



IASLIC Newsletter

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For Members only

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News at a Glance

- IASLIC Activities
- Conferences/Seminars/Workshops
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Quote of the Month

"Digital library is where the past meets the present and creates the future"

- Late APJ Abdul Kalam,
former President of India

Appeal to Readers

News from different regions / states are solicited from IASLIC members for inclusion in the newsletter. Send such news to the Editor.

Email: chatterjeeamitabha@yahoo.co.in

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

IASLIC ACTIVITIES

UGC's Letter on 5-Year MLIS Course

In response to IASLIC's letter with regard to conducting of unspecified five-year integrated MLIS course by three universities, viz., Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur; Annamalai University, Annamalainagar; and University of Calcutta, Kolkata; UGC has sought comments from the respective universities, vide its letter, dated 17 July 2015. The letter addressed to the Registrar of Guru Ghasidas University, is reproduced below.

28136551, 23252701, 23257721, 28134116
23257753, 23252317, 23256755, 23239437

UGC Website : www.ugc.ac.in



BY SPEED POST

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110002
University Grants Commission
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110002

F.No.6-1/2015 (CPP-II)

July, 2015

The Registrar,
Guru Ghasidas University,
Koni, Bilaspur,
Chhattisgarh 495009.

17 JUL 2015

Subject: - 5 year integrated MLIS degree (unspecified) course at University of Guru Ghasidas.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a letter is received from Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, General Secretary, Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres, Kolkata, which is self explanatory. In this connection, your attention is invited to the UGC notification on specification of degrees, which is available on UGC website www.ugc.ac.in.

You are requested to furnish your comments on the allegations made in the letter of IASLIC at the earliest. A copy of the UGC public notice dated 21.08.2014 on awarding of specified degrees is also enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

(Hemang A. Desai)
Education Officer

Encl : As above

Copy to :-

✓ Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, General Secretary, IASLIC, Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres, P - 291, CIT Scheme 6M, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700 054.

(Umakant Baluni)
Section Officer

Convention on LIS Education in India

IASLIC, in collaboration with the Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, organized a National Convention on LIS Education in India on July 31, 2015, to commemorate the centenary of the university level LIS education in the Indian sub-continent. The convention was attended by around 40 LIS educators and library and information professionals from different parts of the country. In the inaugural session, chaired by Shri S B Banerjee, Vice-President, IASLIC, Dr. R C Gaur, University Librarian, JNU, welcomed the guests and participants, while Dr. R K Chaddha, Additional Secretary, Parliament of India, delivered the inaugural address and Prof. P K Panigrahi, Hony. General Secretary, IASLIC, described the purpose of the convention. In his welcome address, Dr. Gaur expressed his worries over penetration of non-professionals into LIS profession and grabbing of key professional posts by them. Dr. Chaddha, in his address, stressed the need for incorporating latest technologies in LIS curricula as this was needed in present day librarianship.

The Technical Session was chaired by Prof. P B Mangla, former Professor, DLIS and Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Mangla mentioned about the falling standard of LIS education in the country and stressed on the need to improve the same. Two presentations were made in this session. In the first presentation on 'LIS Education in India: Issues and Approaches', Dr. S Majumdar, former Librarian, University of Delhi, expressed his concern over variations in the nomenclatures of LIS degrees and suggested some areas that should be included in LIS curricula. This was followed by presentation of the concept paper entitled 'LIS Education in India: Past, Present and Future', by Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Editor, IASLIC Newsletter and former Professor & Head DLIS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. In his presentation, Prof Chatterjee discussed the positive and negative developments in the field of LIS education in the country. He lamented about falling quality of LIS education and conducting of unspecified courses by several universities. Each presentation was followed by lively discussions, in which a good number of participants expressed their views. Besides the chairman of the session and the paper presenters, others who participated in the discussions were Dr. Usha Mujoo Munshi of IIPA; Prof. R S R Varalakshmi of Andhra University; Prof. S P Singh of Delhi University, Prof. H N Prasad of BHU; Prof. Gayasuddin Makhdumi of Jamia Milia Islamia; Dr. Naushad Ali and Prof. Masoom Raza of AMU; Prof. Uma Kanjilal of IGNOU, Prof. Suparna Sengupta of PRS University, Raipur; Dr. Kokila

G Tank of Saurashtra University; Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh of North-Bengal University; Prof. Urmila Thaker of Sardar Patel University; Dr. P R Goswami of IGNC; Dr. Yogendra Singh of IIT Roorkee; Dr. Kumar Sanjay of Niti Ayog; and Dr. Sushant Panigrahi of JNU. Prof. Banerjee, Prof. Panigrahi and Dr. J N Satpathi also expressed their views. Most of the participants opposed the unspecified five-year integrated master's degree course in the subject being conducted by three universities.

