, and thus is an additional cost. Further, it is argued that the blanket monitoring of the transaction database is not an effective method of detecting fraud, and is an expensive component of the project.

Biometrics

This open letter points out the weaknesses inherent in biometrics and the pitfalls in using them. It recommends procedural safeguards that should be adopted by the UID in order to make the use of biometrics more secure and inclusive.

UID Budget

This open letter presents the aspects of the UID project, which have not been considered or incorporated into the UID's budget. The costs include re-enrolment, loss in human time, and the cost of the audit function.

[Operational Design](#)
The objective of the UID project is to provide identity infrastructure that is not susceptible to fraud or error. This open letter highlights parts of the operational design of the project, which are flawed. CIS pleads that each point be taken into consideration and that the design be suitably revised.

[UID and Transactions](#)
In this open letter, Elonnai Hickok argues that since official documentation from the UIDAI is very limited, we assume that data pertaining to transactions would comprise of the Aadhaar number, identifier of the authenticating device, date-time stamp, and approval/rejection/error code. Recording and maintaining of data pertaining to transactions is very important because it increases transparency and accountability through an audit trail. However, storage of such sensitive data creates many privacy risks, because more often than not metadata gives you as much intelligence as raw data.

Blog Posts by Elonnai Hickok
Elonnai Hickok works as a researcher in the Privacy and Identity projects, she has written a series of policy papers/blog posts. Some of these were in the Identity project:

- [Analysing the Right to Privacy and Dignity with Respect to the UID](#)
- [Should Ratan Tata be Afforded the Right to Privacy?](#)
- [Privacy Concerns in Whole Body Imaging: A Few Questions](#)
- [Privacy, Free/Open Source, and the Cloud](#)
- [Cybercrime and Privacy](#)
- [A Stolen Perspective](#)

Blog Entry by Liliyan
Liliyan was an intern in CIS. She produced one blog entry: [UID Project in India: Some Possible Ramifications](#).

Submissions
[Feedback to the NIA Bill](#)
CIS made a formal submission to the proposed National Identification Authority of India (NIA) Bill 2010. The submissions contained a [detailed](#) section by section critique prepared by Malavika Jayaram and the [high level summary of concerns](#) with the draft NIA Bill 2010.

EVENTS ORGANISED
[Unique Identity (UID) Project: A Debate on Fundamental Rights](#)
CIS organised this at the Institute of Agricultural Technologists, Bangalore, on 16 April 2010. The event led to a loose coalition of NGOs and civil society organisations. CIS was interviewed by both the print and electronic media.

Technical Aspects of UID: A Public Talk – (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore), 20 October 2010. Prof. K Gopinath from the Indian Institute of Science and Sunil Abraham gave a lecture on the technical aspects of UID.

Events Participated

- Civil Society Workshop on Aadhar (organised by UIDAI), Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, 6 May 2010. Malavika Jayaram attended the meeting and provided feedback.
- Workshop on Legal Framework for Privacy, Data Protection and Security (organised by Department of Personnel and Training), Civil Services Officers Institute, KG Marg, New Delhi, on 21 July 2010. Sunil Abraham attended the workshop and provided a civil society perspective.
- No UID Campaign (organised by UIDAI), Constitution Club, Rafi Marg in New Delhi on 25 August, 2010. Elonnai Hickok drafted a summary of the meeting.
- Lecture by Ashok Dalwai, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 7 September 2010. Elonnai Hickok attended the lecture and prepared a report of his presentation.

FREEDOM OF OPINION & EXPRESSION

South Asian Expert Meeting on the Internet and Freedom of Expression

Freedom of Expression Meeting in Hyatt Hotel, New Delhi

South Asian Expert Meeting on the Internet and Freedom of Expression (Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, 2 – 3 March 2011). The event was one in a series of consultations that followed up on a meeting on human rights and the Internet which took place in Stockholm, on 16 and 17 June 2010, and which was jointly organised by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Frank La Rue and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other meetings covered South East Asia, Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The present meeting was organised by CIS, in collaboration with the Central American Institute for Studies of Social Democracy DEMOS (Guatemala) in Delhi. Frank La Rue, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Johan Hallenborg from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Anja Kovacs gave the welcome address. Twenty-nine invitees came for the event and made presentations. The workshop helped the participants get a stronger sense of the potential and challenges of online activism in the particular context of India, and get a foothold for beginning to build stronger networks among the activists interested in these issues in the country. Sunil Abraham and Anja Kovacs participated in the event.

[Workshop on the Role of the Internet in Fostering Freedom of Expression and Strengthening Activism in India](#) (Constitution Club, New Delhi, 4 March 2011). What are some of the potential stumbling blocks which activists in India might run into in their exploration of the Internet's potential? What are the legal restrictions and frameworks activists should be aware of when they use new technologies in their work? And what can we do to create an environment in which the online world unequivocally supports efforts for greater democratisation and social justice offline, rather than thwart them? The workshop sought to answer questions like these through a mix of panel discussions, unconference sessions, a film screening, and technical and legal clinics in its day-long program. About 30 people participated in the workshop. Anja Kovacs participated in the workshop.

[Global Challenges to Freedom of Expression](#) (Constitution Club, New Delhi, 4 March 2011). Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression gave a public [lecture](#). Anja Kovacs and Pranesh Prakash participated in the workshop.

