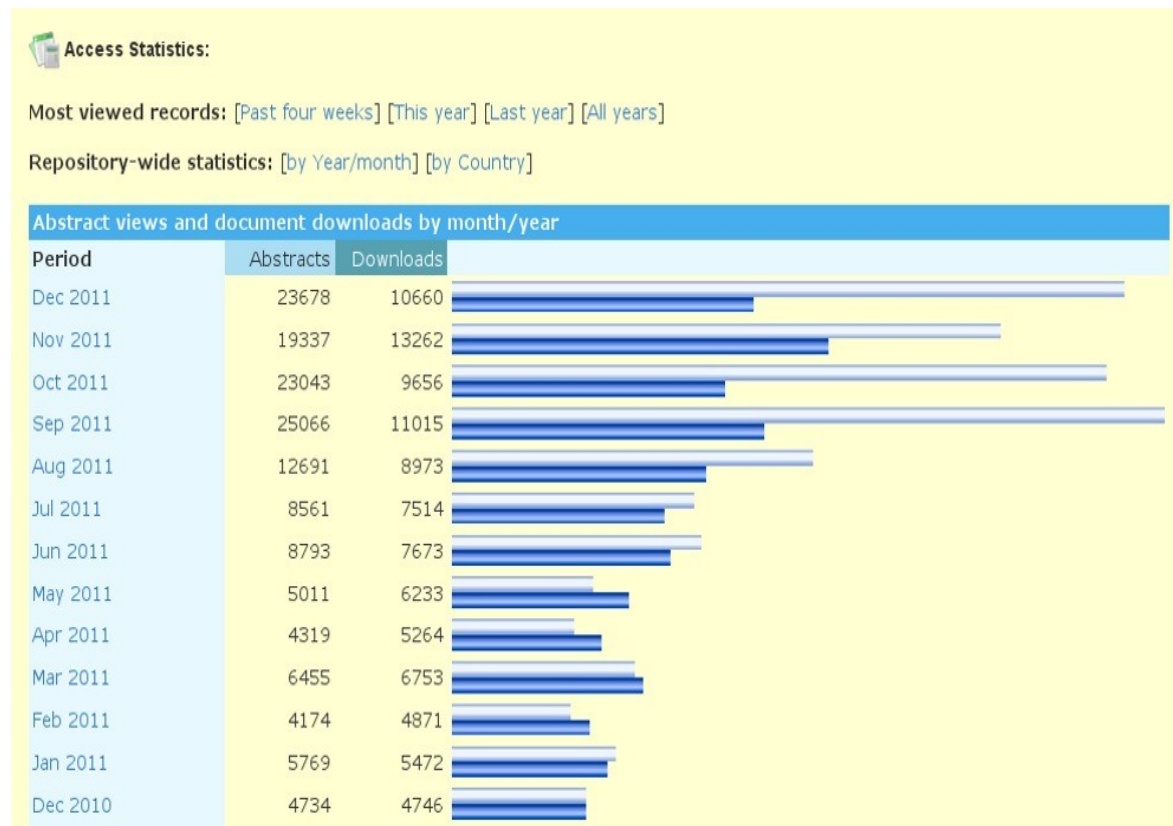# OLE Nepal: E-Pustakalaya Project Report 2011

With a steadfast belief that by providing freely accessible high-quality interactive teaching-learning materials along with an education-centered electronic library would be help address the problems of quality, access, and disparity in education within Nepal, Open Learning Exchange (OLE) Nepal ventured into the *E-Pustakalaya* (accessible at: www.pustakalaya.org) project in 2008. In particular, an educational and widely accessible library like *E-Pustakalaya* will enable students, teachers and families from different geographic and economic backgrounds to freely access the same high quality educational resources at their own convenience. *E-Pustakalaya* allows users to browse through the library collections, search for specific items, read documents in the web browser, and download documents for later use. Since its public launch in February 2009 the library has made great progress, with the library now having a collection of over 3000 books and documents that provide invaluable resources to students, teachers as well as to the general reader.

