



IASLIC Newsletter

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For Members only

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News at a Glance

- IASLIC Activities
- Conferences/Seminars/Workshops
- Miscellaneous News
- Special Feature

Quote of the Month

"Library professionals should begin tailor services to every user"

- Late Dr. A P J 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

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, Annamalai Nagar; 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 University of Calcutta, is reproduced below.

23236354, 23232901, 23287721, 23254136
23235733, 23282817, 23286793, 23259437

UGC Website : www.ugc.ac.in



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

BY SPEED POST

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

The Registrar,
University of Calcutta,
Senate House, 87/1,
College Street, Kolkata,
West Bengal 700073.

17 JUL 2015
July, 2015

17 JUL 2015

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

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

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary

1. Ms. Parvin Begum, Bankura [3815-O(Z-6)]
2. Ms. Piu Mukherjee, Burdwan [3816-O(Z-6)]
3. Ms. Sayantani Bhowmik, Burdwan [3817-O(Z-6)]
4. Mr. Sourav Kumar Paine, Hooghly [3818-O(Z-6)]
5. Mr. Dhanwantari Prakash Tripathi, Rourkela [3819-O(Z-5)]
6. Mr. Vijay Kumar Verma, New Delhi [3820-O(Z-4)]
7. Mr. Vijay Singh Chauhan, Bhopal [3814-O(Z-3)]
8. Mr. K. M. Mahadevaiah, Ramnagar [3830-O(Z-1)]
9. Ms. Chhanda Paul, Silchar [3826-O(Z-5)]
10. Mr. Jogindar Singh, Jammu [3831-O(Z-5)]
11. Dr. Anil Kumar Gautam, Jaipur [3829-O(Z-2)]
12. Mr. Kanchan Pradhan, Purba Medinipur [3827-O(Z-6)]
13. Mr. Prasant Bhattacharyya, Sivsagar [3847-O(Z-5)]
14. Ms. Jabeda Begum, Barpeta [3846-O(Z-5)]
15. Ms. Kakoli Gogoi, Tezpur [3845-O(Z-5)]
16. Mr. Biswajit Jana, Purba Medinipur [3861-O(Z-6)]
17. Mr. Manoj Rana, Shillong [3860-O(Z-5)]
18. Mr. Kundan Jha, Raipur [3859-O(Z-3)]
19. Mr. Kamaluddin Faruqui, Gurgaon [3863-O(Z-4)]
20. Mr. Neetesh Dubey, Mumbai [3862-O(Z-2)]
21. Ms. Bela Mondal, Kolkata [3858-O(Z-6)]
22. Mr. M. Joyothi Prakash, Coimbatore [3850-O(Z-1)]
23. Dr. Kalpana Gayakwad, Haridwar [3853-O(Z-3)]
24. Ms. Parul Gupta, Agra [3851-O(Z-3)]
25. Mr. Rudra Singh Daimari, Chairang [3864-O(Z-5)]
26. Ms. Athini Nakhini, Kohima [3870-O(Z-5)]
27. Dr. Utpal Das, Dibrugarh [3869-O(Z-5)]
28. Ms. Ranita Sen, Kolkata [3868-O(Z-6)]

IASLIC Zone-I Meeting

A meeting of the members hailing from IASLIC Zone-I was held on August 22, 2015, at Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by Dr. J N Satpathi, former president of IASLIC; Shri T. Ashok Babu, former vice-president of IASLIC; Dr. T K Tiruvengada Mani, Deputy Librarian, Madras University; Dr. G Sujatha, University Librarian, B R Ambedkar Open University; Dr. A Amruth Sherikar, Deputy Librarian & Head, Virtual Learning Resource Centre & Digital Library, Gulbarga

IASLIC 30th All India Conference 2015

The 30th All India Conference of IASLIC is scheduled to be held at the Department of Library and Information Science, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, during December 28-31, 2015. The theme of the conference is 'Library Legislation and Community Information Services'. Considering the continuous demand from a large number of LIS professionals, the last date for submission of papers has been extended to October 30, 2015. For details please visit <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/iaslic%202015%20%20notice%201.pdf> for see August 2015 issue of *IASLIC Newsletter*.