Events Participated
- Special Meeting of the Human Rights Working Group of the EU Delegation to India, on the Occasion of the visit of Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression (EU Delegation to India, New Delhi, 1 March 2011). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- [Second Expert Meeting on Human Rights and the Internet](#) (Rosenbad Conference Centre, Stockholm, 30 – 31 March 2011). This closed meeting is an initiative of Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.

GOOGLE POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: ASIA CHAPTER

For the enthusiastic followers of free and open internet and for those who love to debate on technology, media law and internet-related policy issues, CIS initiated a Google Policy Fellowship program.

It was offered for the first time in Asia Pacific. The fellowship offered successful applicants an opportunity to develop research and debate on issues relating to freedom of expression for a minimum of ten weeks from June to August 2011 with the applicants to be selected from Australia, India and Hong Kong respectively. CIS will select the India Fellow, and accept applications for the position before 27 March 2011. Google will provide USD 7,500 stipend to the India Fellow, who will be selected by 18 April 2011.

The research proposals, and the fellowship itself, were to be anchored in the reality of the growing threat to civil liberties in cyberspace, with the consequent curbs on free expression that arise. The aim of the research was to chart out a comprehensive map of the legal and policy frameworks relating to free expression within the Asia-Pacific region and also examine people's attitudes and ground-level movements relating to the same. This second component will necessarily involve some amount of empirical research: the fellows across different regions (for 2011, there will be fellows from India, Australia and Hong Kong) will be expected to use a survey on similar lines, so that the results could be adequately contrasted.

The research would involve these:

1. Understanding Dissent
2. Understanding Free Expression
3. Understanding and Facilitating Movements

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

CIS at the Internet Governance Forum, Vilnius, Lithuania

CIS participated in the 2010 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in a number of ways:

- CIS co-organised the workshop on [Freedom of Expression or Access to Knowledge: Are We Taking the Necessary Steps towards an Open and inclusive Internet?](#) with the Center for Technology and Society, Brazil. Anja Kovacs spoke at the workshop and was also a panelist along with Robert Guerra, and Kevin Bankston.
- CIS was a co-organiser of [Internet Governance and Human Rights: Strategies and Collaborations for Empowerment](#) (Lithuanian Exhibition & Conference Centre, Vilnius, 13 September 2010) with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Internet Governance Forum Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles, IT for Change and Global Partners. Anja Kovacs attended the event.
- CIS also co-organised a workshop on '[Sexual Rights, Openness and Regulatory Systems](#)', with the Association for Progressive Communications and the Alternative Law Forum.
- Anja Kovacs was invited to be a civil society respondent in the main session on 'Security,

Openness, and Privacy'.

- Anja Kovacs participated in the meeting of the [Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition](#), which was dedicated to the public launch of a first draft of a Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet. CIS has actively contributed to the development of this Charter, which is now open for public comment. Anja Kovacs continues to be a member of the Steering Committee of this Dynamic Coalition.
- Anja Kovacs spoke at the UNESCO Open Forum, where she presented on behalf of Nirmita Narasimhan the research study ['Exploring ICT-enabled Education Initiatives for Persons with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region'](#), undertaken by CIS in cooperation with G3ICT and UNESCO.
- CIS co-organised a workshop on [Open Standards: Ensuring Accessibility and Inclusiveness](#) with the World Wide Web Consortium on 16 September 2010. Vint Cerf (Co-founder of the Internet), Shadi Abou-Zara (World Wide Web Consortium), Nasser Kettani (Microsoft), Eddan Katz (Electronic Frontier Foundation) and Catherine Trautmann (Member of the European Parliament) participated in this workshop. Pranesh Prakash was the moderator in this workshop.
- CIS co-organised the workshop on [Data in the Cloud: Where Do Open Standards Fit In?](#) Vint Cerf, Wilfried Grommen, Daniel Dardellier (World Wide Web Consortium), Jeremy Malcolm (Consumers International), Karsten Gerloff, Viive Naslund, Mike Sachs, Sussana Sogiano, Irena Kushmark and Kevin Bankston spoke in the workshop. Pranesh Prakash moderated the panel.
- Pranesh Prakash chaired the meeting of the Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards. He spoke at the main session on Emerging Issues: Cloud Computing.
- Pranesh Prakash was asked to participate in the workshop on "[Freedom of Expression and Internet Intermediaries: Where Do We Go from Here and Why We Need an Open Web](#)".

TAJIK STUDY TOUR OF INDIA

A group of delegates from Tajikistan toured India from 14 to 19 June 2010 for a study on ICT in

development. Zafarjon Shafiev, Director, Centre of Information Technologies KOVA, Talat Numanov, Director, Centre ICT, Rustam Kosimov, Director, Internet Fund of Tajikistan, Zafar Alizoda, Director, Information-Analytical and Educational Centre "MATHEMA", Muhammadi Ibodulloev, Director, Public Fund Civil Internet Policy Initiative, Parvina Ibodova, Association of the Internet Providers of the Tajikistan, Irkaev Gafur, Director, Association of the Mobile providers of the Tajikistan and Mavzuna Abdurakhmanova, Coordinator of the Information

Program, OSI AF-Tajikistan, Kamolitdinov Manuchehr and Talat Numonov were the important delegates who came over. A series of meetings were held at Mahiti, Centre for Knowledge Societies, Karnataka State Government e-Governance Centre, Microsoft Research India, National Informatics Centre, Nemaddi Project, Bhoomi Project, COMAT, International Institute of Information Technology, Indian Institute of Science, Centre for E-Governance, Nokia Research Centre, Bangalore, OnMobile and Common Service Centres. The delegates met Dr. DS Ravindran, CEO of e-Governance Department of Government of Karnataka and M N Vidyashankar, Principal Secretary, eGovernance Department. Sunil Abraham, Pranesh Prakash and Ajoy Kumar from CIS attended the meetings.

