

Multimedia & Online Resource Based Teaching in Tamil

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Abstract

The digital revolution has had far-reaching consequences for almost every aspect of human endeavor in the late 20th century. Its impact is global and increasingly pervasive. It has opened vast new opportunities in the fields of science, technology, education and commerce, to name only a few. One of the fields most affected has been education. There is a widespread perception among educators around the world that, while the human teacher will always remain indispensable, the Internet-linked computer has already emerged as the teaching tool par excellence. Enchasing the phenomenal growth in Internet teaching, the Govt. of Tamil Nadu started a Tamil Virtual University in May 2000, based on the recommendations of the Tamil Net -99 conference with a aim to provide internet based resources and opportunities for the Tamil communities living in different parts of the globe as well as others interested in learning Tamil and acquiring knowledge of the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamils. The Tamil Virtual University, during the past 2 years have designed and developed Certificate, Diploma and Degree courses of Tamil along with a very large digital library having Tamil literature with commentaries, historical events and technical glossaries and dictionaries. The contents have been presented with an elaborate use of multimedia technologies. The lessons of the educational programmes have been made more interactive and illustrative through pictures, animations, video clippings and audio contents. The library presents a picture-gallery and a video gallery on a large number of cultural events, temples and historical monuments. It also presents the devotional songs in audio mode. The literatures are presented both in Romanised form and Tamil fonts. This paper presents the experiences of developing multimedia based online resource for Tamil Education and web based resource on Tamil literature, culture history and art.