University; Smt. Chitra Satpathi (invitees) and Shri Hemant Kumar, who served as Rapporteur. Presiding over the meeting, Dr. Satpathi greeted all the members, who had come from different states of Zone-I and thanked the management of ASL for the excellent arrangements. Earlier, in his welcome address, Shri Ashok Babu thanked all the members for their support. Members present in the meeting made suggestions for the improvement of Zone-I activities and after thorough discussions it was resolved that IASLIC should take necessary initiatives for increasing institutional membership in Zone-I; issue an appeal for membership drive; introduce student membership; spread its activities throughout the country; upload the conference/seminar volumes on the IASLIC website at a later date; and take initiative for collecting publications/news items from all parts of India. Shri Manoj Kumar Sahu offered a vote of thanks.

Librarians' Day at Hyderabad

Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad, organized a seminar on 'Library Services and Empowered Users' on August 22, 2015 to observe Librarians' Day. Dr. Tessy Thomas, Outstanding Scientist & Director, ASL, was the Chief Guest. Dr. S S Murthy, former Director, DESIDOC and Dr. Nitai Roychoudhury, Treasurer, IASLIC were Guests of Honour. Shri J Ram Mohan, Scientist 'H', Shri PVG Brahmanandam, Scientist 'G' and Shri Arun Kumar, Scientist 'G' of ASL were special invitees. The programme started with invocation by Ms. Navya Revathi, Scientist of ASL, which was followed by offering of floral tributes to late Dr. S R Ranganathan by the dignitaries. In his welcome address, Shri

Hemant Kumar, Scientist 'C', Head, ASL, TIC, pointed out the importance of Librarians' Day and introduced the topic of the seminar. Shri L S Ramaiah, Retired Librarian, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, and Prof. S Sudarshan Rao, Emeritus Professor, Osmania University, enlightened the audience about the contributions and achievements of Dr. Ranganathan.

Welcoming the delegates, Dr. Tessy Thomas stressed on importance of Dr. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science even in the age of net based services. She said that the fifth law of library science had led to new world of empowered library users. She observed that digital libraries could promote usage of ICT and Digital India Programme. Confidence, courage and innovation could help us to grow from strength to strength, she observed. Dr. S S Murthy opined that convergence of information technologies had given rise to empowered library users in all area of R&D.

Five papers were presented in the seminar by Shri S Shashinath, Sc 'E', Head, TIC, DMRL; Shri N Venkatesh, Scientist 'F', Head TIRC, RCI; Shri P Divakar, Head, Library (R), CCMB; Dr. A Amruth Sherikar, Deputy Librarian, Gulbarga University and Dr. Bhojaraju Gunjal, Head, Central Library, NIT, Rourkela; on various areas of library services, empowered users, Digital India programme, etc. Besides, a number of library professionals, namely, Shri B N Ranga Swamy, Sc 'F', DLRL; Shri B M Khanna, NGRI, CSIR; Dr. T Rama Devi of NIRD; Smt. Vijaya Bharathi of BHEL; Prof V Vishwa Mohan, Head, Dept. of Library & Information Science, Osmania University; Dr. G Sujatha, University Librarian, B R Ambedkar Open University; Shri P Jay Ram Reddy, Principal & Librarian, Dharmavant Degree College; Dr. A Ravindra Chary, President, ALSD; Dr. S Yadagiri, University Librarian, Osmania University; Dr. T K Tiruvengada Mani, Deputy Librarian, Madras University; and Shri T Ashok Babu, Retired Scientist 'E', ASL, stressed on relevance of Dr. Ranganathan even in the digital era. Later, a Panel discussion was also held, in which Dr. S S Murthy, Dr. J N Satpathi, Former President, IASLIC, and Prof V Chandrasekhar Rao, Retired Dean, BRAOU, served as panelists.

The seminar concluded with a call to all library professionals for better cooperation, collaboration and sharing of information resources for all academic and R&D activities. The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Manoj Kumar Sahu, TO'A, ASL TIC.

The 324th IASLIC Study Circle: Lecture on Research Impact

Dr. Sibsankar Jana, Assistant Professor, DLIS, Kalyani University, Kalyani, delivered a lecture on 'Towards Weighing Research Impact' at the 324th IASLIC Study Circle Meeting held in the seminar room of IASLIC on July 9, 2015. Prof. S B Banerjee, Vice-President, IASLIC, presided over the meeting. At the outset Shri Mriganka Mondal, Convener, Study Circle Division, welcomed the audience and introduced the speaker. Dr. Jana in his lecture lucidly explained the various techniques available to measure the research impact of teachers and researchers, such as 'h-index' 'g-index' 'hg-index', 'hl-index', 'a-index', 'ar-index', etc. He also mentioned about various websites helpful for the academic community such as www.academia.edu, <https://impactstory.org>, www.digitalcommons.uri.edu, etc. He demonstrated some useful websites online which provide information about citations. Dr. Jana said that there was no uniform rule or mechanism to assess the research impact. The techniques available were certainly helpful, but application of those techniques depended of the objective of the analysis. Shri Gurudas Ghosh, Associate Editor, IASLIC Newsletter, proposed a vote of thanks.