Other Events Organised

- The First IJLT-CIS Lecture Series on Jurisdictional Issues in Cyberspace, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 3 April 2010: Hon'ble Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar (Judge, Delhi High Court) the Chief Guest and the first speaker. The other speakers were Amit Sachdeva (Advocate, Delhi High Court), Aditya Sondhi (Advocate, Karnataka High Court) and Dr. Lorna E. Gillies (Lecturer in Law, University of Leicester). Pranesh Prakash participated in the conference.
- Consilience 2010 – A conference on Internet intermediary liability in India, Taj Residency, Bangalore, 29 – 30 May 2010. Sunil Abraham made a presentation. Malavika Jayaram spoke on Contextualising Intermediate Liability. Pranesh Prakash also attended the conference.
- Expert Meeting on Human Rights and the Internet (Sjöfartshuset, Stockholm, 16 – 17 June 2010). This closed meeting was an initiative of Frank La Rue, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- APC Internet Public Policy Networks Project Strategy Retreat, organised by Chad Lubelsky (Eremo, Italy, 15 – 18 July 2010). Anja Kovacs attended the meeting.
- Internet at Liberty (Budapest, 20 – 22 September 2010). This event was organised by Google. Sunil Abraham made a presentation. Anja Kovacs attended the event.
- Symposium on WikiLeaks (School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad), 7 January 2011. The one day seminar on Wikileaks, brought together experts from different disciplines to discuss what Wikileaks means in the Indian context. Nishant Shah was the keynote speaker for 'Six parantheses on Wikileaks'.
- Communities, Technology and Participation organised by Technology, Governance, Citizenship (Bangalore, 18 – 19 March 2011, Anja Kovacs made a presentation on Paradigms and Concepts in Digital Activism Research: Illuminating or Obfuscating?

Blog Entries

- Jurisdictional Issues in Cyberspace.
- Policy for Government's presence in Social Media.
- The Draft Electronic Delivery of Services Bill, 2011 – Comments by CIS.

RESPONSE TO IT RULES

Comments on the Information Technology (Guidelines for Cyber Cafe) Rules, 2011

On 7 February 2011, the Department of Information Technology, MCIT published draft rules on its website (The Information Technology (Guidelines for Cyber Cafe) Rules, 2011) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 87(2) (zg), read with section 79(2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Comments were invited from the public before 25 February 2011. Accordingly, Prashant Iyengar working with Privacy India and CIS prepared para wise comments for the Ministry's consideration. It was submitted that these rules have no nexus with their parent provision, namely section 79 (2). Specific objections were raised for Rule 2(c), Rule 3, Rule 4(2), Rule 4(3), Rule 5(1), Rules 5(3) and 6(2), and Rule 7(1). Elonnai Hickok posted these comments on the Privacy India website.

Comments on the Information Technology (Reasonable Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Information) Rules, 2011

On 7 February 2011, the Department of Information Technology, MCIT published draft rules on its website (The Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Information) Rules, 2011) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 87(2) (ob), read with section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Comments were invited from the public before 25 February 2011. Accordingly, Prashant Iyengar from Privacy India and CIS, Bangalore prepared para-wise comments for the Ministry's consideration. Elonnai Hickok posted these comments on the Privacy India website.

Comments on the Information Technology (Due Diligence Observed by Intermediaries Guidelines Rules, 2011)

On 7 February 2011, the Department of Information Technology, MCIT published draft rules on its website (The Information Technology (Due Diligence Observed by Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 87(2) (zg), read with section 79(2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Comments were invited from the public before 25 February 2011. Accordingly, Prashant Iyengar working with Privacy India and CIS, Bangalore prepared para-wise comments for the Ministry's consideration. It was submitted that a number of the provisions under these Rules have no nexus with their parent provision, namely section 79(2). Specific objections were raised to Rule 2(b), (c), and (k). Elonnai Hickok posted these comments on the Privacy India website.

TELECOM / BROADBAND

There has been turmoil in the telecommunications sector caused by alleged mismanagement in spectrum allocations and licensing. So far, it has resulted in the imprisonment of the former minister, of a Member of Parliament, and of several businessmen. However, the positive turn is that it has precipitated the formulation of long delayed reforms to telecommunications policy. In advocating policies in the public interest for ubiquitous and affordable broadband in India, CIS is coordinating the articulation of a set of policy requirements for the New Telecom Policy 2011, with inputs from technology specialists and economists. These specialists are from institutions and companies including the Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT), IIT

Madras, Tejas Networks, Qualcomm, Microsoft, Google, Spectrum Bridge of Lake Mary, Florida, and Stanford University. In this connection, Shyam Ponappa continues to write his monthly column for the *Business Standard*.

