

## **Redefining Academic Libraries in the Knowledge Society**

# **Redefining Academic Libraries in the Knowledge Society**

**Festschrift Volume in Honour of  
M Ayub**

*Editors*

**M Bavakutty  
Abdul Azeez T A**



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New Delhi

## ***Redefining Academic Libraries in the Knowledge Society***

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Phones: 23260807, 41563444

Fax: 41563334

E-mail: [info@essessreference.com](mailto:info@essessreference.com)

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## **Foreword**

Mr. M. Ayub is well known throughout the library circles in Kerala. Having joined Farook College Library service in 1981, he had familiarized himself with the college library matters within a short time and endeared himself with one and all who came into contact with his charming manners and quiet dignity. When he joined Farook College service after a stint of six years at the Aligarh Muslim University where he had a sound residential post graduate education, I was one who used to frequent the Farook Library that was carefully built up under the able guidance of the late Professors Syed Mohideen Shah, N. V. Beeran Saheb, K. A. Jaleel Saheb and K. V. Abdurahiman Saheb. Mr. Ayub was fortunate in working under the traditions left behind in the library by these great book-lovers.

On joining the College, Mr. Ayub lost no time in coming into the grips with the affairs of library. The working hours were fitted so as to suit the library users, computerization introduced in suitable stages, initiative taken in shifting the library to a more suitable and spacious site and open access system introduced in all the library sections. He was also instrumental in introducing Digital Library, Digital Talking Book Library, Morning Views Corner for Editorials of Newspapers and Cartoon Corner. Yet another of his popular and timely venture was the starting of the Best User Award

introduced for library users which created a user-friendly atmosphere in the campus. Equally valuable was Mr. Ayub's role as the Director of Publications. He published ten issues of Campus Vibes and four books during the tenure of his directorship. He also took initiative in bringing out four substantial volumes relating to the background, history and tradition of Farook College and sister-institutions in the campus. Mr. Ayub thus proved himself to be a truly reliable and useful asset to the library. No wonder, therefore, with his up-to-date knowledge of library and information science and spirit of team work he proved himself to be a people's librarian practically coping the visions of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

It was indeed remarkable that throughout his professional career as a librarian, he had remained really capable but not vociferous of his own abilities. I believe this Festschrift volume brought out in honour of Mr. Ayub is a most suitable acknowledgement of Mr. Ayub's meritorious achievements in life as a librarian. I wish him all that is best during the rest of his life.

**Prof. U. Mohamed**  
*Former Principal*  
*Farook College, Calicut*

## **Preface**

It is our pleasure and privilege to publish this Festschrift volume on behalf of Farook College Library and Information Science Alumni Association (FLISA), in honour of Mr. M. Ayub, Chief Librarian, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala, on his superannuation from a long distinguished and remarkable career in LIS profession. Being a senior professional and practitioner for the last three decades, his name is synonymous with the massive Abussabah Library Complex, Farook College.

Mr. Ayub is instrumental in setting up an elegant library complex in Farook College with Kerala architecture named after Moulana Abussabah, the great visionary and founder of Farook College and its Sister Institutions. The new library complex is a hybrid library with a digital library developed along with traditional library collections and services. It also houses an ICT section called “INSIGHT” for visually challenged library users, besides many other innovative services and sections like “Cartoon Corner”, “Scanner”, “Morning Views” etc. explained elsewhere in this Festschrift volume. He also served as the Director of Publication Division of the College. Mr. Ayub thus proved to be a valuable and useful asset to the Farook College.

The primary objective of a library is to provide the right information at the right time in the right form to its users. To meet this objective libraries have to provide



access to information irrespective of their form, format and location. Advances in ICT have drastically revolutionized the prospective of libraries and information centers to meet their objectives. The current digital revolution has radically changed the way in which information is acquired, stored, processed, organized, retrieved and disseminated.