The 325th IASLIC Study Circle: Lecture on Bangladesh Library Movement

Shri Azizur Rahman, Deputy Librarian, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh, and Ph D scholar of DLIS, Kalyani University, Kalyani, delivered a lecture on 'Library Movement in Bangladesh' at the 325th IASLIC Study Circle meeting held on August 13, 2015, at the seminar room of the association. Prof. Arjun Dasgupta, former Head, DLIS & Dean, Faculty of Education, Journalism and Library Science, University of Calcutta and editor, IASLIC Bulletin, presided over the meeting. Shri Mringanka Mondal, Convener, IASLIC Study Circle, welcomed the speaker and the audience. Shri Rahman briefly narrated the history of library movement in Bangladesh since 1854. He said that the first public library was established in Bangladesh in 1958 and now there were 68 government public libraries and 1308 non-government public libraries in the country. Besides, there were now 3 international libraries, 37 university libraries, 3912 college libraries, 18775 school libraries, 9227 Madrasa libraries, and 1100 special libraries in Bangladesh, he added. He said that Library Association of Bangladesh was playing a pioneering role in library movement in that country. Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information

Scientists and Documentalists was also playing an important role in this regard. He mentioned that Shri M S Khan is considered as a pioneer in library movement of Bangladesh. He also pointed out the problems being encountered by LIS professionals in that country. The lecture was followed by lively interaction as members of the audience were very much interested to know more about library movement and LIS education in that country. Prof. Dasgupta, in his concluding remarks, mentioned about the importance of Ganakendra and NGOs in the library development of Bangladesh. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Nitai Raychoudhury, Treasurer of IASLIC.

Corrigendum

Prof. Sunil Kumar Bramhachari, former Vice-chancellor of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, was one of the main speakers in the technical session of the Librarians' Day seminar held at National Library, Kolkata, on August 9, 2015. His name and the name of the university were wrongly printed in the September issue of IASLIC Newsletter. The error is deeply regretted.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ WORKSHOPS

National

Course on IT Application

The 13th Training Course on 'IT Application for Information Management in Medical Libraries' is being organized by the National Documentation Centre, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi, during October 12-16, 2015. For details visit: www.nihfw.org

Workshop on Research Reporting

A UGC sponsored National Workshop on 'Research Reporting and Managing Citing Reference Resources with Zotero', is being organized by the Cochin College Library, in association with Kerala Library Association, Ernakulam Region and KCLA, during October 16-17, 2015. For details visit: <http://thecochincollege.org/>

Winter School on LIS

The Department of Library & Information Science, University of Madras, in collaboration with the UGC- HRDC (formerly Academic Staff College), University of Madras, is going to organize

a 'Special Winter School on Library & Information Sciences' during November 12-December 2, 2015. For details visit: <http://www.unom.ac.in/ascl/>

Conference on Best Practices in LIS

Information Resource Centre of Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad, in collaboration with Academy of Library Science and Documentation (ALSD), Hyderabad, is going to organize the '3rd National Level Social Conference on Success Stories, Learnings, Creativity, Case Studies, Best Practices and Failures in LIS and related areas (SoFference 2015)' on November 21, 2015. For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/sofference15>

Workshop on DSpace

Society for Promotion of Library Professionals (SPLP) is organizing a National Workshop on Digital Repository (DSpace) at DSB Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, during November 21-22, 2015. For details visit: <http://kumainital.ac.in>

Conference on Future Librarianship

Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, TISS, and Bombay Science Librarians Association (BOSLA) are organizing a National Conference on 'Future Librarianship: Innovations for Excellence (NCFL 2015)' during December 11-12, 2015. The conference will have invited theme based addresses by experts, paper presentations by authors and panel discussions by eminent practitioners in LIS discipline. For details visit: <http://bosla2013.wix.com/bosla>

Workshop on Big Data

The Seventh Workshop on Big Data Benchmarking (7th WBDB) will be held during December 14-15, 2015, at the India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The workshop is being organized in collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi Centre, and Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Hyderabad. For details visit: <http://clds.sdsc.edu/wbdb2015.in>

Workshop on Koha

Jharkhand Information & Library Association, Ranchi, organized a Workshop on Koha open source library management software during June 20-21, 2015 at Ramanujam Institute of Technology, Kokar, Ranchi. Forty LIS professionals, students and researchers participated in the workshop. Shri D P Tripathi and Shri V K Mishra, from NIT, Rourkela, served as

resource persons, while Shri Basanta Kumar Das and Shri Sanjay Kumar Karn served as course coordinators.