Articles by Shyam Ponappa

Shyam Ponappa is a Distinguished Fellow at CIS. He has published a series of articles on Telecom in the Business Standard. These have been also published on the CIS website:

- The Right Ring Tone: Focus on improving service quality with a strong partner, and not on one-shot stake sales, says Shyam Ponappa in his article published in the Business Standard on 1 April 2010.
- China Club instead of Bombay Club? Emulate China's coordinated policies for strategic sectors, and we'll rely less on commodity exports, says Shyam Ponappa in his article in the Business Standard on 13 May 2010.
- India's sorry spectrum story: In this article published in the Business Standard on June 3, 2010, Shyam Ponappa analyses the spectrum story in India. He says that the approach to spectrum management is an object lesson in how not to use information and communications technology for development.
- Catching up on broadband: The government can invest some of the Rs 1, 00, 000 crore from the spectrum auctions to help India catch up on broadband, says Shyam Ponappa in this article published in the Business Standard on 1 July 2010.
- 'Containing Inflation' - A myth: We need problem-solving, not confused rhetoric or misguided action, says Shyam Ponappa. The article was published in Business Standard on 7 August, 2008.
- What a highway can do: This article was published in the Business Standard on 2 September 2010. In this article, Shyam Ponappa says that despite signs of transformational change, we need more - SOPs and quality.
- Broad-basing Broadband: Education and training through the Internet need Commonwealth Games-like crisis management, says Shyam Ponappa in an article on broadband for education and training published in the Business Standard on 7 October 2010.
- Ideology and ICT Policies: For better policies, decision-makers need to know their own and others' biases, and consider what others are doing, writes Shyam Ponappa in an article published in the Business Standard on 4 November 2010.
- Take 'Model T' for Telecom: We need an initiative coordinated by the PMO that optimises both services and government revenues, says Shyam Ponappa in his article published in the Business Standard on 2 December 2010.
- The policy langurs: The comforts of civilised living for all Indians require dedicated collective effort. The article was published in the Business Standard on 6 January 2011.
- Spectrum auctions - 'Jhatka' or 'Halal'?: The choice is between sudden death and a slow one. The article was published in the Business Standard on 3 February 2011.
- Big-Bang Budgets?: Clarity of planning and conceptualisation needs to be the hallmark of policy planning for the Budget. The article was published in the Business Standard on 3 March 2011.

Article by Nishant Shah
- [3G Life](#): You can video chat, stream music and watch TV on your phone. Offering high-speed internet access, 3G would change the world of mobile computing. Nishant Shah's article was published in the Indian Express on 14 November 2010.

FEATURED

Open Spectrum for Development: India Case Study

Shyam Ponappa wrote the India Open Spectrum Report for CIS. It was submitted to the Association for Progressive Communications as part of APC's project work on [Spectrum for development](#), an initiative that aims to provide an understanding of spectrum regulation by examining the situation in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The report was published on [APC's website.](#) As per the report, the key decision makers on spectrum allocation and assignment include the WPC, the DoT, the Ministry for CIT and ad hoc groups such as the EGoM for 3G and BWA spectrum auctions. The TRAI is the telecommunications regulator and can make recommendations to the DoT while the DoT has the actual authority to issue licenses. The WPC is in charge of the policy of spectrum management, wireless licensing and assignment of frequencies and has different sections for handling different functions. The SACFA which is the frequency allocation section of the WPC not only makes the allocation and assignment decisions but also resolves disputes between wireless users.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Maps for Making Change (co-organized by CIS and Tactical Tech) 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. Participants included grassroots activists, NGO workers, artists and researchers working on a wide range of issues which included 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. Three workshops were organized. To communicate in between workshops, participants used a [Wiki](#) and two email lists: [1](#) and [2](#).

- [Third Maps for Making Change Workshop](#) (Visthaar, Bangalore, 26 – 28 April 2010).

- '[A Conversation on Maps for Making Change - Using Geographical Mapping Techniques to Support Struggles for Social Justice in India](#)' (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 28 April 2010).

EVENTS ORGANISED

- [The Internet, Culture, and Society](#) - Looking at Past, Present, and Future Worldwide: A Talk by Prof Ramesh Srinivasan, (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 9 July 2010).
- [Digital humanities: How social sciences may benefit from the digital revolution?](#) (Centre for Contemporary Studies, Bangalore), 9 July 2010. Dominique Boullier, Professor at Sciences Po Paris gave a lecture.
- [Locating Gender Politics in the New Techno-Industrial Complex](#): A Lecture by Dr. Lisa McLaughlin, CIS, Bangalore, 23 July 2010. Dr. Lisa McLaughlin, Associate Professor in Media Studies and Women's Studies, Miami University, Ohio, USA gave a lecture.
- [Digital Activism and Online Advocacy: Experiences from the Tibetan Freedom Movement](#) – A Talk by Shibayan Raha, CIS, Bangalore, 7 August 2010. Shibayan Raha spoke about the Tibetan freedom struggle.
- [Talk by Charlotte Lapsansky](#) on 'Mobile Voices' (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 16 September 2010).
- [Network Culture: Archaeological and Artistic Interventions Public Seminar](#) – Talk by Kristoffer Gansing and Linda Hilfing (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 8 November 2010).
- [Thomas Bjelkeman-Pettersson lecture at Development Café meet-up](#) (Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore, 3 December 2010).
- Electronication: Ragas and the Future, Jaaga, Bangalore, 6 March 2011: CIS organised this [conference](#). Charanjit Singh, Samrat B. and Imaad Shah played improvised versions of Charanjit Singh's "Ten Ragas to a Disco Beat".