The concluding session was co-chaired by Prof. S P Singh, former Professor & Head, DLIS, Delhi University, and Dr. R C Gaur, University Librarian, JNU, in which the Rapporteur General Dr. Geeta Gadhavi, Head, DLIS, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, presented a brief report of the proceedings and the draft resolutions. After discussions, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

1. The UGC be requested to ensure adherence to the provisions contained in its Notification No F.5-1/13(CPP-II), dated 21 August 2014, and Gazette Notification, dated 5 July 2014 by the universities/institutions conducting LIS courses and not to allow any university/institution to conduct any course not specified by it, such as Honours course or Advanced Bachelor's Degree course in LIS, 5-year integrated MLIS course, or any of its segmented components.
2. For ensuring minimum standard of LIS education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, be requested to urgently set up a suitable mechanism for evaluation and accreditation of LIS departments and/or courses in the line of Medical Council of India, National Council for Teacher Education, etc.
3. The UGC be requested to set up without any further delay a new curriculum development committee for framing model syllabi of LIS courses of different levels so that the institutions conducting LIS courses can modify their curricula accordingly to meet the manpower needs of the new generation libraries and information centres.
4. The UGC be requested to conduct a survey, through an appropriate agency, of the LIS education being imparted in the country and also the need for LIS professionals of different categories, as suggested by UGC Review Committee (1961), so that a realistic policy and programme for LIS manpower development can be formulated for the country.
5. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, be requested to fully implement the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission for

revamping of LIS education, including setting up of a permanent National Mission /Commission on Libraries and the Indian Institute of Library and Information Science, without further delay.

6. A committee be formed by IASLIC under the chairmanship of Dr. R C Gaur, Vice-President, IASLIC, Zone-4, and University Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for keeping liaison with the concerned authorities for implementation of the resolutions adopted in the National Convention on LIS Education in India held on 31 July 2015.

IASLIC Delegation Meets UGC Secretary

A delegation from IASLIC, comprising of Shri S B Banerjee, Vice-President, IASLIC; Dr. R C Gaur, Vice-President, IASLIC, Zone-4; Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee, Member, Governing Body of IASLIC; and Dr. J N Satpathi, former President of IASLIC; called on Prof. Dr. Jaspal Singh, Secretary, UGC, at his office on August 3, 2015, and apprised him of the developments in the field of LIS education in the country, specially about the conducting of unspecified courses in LIS by some universities. Prof. Singh assured the delegation that appropriate action would be taken in the matter.

Personality Development Workshop

IASLIC and Visva Bharati Central Library jointly organized an intensive Workshop on 'Personality Development and Communication Skill' in the Central Library, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, during July 23 – 25, 2015 for the benefit of the staff of the Visva-Bharati Library Network. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. In his inaugural address, Prof. Dutta emphasized on providing prompt and courteous service to the library users. Prof. S B Banerjee, Vice-President, IASLIC; Prof. K P Majumder, Convener, Education Division, IASLIC; and Dr J N Satpathi, former President, IASLIC, spoke on the importance of the workshop. Earlier, Dr. V K Thomas, University Librarian, welcomed the guests and participants. Dr. D Gunasekaran, Registrar, Visva-Bharati, distributed the certificates. He spoke elaborately on the importance of skill development for better productivity of human resource. The workshop, which was conducted in 11 technical sessions, aimed at developing personality, self-management practices, oral communication, written communication, presentation skill and listening skill.

The workshop was attended by 29 participants. A repeat programme will be held in September 2015 for the remaining employees of the network.

Librarians' Day Celebration

A seminar on 'Role of Books and Internet in Acquiring Knowledge' was held at National Library, Kolkata, on August 9, 2015, as an outreach programme of National Mission on Libraries (NML) to celebrate Librarians' Day. It was organized jointly by National Library (NL), Central Reference Library (CRL), Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and National Mission on Libraries (NML), in association with Bengal Library Association (BLA), IASLIC and West Bengal Public Libraries Employees Association (WPLEA).