Seminar on Research Paper Writing

A National Seminar on 'Scientific Publication and Evaluation: Writing Research Papers, Citation Analysis and Plagiarism' is being organized by Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, during October 27-28, 2015. For details visit: <http://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo/whatsnew/inmascit.pdf>

Lucknow Science Congress

The 3rd Lucknow Science Congress (LUSCON-2015) is being organized by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, during October 31-November 2, 2015. The theme of the congress is 'Science for Society: An Interdisciplinary Approach'. The sub-themes include many LIS topics. For details visit: www.bbau.ac.in

International

Digital Shift Virtual Conference

The 6th Annual Digital Shift Virtual Conference, powered by Library Journal and School Library Journal, will be held on October 14, 2015. The theme of the conference is 'Libraries Connecting Communities'. The conference will focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the impact of digital transition on libraries and their communities. For details visit: <http://www.thedigitalshift.com/tds2015-libraries-connecting-communities/>

Conference on Digitization

India Digitization Club, New Delhi, is organizing an International mega event Digitization Expo – 2015 and International Conference from October 14-15, 2015 at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. For details visit: http://www.lpaIndia.in/Digitisation_BROCHURE.pdf

ALIRG Workshop

The 7th Asia Library and Information Research Group (ALIRG) Workshop will be held during October 26-27, 2015 at Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Manila. For details visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ALIRGWorkshop>

UDC Seminar

The International UDC Seminar on 'Classification and Authority Control: Expanding Resource Discovery' will

take place at the National Library of Portugal, Lisbon, during October 29-30, 2015. For details visit: <http://seminar.udcc.org/2015>

Conference on Role of Social Media

Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, is going to organize an International Conference on 'Role of Social Media for Organizational Sustainability' during February 12-13, 2016. For details visit: www.jaipuria.ac.in/ICROSMOS/

iConference 2016

The iConference 2016, hosted by Drexel University's College of Computing & Informatics, will take place during March 20-23, 2016, at Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The theme of the conference is 'Partnership with Society'. For details visit: <http://ischools.org/the-iconefence/>

Alexandria Workshop

The 2nd International Alexandria Workshop (ALEXANDRIA 2015) on 'Foundations for Temporal Retrieval, Exploration and Analytics in Web Archives' will be held during November 2-3, 2015 at L3S Research Center, Hannover, Germany. For details visit: <http://alexandria-project.eu/events/2nd-int-alexandria-workshop-2015/>

QQML2016

The 8th International Conference on 'Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries' will be held at University of London during May 24-17, 2016. The last date for submission of abstracts is December 20, 2015. For details visit: <http://isast.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Best Paper of ISKO Journal

The paper entitled 'Modes of Growth of Subjects' by Prof. M P Satija, Prof. Devika P Madalli, and Dr. Biswanath Dutta, published in *Knowledge Organisation*, V. 41, No. 3, 2014, has been adjudged the best paper in volume 41(2014) of the ISKO journal *Knowledge Organisation*.

Merit Scholarship at AMU

Prof. P B Mangla, Retired Professor, DLIS, and former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Delhi University, has instituted a Merit Scholarship of Rs.500 per month, tenable for ten months, to be awarded to a student of MLISc class who secures highest marks at the MLISc Entrance Test,

at the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, w.e.f. August 2015. This scholarship will be awarded every academic year out of the interest to be earned on the donation made to AMU by Prof. Mangla.