Events Participated

- [Radio-Out-of-the-Box: New Media Convergence for Community Radio](#) (Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamshala, 11 – 14 May 2010). This workshop was organised by Maraa. Anja Kovacs attended the workshop.
- Omidyar Network's Panel on "Governance: The Change We Need", organised by Omidyar, (Taj Ambassador, Delhi, 10 January). Pranesh Prakash and Nirmita Narasimhan attended the event.

NEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

- [Expel or not? That is the question](#) (DNA, 2 April 2010)
- [They fight for the visually challenged](#) (Times News Network, 15 April 2010)
- [Experts debate on UID and rights](#) (Deccan Herald, 16 April 2010)
- [UID is an invasion of privacy: Experts](#) (Deccan Chronicle, 16 April 2010)
- [Amendment to Copyright Act opposed](#) (Hindu, 17 April 2010)
- [UID: A Debate on Fundamental rights](#) (Prajavani, 17 April 2010)
- [Worries voiced over ID project](#) (Hindu, 17 April 2010)

- Disability rights groups oppose changes to Copyright Act (Hindu, 23 April 2010)
- Citizens' forums want UID project scrapped (Deccan Herald, 28 April 2010)
- UID project draws flak from civil rights activists (DNA, April 2010)
- UID info can be misused (Deccan Chronicle, April 2010)
- ID programme faces first challenge over privacy, data (Livemint, 28 April 2010)
- Scrap UID project, say people's organizations (Hindu, 29 April 2010)
- Their India has no borders (Bangalore Mirror, 29 April 2010)
- 'UID is being forced' (Times of India, April 2010)
- Mapping the things that affect us (DNA, 2 May 2010)
- Right to Read event in Brussels (European Blind Union, May 2010)
- Internet is neither good nor bad (Socialter, 3 May 2010)
- What Women Want: The ability debates (Hindu, 3 May 2010)
- World Wide Web Consortium for All (DNA, 15 May 2010)
- Biometry Is Watching (Outlook, 17 May 2010)
- India slowly gets to grips with ecommerce (Independent, 17 May 2010)
- A letter to CGIAR in support of Open Access (Open and Shut, May 2010)
- The Potential of Open Development for Canada and Abroad (IDRC, May 2010)
- APC starts research into spectrum regulation in Brazil, India, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa (Association for Progressive Communications, 25 May 2010)
- Facebook, privacy and India (Livemint, May 2010)
- WIPO Proposals Would Open Cross-Border Access To Materials For Print Disabled (IP Watch, 28 May 2010)
- An artist's hunt for lost stepwells (Times of India, May 2010)
- I don't want my fingerprints taken (Down to Earth, May 2010)
- A new age in news (dti news, 8 June 2010)
- Dont hang up on this one (Hindu, 15 June 2010)
- Peeping Toms In Your Inbox (Outlook, 21 June 2010)
- Activists welcome privacy Bill, but point out concerns (Livemint, 23 June 2010)
- Copyright bill restricts Net access (Down to Earth, June 2010)
- UID Act may be released for debate, may be introduced in monsoon session (Livemint, 30 June 2010)
- CIS featured in the Report on Research and Funding Landscape within the Arts and Humanities in India (Research Councils, UK, July 2010)
- Digital them about yourself? (TimeOut Bengaluru, July 2010)
- Networking? Not working (Livemint, 13 July 2010)
- Open is the Future (Open World Forum, July 2010)
- Civil Society groups urge State Judicial Academy to restructure agenda for Judges' Roundtable meet (Pharmabiz, 24 July 2010)
- UID coverage in Udayavani (Udayavani, 27 July 2010)
- More Debate on UID Project Needed (Hindu, 27 July 2010)
- Call to increase awareness of intellectual property rights (Hindu, 2 August 2010)
- Call, text, email complaint against rogue auto driver (Times of India, 4 August 2010)
- Govt and BlackBerry firm wait for the other to hang up (Indian Express, 9 August 2010)
- New Project to Assess Potential of Creating Open Government Data Initiatives in Chile, Ghana and Turkey (World Wide Web Foundation, 9 August 2010)

- RIM Offered Security Fixes (Wall Street Journal, 14 August 2010)
- Information is Beautiful hacks in India with David Cameron (Guardian, August 2010)
- 科技改變社會數位原生代掀波(PChome, August 2010)
- 科技改變社會 數位原生代計畫 (echinanews.com, 16 August 2010)
- Transparency and MDGs: the Role of the Media and Technology (Transparency, Free Flow of Information and the MDGs, 25 August 2010)
- Why piracy is tough to rein in (Hindu, 4 September 2010)
- INDIA Fears of Privacy Loss Pursue Ambitious ID Project (IPS, 6 September 2010)
- WEBINAR: Closed for Business (New America Foundation, 9 September 2010)
- The madness of software patents (Down to Earth, 15 September 2010)
- Konferencia az internetes szólásszabadságról Budapesten (Hirado Online, 21 September 2010)
- Hogyan szűrik a kormányok az internetes tartalmakat? (hvg.hu, 21 September 2010)
- Conference: Internet at Liberty 2010 (Internet at Liberty, 20 to 22 September 2010)
- Internet, szabadon (index, 22 September 2010)
- Innovate / Activate (New York School, 24 and 25 September 2010)
- Data Activism and Grassroots Empowerment in India (Innovate/Activate, 24 September 2010)
- Stiff Resistance Dogs India's ID Plan (Asia Times Online, 1 October 2010)
- How the UID project can be a cause for concern (IBN Live, 5 October 2010)
- In new Facebook features, a comeback for community (The Hindu, 10 October 2010)
- Crisis for identity or identity crisis? (d-sector.org, 12 October 2010)
- Digitally Open: Innovation and Open Access Forum (23 October 2010)
- Report: Digitally Open: Innovation and Open Access Forum, 23 Oct 2010, Doha, Qatar (Rami Olvan, 29 October 2010)
- Wi-Fi Direct promises range, bandwidth higher than Bluetooth (The Hindu, 31 October 2010)
- Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property (Zone Books, November 2010)
- Information, the world's new capital - Digital Natives (Bizcommunity.com, 10 November 2010)
- What it means to be a child today (The Times of India, 14 November 2010)
- The internet's new billion (Global Post, 15 November 2010)
- DOC 2.0: A Resources Sharing Mela by NGO Documentation Centres (18 November 2010)
- Open standards policy in India: A long, but successful journey (Opensource.com, 19 November 2010)
- 'Piracy is now a mainstream political phenomenon' (The Hindu, 22 November 2010)
- UID elicits mixed response (Deccan Herald, 23 November 2010)
- Mobile banking set to get a boost from IMPS (The Hindu, 28 November 2010)
- The Niira Radia Tapes: Scrutinizing the Snoopers (Wall Street Journal, 29 November 2010)
- Intellectual Property Rights as seen in a graphic novel (TimeOut Bengaluru, November 2010)
- Social Mashup! (Indian School of Business, 2 – 3 December 2010)
- Information Security Summit 2010 (2 – 3 December 2010)

