

## **INFLIBNET's Virtual Classroom Using A-View: A Step towards Innovative e-learning Environment**

**Shri Yatrik Patel**, Scientist- D (CS) and **Shri Divyakant Vaghela**, Scientist-B (CS)

A virtual classroom is an innovative e-learning online environment. As human resources development in ICT and LIS skill is one of the core mandates of the INFLIBNET Centre, a variety of training programs are being conducted on regular basis. For better outreach, INFLIBNET Centre has initiated Virtual Classroom for benefitting the users of our services. The user will have the facility to learn from his/her own choice of place. This article explains the training provided by INFLIBNET Centre through AVIEW software and how user can join our classroom to avail the benefits.

The ICT is playing a critical role in open and distance education to fulfil the demands and expectation from the learners' in mass. The primary application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education revolves around utilization of ICT equipment in education as a media of communication. The students need to be familiarized with the use and workings of computers, and associated ethical and social issues. There are many opportunities and disputes that are to be addressed in utilization of technology and services being supplied by ICT due to assorted demands in open and distance learning for a Virtual Classroom. In this competitive and growing world, virtual classroom is very useful for distance learning.

The conception of the virtual classroom has made it possible for learners to tackle the features of the Internet to create meaningful and constructivist learning environments.

Teachers and students can meet online through Virtual Classroom. Teacher is able to teach students by video sharing, PowerPoint presentation, chatting or application sharing. If anyone wants to ask questions then they have the readily available tools and applications to virtually raise their hand, send messages, or answer questions on the screen given by the presenter.

### **Human Resource Development (ICT and LIS Skills) Activities by INFLIBNET Centre**

Imparting training to manpower working in the universities and college libraries in the use of IT is an important objective of the Centre that has been given due priority.

535 training programmes, workshops and seminars focusing on library automation and networking have so far been conducted benefitting 43000+ participants.

INFLIBNET Regional training programme for Library Automation (IRTPLA) and User Awareness Training Programmes on E-Resources subscribed under the UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium and N-LIST are being conducted across the country in collaboration with universities.

National and International conventions called PLANNER in North-Eastern regions and CALIBER in various states of India are being organized bi-annually as part of human resources development activities.

The Centre has also conducted 107 training programmes on SOUL installations and operations for libraries as of now.

To expand the benefits of expertise available with Centre to larger user base, INFLIBNET Centre has initiated virtual classroom every month using A-VIEW (Amrita Virtual Interactive E-learning World) classroom software developed by Amrita University to increase awareness about our services and activities as well as to address problems and issues that the users of our services may have.

## AVIEW

### (Amrita Virtual Interacting E-Learning World):

AVIEW is a real time Collaborative Multimedia E-Learning Platform that allows an instructor to teach live a large number of distant classrooms. AVIEW project is being funded by the National Mission on Education (ICT) under the Ministry of HRD. AVIEW is a prestigious part of "Talk to a Teacher" national program led by IIT Bombay.

AVIEW classroom provides various tools for live interaction between presenter and participants, even though they are geographically separated from each other. It is currently used at hundreds of universities, colleges and organization across the India.

A-VIEW Classroom is a framework that provides a rich interactive social environment for E-Learning. It is simple, user-friendly video conferencing software, which provides a great opportunity to teach in live interactive mode to various geographical locations across India.

A-VIEW Classroom provides opportunity to connect several universities and colleges together and creates virtual world for institutes. It also acts as a Knowledge Cafe where one can discuss /chat about the lecture after the live class.

## Features

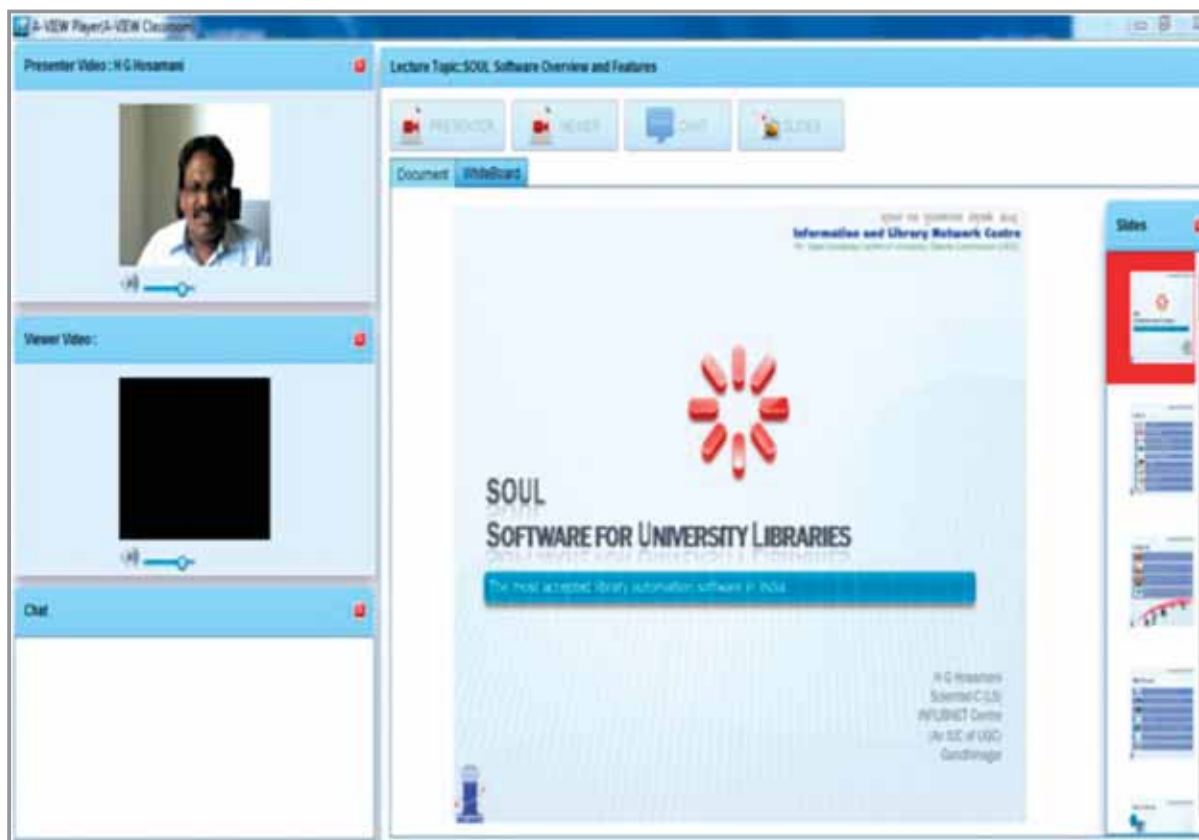
- Deliver engaging classes, live and recorded
- Presenter and participants interaction through video, chat and hand-raise
- Content can be seen on multiple displays enabling a rich viewing experience
- Multi device compatible whiteboard
- Provide access to lectures at varying bandwidth
- Can be run on multiple platforms such as Windows, Linux, Macintosh and Mobile device.
- Supports power point animations, 2D viewer and 3D viewer
- Supports document sharing, video sharing, application sharing or desktop sharing
- Moderator/Presenter can edit the recorded video
- Advanced level security of Face Recognition for authentication to login