Rare Book in Scrap Market

A 105-year-old Urdu copy of *Shri Ramcharitmanas* has been found from a scrap market in New Delhi. The copy of *Shri Ramcharitmanas*, printed in Urdu way back in 1910 at Lahore, was found in a pile of torn books three years ago in a scrap market at Hauz Khas in New Delhi and was bought only for Rs 600 by the Sankat Mochan temple priest family. The priest family came across the Urdu copy while searching for an ancient manuscript of *Shri Ramcharitmanas* which was stolen along with other precious articles related to Goswami Tulsidas from the Sankat Mochan temple at Varanasi. The Urdu version was prepared by an ardent follower of Goswami Tulsi Das, Shiv Brat Lal, a native of Bhadohi district, in 1904 and was later printed at Lahore's Half-Tone press in 1910. For more details visit: http://www.msn.com/en-in/news/national/105-year-old-urdu-copy-of-shri-ramcharitmanas-found/ar-BBm2QnX?li=AA9AP2o&ocid=mailsign_outmd

JAIN e-Library

To protect, preserve, and disseminate the ancient and contemporary Jain literature, the Jain Education International Organization, in cooperation with Shri Mahavir Ardhan Kendra, Koba, Ahmedabad, and Shri Prachya Vidyapith, Sajapur, has launched a Jain e-Library project. Under this project the Jain literature is converted electronically into eBooks and made available via the website to the readers who are interested in Jain religion and its philosophy. The Jain e-Library website is an online collection of Jain scriptures, Jain manuscripts, Jain dictionary, Jain encyclopedia, Jain articles, Jain magazines, and ancient and contemporary Jain books in English, Hindi, Gujarati, and other languages. For more details visit: <http://www.jainlibrary.org/>

Status of College/University Librarians

In reply to an RTI application filed by Shri Barjinder Pal Dhiman, General Secretary, Confederation of Librarians of North India, Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Jt. Secretary, UGC, has informed the applicant that the post of Librarian in colleges and universities is an academic non-vacational post.

Books Gifted to Delhi Schools

According to a report published in *NBT Newsletter*, the National Book Trust, India, jointly with the

Directorate of Education, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, gifted books to ten government schools from various districts in Delhi so that these schools could build up their libraries and cater to the reading needs of the underprivileged children. The books were handed over to the representative of the schools by Smt. Padmini Singhla, Director of Education, Delhi, and Dr. M A Sikandar, Director, National Book Trust, at a meeting held at the conference room of the old secretariat on May 12, 2015.

LexisNexis Website

LexisNexis has launched the LexisNexis Legal Content Insider website, which aggregates multimedia content about legal ebooks, digital library technology, and print books. This resource provides a one-stop destination for news and information about legal publications. The LexTalk platform that hosts the site is a network of community forums for law librarians and other legal professionals. In addition to a connection with this network, Legal Content Insider includes written articles and video content, links to relevant blogs, and newsfeeds from Law360 and Mealey's Daily News Service. For more details visit: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/LexisNexis/LegalContentInsider/prweb12009530.htm>

IFLA School Library Guidelines

IFLA School Libraries Standing Committee has released the IFLA School Library Guidelines, 2nd edition, 2015, edited by Dianne Oberg and Barbara Schultz-Jones which was approved by the IFLA Professional Committee in June 2015. These guidelines have been developed to assist school library professionals and educational decision-makers in their efforts to ensure that all students and teachers have access to effective school library programmes and services, delivered by qualified school library personnel. For details visit: <http://goo.gl/Hb0yH9>

Digitization of Asiatic Society Books

According to a report published in *The Hindu*, the Maharashtra government has flagged off a programme to digitize over 1,00,000 books and 2,500 manuscripts, some of which date back to the 12th century, at the 211-year-old Asiatic Society Library in Mumbai. The digitization programme was recently inaugurated by Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao. Under the project, the collection of the archive of the library will be digitized and saved in the form of CDs and microfilms, which will be accessible to members, researchers, and scholars. The Maharashtra

government has released a grant of Rs. 5 crore to the society for the project. The library has a collection of 2,55,463 books and bound volumes of periodicals. As many as 15,000 of these books are rare and valuable, of which a few are even first editions.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Towards Preserving Our Documentary Heritage

UNESCO has rightly observed that “documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But this memory is fragile. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this memory disappear forever”. For, the documentary heritage continuously faces the risk from natural calamities, such as flood and fire; man-made disasters such as looting, accident or war; and gradual deterioration, which may be the result of human ignorance or neglect in providing basic care, housing and protection. It is imperative that these invaluable heritages are saved for the future of the mankind. And sooner it is done, it is better.