- [Meeting on the Refreshable Braille Displays and Copyright Frameworks for Open Hardware Development](#) (4 December 2010)
- ['Pakistan' hackers target India's top police agency](#) (Google News, 4 December 2010)
- [This Is All India Radia](#) (Outlook, 6 December 2010)
- [An online community platform for people with different needs](#) (sify news, 9 December 2010)
- [Self-regulation in media and society meet to gain legal perspectives](#) (Indiantelevision.com, 13 December 2010)
- [Mothers discuss kids, music, fashions, on Net](#) (The Hindu, 26 December 2010)
- [Digital Natives with a Cause? - Workshop in Chile seeks participants](#) (Bahama islands info, 30 December 2010)
- [A Refreshing Start!](#) (Verveonline, Volume 19, Issue 1, January, 2011)
- [Nishant Shah Quoted in Livemint 2011 Tweet-out](#) (Livemint, January, 2011)
- [Knowledge Warriors](#) (Il Sore24 ORE, January, 2011)
- [Getting Connected](#) (Livemint, January, 2011)
- [Nel suk dei nativi digitali. Perché gli studenti 2.0 hanno bisogno di una bussola per orientarsi](#) (Il Sore24 ORE, 2 January 2011)
- [Would it be a unique identity crisis?](#) (Bangalore Mirror, 2 January 2011)
- [Clicktivism & a brave new world order](#) (Mail Today, 2 January 2011)
- [A Tweet and a poke from the CEO](#) (Livemint, 24 January 2011)
- [Civic hackers seek to find their feet in India](#) (Livemint, 24 January 2011) and (IndiaInfoline, January 2011)
- Digital Wrongs (Forbes India, 24 January 2011)
- One among the clan of Wikipedians (Hindu, 27 January 2011)
- What Are You Accused of? Find Out Online (Wall Street Journal, 1 February 2011)
- Procuring books in Indian libraries (Hri Institute for Southasian Research and Exchange, 4 February 2011)
- New Kids on the Blog (Indian Express, 6 February 2011)
- Social Network Suicide (Bangalore Mirror, 6 February 2011)
- Can the mouse be a tool of revolution in India? (DNA, 12 February 2011)
- Can the twitterati change the world? (The Times of India, 12 February 2011)
- 2(m) or not 2(m) (Business Standard, 19 February 2011)
- Growing cyberspace controls, Internet filtering (Hindu, 20 February 2011)
- [Anti-Social Network](#) (Mail Today, 27 February 2011)
- [Govt proposal to muzzle bloggers sparks outcry](#) (Times of India, 10 March 2011)
- [Draft IT guidelines may gag internet freedom](#) (Times of India, 11 March 2011)
- [Lives suspended in the Web](#) (Indian Express, 11 March 2011)
- [Catch-all approach to Net freedom draws activist ire](#) (Sunday Guardian, 13 March 2011)
- [Cause and effect Facebook-style](#) (Hindustan Times, 13 March 2011)
- [Battle for the Internet](#) (Down to Earth, Issue: 15M arch 2011)
- [Muzzling the Internet](#) (Outlook, 17 March 2011)
- [Design!publiC - News from Livemint](#) (18 March 2011)

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. CIS works in the areas of histories of the Internet, digital natives, a reader on the Wikipedia, enhancing higher education for the disadvantaged, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, 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/57/2008-09 dated 04-07-08
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 Members as on 31 March 2011

Name	Position on Society	Occupation / Designation	Area of Competency	Charges (per month in Rs)
Subbiah Arunachalam	Chairman	Scientist (retired)	Open Access and ICT4D	40,000
Vibodh Parthasarathi	Member	Associate Professor	Media	Nil
Atul Ramachandra	Member	Social Worker	ICT4D	Nil
Lawrence Liang	Member	Lawyer	IPR Reform	40,000
Sunil Abraham	President	Executive Director	IPR Reform	1,40,000
Nishant Shah	Treasurer	Director, Research	Cybercultures	96,000
Achal Prabhala	Member	Researcher	IPR Reform	Nil
M.K. Narasimha Rao	Member	Finance Consultant	Finance	30,000