The Nepal Library Foundation provided OLE Nepal with a start up fund to set up the basics of the library and then additional funds in 2009, 2010 and 2011 to ensure the library remained robust and a publicly available website and resource center. This fund has been instrumental in helping OLE Nepal expand the content in *E-Pustakalaya* to its current state. *E-Pustakalaya* is now a digital repository that can be accessed from the Internet or through an internal network of local servers installed at OLE Nepal's remote program schools or community centers that are without Internet access. In 2011, apart from OLE Nepal's One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project schools, E-Pustakalaya was installed in Mahendra Madhyamik Vidhyalaya, Rukum, Tribhuvan Ma. Vidhyalaya, Baglung, Badri Bishani U. Ma. Vidhyalaya, Dhanding, Indraini U. Ma. Vidhyalaya, Illam through partnership with Winrock International, and in Bhairabi U. Ma. Vidhyalaya, Nuwakot with NLF's support. These installations have confirmed a broader interest and need of *E-Pustakalaya* offline installations.

The third full year of the project (2011) has been very fruitful in terms of expanding the number of interactive modules for children and broadening our contact list. Through partnerships with both *The British Council* and *e-Learning for Kids* we have managed to increase our flash-based interactive learning modules available for our users. Since these modules are not restricted to a curriculum like OLE Nepal's *E-Paath*, they have attracted a broader audience. Our partnership with Practical Action Nepal has helped us increase our video content dramatically. After having removed all copyright infringing materials from our video section in 2010 it is very reassuring to realise that our video database now has around one hundred video clips. The continual improvement in the quality of our files, the growth in the number of titles available and an increase in the subjects and genres covered by our uploaded titles have meant that our site visitors and number of titles downloads have improved dramatically. Around December 2010 we were averaging 5,000 views and

5,000 downloads per month. Currently we are averaging over 20,000 views and 10,000 downloads per month. To better track our data we have also started using google analytics.

Access Statistics:

Most viewed records: [Past four weeks] [This year] [Last year] [All years]

Repository-wide statistics: [by Year/month] [by Country]

Abstract views and document downloads by month/year

Period	Abstracts	Downloads
Dec 2011	23678	10660
Nov 2011	19337	13262
Oct 2011	23043	9656
Sep 2011	25066	11015
Aug 2011	12691	8973
Jul 2011	8561	7514
Jun 2011	8793	7673
May 2011	5011	6233
Apr 2011	4319	5264
Mar 2011	6455	6753
Feb 2011	4174	4871
Jan 2011	5769	5472
Dec 2010	4734	4746

(Accessed on Dec 23rd 2011)

We began the year by conducting the *Young Adult (YA) Literature* workshop in Nagarkot. From this workshop and several meetings with our advisory panel and editorial committee we have managed to produce five YA novels. Though we had high expectations in terms of numbers of books, they were tempered by the knowledge that writing novels takes years for some writers to write and finalise. Overall, we are proud to have helped create five books in a genre with virtually no books in Nepali literature. We also believe that our workshop and seminar has helped sensitise authors on the need for YA literature and brought awareness amongst the wider society. Our seminar and the papers presented at our workshop have been cited in recent research works done on YA literature.

One of our goals for 2011 was expanding the number of words available in our online sabdakos. This proved difficult as *Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya* and *Language Technology Kendra* (LTK) didn't have any plans to expand the dictionary. Instead, what we did manage to do is upload the entire *Nepali Brihat Sabdakos* in PDF format with bookmarks that helps navigate the user to the wanted alphabet. We managed to do this by coming to an agreement with Nepal Academy. The agreement has allowed us to give free access to the entire dictionary under creative commons licensing. In 2012 we hope to make

this dictionary searchable by first converting the fonts into unicode and then extracting the data and creating a database file.

In 2011, various different kinds of materials were collected, from classical and contemporary Nepali literature to children's books in Nepali and English to educational materials on health, education and civic responsibility to resources for teachers. We managed to sign a new MoU with Room to Read extending our partnership with them for a further two years. We also greatly increased the number of videos available by coming to an agreement with Practical Action and vastly increased the interactive modules available online.

The major activities associated with developing *E-Pustakalaya* further were content acquisition, offline installations of *E-Pustakalaya* so as to expand the reach of the library and promotion.