The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Barun Mukherjee, President, IASLIC. Shri K K Mittal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Dr. Arun Chakraborty, Director General, RRRLF and National Library, welcomed the guests and participants. In his inaugural address, Shri Mittal informed that work was actively going on with regard to development of National Virtual Library. He emphasized on easy accessibility of knowledge through digitization of knowledge resources. Shri Goutam Goswami, Secretary, BLA, stressed on attracting more people to libraries. Prof. P K Panigrahi, General Secretary, pleaded for filling up of vacant posts in libraries and stoppage of getting library work done by non-professionals. He also mentioned about the resolutions taken for revamping of LIS education at the Convention on LIS Education in India held recently in New Delhi at the initiative of IASLIC. Shri Sibaprasad Chakraborty, Secretary, WBPlea, said that around 900 LIS professionals were being trained in the state, whereas scope of employment was very limited. In his presidential address, Dr. Barun Mukherjee pointed out the hindrances, such as illiteracy and lack of electricity, in rural areas that were hampering use of books and Internet for acquiring knowledge. Shri Jagmal Singh, LIO, National Library and one of the conveners of the organizing committee, proposed a vote of thanks. This session was followed by presentations regarding the activities of NL, RRRLF, NML and CRL.

In the technical session, chaired by Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, three speakers representing different sectors expressed their views. Prof. Samir Bramhachari,

former Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University, pointed out that as most of the materials available on the Internet were in English, prior knowledge of the language was necessary to use them. Hence only a limited number of people was able to take advantage of Internet. Moreover, Internet connectivity was also not available to everyone, he said. He also stressed on proper use of Internet. Shri Sabitendra Nath Roy, of Mitra & Ghosh Publishers, said that lots of information were available on the Internet, but both Internet as well as books should be used for acquiring knowledge. Dr. Soumitra Sarkar, University Librarian, Calcutta University, said that the use of Internet had increased manifold and that a huge quantity of information was available on the web. But the search engines were able to index only a fraction of such materials. He said Internet could not be a substitute for books. The libraries would continue to serve books to their users and Internet service could be an extension of library services. Dr. Chakraborty, in his concluding remarks, said that one could not go either without book or without Internet. Hence librarians must go with both of them. Smt. Sunita Arora, ALIO, compered the programme.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

National

Workshop on Research Methodology

A National Workshop on 'Research Methodology', organized by Moti Lal Rastogi School of Management, Lucknow, will be held during September 18-19, 2015. For details visit: <http://goo.gl/8uXmrB>

Workshop on Greenstone

In collaboration with UNESCO Greenstone Support for South Asia, Tinsukia Commerce College Library, Sripuria, Tinsukia, Assam, is going to organize a UGC-sponsored National Workshop on 'e-Resources Management using Greenstone Digital Library Software' during September 25 – 27, 2015. For details visit: <http://profilelogin.info/UploadFiles/Notices/UGC%20Sponsored%20National%20Workshop.pdf>

Conference on Internet

The 4th National Conference & the Internet of Things (IoT) will be held during September 25-26, 2015 at the Solitaire Hotel, Bangalore. For details visit: www.campaign.aima.in

Conference on Next Generation Librarianship

A National Conference on 'Next Generation Librarianship' will be organized the Department of Library and Information Science, C U Shah University, Surendranagar, Gujarat, on October 3, 2015. For details visit: <http://ncngl2015.blogspot.in/>

CLA Conference

The 3rd National Conference of Chandigarh Library Association on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Libraries' will be organized by Chandigarh Dev Samaj College for Women on October 16, 2015. For details visit: http://api.ning.com/files/f*E8U3rGFXqpd6KGGc7ajNAW9R0q*8NK8AQjPYhqIjspr5UNFIALvcdj7T65zZ42uK*T1SSp>EUmua9AknqMSRH3IRMKI69W/CLA15Brochure.pdf

International

Conference on Librarians for the Cyber World

The Diamond Jubilee Conference of Persatuan Pustakawan Malaysia on 'Librarians for the Cyber World' will be held at Pullman Hotel, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, during September 14-15, 2015. For details visit: <http://www.ppm55.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/60th-jubilee-conference.pdf>

Conference on Data in Public Domain

The 2015 Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) Annual Conference and Joint Meetings will take place at the University of Macau during September 27 - 29. The main theme of the conference is 'Taking Data into the Public Domain'. For details visit: <http://www.pnclink.org/>

Virtual Conference on Library 2.015

The fifth annual Library 2.015 Worldwide Virtual Conference, sponsored by the School of Information at San José State University, USA, will be held on October 20, 2015 from 7am - 8pm US Pacific / 10am - 11pm US Eastern (International Time Zone Converter). For details visit: <http://www.library20.com/>