## INFLIBNET's Training using A-View Virtual Class Room

Using the A-VIEW classroom software, INFLIBNET Centre provides online information support to academic community in India. Scientists of INFLIBNET Centre interact with users in universities, colleges on various activities and functions of the Centre including N-LIST, UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium, SOUL, OJAS, Union Catalogue (IndCat), ShodhGanga and Shodhgangotri, etc. Lectures may also be arranged on topics of interest on demand from the user community.

So far we had conducted three lectures through AVIEW software and we have received good response from the participants. Details of lecture conducted are given below:

Date	Lecture Topic	Time
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	INFLIBNET's projects and Activities Overview	11:00 to 12:00
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	INFLIBNET's projects and Activities Overview	11:00 to 12:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2013	SOUL Software Overview & Features	11:00 to 12:00
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	SOUL 2.0 - Administration Module	11:00 to 12:00



Lecture delivered by Shri H G Hosamani, Scientist C (LS), INFLIBNET Centre

Lectures proposed in next quarter are as follows:

Date	Lecture Topic	Time
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	SOUL 2.0 - Acquisition Module	11:00 to 12.00
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2013	SodhGanga AND ShodhGangotri	11:00 to 12.00
21 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	SOUL 2.0 - Catalogue & OPAC Module	11:00 to 12.00

### How to join INFLIBNET's Virtual Classroom ?

User would require an Internet (recommended bandwidth 1Mbps) enabled PC/Laptop as per the minimum configuration given below. Besides, user would be required to register on A-VIEW website (<http://aview.in>) and install A-VIEW classroom software on PC/Laptop as per the instruction given below:

### Hardware Requirement

No	Item	Configuration	Quantity
1	Desktop Computer/ Laptop	3 GB RAM, Intel Core 2 Duo; OS – Windows XP or above / Mac 10.6.X or above	1
2	Web Cam	Good quality web camera	1
3	Headphone with Microphone	Good quality sound	1

## Software Requirement

To install A-VIEW software follow the instruction given below:

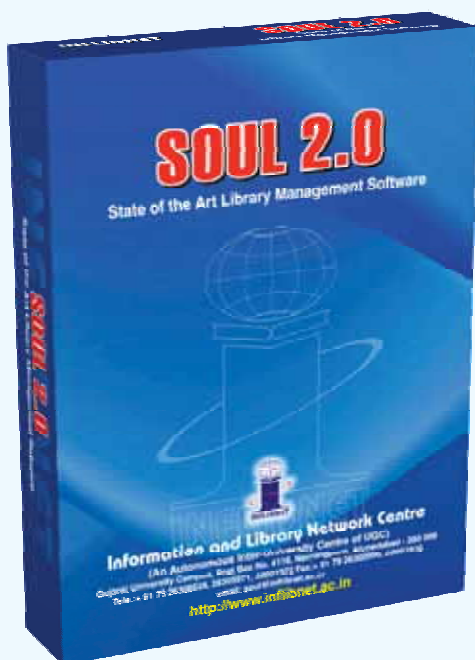
1. Register at <http://www.aview.in> with your email id. You will receive a confirmation mail from A-View Administrator.
2. After confirmation you can download a-view software.
3. Install it and start using it with username and password whenever a live session is "on" at INFLIBNET Centre.

Please send your Username to A-View Co-ordinator at INFLIBNET Centre ([divyakant@inflibnet.ac.in](mailto:divyakant@inflibnet.ac.in)) after completion of registration process.

For the details about lectures through A-View Software, kindly visit Calendar of INFLIBNET Centre of its web site <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>.

## References:

1. <http://aview.in>
2. Sharma, Shweta, Gupta, Shruti (April 2012). "The Virtual Classroom: The Role of ICT in Open and Distance Learning", IJCET International Journal of Computer, Communication and Emerging Technology, Volume 1, Issue 1.
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual\\_learning\\_environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_learning_environment)
4. <http://www.inflibnet.ac.in>



# SOUL 2.0

STATE-OF-THE-ART INTEGRATED  
LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/soul>