

Library and Information Professionals Summit (LIPS) 2012

On

**“Leadership, Ethics, Accountability and
Professionalism in Library Services”**

16-17 March 2012

New Delhi, India



A two day Conference on “Leadership, Ethics, Accountability and Professionalism in Library Services, organized by Society For Library Professionals in association with Chapter of SLA and Ambedkar University, Delhi was organized on March 16-17, 2012 at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India. The well attended event sourced together nearly 200 participants ranging from Librarians, Activists, Information Scientists, consultants to publishers , CEOs and entrepreneurs both from academia and industry representing several countries like USA, UK, Sri Lanka etc. Conference was marked by lively invited talks, papers, product presentations, panel discussion, and debate. Experts from across the profession grappled with issues and offered wide ranging opinions and views.

	<p>Spread over two days, 5 technical sessions, 2 Keynote address, 6 invited talks, nearly 40 paper contribution, product presentations, exhibition and panel discussion, conference witnessed plethora of sessions involving a galaxy of eminent resource persons ranging from well known academics like Mr Brent Mai, President, Special Library Association, Liz Blankson-Hemans, Past Chapter Cabinet Chair, SLA, London, England, Ms. Sheila Rosenthal, Manager of Library Services, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, Mr. Sudhir K Arora, University Librarian, IGNOU, Dr Pradeepa Wijetunge, Librarian, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.</p>
	<p>Dr. R K Chaddha, Joint Secretary, Parliament Library, New Delhi and Prof J K Mitra, Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, Dr P R Goswami, Director, Central Secretariat Library, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, Prof B N Goldar, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, Dr. S K Sen, Academic Programmes Officer, IEG, Dr A L Moorthy, Director, DESIDOC, New Delhi, Mr.Mohan Mason,Head EDP, Tata Consultancy Services and several others.</p>

Covering and crossing a wide range of subjects such as Leadership Skills for Library Professionals, Inculcating Leadership Knowledge through Capacity Building, Leadership Strategy in Library and Information Science Field, Technology for Professional Development, Management Education in 21 Century, Professional Ethics for Library Professionals, Open Access of Scholarly Journals, Emerging Trends in information technologies in library and information science, Exploring educational use of blogs and Digital Reference Service the conference opened new horizon and vistas for libraries, The serene and intellectual ambience of conference venue provided a stimulating environment and fostered an unleashing of intellectual creativity, debate and discussion.

Conference opened with the welcome address by Mr. Debal C Kar President, SLP. The conference was Inaugurated by Dr. R K Chaddha who in his address emphasized the role of libraries in facilitating teaching, learning and research. Arguing passionately, he emphasized the need for a holistic approach towards the development of libraries taking care of infrastructure, human resources and dedication towards service.

The agenda of each technical session was set by invited talks covering a wide spectrum of the LIS field. There were many eminent speakers and experts who shared their experiences and knowledge of wisdom. The organizational process of this conference of its own kind on Leadership, Ethics, Accountability and Professionalism in Library Services has been conceptualized with a view to rediscover the role of libraries in facilitating the scholarly pursuits in an ethical and professional manner. The main objective of the event was to provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge and skills relevant to Information professionals and to offer an opportunity to put forward innovative plans, debate classic ideas, and promote closer

cooperation among colleagues. One of the larger purpose of the conference is to develop leadership skills among fellow professionals that demonstrates energy, commitment, entrepreneurial spirit, the opportunity to learn the benefits gained by investing in high levels of ethical values and commitment to the profession as well as inspiring others.

It was concurred during the conference that libraries must identify new roles that they need to play in the context of emerging knowledge economy as a means to support teaching and learning process and identify strategies for improving library performance. The conference critically examined the strength and gaps in the library system and suggest new management models, mechanism, policies and programmes for reshaping libraries into next generation libraries for higher education.

The unimaginable developments in the information environment such as improved accessibility, interoperability and open access to educational materials has on one side facilitated access to huge resource but on the other side pose a serious challenge to harness the technology and provide state of the art services..

The open information culture has shifted focus from subject experts and limited modes to common man's participative domain where inputs can be simultaneously added and accessed and new modes of wikis, blogs, Web 2.0, are now well entrenched, which increases academic libraries' onus of quenching the quests of information seekers by incorporating the revolutionary technological changes to provide state of the art services

Reorientation of the library systems to make them vibrant, and proactive is call of the hour. Libraries need to respond to the growing and diversifying information needs of the end-users. Our libraries must become a local gateway to world's knowledge and information. The most important and critical issue is how to manage change in the academic libraries so as to create a balance of printed publications and digital documents. Our future library must be a hybrid library which must be user-centered and expert-assisted.

Participating delegates complimented the organizers for organizing such a successful convention and bringing together so many diverse stakeholders and resource persons at a single platform and discussing issues both in context and threadbare . They found the contents of papers useful and helpful in brainstorming issues and problems confronting special libraries. Discussions on research findings and case studies as reported in conference paper helped them to identify challenges facing the information profession and led to emergence of several innovative ideas to identify new roles in emerging information environment. The conference offered opportunities to the participating delegates to put forth innovative ideas and promote cooperation and networking among them..

Recommendations:

1. To work towards facilitating and Enhancing Leadership skill among library professionals.
2. To foster and inculcate ethical and professional work culture among libraries through regular activities and interaction
3. To Promote Standards and Best Practices for enabling libraries to work in a networked environment ethically and professionally.
4. To Evolve and Promoting Ethics and Morality in LIS Leadership
5. Providing and Participating in focused and sustained professional Development Activities

Dr. P K Jain