

“e-Content remains accessible only to those who have easy access to the Internet”

How would you define the meaning of e-Content in your country in terms of its true meaning and practical implication?

At this stage, e-Content still refers to content available online (or via Internet) in various forms - text, images, audio and video. This means that e-Content remains accessible only to those who have easy access to the Internet

factfile

Population of the country: **858,863** (2008)
Total no of Universities: **1**
Number of Individuals with Internet Access: **190,000** (2007)
Number of broadband users : **2000** (2005)
Internet hosts in Guyana: **6,218** (2008)
No. of individuals with computers: **22,000**
Total number of household having TV/cable TV: **46,000**
Total Number of PC installations: **2,29,500** (2002)
Number of telephone connections: **110,100** (2005)
Total number of mobile connections: **281,400** (2005)
Percentage of literacy : **98.8%**

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guyana>
http://www.indexmundi.com/guyana/Internet_users.html
http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/int_bro_sub-Internet-broadband-subscribers
http://www.indexmundi.com/guyana/Internet_hosts.html
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5 pillars

of e-Content development in Guyana

- ↳ Greater penetration of affordable ICT infrastructure
- ↳ Public awareness and interest both by users and providers of e-Content - Guyana tends to be a net passive user of content produced mostly in North America
- ↳ Skills and knowledge to provide e-Content
- ↳ Commercial viability of e-Content provision and use
- ↳ Implementation of the national ICT4D strategy

Q What is the current status of e-Content in your country - across all industry and aspects.

e-Content is largely present through Internet hosting, on various websites. There is a growing number of website developers and persons who are starting to become interested in blogs and similar tools. The Guyanese diaspora also contribute to e-Content in this way by supporting web development. The opportunities of disseminating content via CDs and DVDs is still not fully explored. Part of this reason could be the shortage of programmers, or the unavailability of the demand due to limited awareness. There has been a focus on getting the ICT infrastructure in place and there has been progress in the expansion of infrastructure, though it is limited by the monopoly being held.

Q What area of eContent is best developed in your country? For example, e-health, e-biz, e-culture, e-gov, e-entertainment, e-learning, e-science, or e-inclusion.

The best areas which are developed are e-biz, especially within the private sector in tourism and hospitality. e-Gov is also developing with many Government agencies starting to build and also to keep their websites up-to-date. e-Learning has been boosted with the first commercial venture being offered. The Government has also started to provide information about the land titles and maps and make them available on CDs for distribution to interested persons. Specific digital maps are available as bases for GIS applications, but there are no public GIS available at the moment.

Q Which sector in your country is more aggressive in developing e-Content - business or private sector; government or civil society?

The private sector has led the way in developing e-Content, with the private sector websites coming on stream, especially in the tourism sector. The number of websites owned by Government and civil society is

increasing. Many Guyanese individuals have blogs in different stages of updates. There are few CD/DVD or digital media products available. Social network sites provide forums for personal exchange of information.

Q How would you describe the gradual progress of development of e-Content in your country in terms of its rise? Any timelines?

In 1996, the Internet came to Guyana, though it was limited in its reach until about 2002 when increased bandwidth from the monopoly allowed access on demand. In 1997, Guyana's Sustainable Development Networking Programme, was initiated and sites for Government and NGOs were established. Some young entrepreneurs established website development companies and from 2003 there was a growth in the number of websites in all sectors.

Q Can you list the major initiatives, which influenced and aggravated the development of e-Content in your country?

- >> A national interest in ICTs and its potential, and this includes the Government.
- >> Interest within different sectors, especially the private sector
- >> Recognition that within some sectors, e.g. tourism that provision of e-Content was critical to ensuring competitiveness

Q How would you describe the major bottlenecks on the path of e-Content development in your country?

There are no major bottlenecks. The cost of development of some forms of e-Content would probably be prohibitive, and the absence of some programming skills in some areas would limit the types of content available. There is limited exposure for the production of content, and in some cases, producing e-Content in Guyana might be seen as more expensive than in other countries.

Q In majority of the countries, e-Content development is significantly dependent on ICT infrastructure and ICT facilities. But, in some countries that are quite developed, ICT has become part of daily life and e-Content development is primarily subjected to the initiatives of an individual/organization/government, etc. Whereas, in some countries, especially those, which are developing and under developed, e-Content development is largely dependent on ICT infrastructure. What is the situation in your country? Please explain in detail.

The situation here is that there is a slow growth of ICT infrastructure. The development of e-Content though, is not only about the ICT infrastructure, it is about the demand for e-Content, and the market for the e-Content in different sectors.

Q How would you describe the ICT scenario in your country? Please describe in terms of infrastructure, penetration, acceptance and policies.

The ICT infrastructure is available on the coast, with varying degrees of quality. Landline services are concentrated around urban areas. There is a monopoly on the provisions of telecoms services. There is a draft ICT4D strategy at <http://www.ict4d.org.gy> which was prepared by various stakeholders. Computer hardware is without Value Added Tax or Duties. There is a large number of cellphone subscribers but no mobile applications as yet.

Q How do you see the future of e-Content development in your country?

The next few years will see a growth of new content in different sectors, especially for those content which could be accessed 'offline'. As the national ICT4D strategy is implemented, there will be a need for e-Content, especially in the Government.

Q Please explain which medium is the most preferred medium for e-Content development? Print? Or TV? Or Internet/Web? Or Radio? Or

Mobile/Wireless? Or a combination of some of these?

Internet, or a combination of media.

Best Practices

E-INCLUSION

Two initiatives are mentioned in this category, but they could not be formally included since the juror had some involvement in their development. These are :-

1) **Guyana Development Gateway -**

<http://www.guyanagateway.org.gy>

This is the only site of its kind which features text and image based content from different sources and on different topics.

2) A community based access point using the

Linux Terminal Server project, and used computers. This allowed for a low cost of installation. The centre was established and is managed by the Society for Empowerment and Holistic Advancement and the Cummings Lodge Hindu Society. This has provided for increased access to persons who would not normally have had access to ICTs.

E-GOVERNMENT

<http://www.agrinet-guyana.org.gy>

This is the portal of

Guyana's Agricultural Information Network , which is a network of institutions involved in Agriculture in Guyana. It is facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

E-HEALTH

<http://www.hiv.gov.gy> - **Website of the Guyana National AIDS**

Programme managed by the Ministry of Health which contains a wide range of resources from different stakeholders about the issues around HIV/AIDs in Guyana.