The advances in ICT have revolutionized the concept of media for information storage and retrieval. There is a wide range of information sources in digital formats along with the traditional print sources. On the other hand, users' perception about library services also got changed drastically. Now, there are many institutions or centers that can disseminate information to the users. These centers pose challenges to the libraries. In this context, the present day libraries have to be redefined in order to meet the demands of the Knowledge Society. The Festschrift volume titled "**Redefining Academic Libraries in the Knowledge Society**" is focused on how the needs of technologically empowered academic community are met by technologically empowered libraries and library professionals. The papers in this volume are in the areas of E-resource management, Human resource management, Innovative library services, Open access and open content, Collaborative library services, Digital rights management, Continuing professional education and Workplace learning in academic libraries.

Out of the 60 papers received, after a rigorous process of refereeing, 28 were selected for inclusion in this volume. The papers selected were arranged under four sub themes, VIZ, E-Resource management, Human resource management, Collaborative library services and Innovative library services. The papers were contributed by friends, colleagues, and well wishers of Mr. Ayub in the field of Library and Information Science.

We would like to place on record our sincere gratitude to the Farook College Library and Information

***Preface***

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Science Alumni Association (FLISA) for having bestowed on us the task of editing this prestigious volume. We also thank Prof. U. Mohamed, Former Principal, Farook College, for a befitting foreword to the volume. Our thanks are due to Prof. E.P. Imbichikoya, Principal, Farook College and Dr. T.P.O. Nasirudheen, Associate Professor and Head, DLIS, Farook College, for their valuable contributions. We thank all the contributors, felicitators, and all those who rendered their support, energy and time in bringing out this volume successfully. We also thank Mr. Sumit Sethi, Managing Director, Ess Ess Publications, New Delhi, who has taken lot of pain to bring out this volume so nicely. Finally, we would like to wish Mr. Ayub further success in all his endeavours and pray the Almighty for a long, peaceful and healthy life.

**Dr. M. Bavakutty**  
**Dr. Abdul Azeez T.A.**

## **M. Ayub : The Epitome of Perfection and Dedication**

Mr. Ayub, who had been in the service of Farook College as an ideal librarian for more than three decades, took his profession with greater passion and enthusiasm. It can not be gainsaid that he was the mastermind behind the modernization of our library complex. All who are closer to the campus will, gratefully, recall him as a devoted librarian, an efficient organizer and a great dreamer who could transform Farook College Library into one of the best libraries of the country through a wide variety of schemes and projects attached to it.

This great lover of books, during his tenure, has set up a 'Readers' Forum' to promote reading habits among the users and to make them aware of the socio-political issues of the period. It was under his patronage and guidance that the Publication Division of the college attained the present glory. 'Campus Vibes' a novel venture under the Division is a true mirror to reflect the activities of the campus. Exhibitions conducted by the librarian on special occasions and events have helped our students a lot to strengthen their bond with the past. True to the tradition of his Alma Mater, the Aligarh Muslim University, this man of inimitable style, did everything to cater to the pressing needs of student community including that of voiceless and the differentially abled classes. Installation of a 'Digital Talking Book Library' for the

visually challenged is a unique step in this regard. Though at the helm of affairs, his modesty and unassuming nature prompted him to remain unnoticed.

Mr. Ayub has rendered his service and guidance to many other college libraries also and he was instrumental in their modernization. His selection to various governmental and non-governmental committees speaks a lot about his devotion and commitment. As the Principal of Farook College, I wholeheartedly, acknowledge his dedication and contribution and express my gratitude for all that he has done for the college. I hope that this Festschrift volume will be a great token of appreciation for the unrequited services of Mr. Ayub, the unsung hero.

15.04.2014

**Prof. E.P. Imbichkoya**

*Principal  
Farook College*

## **M. AYUB**

### **A Dedicated College Librarian**

Mr. Mullath Ayub, a staunch believer in practicing profession with an illustrious career in college librarianship for more than three decades, has committed himself to the library profession. He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1957 at Calicut as the youngest son of a leading advocate practicing in the city. His father Adv. M. V. Hydrose, a member of the Madras Legislative Council (MLC) was a great visionary of the times and one of the founders of the Rouzathul Uloom Association (RUA), the parent body of Farook College and its sister institutions, which took the lead in transforming the social fabric of the region through the expansion of the secular educational structure and in uplifting the backward Muslim community of the Malabar region by paving the road to higher education.

