



Benchmarks in ICT Applications in LIS Practices

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Benchmarks in ICT; Applications in LIS Practices

Essays in Honour of Dr P.K. Gupta

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FOREWORD

For the knowledge-seeker, the library is a temple, the librarian a priest and the book, a source of all knowledge, is the deity. Just as the role played by a priest in creating an atmosphere of piety in a temple is crucial, so is the role of the librarian in facilitating a knowledge-seeker's access to books-the source of knowledge. This art is called the Library and Information Science. But, today in this high tech age, the source of knowledge is undergoing revolutionary changes. Consequently, book is slowly but surely losing its place of prominence as a source of knowledge. Today, we have other sources such as newspapers, periodicals, journals, etc., in non-pulp form. In other words, technology has invaded the world of information dissemination in a big way with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) paving the way for digitization of information. This has created new channels for a free flow of information and thrown up new challenges for information managers-the librarians.

Plato famous words: 'Knowledge is power' are well known to us. In today's world, knowledge is seen in terms of information which is the source of power in any field. When we say that a person is well-informed, what we mean is that he is well-read and knowledgeable. In other words, Knowledge is converted into easily accessible information in the contemporary world. The librarian plays a great role in this process by providing easy access to the available information for his clients, the readers. Often, the reader may not know where and what to look for, but an ideal librarian would immediately sense rather instinctively by the exchange of just a few words with the reader about his requirement!

We are living in the era of the Internet-induced information revolution. The Internet has, indeed, revolutionized our access to information by the click of the mouse in ways unimaginable a few years earlier. And, digitization made access to information amazingly simple and user-friendly. Today, the book in its pulp

form is losing to the disk and the drive! What is more, there are electronic gadgets which can download a whole book! So, what should the librarian do under these circumstances? Naturally, he must keep himself abreast of the changes and challenges that are making rapid inroads into the domain of knowledge management.

In other words, there is a paradigm shift in the role and responsibility of a professionally committed librarian in this era of Information Technology. This makes it necessary to bring about corresponding changes in the making of a modern day librarian in terms of training, scholarship and perspective about the library, the sources of knowledge, their preservation and propagation among the practitioners of the art of knowledge management. How to manage a library with the help of a small desk top computer is the challenge that we the librarians have to learn to live with in today's world. The phenomenon of e-papers, e-periodicals, e-books, online catalogues, online accessing of publications, etc., are the dominant issues.

And, it is in this context that this publication, an anthology of essays, in honour of Dr. Pawan kumar Gupta, assumes critical significance. Dr. Pawan Kumar Gupta is a living legendary in the field of library and information science. Known for his pioneering contributions for the evolution of library science in tune with the advances in information technology, Pawan Kumar has emerged as a celebrated name in the discipline of library science as an academician, library and information scientist and as a practicing professional librarian. As a most humble, sincere, hard-working, dedicated professional, Pawan kept himself up-to-date with the developments in the field of LIS. With the limited resources to his disposal, he kept pace with the technology and applied his skills for development of information services in Rajasthan University Library. His contribution to the growth & development of Library profession in Rajasthan will be remembered for times to come. Revival of Jaipur Library and Information Society (JALIS) is one of his great contributions. He proved his management capabilities by organizing ILA Conference in 1985, AGLIS Conference in 1993. Refresher Courses in 2007 and 2009, initiating IASLIC study circle in Jaipur, rejuvenating RLA and so on. His professional accomplishments and honours are too many to mention here, which are anyway well-known to everybody concerned. Therefore, this festschrift is an appropriate tribute to an erudite scholar known for his intellectual vitality and professional commitment. It

deals with the latest trends emerging in the library science and the shape information management would take in the days to come as also the nature of changes that the institution of library is undergoing. We have libraries of various kinds such as academic libraries, institutional libraries, public libraries, etc., with each one having its own distinct complexion because the clients are different in all these contexts. Therefore, those in the field need to understand these changes in order to remain relevant.

This publication will do Pawan proud precisely for this reason as it deals with the latest trends in terms of technological advances in the field of information storage, retrieval, dissemination, etc. And, I am sure that librarians, lecturers, scholars and students of library and information science will find it immensely useful in gaining a perspective about the ongoing changes in the discipline terms of the theory and practice in the discipline- an area which is close to Pawan's heart. Since the contributions are from men of proven eminence in the field of library and information science, I am sure, this publication will be seen as an immensely valuable addition to the existing literature on the subject. I have no doubt that this publication, very appropriately christened and edited by M.S. Rana, Dinesh Chandra Ojha and Nirmal Kumar Swain will be received by scholars, students and librarians with aplomb as a tribute to a scholar and as a treasure trove on the book racks of libraries to read and be rewarded.