Staff / Consultants, Travel, & 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
Usha Nandini	Accounts Officer
Velankanni Royson	Office Assistant
Abul Hasim	System Administrator
Anisha Pucadyil	Research Assistant
Hasina Hasan	Digital Natives Coordinator
Chandhussain	Housekeeper
Geeta	Housekeeper
Consultants	
Prashant Iyengar	Researcher
Samuel Tettner	Digital Natives Coordinator
List of Distinguished Fellows	
Prof Subbiah Arunachalam	
Lawrence Liang	
Shyam Ponappa	
List of Fellows	
Dr. Anja Kovacs	
Selvam Velmurugan	
Malavika Jayaram	
List of Interns	
Elonnai Hickock	University of Toronto
Maesey Angelina	International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam
Vishal Makhija	University of Bangalore
Rebecca Schild	University of Toronto
Siddharth Chaddha	Delhi Law Faculty
Glover Wright	California University
Anuj Puri	National Law School of India University
Vikram Hegde	National Law School of India University
Neha Jain	Delhi Law Faculty
Deepti Bharthur	University of Hyderabad

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

(1.04.2010 upto 31.03.2011)

Sl No	Amount	Expenditure	Amount	Amount	Income	Amount
1	Per Year in Rupees		Current Year in Rupees	Per Year in Rupees		Current Year in Rupees
2	-	To Accounting Charges	42,600.00	25,193,098	By grants received	33,063,111.00
3	88,720	Bank Charges	24,053.25	32,866	Interest on Axis Bank	327.00
4	-	Board meeting expenses	123,719.00	-	Interest on fixed deposits	45,090.00
5	319,242	Books & Journals	135,138.00	-	Provision of earlier year not required	101,905.40
6	88,229	Computer Maintenance	255,054.00			
7	-	Computer Software	168,073.00			
8	6,352,484	Consultancy Charges	6,474,745.00			
9	81,057	Conveyance & Traveling Expenses	291,171.00			
10	65,410	Exchange Variation	-			
11	78,000	Fellowships/Internship	188,747.00			
12	2,000	Honorariums	60,941.00			
13	9,750,777	Lectures, Meetings & Workshops	9,445,544.50			
14	124,846	Equipment Maintenance	22,991.00			
15	118,814	Medical Insurance	90,364.75			
16	18,613	News Papers & Magazines	21,700.00			
17	125024	Office Maintenance	110,850.00			
18	17,213,216.09	Total C/f	17,455,691.50	25,225,963.50	Total C/f	33,210,433.40
19	36,000	Rent for Car Parking	-			
20	1,432,904	Office Rent	1,055,698.15			
21	45,821	Postage & Courier	202,017.00			
22	55,589	Power & Water	71,273.00			
23	81,803	Printing & Stationary	259,142.00			
24	2,888,064	Salaries	5,904,130.00			
25	35,000	Sponsorship	-			
26	305,145	Telephone & Internet	732,969.00			

27	63,165	Staff Welfare	199,890.20				
28	71,621	Security Charges	219,294.00				
29	6,067	Staff Training	-				
30	420,560	Web Hosting Expenses	282,456.00				
31	3,000	LEXUM Expenses	-				
32	24,798	Rates & Taxes	-				
33	2,895	Misc. Expenses	-				
34	40,000	Audit Fee	45,000.00				
35	-	Income Tax 2008-09	318,100.00				
36	-	Professional Tax renewal	2,500.00				
37	486,987	Depreciation	480,892.31				
38	2,013,328	Excess of Income over Expenditure	5,981,380.24				
39	**25,225,963.50**		**33,210,433.40**	**25,225,963.50**		**Total**	**33,210,433.40**
				By Excess of Income over Expenditure			5,981,380.24
40	2,013,328	Balance of Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	5,981,380.24	2,013,328			
41	**2,013,328**		**5,981,380.24**	**2,013,328**			**5,981,380.24**

For Nath Associates, Chartered Accountants
BS Manjunath
President
Membership No: F9743
Place: Bangalore
Date: 30.6.2011

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Sl No	Name	Destination and Purpose	Visa Fees in Rupees	Sponsor	Ticket Fare in Rupees	Sponsor	Per Diem in Rupees	Sponsor	Total Amount in Rupees	% of expenses incurred by Kusuma
1	Sunil Abraham	Open Development Workshop Organised by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottowa	9320.00	KUSUMA	Nil	IDRC	Nil		Nil	Nil
2	Sunil Abraham	Mekong ICI Camp 2010 - Bangalore to Chiang Mai from 6/6/10 to 12/6/10			25203.00		2800.00	CI + KUSUMA	28003.00	20.00
3	Sunil Abraham	Transparency, the Free Flow of Information and the Millennium Development Goals Summit(UK)	5300.00	OSI		KUSUMA	6071.00	KUSUMA	11371.00	20.00
4	Sunil Abraham	Transparency & Accountability Initiative Workshop –San Francisco	Nil	OSI	Nil	OSI	17681.00	KUSUMA		20.00
5	Sunil Abraham	Open Access Forum-Qatar	ICT	ICT	14,728.00	KUSUMA	14,728.00		29456.00	20.00
6	Sunil Abraham	Open World Forum 3rd edition, Paris	74,592.00	OWF	18,600.00	KUSUMA	13846.00		93192.00	
7	Sunil Abraham	Freedom of Expression Conference Organised by Google	4,085.00		18,812.00	KUSUMA	5059.00		22897.00	35.00
8	Sunil Abraham	Digital Natives Thinkathon, Amsterdam		HIVOS		HIVOS				NIL
9	Sunil Abraham	IP Discussion on Democratic Innovation and Creative Industries, Manila	4085.00	KUSUMA	18,812.00	KUSUMA	7100.00		29997.00	100.00
10	Sunil Abraham	Government Interoperability Framework, Iraq		OSI		OSI				Nil
11	Nishant Shah	Digital Natives – Berlin	10,381.00	HIVOS	46,508.00	HIVOS	61230.00	HIVOS	118119.00	Nil
12	Nishant Shah	Digital Natives – Chile	32,706.00	HIVOS	111,948.00	HIVOS	56640.00	HIVOS	201302.00	Nil
13	Nishant Shah	The Interasia Cultural Studies Summit- Korea + ASF Summit, Bangkok	8472.00	HIVOS	40701.00	HIVOS		HIVOS	49173.00	Nil