a. Content acquisition/creation:
- Preparing a comprehensive list of additional Nepali language literary works (classics as well as contemporary literature) that could potentially be added to *E-Pustakalaya*.
- Signed MoU with Practical Action, signed a new MoU with Room to Read and extablished partnerships with Nepal Academy, British Council and e-Learning for Kids.
- Acquired additional materials from organizations with whom partnerships had been established and are constantly working on creating new ones.
- Conducted workshop on Young Adult literature in Nepal. This workshop yielded five YA novels.
- Scanning and formatting books manually secured in non-digital format.
- Uploaded several textbooks from CK-12 Foundation.
- Including Learn English Kids and e-Learning for kids educational software for offline use in *E-Pustakalaya*.
- Uploaded several videos from Khan Academy and uploaded twenty videos from Practical Action.
- Uploaded two audio books -- BP' Koirala's *Antmabritanta* and Diamond Shumsher Rana's *Seto Bagh*. Will be uploading *Teen Ghumti* and other seminal works in audio format.
- Met with writers from various locations (outside Kathmandu) and collect their works
- Uploaded movie scripts/screenplays written by Yadav Kharel of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya and Laxmi Prasad Devkota.
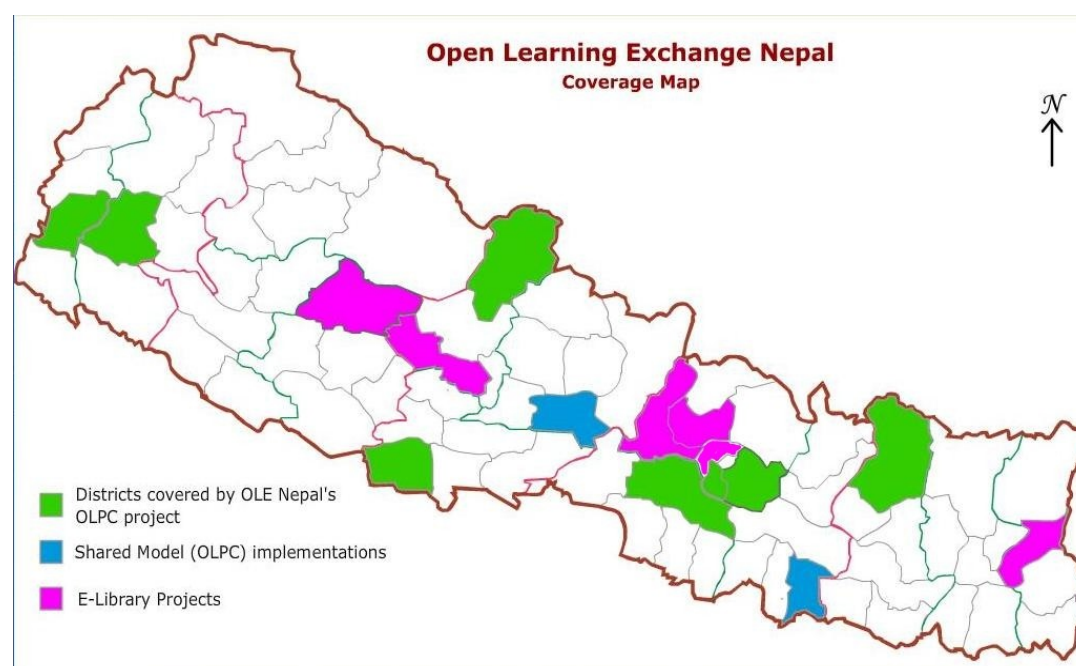
The following tables show the quantities of digital content that were uploaded to *E-Pustakalaya* under various categories in 2011.

Table 1: Content acquisition targets for 2011 by content category

	Acquired	Targeted
1. Nepali Literature	295	210
2. English Literature	210	210
3. Course-related Materials	194	75
4. Other Educational Materials	183	180
5. Teaching Support	100	80
6. Newspapers and Magazines	180	180
7. Reference Materials	46	15
8. Art	12	12
9. Audio	110	20
10. Video	80	15

b. Offline Installations.

In 2011, we installed *E-Pustakalaya* in five districts, not counting the ten OLPC project schools. The following map shows the various installations:

c. Promotion

- On June 22nd NGO Day event was held at Shanker Hotel. We were able to demonstrate and inform people/organisations about *E-Pustakalaya*. There were more than 120 organisations participating and most of them were impressed with our project.
- *E-Pustakalaya* demonstrations were done during Nepali Society for Children's Literature General Assembly held at Palpa, Nepal in February 2011. We also uploaded and launched Indra Prasad Adhikari's *"Hiuko Sirak"* at the same time as its print version was being launched. This is most likely the first time both an E-book and Print version of a Nepali book has been launched together.
- *E-Pustakalaya* was demonstrated at the ICT for Development and Education Conference held at Soaltee hotel in November 16.
- *E-Pustakalaya* has also been demonstrated at all the teacher training sessions conducted by OLE Nepal.
- Throughout the year we have promoted *E-Pustakalaya* using social networking sites and tools as well as OLE Nepal's blogs/newsletters and website.
- We have also continued to meet authors and brief them on E-Pustakalaya.