Dr. Ravinder Kumar Chadha,
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PREFACE

The word 'Essays' taken in the present context is synonym to 'Festschrift'. The essays usually relate in some way or the other or reflect upon, the *honoree's* contributions in their scholarly field, but can include important original research by the authors. In the extended meaning or in the larger sense, the friends, colleagues, scholars, students, send their best wishes or as a token of respect to the *honoree* in the form of academic contributions/research publication. Such contributions may be in few pages and may go in the volumes. In the recent past, it has been noticed that, there is an increasing trend, for such publications.

The present volume, the Essays in honour of Dr. Pawan Kumar Gupta, is an humble attempt by his professional colleagues, academic friends and students to mark the occasion of his superannuation. Dr. P.K. Gupta, the current Director, Rajasthan University Library, Jaipur is a distinguished Librarian in the country. Dr. Gupta started his professional journey in 1976 as an Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Prof. Deepak Bhatnagar, his academic and family friend correctly remarked 'basically, a teacher at heart, therefore, he did not have those qualities' for which an Administrator is either often remembered or usually forgotten soon'. In the year 1982, there was an opening for the post of Dy. Librarian in the University of Rajasthan, Dr. Gupta was selected on the post. Since Dr. Gupta was unexperienced for such a huge library, Dr. C.D. Sharma, the then officiating Director, acted as a guide in true sense for him.

During his tenure in the University of Rajasthan, he tried to enliven the professional environment and made every effort to organise professional activities on the campus. He was involved in the organisation of a number of workshops, seminars and conferences. Since 1976 to May 2011, leaving few months when he was selected as Chief Librarian, National Forest Library and

Information Centre, Dehradun in the year 1997, Dr. Gupta remained with the University of Rajasthan. During his stay for about 29 years in University Library, he got himself acquainted with almost all the sections of library including administration. His deep interest in computer and Information Technology kept the library's flag on the peak and opened new vistas not only for library but also for readers. Dr. Gupta is always prepared to learn new techniques and also implements those techniques in the larger readers interest. Dr. Pawan is thorough gentleman in his personality which is ever visible from his polite and warm welcome and human touch in all walks of life. He will always support the other for their betterment. Dr. Gupta, in short, is unparallel, who is always prepared to help, one comes to meet.

Dr. Gupta has been awarded by many organisations/institutions of repute for his academic excellence but perhaps the most appropriate reward for such a personality is a bunch of Essays because it is a personal, a public and tangible tribute to one scholar by other scholar. This is what his friends have thought of to present him an academic bouquet in the form of Essays for his hardworking, sincerely and qualitative contributions to the profession.

The essays in this volume reflect interests and concerns of its authors. The unifying theme of this publication is 'Benchmarks in ICT Applications in LIS Practices', with its various facets and ramifications, specially in Indian context. The contributors have written on the various aspects of modern trends in LIS and their applicability. However, for the convenience of the readers it has been grouped in the following: (i) Dr. P.K. Gupta : A Life (ii) Current Practices in use of e-resources (iii) ICT and its Impact on Libraries, (iv) Technological Innovations (v) Digital Libraries, (vi) New shape of Academic Librarianship (vii) Consortia practices, (viii) Case studies. The authors of these topics have scholarly discussed the issues and have also analysed the themes for their implementation and future improvement. In all this volume contains 35 contributions, including the two giving an intimate view about Dr. Gupta.

The editors are fortunate enough in attracting the quality in the contributions which can easily be judged by the contents. The first circular sent by the editors was well received by the contributors and received a overwhelming response which indicates the level of status, confidence, know-how and affection

enjoyed by Dr. Gupta. The main criteria for considering the contribution(s) was qualitativensess. We extend our sincere thanks to the learned contributors and gratefully acknowledge their contributions. We truly admit that there was a most encouraging response from the contributors/professional colleagues but on account of the limitations of time and limitations on the volumes to be brought out, some contributions could not find a place in this publication and we sincerely regret for this course of action. We admit that in few contributions, an extensive editing has been done, obviously not at the cost of their thought content.

The editors sincerely and gratefully express their deep sense of gratitude to Dr. R.K. Chadha, Joint Secretary (HAG), Parliament of India, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Parliament House, New Delhi 110001 for his constant inspiration and readily agreeing to write foreword for this publication. We sincerely thank to all the contributors whose works have been included in this publication. We also wish to record our thanks to the expert friends and the members of the Felicitation Committee for their constant guidance and encouragement in the completion of this project. We, in particular, also record our appreciation to M/s Scientific Publishers (India), Jodhpur for taking all the pains and interest for bringing out this excellent publication in record time.

We on behalf of the numerous professionals and personal friends of Dr. Pawan Kumar Gupta, contributors, felicitation committee and family members, respectfully dedicate this volume to him on the occasion of his superannuation and creating a milestone for fellow colleagues in the profession. We wish him a happy and healthy retired life and we are sure he will continue to contribute more for the advancement of LIS profession in India.