#	Name	Conference	Amount	Source	Amount	Source	Amount	Source	Total	%
14	Nishant, Namita, Hasina and Seema	Digital Natives – Taipei		HIVOS	106572 .00	HIVOS	56840.00	HIVOS	163412.00	Nil
15	Nishant Shah	INCS Meeting, China			26546.00	HIVOS	50625.00	HIVOS	77171.00	Nil
16	Nishant, Samuel, Hasina	Digital Natives – Johannesburg	8171.00		165363.00	HIVOS	164238.00	HIVOS	337772.00	Nil
17	Nishant Shah	Digital Natives Thinkathon		HIVOS			17700.00	HIVOS		Nil
18	Pranesh Prakash	Consumers International, Kuala Lumpur	11588.00	CI + KUSUMA	36688.00	KUSUMA	10000.00	KUSUMA	58276.00	80.00
19	Pranesh Prakash	IGF Conference- Lithuania	36,688.00	KUSUMA			39145.00	KUSUMA	75833.00	Nil
20	Pranesh Prakash	E-diligence Conference at Johannesburg, South Africa	2872.00	KUSUMA	23618.00		20700.00		47190.00	100.00
21	Pranesh Prakash	Aspen Institute	5616.00	KUSUMA			23150.00	KUSUMA	28766.00	60.00
22	Nirmita Narasimhan	Bills to Copyright Discussion, Geneva	1163.00	TACD + KUSUMA	45489.00	TACD + KUSUMA	46867.00		93519.00	50.00
23	Nirmita Narasimhan	SCCR, Geneva	5806.00	KUSUMA	49139.00	KUSUMA	11250.00	KUSUMA	66195.00	100.00
24	Nirmita Narasimhan	UN Expert Group Meeting on Accessibility, Washington DC	7,094.00	KUSUMA + OSI		KUSUMA	19650.00	KUSUMA	27444.00	100.00
25	Nirmita Narasimhan	UN and GID Form		ITU	20598.00		10400.00	ITU + KUSUMA		80.00
26	Anja Kovacs	Expert Meet on Internet & Human rights, Stockholm	2990.00	KUSUMA + OSI	42,736.00	KUSUMA + OSI	6425.00		52151.00	40.00
27	Anja Kovacs	Stockholm-UN Expert Meet on Internet & Human rights	6193.00	KUSUMA + OSI	44211.00	KUSUMA + OSI	46129.00	KUSUMA	96543.00	40.00
28	Anja Kovacs	IGF + Freedom of Expression Conference organised by Google, Budapest		KUSUMA	38292.00	KUSUMA				100.00

Distribution of Staff according to salary as on 31 March 2011

Salary plus benefits paid to staff in Rupees	Male	Female	Total
<5,000	1	1	2
5,000 to 10,000	1		1
10,000 to 25,000	1	3	4
25,000 to 50,000	3	1	4
50,000 to 1,00,000		1	1
1,00,000 to 2,00,000	2		2
Total	**8**	**6**	**14**

Monthly remuneration of three highest paid employees and lowest paid employee in Rupees

140000	98650	57600	4500

Staff Gender Distribution as on 31 March 2011

Male	Female	Total
8	2	10

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 – 560071
- Volunteer with us; get in touch by writing to Sunil Abraham at sunil@cis-india.org

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Request for Collaboration

CIS 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. To discuss advocacy-related collaborations, write to Sunil Abraham, Executive Director, at 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

- Association for Progressive Communications
- Centre for Knowledge Societies
- Centre for Law and Policy Research
- Centre for Study of Culture and Society
- Consumers Association of India
- Consumers International, Kuala Lumpur
- Daisy Consortium,
- DEMOS

- Digital Empowerment Foundation,
- Education World, Digital Learning
- Ford Foundation
- G3ict
- Google
- Hans Foundation,
- Hivos, Frontier Foundation and Academia Sinica
- IIT, Kharagpur
- IT for Change
- ITU,
- LiveMint
- Madras Library Association
- National Law School of India University
- Red Hat
- Rising Voices
- Society for Knowledge Commons
- Software Freedom Law Centre
- Space
- Tactical Tech
- The African Commons Project
- The Deafway Foundation,
- UK Government's Foreign Office
- UNESCO
- Venkataramanan Associates
- WIPO