



## Conference Report

### Report of the LISACON 2020 - Third National Conference on Reinventing Excellence in Librarianship

The Third LIS Academy annual event and the first virtual conference - LISACON-2020 with a theme Reinventing Excellence in Librarianship was organised by LIS Academy in association with IGM Library, University of Hyderabad and Telangana Library Association during 27-30 August 2020.

The conference was formally inaugurated by Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Hon'ble Chairman, National Board of Accreditation, New Delhi in presence of Prof. Karisiddappa, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, Prof. T. D. Kemparaju, Vice Chancellor of Bengaluru North University, Kolar, Dr. Shankar Venugopal, Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra, Chennai, Conference Director, LISACON 2020, Dr. M. G. Sreekumar, Chief Librarian and Adjunct Professor, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kozhikode, and Prof. B. Raja Shekhar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad.

During the inaugural function, Prof P V Konnur, Conference Chair and President LIS Academy, formally gave an overview of the conference theme 'Reinventing Excellence in Librarianship' and briefed about the professional journey of LIS Academy as well as its initiatives for the development of library professionals. He formally introduced the dignitaries and welcomed them to the first virtual and 3<sup>rd</sup> LISACON conference.

The Conference Director, Dr M G Sreekumar, Chief Librarian and Adjunct Professor, IIM Kozhikode gave a brief note about the conference including sub-themes and introduced the panel speakers of four-day event. He highlighted relevance of conference theme and sub-themes in covid19 pandemic and briefed the quiz program organized in each session to the LIS professionals to enrich their knowledge.

Prof K K Aggarwal, Honourable Chairman, NBA, MHRD, New Delhi, in his inaugural address highlighted the efforts of LIS Academy for the welfare of the library professionals and congratulated

them for successfully networking the institutions and professionals through the conference. He emphasized on the word 'EXCELLENCE' as it is a journey that takes one towards higher direction and further it takes in improving the services by setting higher benchmark despite the disruptions.

Prof Karisiddappa, Honourable Vice Chancellor of VTU, Belagavi, addressed on the changes that libraries are undergoing and the need for librarians to equip themselves to stay relevant and meaningful. He further mentioned that libraries are vital to any educational ecosystem and changes due to technology intervention, changing paradigms in education system and diverse need of information seekers, libraries need to work out a strategy to understand factors of change regarding their services and delivery mechanisms and called on the librarians to aid in creating meaningful curriculum.

Prof T D Kemparaju, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Bengaluru North University, Kolar, talked on the importance of knowledge and information and drew the attention to the quality consciousness society and technology driven society lead to quality and excellence in academics. He called the Libraries to re-examine their services and activities and stressed on establishing quality parameters in collection building.

Dr Shankar Venugopal, Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra, Mahindra Research Valley, Chennai, delivered the Keynote address on Future of Library and the new role of Librarians. His talk focused on the forces shaping the future library. Talking on the new role of librarians, he gave three crucial rules for knowing and empowering the libraries and three models for connected library. He presented a comprehensive road map for future libraries and discussed critical skills for future librarians and explained how to build those skills. He enlightened future librarians with 3 new rules - know your customer, empower your customer and empower yourself and how to look at things with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches.

Conference Director, Dr. M. G. Sreekumar shared his thoughts on 'Conceptualizing and designing a sustainably agile and resilient 21<sup>st</sup> century library'. In his talk, he discussed the library strategies, systems

and services as catalyst in imparting, creating and preserving knowledge. Trends in libraries and mandate of present libraries, learning environment and activities were thoughtfully presented in his talk. Library professionals should shoulder the curriculum and academic activities of the institute by repositioning their importance in the organizations were the highlights of his speech.

Prof. B. Raja Shekhar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad gave his presidential remarks covering the role of libraries and librarians in the present times. Dr. Varatharajan, University Librarian, University of Hyderabad and organizing secretary proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Shivaram, Sr. Technical Officer, NAL, Bengaluru, anchored the inaugural session.

The first session on 28<sup>th</sup> August with the subtheme - Reinventing Library Services in Digital Age was chaired by Mr. B. P. Prakash, Director Library Services, Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana. In his plenary talk he gave practical insights from management perspectives and enlightened the participants with his vast experience in a large corporate library and presented various facets of library management in achieving excellence by bringing in some practical insights.

In this session, six speakers viz., Prof. M. Sai Baba, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru; Dr. Nabi Hasan, IIT, Delhi; Dr. Umeshreddy Kacherki, IISER, Pune; Dr. Bhojaraju Gunjal, NIT, Rourkela; Dr. Rashmi Kumbar, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar; Ms Matty PC, Assistant Professor, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery, Cochin, presented their various thoughts on - challenges of innovative services, practical experiences, librarian's role as research partners, adopting Digital Pedagogy in LIS education system, and library as a social and cultural hub.

Second Session of the day with a subtheme – New Paradigms in Collection Development was Chaired by Dr. Shantanu Ganguly, Fellow, Knowledge Management Division – TERI, New Delhi. He enlightened on various digital platforms and online resources and how professionals can embrace the Digital Transformation in their system and introduce services. He discussed various knowledge products that can be delivered on the devices of the users and gave tips on game changer program.