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Jodhpur
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Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xiii</i>

Dr P.K. Gupta: A Life

1	Dr. Pawan K. Gupta: An Appreciation	— <i>D.C. Ojha</i>	1
2	Academics, Administration, and Affability: Our "Big Boss"	— <i>Deepak Bhatnagar</i>	31

Current Practices in use of E-Resources

3	Marketing of E-resources in Central Library, IIT Bombay	— <i>D. Jotwani</i>	36
4	Application of Management Information System in University Libraries: A Conceptual Approach	— <i>Vinay Kashyap & Gopal Krishan</i>	51
5	Analysis of Open Access Journals in the Area of Library and Information Science	— <i>Subhash Khode & Archana Choudhary</i>	61
6	Emerging Trends and the Use of Technology in Media Library Management	— <i>Ms. Jayaja Krishnan</i>	75
7	Challenges and Opportunities for Librarians in Knowledge Management Era	— <i>Vaishali Khaparde</i>	87

ICT and its Impact on Libraries

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 8 | Impact of ICT on Library Science Education: Issues and Challenges | — <i>Purnima Kaushik</i> 95 |
| 9 | Use of e-Resources by Science Research Scholars and P G Students at Panjab University Chandigarh: A Study | — <i>Vishal Sharma, Monika Sharma, Mandeep Singh & S.S. Pawar</i> 107 |
| 10 | Librarianships for Distance Learners in ICT Era | — <i>Anil Kumar Dhiman</i> 119 |
| 11 | User Awareness Towards Using ICT in Government Arts and Science Colleges in Tamil Nadu: An Analytical Study | — <i>S. Thanuskodi</i> 132 |
| 12 | Exploring the Knowledge Management Issues in ICT Era | — <i>R.K. Bhatt & Amit Kumar</i> 147 |
| 13 | Management of Electronic Resources in the Academic Libraries | — <i>Mili Bajpai</i> 161 |

Technological Innovations

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | RFID Technology: An Introduction, Concept and Components | — <i>Deepak Shukla & Kalpana</i> 169 |
| 15 | Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology : A Boom for Libraries | — <i>Salek Chand & Surbhi Saini</i> 177 |
| 16 | Barcode and RFID Technology for Security Surveillance | — <i>Anil Kumar Jharotia</i> 185 |
| 17 | Web Crawlers and Datapository - Methods for E-Learning | — <i>Shadab Khan, Vijay Mohan Shrimal & Madhav Sharma</i> 197 |
| 18 | Web 2.0 and Libraries: An Overview | — <i>T.D. Tilwani & Anil Agarwal</i> 208 |

Digital Libraries

- 19 Genesis of Digital Library: An Overview
— *Satya Prakash & Anand Anjani Jha* 217
- 20 Digital Libraries: Federated Search and Metadata Harvesting
— *Kapil Singh Hada* 232
- 21 On Effectiveness of Digital Libraries
— *Manish K. Singh* 243
- 22 Role of Digitization in the Field of Library and Public Governance
— *Ramkesh Meena, Chetan Rajpurohit & Prakash Vijayvargiya* 250
- 23 Digital Libraries: What and How?
— *Vimal Kishore Purohit, Tirth Das & Mukesh Gehlot* 256

New Shape of Academic Librarianship

- 24 Information Literacy Plan in Academic Libraries
— *S. D. Vyas* 270
- 25 Human Resources in Library and Information Services: Problems and Prospects
— *Dinesh K Gupta & G. Mahesh* 279
- 26 Technical Implementation of Shibboleth-based Access Management for the N-LIST Programme
— *Yatrik Patel & Jagdish Arora* 289
- 27 Paradigm Shift in Librarianship: Basic Challenging Issues
— *Ch. Ibohal Singh* 305
- 28 Faculty-Librarian Relationship: A Collaborative Partnership in Achieving the Vision of 21st Century Academic Libraries
— *M S Rana & Shobha* 314

Consortia Practices

- 29 Indian Scenario of Library Consortia
— *G. Naga Ratna Mani & V.V. Suryanarayana* 324
- 30 Web 2.0 and Library 2.0: A New Avenue for Library Services
— *A. K. Pareek* 340

- 31 Open Access for Effective Scholarly Communication
— *Rabindra K. Maharana & Sunil Kumar Satpathy* 347

Case Studies & Miscellaneous

- 32 Information Seeking Behaviour in University Libraries:
A Discussion
— *H.G. Gaur* 359
- 33 Dissemination of Social Science Information in Digital
Library Environment
— *Sunil Kumar Satpathy* 370
- 34 An Analysis of NITs Library Websites
— *Anna Kaushik* 381
- 35 Automation of Banasthali Vidyapith Central Library: A Case
Study
— *Govind Prasad Gupta* 399