Mr. Ayub had his early childhood days at Shishu class of the Madrasathul Mohammedia Primary School where he had completed his primary education till VII<sup>th</sup> Class. He was brought up in Farook College campus in 1971 for his secondary education at Farook High School which was running at the time under the patronage of the great teacher Mr. P. A. Latheef who was then the Headmaster. He was an inmate of the Raja Hostel located in the campus for three years during his high school days.

After completing the high school education, Mr. Ayub moved in 1975 for his higher education to the Aligarh Muslim University (A.M.U.) where he had completed Pre-University Course (PUC) and Bachelor of Arts in Economics (B.A. Eco.). He had also completed his Bachelor and Master Degrees in library science at A.M.U. His elder brothers Adv. M. Mohammed and Adv. M. Jamaludheen were the persons who persuaded him to go to Aligarh for his higher education.

Mr. Ayub got enrolled in the Dept. of Library Science for the Bachelor Degree (B.Lib.Sc.) course at Aligarh after completing his graduation in Economics in 1979. It was the ardent impression that he had with the well organized University Central Library housed in a splendid and elegant edifice opened by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 and named after Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Cabinet Minister for Education in the Union Govt. of India, made his mind to take up the library science course for his career. He had truly experienced the services rendered by the Moulana Azad Library while undergoing the graduate course at Aligarh. It was also his conviction of library science course being a professional one that led him to join this course leaving behind the M. A. Economics course for which he was selected. The seniors in his department and hostel had their role in leading him to this decision. He recollects Dr. M. Abdul Azeez, a research scholar for Ph. D. degree in the Dept. of Economics who later became Professor of Economics in P. S. M. O. College at Tirurangadi, Kerala, among the seniors who encouraged him to join the library science course at Aligarh. After completing the Bachelor Degree course in Library Science he was selected for admission to the Master Degree course in Library Science (M.Lib.Sc.) by screening through a written test and an interview chaired by Prof. Irfan Habib, the great scholar and historian who was then the Dean of Social Science Faculty under which the Dept. of Library Science comes.

Prof. M. H. Rizvi was the University Librarian and Chairman of the Dept. of Library Science. Dr. Ishrath Ali Quereshi, Prof. Sirajudheen, Prof. Sabir Hussain and Mr. Hassan Zamrud were the faculty members of library science. Mr. Shamshad Ahamed who working as librarian in JN Medical College of AMU and Mr. Sunil Kesari who later became the librarian, Parliament Library were among his batch mates in Master Degree Course. Mr. Musthafa Zaidi was the youngest faculty member who joined the Dept. fresh and he was teaching library classification theory and practice.

Mr. Ayub had entered the library profession even before completing his Master Degree course in Library Science. When the course was almost coming to an end and he was to write a dissertation for the Master Degree the University was closed indefinitely due to some internal problems erupted in the University Campus. The students were directed to vacate the hostels and to go home. Mr. Ayub returned to his home town Calicut along with other students from Kerala and got himself so engaged in completing the dissertation work that he could submit the dissertation and complete the course once the University is reopened. He was working for the dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Ishrath Ali Quereshi, University Deputy Librarian at Aligarh. When the dissertation work was in progress at his hometown he used to visit the libraries in Farook College and Calicut University for the dissertation work.

Meanwhile the post of librarian which was lying vacant for more than one year in Farook College was notified and it was for the third time the post was notified as no qualified person turned up to join the temporary vacant post due to the leave granted to the college librarian who had gone to take up a job of librarian abroad. The vacant post of librarian in Farook College came to his notice and Mr. Ayub applied in response to the notification for the post of librarian. He was persuaded to apply for

the post of librarian by some of the teachers whom he got introduced to while working for dissertation in the Farook College Library. Prof. U. Mohamed in the Dept. of English who later became the Principal of the College and Prof. A. P. Abdurahiman in the Dept. of Islamic History were the two teachers worthwhile to be particularly mentioned in this regard. Some of the seniors with whom he was staying at Aligarh had by the time become the teachers in 'Farook College and they also encouraged him to take up the assignment of librarian at Farook College. Mr. Ayub was one of the two applicants for this temporary post and he was called for an interview. Mr. Ayub was selected for this post of librarian and he joined the college on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1981. He worked in the college for one month and then he had to leave for Aligarh to submit the dissertation and complete the M.Lib.Sc.course. Once he completed the course Mr. Ayub came back to Farook College to rejoin the post of librarian on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1982 and his service was regularized in this post of College Librarian in July 1983.