Conference on Academic Libraries

An International Conference on 'Managing Academic Libraries: A Road-map to 2025', organized by Mahatma Gandhi Central Library, IIT Roorkee, will be held during October 22-23, 2015. For details visit: <http://goo.gl/y98r0z>

Knowledge Conference

The International Knowledge Conference 2015 (IKC2015) will be held at Pullman Hotel & Resort, Kuching, Sarawak, during November 15-18, 2015. For details visit: <http://www.pustaka-sarawak.com/ikc2015/>

Semantic Web Conference

The 'Semantic Web in Libraries (SWIB2015)' Conference will be organized by the ZBW - German National Library of Economics / Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and the North Rhine-Westphalian Library Service Centre (hbz) in Hamburg during November 23-25, 2015. The conference language is English. For more details visit: <http://swib.org/swib15/>

Conference on Information Management

The 6th International Conference on Information Management in a Changing World (IMCW2015) will be held in Guangzhou, China, during November 25-27, 2015. For details visit: <http://imcw2015.bilgiyonetimi.net/>

Conference on Business Librarianship

Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, in collaboration with Learning Resource Center, Bajaj Auto Library, Indian School of Business, will organize a Global Conference on 'Emerging Trends in Business Librarianship - ETBL, 2015', during December 2-4, 2015. For details visit: <http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/library/conference/>

Conference on Informatics

The 7th International Multinational Conference on 'Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics (IMCIC 2016)' and the 7th International Conference on 'Education, Training and Informatics' will be held at Orlando, Florida, USA, during March 8-11, 2016. For details visit: <http://www.iiis-spring16.org/imcic/website/default.asp?vc=26> (for the multinational conference) and <http://www.iiis-spring16.org/icsit/website/about.asp?vc=31> (for the international conference)

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Kalighat Paintings now Available Online

According to a report by Prasun Sonwalkar, published in *Hindustan Times*, more than 100 Kalighat paintings

from 19th century Kolkata have been digitized and made available online, casting new light on the souvenirs that were sold for one anna to pilgrims visiting the Kali temple. The paintings have been digitized by the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library, along with nearly 1,15,000 rare manuscripts and images collected from around the world. They have been made available online free for the benefit of scholars and others. The Kalighat paintings were acquired by Sir Monier Monier-Williams for the museum and library of Indian Institute, founded by him in 1883 at Oxford. Sir Monier-Williams, was the second Boden Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Oxford, and compiler of the famous Sanskrit-English Dictionary.

Senior Citizens Trained to Edit Wikipedia

Many senior citizens in Czech Republic are now learning how to edit Wikipedia articles. The first batch of around 30 senior citizens has been given training to do so in special classes held in Prague's Municipal Library under 'Senior Citizens Write Wikipedia' project funded by IEG grant. It has been observed that the participants of the course have not only learnt how Wikipedia works and how to edit it, they have already started working on it. Some of them have even created their first articles – a total of 18 new articles have been written by them. Similar courses have been planned in other part of the country. For more details visit: <http://blog.wikimedia.org/2015/01/12/czech-senior-citizens-learn-to-edit/>

No Infringement of Copyright by DL, says court

A US appeals court has said that a digital library of more than 10 million scanned and searchable texts amounts to "fair use," ruling against a group of authors who claimed copyright infringement. The Hathi Trust Digital Library is a database of books that universities have allowed Google to scan without authors' consent. Although the books cannot be read by the general public without permission, they can be searched for keywords. The court upheld the 2012 ruling of Judge Harold Baer, who wrote that Hathi Trust was an "invaluable contribution to the progress of science and cultivation of the arts." The case "hinged on copyright law and provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act," because the library allows people who have disabilities that prevent them from reading printed books to access the digital works in alternative forms. For more details

visit: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2014/06/11/320927974/book-news-appeals-court-rules-digital-library-doesn-t-violate-copyright-law>

Unlimited Access to JASTOR E-books

JSTOR has announced in last April that all 25,000 titles offered in its e-book programme are now available exclusively in a DRM-free, unlimited-user model. JSTOR decided to eliminate its single-user e-book offering late last year, and has since worked with publishers to bring more of their books into its unlimited offering. E-books work just like the journals on JSTOR, ensuring an easy, familiar experience for faculty and students who already use the platform for scholarly research. The e-books are fully integrated with journals on JSTOR, including cross-searchability and links to related content. For more details visit: <http://books.jstor.org>

SPECIAL FEATURE

Treasure Against Trash!

