USING INTERNET FOR APPLIED DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
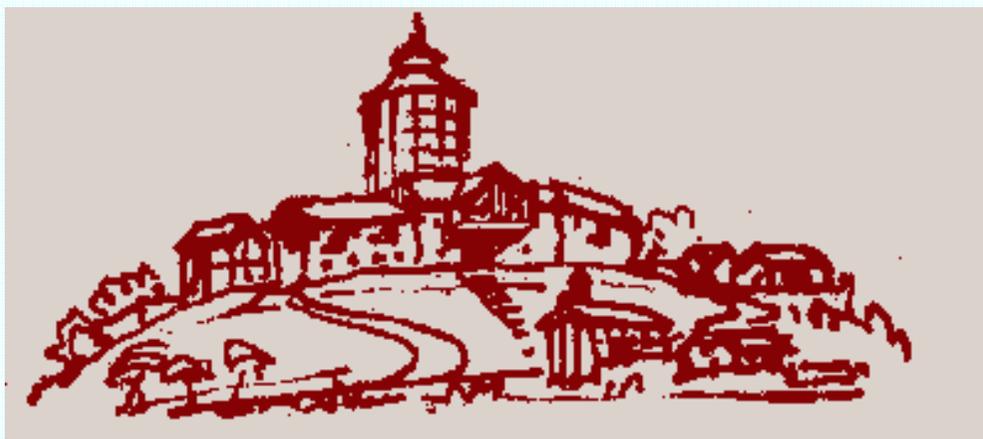
Version 10.0

Short duration course for Economists, Management Specialists and other Social Scientists in Academia, Industry, Government and the NGO sectors

May 28-30, 2014

Organised by

Centre for Development Studies

at

Centre for Development Studies
Prasanth Nagar, Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram – 695011, Kerala
www.cds.edu

The Course Setting

The Internet has become a great and veritable source of information on a variety of topics. The quantity of data and literature that is available on the Net is increasing by leaps and bounds. This has in a sense empowered the empirical researcher in a wide range of disciplines especially in Economics, Business Management, and indeed other Social Sciences. While the Net is a gold mine of sorts for information, accessing this in the most optimal manner, given the slow nature of Internet connectivity even now in most parts and especially in the rural areas, success lies in mastering searching technologies which are increasingly becoming sophisticated and faster. In the context, the purpose of this short duration course is to take students by hand through the various logical steps in doing a typical applied development project and then acquaint them with Internet resources that can make these steps much more easy and rich. In fact, this is a thoroughly revised and updated version of an earlier course titled, *Using Internet for Social Science Research.* The current version is broadened to include a wide variety of disciplines under a variety of settings such as the academia, industry, government and the NGO sectors- in fact in any walk of life, which involves an empirical research. The course gives particular emphasis to mastering a range of open source software tools that can aid in the process.

Course Objectives

Given a research topic, after attending the course, the participant should be able to:

- Prepare a comprehensive but issue-specific bibliography using freely available resources on the www;
- Identify secondary source datasets;
- Download the identified datasets in an efficient manner; and
- Familiarise with different methods of dissemination (of output) and networking

Course participants

The present course is targeted at a range of disciplines ranging from Business Management to Economics to Sociology to other Social Sciences. It is ideal for a researcher who (be she/he) works in the academia, industry, and government of the NGO sectors. Even journalists (both in the print and visual media) may find this course quite useful in carrying out their daily tasks as news gatherers and analysts.

Course Structure: The course adopts an interactive workshop session mode. Each participant will be provided with a PC with broadband Internet connection. The course is spread over 14 sessions in three days. A number of exercises will actually be done in the class and the course faculty will continue to interact with participants through a specially created Blog on the course. The course will cover the following topics:

Topic	Coverage
• Research design, i.e., articulating your research	exploring your topic and refining it and engaging with the source material
• Net pre requisites	will be discussing net fundamentals such as browsing tools, security measures, cookies etc
• Net based literature survey	will be discussing power searching
• Data retrieval tools	will discuss download managers, website down loaders, different download mechanisms like BitTorrent etc
• On line data storage	will be discussing various on line data storage services
• Data analysis and presentation	will be discussing a range of spreadsheet based data analysis tools
• Tools for report writing	will be discussing bibliography tools, on line collaborative editing tools etc
• Dissemination and networking	will be discussing blogs, wiki, podcasting, social networking, tweets etc
• Some critical issues in using the Internet	will be discussing copyright, reliability of information, etc

Faculty: Mr J Muralidharan Nair, Professor Sunil Mani, Dr U S Mishra (CDS). The Overall coordination of the course will be by Professor Sunil Mani while the logistical and administrative arrangements will be by Mr A.R.Aji Kumar.

Timing of the course: The course is spread over three working days beginning Wednesday, the 28th[h] of May 2014. All the lectures start at 9 AM and will continue up to 5 PM. The participants are allowed to remain inside the class room for practice sessions until 21 hrs every day. The day- to-day schedule of the lectures will be available to the selected participants.

Courseware: All the selected participants will be provided with a CD-ROM containing all the software tools used in the course. Very clear notes explaining the use of these tools and the slides of all the lectures too will be available.

Venue: The course will be held at the air-conditioned and Wi-Fi enabled computer lab at Centre for Development Studies. The campus is easily reachable by public transport from the Central Station at Thampanur and the City Bus Terminal at East Fort. The nearest important junction is approximately a kilometer away at Ulloor.

Course Certificate: The participants will be issued with a course completion certificate of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala.

Course Fee: Rs 5000 per person. This includes the following: (i) Boarding and lodging for four nights beginning May 27 2014; and (ii) Courseware. For non-residential candidates the course fee is Rs 3500. This fee covers three lunches and the courseware.

Travel and Accommodation: Outstation participants will have to make their own arrangements for travel. Accommodation will be provided within the CDS campus and the course fee cover this amount.

Application:
Application forms can be downloaded (PDF) from the website (www.cds.edu) or filled in and submitted online (`http://goo.gl/HIWXfU`)

For additional information on *any* aspect of the course, please contact:

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Important Dates

Programme announcement	**: March 14, 2014**
Last date of receipt of completed application forms	**: April 18, 2014**
Selected candidates to be informed by	**: April 25, 2014**
Last date for the receipt of course fee	**: May 2, 2014**
Course starts	**: May 28, 2014**
Course ends	**: May 30, 2014**