The skeleton staff put into the college library service was not technically qualified and they were not competent enough to discharge the house keeping jobs in such a reasonably large library with a collection of about forty thousand books and 240 periodicals. Mr. Ayub with his acumen managerial skills and gentle attitude coupled with his professional workmanship was able to bring back into order within reasonable time the library which was almost plunged into disorder and a shattered collection as the librarian was on leave. The first task before him as a librarian was the stock taking of the library collection which had dropped half way after the former librarian left for a job abroad. The next task that he accomplished was the reorganization of sections of library collection in the order of Colon Classification schedule which was adopted in the library for organizing its collection. Mr. Ayub could put the library collection in order and make



the library functional with all the routine jobs in a college library like membership subscription and renewal, issue of user tickets, book bank loan etc. put in order within a reasonable time with the cooperation of library staff and teachers.

The postgraduate block of the library was extended during the early days of his tenure and more facilities were provided to postgraduate students, research scholars and teachers. The working hours of the library were extended from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Mr. Ayub took initiative for retro conversion of the library collection organized with Colon Classification scheme to Dewey Decimal Classification scheme as a precedent to the computerization of library services which he could complete with locally developed library software package 'Book Magic' installed in 1996.

Mr. Ayub also put several strides in library science education and library professional training. He took initiative for launching a Bachelor Degree Course in Library and Information Science (B.L.I.Sc.) in 1994 and later it became a full fledged postgraduate department offering graduate (B.L.I.Sc.) and postgraduate (M.L.I.Sc.) courses in library and information science. He was teaching cataloguing practice for B.L.I.Sc. Course in the Dept. since its inception. He also conducted a number of training programmes for college librarians under the auspices of many projects like College with Potential for Excellence (a UGC project), Campus Diversity Initiative etc.

Mr. Ayub served for a stint as the Director of Certificate Course in Library Science conducted by the Kerala Grandhsala Sangham and he was teaching for the certificate course. He was also an academic counselor of B.L.I.Sc. programme of IGNOU at Calicut Study Centre for four years. Mr. Ayub participated as part of improving his professional knowledge and skills in several orientation and refresher courses conducted by UGC

Academic Staff Colleges and attended many training programmes and workshops conducted by the Universities and Govt. Agencies throughout his career. Mr. Ayub served as a member in the Executive Committee of State Library Council for one term during the period 1994-99 and also an Expert Committee Member of the Council for two years during 2006-07. He was also a Member of Advisory Committee of the State Central Library at Trivandrum. Mr. Ayub was a member of the Expert Committee on College Libraries constituted by the Govt. of Kerala in 1994. He was a member in the Board of Studies in Library and Information Science of Calicut University for two years during 2012-13. He also served as a member or a functionary of many social and educational societies and institutions in and around Calicut.

A major landmark during his tenure was the shifting of the college library into an elegant building with Kerala architecture named after Moulana Abussabah, the great visionary and founder of Farook College and its sister institutions on the campus. The concept of a separate building for college library was first mooted by Prof. U. Mohamed when he was the Principal in 1986. The new library project was implemented during the tenure of Dr. P. M. Mubarak Pasha as the Principal. The Abussabah Library Complex was commissioned by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002. Besides the library and information system, the new complex houses the Department of Library and Information Science and an air-conditioned Audio-Visual Theatre with facilities for Internet access and digital presentation.

The retro conversion of library collection from Colon Classification to Dewey Decimal Classification and computerization of library services were completed after shifting the library into the new complex. Sections were again reorganized and open access was provided to the

undergraduate students also in the new library. The entire library collection was reorganized in two parallel collections according to Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme – one for postgraduate students and another for undergraduate students.