If you are a bibliophile or bookworm, but has not enough scope in your regular budget to acquire new titles, or you have run out of space in your house for shelving your new acquisitions, possibly swapping of your intellectual and recreational titles is the solution for you, if of course you are ready to part with some of your possessions. When you indulge in book swapping, your old book finds a reader, and in return, you get a book to read.

Swapping, in a simple language, is exchanging books that you have already read with those offered by others that you want to read. It resembles the barter system prevalent in the days when there was no currency system. And there are now many agencies which help in match making between the parties willing to swap books both online and offline.

The idea of book swapping is certainly not new, though it is not exactly known when it actually began. But earlier the old and second hand booksellers used to serve as the middlemen. They collected old and used books from their owners against small prices and then sold them to those who wanted them, at a concessional rate. But today's match makers help in book swapping mostly for free.

Some book swapping arrangements are informal – a shelf or box is provided where books can be left or

picked up. The exchange relies on users leaving and taking books and is generally not supervised. In Great Britain, this is a frequent practice in youth hostels where travellers can leave a book and take a different book with them. Some railway stations there have informal book exchanges and one has also been set up in a phone box in Kington Magna. This practice is often known as book-crossing, the term having been derived from *bookcrossing.com*, a free online book club which was founded to encourage the practice, aiming to 'make the whole world a library.' In some places special events are organized where the readers directly exchange their books.

The worldwide web, has opened new avenues for book swapping. Today a large number of websites have come up which help in such swapping nationally and internationally. All such sites work on the same principle: you list books you no longer require, they are sought by other members, and you send the books to them. In return, you seek books from other members which are then sent to you. Some such well-known websites are: BookCrossing (<http://www.bookcrossing.com/>), International; BookMooch (<http://www.bookmooch.com/>), International; Whats On My Bookshelf (<http://www.whatsonmybookshelf.com/>), International; BookShelf (<http://www.americasbookshelf.com/>), USA based; PaperBackSwap (<<http://www.paperbackswap.com/>>), USA based; ReadItSwapIt (<<http://www.readitswapit.co.uk/TheLibrary.aspx>>), UK based; and Bookswapper.de (<https://bookswapper.de/bookswap/>), Germany based.

Book swapping is not only confined to USA and some European countries. It has taken the shape of a movement and has spread to other parts of the globe too. Even small countries like Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Pakistan have book swapping facilities.

In India too book swapping is fast picking up. It started with holding of book exchange events in different cities and by the Book Club India in Chennai. In 2010, possibly the first real online book exchange portal Bookavilla.com (<http://www.booksvilla.com>) was launched by a student of an Ahmedabad based institute Chirag Rathod with the help of his friend Rohan Pimparkar. In Delhi, Saurabh Hooda, an IT professional, has launched in May this year *Lenro* – an online platform and a kind of social network that allows people to meet and exchange books. Similarly, last year, IIT-Delhi graduate Prasun Jain and his team

launched *Barterli* – an Android application that allows like-minded bibliophiles in a neighbourhood to send private messages, meet up and barter books. Some students of IIT-Kharagpur have launched an online platform called ReadersNode (<http://readersnode.com/>) for book exchange. In April this year some students of Delhi University organized a book exchange event where hundreds of books changed hands. Very recently, on August 8 a book exchange programme of children was organized at a school in Greater Kailash area of Delhi, in which a large number of children participated. The Book-Exchange Club of Mumbai has been established in August 2012 by a group of book lovers who regularly come together under one roof and exchange their books with each other. The members of the group get rid of their old books and take something new back home. In Bangalore, an e-platform *starterbarter.com*, has been launched recently for book swapping. There are also several other initiatives in the country that facilitate book exchange such as BookSwap (<http://bookswap.in/>), BookZeal (<http://bookzeal.com/>), and FriendsOfBooks (<http://www.friendsofbooks.com/>).

Nevertheless, the most innovative idea of book swapping was mooted by Tedd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, USA, who in 2009 put up a wooden shelf in the shape of a school house, named Little Free Library, filled with books, in his lawn as a tribute to his mother, who was a book lover, from where anybody could pick up a book for reading at home and leave the book after reading or another book in that shelf that might be picked up by some other reader. Bol shared his idea with his partner, Rick Brooks, who spread the word, and the idea spread rapidly and LFL took the shape of a movement. Little Free Libraries often use the phrase “Take a Book Leave a Book”, which conveys the philosophy behind setting of such libraries. LFL movement encourages book lovers to put up small shelved structures in varied shapes such as a bird house, doll house, etc. outside their homes or any other public place. People can take a book and return it whenever they want. For using LFL there is no need for a person to be a member. Not only that, one can take a book from an LFL located in one city and can return the same at any other LFL located elsewhere. There are now over 25,000 registered LFLs in the world covering almost all countries. The LFL movement is fast picking in our country too. The first LFL in India was started in Bangalore in 2012. Today, the cities that figure on LFL’s global map include Delhi, Chennai, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Bangalore and Jaipur. Chennai alone has about 10 LFLs across the city.

