

Web edition of Sarvavijnanakosam

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About the SIEP

- Ours is a cultural institution functioning under the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala.
- It was constituted as part of the government policy that Malayalam should be used as the medium of education, administration and judiciary.

Our objectives

- Dissemination of knowledge to the people of Kerala in their pursuit of learning.
- Build a knowledge portal that may be useful for the public.
- Bring out encyclopaedias.

Our publications

- We have so far published
 - Sarvavijnanakosam
 - 14 volumes and the revised edition of the first volume
 - Viswasahityavijnanakosam
 - 5 volumesand
 - Paristhithivijnanakosam

Switch over to open source

- Lack of an adequate open source DTP software compels us to prepare all the above volumes using proprietary software.
- About two years back we decided to start the transition to using free software for our publishing work.

What did we do?

- As a first step we decided to make available in the public domain the contents of our Sarvavijnanakosam.
- Using MediaWiki software and with technical support from the IT Mission, Government Data Centre, Kudumbasree and SPACE, we launched the web edition of Sarvavjnanakosam in June 2008.

The process

- Separate text from image
- Convert text
- Convert images into low resolution .jpeg format
- Open a new html document
- Paste the converted text
- Insert appropriate links for images
- Save and publish

Why did we use MediaWiki?

- Front-end is familiar to most
- Suitable for handling Indic scripts
- Easy to include keywords
 - Categories
 - sub-categories
- Open source
 - So a large technical support base is available

Objectives of the web edition

- Put the content in the public domain
- Share resources with interested clients
- Accept Articles from the public on topics of current relevance, do both factual and copy editing and then publish them in the web edition
- Integrate diverse types of multimedia too along with the text
- Develop an interactive web portal of knowledge

Thank you