Mr. Ayub envisaged the concept of a hybrid library with a digital library developed along with the traditional library collection and services in the Farook College Library and Information System. A digital library along with the application of ICT in the traditional library services would reinforce quality library and information services and provide user satisfaction. A proposal for a digital library project was submitted for a govt. grant under MPLAD scheme of Mr. P. V. Abdul Wahab, Member of Parliament and the digital library was launched in 2009. An institutional repository was developed with the digital version of college magazines, souvenirs and rare documents in the digital library. A project was undertaken for the digitization of rare documents under the CPE project. Farook College library has since beginning a good collection of Braille books. The ICT is also applied in library services for visually challenged students. A Digital Talking Book Library was developed with the help of software 'JAWS' in 2007. The digital library for visually challenged students has become significant in the Farook College campus as many such boys and girls are undergoing undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the college and many of them are staying in the college hostels.

Mr. Ayub took a good deal of interest and initiative in the application of ICT in all areas of library management and services. A library website was developed in 2007 and linked with the Farook College site. The bibliographical database developed in the college library was made accessible online through Web OPAC in 2009. Farook College is one of the first libraries in the country selected for the N-List online information service of a rich

collection of e-books and e-journals made available through UGC Library and Information Network Programme (INFLIBNET).

Mr. Ayub introduced a monthly content service of the current issues of the subject journals subscribed in the library under the title 'Scanner' and circulated among the teachers, research scholars and postgraduate students of the departments and other wings of the college. A news corner was installed under the label 'Morning Views' at the entrance of the library for the Editorials of Newspapers in English and vernacular languages. A 'Cartoon Corner' was put in place to reflect the public opinions and social criticism of the contemporary political, social and cultural issues. He also introduced a Best User Award for library users which became popular among the students and created a user-friendly atmosphere in the campus. It was only during his tenure a Readers' Forum was formed with the aim of inculcating reading habit among the students and introducing to the students the newly published books authored by noted and contemporary writers in literature, culture and on emerging social issues.

Mr. Ayub serves as the Director of Publications Division of the college. Ten issues of the annual college news letter entitled 'Campus Vibes' and four books authored by the teachers of the Farook College were published during the tenure of his directorship. He also took initiative in bringing out four substantial souvenirs depicting the history, development and traditions of Farook College on the occasion of jubilee celebrations and other events.

Mr. Ayub puts on record his sincere gratitude for the whole-hearted support and encouragement rendered by all the former principals and members of College Managing Committee during his tenure as college librarian for achieving all these landmark developments in the college library services. He would like to recollect

***M. Ayub***

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the late Mr. K. C. Hassan Kutty saheb, the Secretary of College Managing Committee for a long term, who was always kind enough to listen to the grievances, problems and requirements of the college library, for his seamless inspiration given throughout the career of Mr. Ayub.

**Dr. T. P. O. Nasirudheen**

*Associate Professor & Head  
Dept. of Library & Information Science  
Farook College, Calicut - 673 632*

## **List of Contributors**

**Abdul Azeez, T.A.**

Deputy Librarian, C.H. Mohammed Koya Library,  
University of Calicut

**Abdul Majeed, K.C.**

Associate Professor,  
Dept. of Library and Information Science,  
Farook College, Kozhikode.

**Amudavalli, A.**

Professor & Head, Dept. of Library &  
Information Science, University of Madras,  
Chennai 600 005.

**Archana, N.S.**

University Library, Cochin University of  
Science & Technology, Cochin 682022.

**Asadullah, B.**

Librarian, Mazharul Uloom College,  
Ambur – 635 802, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu

**Aswathy S.**

Sr. Scientific Assistant,  
Library & Documentation Division,  
Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre,  
Indian Space Research Organisation,  
Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram

**Bavakutty, M.**

Visiting Professor, Dept. of Library and  
Information Science, Kannur University.

**Beena, C.**

Deputy Librarian, University Library,  
Cochin University of Science & Technology,  
Cochin 682022

**Dinesan, K.**

Director, Dept. of Library and Information Science,  
Kannur University

**Gilsha. K.**

Guest Lecturer, Dept. of LIS,  
Kannur University Thalassery Campus

**Humayoon Kabir, S.**

Associate Professor,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Kerala, Trivandrum-695034.