Incidentally, book swapping is also good for the environment. According to Greenpeace, one Canadian Spruce tree can produce around 24 books. This means with only a couple of dozen exchanges one can save a tree. Participating in a book exchange also saves on ink and leaves a smaller environmental footprint than printing a book.

If there are a large number of book swapping enthusiasts, there are opponents of book swapping too, who claim that this practice robs the authors a portion of their royalty. But certainly gains of the practice are much more than the small monetary loss to the authors.

So next time you don’t get rid of books that you no longer need by selling them to a *kabaadiwala* or second-hand book dealer at throw away prices. Join a book-swapping community and collect new titles to read against the books you do not want to retain any more either free or at a very nominal cost. By doing so you will certainly gain.

(Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_swapping, <http://www.meetup.com/BOOK-EXCHANGE-CLUB-OF-MUMBAI/>, <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-mica-students-launch-online-book-exchange-portal-1458470>, <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/87504-delhi-book-exchange>, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/books/meet-india-s-friendly-neighbourhood-book-match-maker/article1-1363642.aspx>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Free_Library, <http://bookriot.com/2012/11/26/book-swap-site-round-up/>)

PERSONALIA

Dr. Sada Bihari Sahu, Asst. General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Lucknow, has been awarded fellowship by the Library & Information Science Promotion Society (LISPS), Kalpakkam, Tamilnadu on May 6, 2015. He also received third prize in an all-India essay competition among all banks and financial institutions, organized by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year 2014-15. The prize was handed over to him by Dr. Raghuram Rajan, Governor, and Shri S S Mundra, Dy. Governor, RBI, on June 19, 2015 at RBI Central Office, Mumbai.

Mrs. Priyamwada Pramod Joshi has been awarded Ph D degree in Library & Information Science by Savitribai Phule Pune University for her thesis entitled ‘Organization and dissemination of traditional knowledge with special reference to viral diseases in Maharashtra, India’. She perused her research work

under the supervision of Dr. Surya Nath Singh, formerly Director, Library and Information Centre, National Institute of Virology, Pune. Dr. Joshi is presently serving as Assistant Professor, DLIS, Joshi-Bedekar College, Thane (W), Maharashtra.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

[The members of IASLIC may convey their views regarding any issue relating to LIS profession and/or their views/suggestions regarding IASLIC Newsletter for publication in this section]

5-year MLIS course opposed

Respected Sir,

I support the movement to stop Five-Year Integrated MLISc degree course being offered by University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Guru Ghasidas Viswavidyalaya, Bilaspur; and Annamalai University, Annamalainagar, as it is not a specified course of UGC. After 12th Std. students are not able to understand the whole Universe of Knowledge, because they do not have the background of any basic subject. Before introducing Five-Year Course, one should assess the job opportunities also. This practice is not in favour of students and LIS profession too. It should be stopped immediately for the sake of knowledge society. There are some sound reasons to cancel it:

- After 12th Std. students are unable to understand basic concepts of Library & Information Science due to lack of subject background and maturity.

- They are unable to assess user needs.
- LIS Profession is a noble profession with motto to help information seekers. LIS professionals help various information user groups such as academicians, researchers, scientists, technocrats, doctors, engineers, administrators, managers, policy makers, decision makers, etc. in providing required information at right time in right way. Hence, in-depth knowledge of any one discipline (UG & PG degree) is essential, so that they can perform their work efficiently and effectively and fulfil user needs.
- LIS profession cannot be compared with other professions (such as Legal and Medical), because job opportunities are merely based on libraries and information centres. There is no scope for private practice in this discipline.
- Knowledge society needs Scholar Librarian, not Para-professionals (Knowledge/ Information Manager or Scientist).

It is high time to cancel such course for the benefit of the LIS Profession and the Society. Please look into the matter and do the needful.

Hoping for highly positive and timely action,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Urmila A. Thaker
Professor & Head (Retd.)
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