Fortunately, UNESCO came forward to take up this responsibility by launching the Memory of the World Programme in 1992 “to guard against collective amnesia calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world ensuring their wide dissemination”. UNESCO has also prepared, on behalf of IFLA, a report in 1996 on the lost memory i.e. the libraries and archives destroyed in the Twentieth Century (<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/administ/pdf/LOSTMemo.PDF>).

“The Memory of the World Programme recognizes documentary heritage of international, regional and national significance, maintains registers of it, and awards a logo to identify it. It facilitates preservation and access without discrimination. In addition, it campaigns to raise awareness of the documentary heritage, to alert governments, the general public, business and commerce to preservation needs, and to



Memory of
the World

raise funds. A truly international undertaking with a central secretariat, international, regional and national committees, and with partners in government, professional and commercial sectors, the Memory of the World Programme maintains a global perspective embracing all countries and peoples, whose collective efforts will be needed to ensure that the Memory is retained undistorted and undiminished”.

The Memory of the World Register is a compendium of documents, manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual materials, library, and archival holdings of universal value. Inscription on the Register leads to improved conservation of the documentary heritage by calling upon the programme’s networks of experts to exchange information and raise resources for the preservation, digitization, and dissemination of the material. The programme also has the goal of using state-of-the-art technologies to provide wider accessibility and diffusion of the items inscribed on the Register. Any organization or individual can nominate a documentary item for inscription on the Register. During its meetings, the International Advisory Committee examines the full documentation of the item’s description, origin, world significance, and contemporary state of conservation and recommends if it should be entered into the register.

To recognize institutions contributing significantly in preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage, the Government of Korea has instituted in 2004 a prize known as Jikji Prize named after Jikji, the earliest known book printed with movable type in 1377, which is being awarded biennially since 2005. The institutions which have so far been awarded this prize are Czech National Library, Prague (2005); Austrian Phonogram Archive, Vienna (2007), National Archives of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur (2009); National Archives of Australia (2011) and Apoyo al Desarrollo de Archivos y Bibliotecas (Mexico City).

So far 301 documentary items have been inscribed in the Memory of the World Register. Out of these, the largest number of inscriptions (181) relates to documentary heritage items of countries of Europe and North America, while the second largest (80) inscriptions relate to documentary heritage items of the countries of Asia and Pacific region. So far seven nominations of documentary heritage in India have been inscribed in the register. These are (1) the I A S Tamil Medic Manuscript Collection of Institute of

Asian Studies, Tamil Nadu (1997); (2) Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003); (3) Saiva Manuscripts in Puducherry (2005); (4) Rig Veda manuscript from Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune (2007); Tarikh-e-Khandan-e-Timuriah (2011); Laghukalacakratantraratika (Vimalaprabha) (2011); and Santinatha Charita (2013). Interestingly, the second nomination had come from Netherland and not from India. A publication compiling documentary heritage items that are inscribed on the Memory of the World Register has been launched by UNESCO and Harper Collins in 2012, which records documentary treasures from 1700 BC to the present day accompanied by background information about their worldwide significance and illustrated by high quality photographic materials.

It is widely known that our country has a rich documentary heritage, specially in the form of manuscripts, lying scattered in different parts of the country, sometime in remote areas. It has been estimated that there are around five million manuscripts available in the country, which is possibly the largest collection of such documentary heritage in the world. With an aim to document, preserve and provide access to such documents the Government of India set up in 2003 a National Mission for Manuscripts. The mission has already documented 34.94 lakh manuscripts, developed a web based

National Database of Manuscripts, known as *Kirti Sampada*, containing information on two million manuscripts, digitized 70,053 manuscripts and undertaken a national survey to track down every manuscript available in the country. To fulfil its gigantic task, the mission has set up 57 Manuscript Resource Centre, 33 Manuscript Partner Centres, and 50 Manuscript Conservation Centres. It has also formulated standards on storage and on preservation and conservation of manuscripts and conducted more than 160 training workshops for developing suitable manpower. But still much work needs to be done. Moreover, we shall have to get our priceless and time defying documentary heritage inscribed in the Memory of the World Register

As librarians, it is our duty to extend our cooperation and helping hand not only to locate the hidden treasures of our past, but also identify documents which deserve to be inscribed in the Memory of the World Register. It will indeed be a great service to our posterity.

[Sources: http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/en/index_mdm.html, <http://mowlac.wordpress.com/what-is-the-memory-of-the-world-program/>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_of_the_World_Programme, <http://www.namami.org>, <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15923717-memory-of-the-world>]

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