**Jalaja V,**

Associate Professor (Retd) and Former Head,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Calicut

**Jipsi Chacko**

MLISc Student, Dept. of LIS,  
Kannur University Thalassery Campus

**Leena Khullar**

Assistant Librarian, Punjab University,  
Chandigarh

**Mahjabeen Aydeed**

Research Scholar,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Calicut.

**Manzoor Babu.V**

Librarian, TKM College of Engineering,  
Kollam

**Mehaboobullah K.**

Technical Assistant, Kerala University Library,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**Mohamed Haneefa K.**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Calicut

**Muhammed Najeeb V.**

Librarian, King Saud bin Abdulaziz  
University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, KSA.

**Nasirudheen T.P.O.**

Associate Professor, Dept. of Library &  
Information Science, Farook College,  
Kozhikode, Kerala, 673632.

**Nikesh Narayanan**

Discovery Service Engineer  
EBSCO Information Services

**Padmakumar, P.K.**

University Library,  
Cochin University of Science & Technology,  
Cochin 682022.



**Ramina Mukundan**

PGT Librarian, Bal Bharati School  
New Delhi

**Sangeetha K. K.**

Department of Library and Information Science,  
Kannur University.

**Sangita Purohit**

Head, Library, Post Graduate Institute of Management,  
Amrut Mody School of Management,  
Ahmadabad University, Ahmadabad – 380009.

**Sareef K.**

Librarian, RUA College,  
Farook College, Kozhikode.

**Seena S.T.**

Research Scholar,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Kerala,  
Thiruvananthapuram-695 034

**Shabir Ahmad Ganaie**

Sr. Assistant Professor,  
Department of Library and Information Science,  
University of Kashmir

**Shyni K.G.**

Research Scholar, Department of Library and  
Information Science, University of Calicut

**Sreekumar, M.G.**

UNESCO Coordinator,  
Greenstone Support for South Asia,  
Center for Development of Digital Libraries (CDDL)  
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK)

*List of Contributors*

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**Sreelatha K.**

Guest Lecturer, Department of Library and  
Information Science, Kannur University.

**Sudhier, K.G.**

Librarian, Library & Knowledge Centre,  
School of Distance Education,  
University of Kerala,  
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 034

**Sumana K.P.**

Guest Lecturer, Department of Library and  
Information Science, Kannur University.

**Surendran Cherukodan**

Junior Librarian, School of Engineering,  
Cochin University of Science and Technology,  
Kochi-682022

**Suresh Kumar, P.K.**

Assistant Librarian,  
Kerala University Library, Palayam,  
Thiruvananthapuram-34

**Suthar, Ashokkumar A.**

Librarian, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya,  
Dantiwada, Gujarat-385505

**Vahida Beegam T.**

Research Scholar, Department of Library and  
Information Science, University of Calicut.

**Veerankutty Chelatayakkot**

Assistant Librarian, Cochin University of Science  
and Technology, Kochi-682 022

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**Vijayakumar K. P.**

Head, Dept. of Library and Information Science &  
Hon. Director, Centre for Information Literacy  
Studies, University of Kerala ,  
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 034



**Dr. M. Bavakutty**, a senior LIS professional in the country, served as Dean of Humanities, University Librarian, Professor and Head of the Dept. of LIS, Registrar, University of Calicut. He had the unique honour to establish LIS Depts. and to organise and start LIS

post graduate and research courses in three universities, viz University of Calicut, Pondicherry University and Kannur University in 1978, 2007 and 2009 respectively. There are a number of books and hundreds of professional papers in his credit. He is a research guide of several universities

**Dr. Abdul Azeez T.A.** is Deputy Librarian in-charge-of University Librarian, University of Calicut, Kerala. Prior to this, he worked at KITTS, Calicut, MG University, Kottayam, TKM College of Engineering, Kollam and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. He has served as Faculty Coordinator for Certificate Course in



Library and Information Science conducted by the Continuing Education Cell of TKM College of Arts and Science, Kollam. He has more than 17 years of experience in Library Administration at various institutions. He is a member of the Board of Studies in Library and Information Science, University of Calicut. He is a life member of Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Kerala Library Association (KLA) and KELPRO. He has many research papers and conference presentations to his credit.