

# **Modern Trends in Library and Information Science**

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- पुस्तक लेखक सारणी *यादव, श्रीराम*

# Modern Trends in Library and Information Science

—DR. D.C. OJHA FESTSCHRIFT—

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## Preface

The word 'Festschrift' is now no longer a new term. It is being used world wide. Since no English term for such a book had been in use, the German word Festschrift has been incorporated into the English language.... However, Festschriften are often titled something like Essays in Honour of .... or Essays Presented to ..... (Wikipedia). A Festschrift can be anything from a slim volume to a work in several volumes. *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt* began in 1972 as a Festschrift to commemorate the 75th birthday of Joseph Vogt, a German classical historian; it was planned for four volumes but has reached to 89 volumes (several planned ..., but paused since 1998). The essays usually relate in some way to, or reflect upon, the *honoree's* contributions to their scholarly field, but can include important original research by the authors. Many Festschriften also feature a *tabula gratulatoria*, an extended list of academic colleagues and friends who send their best wishes to the *honoree* (Rounds & Dow). The Festschriften as a type of publication is growing now. Michael Taggart observes that Less than a dozen legal Festschriften had been published in the United Kingdom up to 1968, but since then more than a hundred legal Festschriften have appeared.

The present volume, a Festschrift is a humble presentation to Dr. Dinesh Chandra Ojha by his professional colleagues and friends to mark the occasion of his superannuation. Beginning his professional career in 1973 as a professional person in the Government Divisional Sumer Public Library, he never looked back. He, with his increasing appetite for learning, continued his professional

education and completed his research degree from University of Rajasthan in 1989. He joined the Dr. Raheja Library, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI-ICAR), Jodhpur, in 1978, where he worked for three decades in different capacities and relinquished the position of Head (Library & Information Services) in 2008. This has been a period of capacity building, differentiation, learning and application of ICT, in which Dr. Raheja Library and Dr. Ojha both continued on a fast track of unrestricted growth, resulting into a satisfying journey for Dr. Ojha and a source of inspiration and motivation for his colleagues. This was the period in which he drew the attention and was appreciated by the top brass of not only the community of scientists of CAZRI, but also the key persons in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the top LIS professionals in the country.

As Rounds and Dow, more than three decades ago, have stated, "Rewards within the scholarly profession are limited, are often capriciously bestowed, and are frequently conditioned upon the expenditure of large amounts of time for trivial administrative purpose... More than it should be, scholarship is a life of devotion in which the only great reward is likely to be its own content... For such a life, *Festschrift* is the most honorable and the most appropriate of all possible rewards, because it serves or rather is intended to serve, the grand object of all scholarly devotion, namely the increase of scholarly interest and knowledge. At the same time a *Festschrift* is personal; a public and tangible tribute to one scholar by other scholars. This is what his friends have endeavoured to achieve - a bouquet for our associate and friend.

It is alleged that, more often than not, a collection of essays 'represent conspiracies between academics with a duty to publish', however, the essays in the volume reflect interests and concerns of its authors. The unifying theme is the *Modern Trends in Library and Information Science (L & IS)*, especially in Indian library scene, with its various facets

and ramifications. The profession, as it can be culled out from the contributions, is in a constant transformation. It may be termed a phase of mutation rather than as of variation. L & IS professionals in India are seen as exploring the boundaries of application of modern information and communication technologies in all facets of library management and services. This is what is reflected in the contributions in this Festschrift. To name a few, contributors have talked about library software, open source software, library 2.0, RFID techniques, digital collection building, digital repository, e-resources, etc. It would be a fallacy to claim that these essays identify and evaluate exhaustively all the aspects or trends in L & IS in India, but they have potentially indicated the concerns of the members of L & IS profession in India and their reaction to the prevailing conditions. The authors have been able to analyse various issues, and give their expert comments and directions for future improvement. In all, this volume has 33 contributions, including the one giving 'an intimate view' of Dr. Ojha.

Since a programme like this entails the services of a large team of specialists, we have been fortunate enough in attracting the quality in the contributions. A look into list of contributors is an indication of the level of confidence and attachment enjoyed by Dr. Ojha in the profession. We extend our particular thanks to the learned contributors and gratefully acknowledge their contributions. We must admit and state that we received an overwhelming response from professionals, which itself is a testimony of high esteem enjoyed by Dr. Ojha. On account of limitation of time and limitations on the volume of this publication, some contributions could not find a place in the Festschrift, and we offer special thanks to these friends. We were also constrained, obviously, to extensively edit some of the contributions, of course not at the cost of their content value.

For the general plan and supervision of the book, we are of course responsible and here again we are deeply aware of the value of part played by others. Our debt is immeas-

urable, to the expert friends and the members of the Felicitation Committee, for their constant guidance and encouragement during this project.

We, in particular, thank M/s Scientific Publishers (India), Jodhpur, without whose cooperation, the facile and neat publication of this volume would not have been possible.

We, on behalf of the numerous professionals, and friends of Dr. Dinesh Chandra Ojha, dedicate this volume to him on the occasion of reaching a milestone of superannuation after sixty eventful years of his life, and wish him a happy and healthy life, during which, we are sure, he will continue to contribute his might to the growth of L&IS discipline as well as this profession in India.

Jodhpur  
Ram Navmi, 24.3.2010

**Dr. Pawan K. Gupta**  
**Tirth Das**



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