In the second session, panel speakers, Dr. H. S. Siddamalliah, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru; Dr. B. M. Meera, Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru; Smt. Hamsa Kalyani, NIAS, Bengaluru; Dr. B. Sanjay, Central University of Tripura, Tripura; Dr. Vimal Kumar V, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam; Dr. B. S. Shivaram, NAL, Bengaluru shared their experiences on Collection models of e-resources, curation and preservation of digital archives, services in social science research, building a diverse collection for every reader, role of librarians in Wikipedia content development and building collection using usage data.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August, Third Session on - Leveraging Library Technologies was chaired by Mr. Girish Kunkur, Librarian, BITS, Pilani. He enlightened the audience with how best LIS professionals can enhance and engage user experiences through technology in academic libraries with his Practical Experience at BITS Pilani.

In the session, six speakers, Dr. Shamprasad M. Pujar, IGIDR, Mumbai; Dr. Sudhier K. G, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvarur; Sri Rabisankar Giri, Presidency University, Kolkata; Sri. Badan Barman, Guwahati University, Guwahati; Sri. Munim A. C., CSIR-NAL, Bengaluru; Sri. Arun F. Adrakatti, IISER, Berhampur deliberated their views on - CASA - Campus Activated Subscriber Access, web scale discovery tools, technological advancements in libraries, library web applications, and challenges in multimedia Information Retrieval Systems in the digital age.

Fourth Session of the conference - Data, Metrics, and Ranking: Role of Librarians was Chaired by Dr. Jagadish Arora, Former Director, INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad and Adviser, NBA, New Delhi. In his Plenary talk, he enlightened, how librarians can play a role in Ranking of Higher Education Institutions in India.

Speakers in the session, Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi, India International Centre, New Delhi; Dr. Sanjay Kataria, Bennett University, Noida; Prof. S M Shafi, Former Professor, University of Kashmir, Srinagar; Dr. B. T. Sampath Kumar, Tumakuru University, Tumakuru; Dr. Bibhuti Bhusan Sahoo, IIT, Bhubaneswar; Dr. Gireesh Kumar T. K., BHU, Varanasi, shared their experiences on - role of librarians in open access publications, research data management, open data repositories, research

indicators, institutional rankings and how best libraries can play a key role in enhancing the research visibility and research collaborations.

On 30<sup>th</sup> the Fifth session - Role of libraries in Inculcating Research Ethics was chaired by Dr. P. Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Dept. of Lib. & Inf. Science, University of Kalyani University, Kolkatta. In his plenary talk, he enlightened the participants on how to inculcate best practices to maintain standards with Academic Integrity.

Speakers of the session, Dr. IRN Goudar, Former Head, ICAST, NAL, Bengaluru; Dr. Murari Tapaswi, Goa University, Goa; Dr. Pratibha Gokhale, University of Mumbai, Mumbai; Dr. Satish Munnolli, ACTREC, Navi Mumbai; Dr. R. S. Jayasomu, NISCAIR, New Delhi; Dr. Rajendra Babu, Tumakur University, Tumakur, discussed and presented their views on publication ethics, pirate sites, good ethical practices in LIS education, role of librarians in publication procedures and predatory publications.

Sixth Session on Library Diplomacy was chaired by Dr. K. Rama Patnaik, Librarian, IIM, Bengaluru. In her plenary talk she presented, how to revitalize diplomacy and what role Libraries can play as a tools of Culture, Advocacy, promotion, and Curating heritage.

The five speakers of the session, Dr. Dilara Begum, East West University, Dhaka; Dr. G. Mahesh, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi; Dr. N. C. Ghosh, IIM, Kolkata; Dr. S. K. Savanur, Former Faculty, Joshi-Bedekar College, Thane; Sri Rajesh Kumar Sinha, South Eastern Railways, Adra, presented on - Library Diplomacy in 21<sup>st</sup> century, how librarians can learn from science diplomacy, Past, Present and Future of Library diplomacy and strategic tool in diplomacy were deliberated in the session.

Each technical session had a good number of queries from participants and they were answered by the respective learned speakers. Each session was moderated by Panel Chair. To encourage and keep the young participants engaged throughout the session, Quiz competition was organized after every

session and the winner and runner up were awarded with exciting prizes and mementos. Dr. Kotresh Agadi and Dr. Mallikarjun Ajangoda were awarded winner and runner up of all sessions who answered all the questions within the shortest time.

The four-day conference had 35 Invited Speakers and 6 Plenary speakers who are eminent LIS Professionals from various parts of the country. There was product demonstration on all the three days by Scientific E-Resources, Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Net Analytiks, Knimbus, Emerald Publishing, Turnitin and Indica.

The four-day virtual conference on current and major topics of librarianship in digital age were deliberated from experienced professionals and speakers from the LIS academia. The presentation recordings of each speaker was edited to suit and fit into the format and streamed as per the programmed schedule and the speakers of each session came live to receive and respond the queries raised by the learned audience. The video recordings of LISACON 2020 were made available on LIS Academy website and on YouTube channels.

Dr. T. A. Mohan, welcomed the dignitaries of valedictory. Dr. Satish Munnolli, presented the detailed report of four days' conference to the dignitaries. Prof. B. P. Veerabhadra, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Kuvempu University, Shivamogga gave the valedictory address and Dr. S. Satishkumar Hosamani, gave the presidential address and Dr. A. S. Deshpande, Registrar, Belagavi, addressed as Guest of Honour. Dr. P. V. Konnur, President, LIS Academy, Bengaluru thanked all the speakers for intellectual contributions and success of the conference and Dr. B. S. Shivaram proposed vote of thanks.

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