

# ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

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KARAIKUDI - 630 003

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Date: 25.4.2019

A Two-day “International Conference on Enhancement of Technology and Innovations in Contemporary Libraries” was held at Alagappa University, Karaikudi, on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Sponsored under RUSA Phase 2.0 Scheme, the meet was conducted in association with the Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkatta and Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science, Chennai.



In his welcome address Dr.S. Thanuskodi, Organising Secretary of the Conference and Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, referred to the relevance and significance of the conference in the global context of the emergence of new technologies and their adoption in libraries of world ranked institutions of higher learning and research. Following the welcome address, a database containing the profiles of 1624 social science scholars from Southern States developed by the Department of Library and Information Science, Alagappa University, was launched by the Vice-Chancellor.

While delivering the thematic presentation, the Conference Director and Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Pondicherry Central University, Prof. R. Sevukan said in today’s world of information explosion, the conventional methods of providing information to stakeholders will not be sufficient and adequate and hence the use of advanced technologies has become inevitable and urgent. To use the advanced technologies effectively, creativity and innovation are the two intrinsically paired issues that have to be addressed in a

country like India, which is still in a growing stage. The Conference, he said, aims at enlightening delegates from India and abroad to enhance the use of new and emerging technologies for promoting serious research.

Presiding over the Conference, Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice-Chancellor, Alagappa University, said preserving the vast compendium of knowledge for posterity is the key role of library professionals and by being user-friendly they can inculcate the reading habit among the youth which is dwindling owing to many factors. In a country like India with many languages and enormous quantum of writing, the modern technologies can be used effectively and fruitfully for safeguarding them for the use of future researchers. He added that library is the heart and soul of an educational institution and it is well said that libraries have changed the face of the earth. Modern technologies are offering easy access to required information and data to researchers and are providing them with ample time space for original and innovative thinking. This advantage has to be well-utilised by the modern researchers. He said deliberations of scholars would be of great help to adopt new technologies in Indian libraries. He appreciated the organisers of the Conference for inviting distinguished scholars from countries like Taiwan, South Korea and Sri Lanka besides eminent professors from across the nation.

In his keynote address Prof. Yuen - Hsien Tseng of National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan, highlighted how Content Analysis Toolkit for Academic Research (CATAR) could be used as an effective infometrics analysis tool. He added that research performance can be measured by the quantity and quality of research papers published in international journals with impact factor and said such publications would increase the visibility of the institution helping it to get good ranking at the global level. He made a reference to the indicators considered by Times Higher Education Supplement U.K. for giving World University Rankings.

Dong - Geun Oh, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Keimyung University, South Korea, in his special address, exhorted the dynamic librarians to continually update their knowledge on the technological developments and trends and evolve their own strategies appropriate for their own libraries. They must select and use the apt technology to cater to the changing needs of the users. Best innovative practices should be given prime importance. He concluded his speech by saying that Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals need to be prepared for the future in advance and made to think all the possibilities innovatively to serve the users.

Dr. K. Elavazhagan, Librarian & Chief Knowledge Officer, Indian Institute of Management, Trichy & President, Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science, who spoke on the occasion said that explosion of information, duplication of information and fake information are the three major problems encountered by LIS professionals today. He cautioned them to be careful in handling and disseminating information to the end-users. To overcome these problems LIS professionals need to think and rethink innovatively with creativity to disseminate filtered information in tailor - made form.

A book containing 135 abstracts of research papers was released by the Vice-Chancellor and copies were given to the distinguished guests. 22 LIS professionals acted as rapporteurs at the sessions. A total of 125 papers were presented in eleven technical sessions.

Eight invited lectures were delivered by the following eminent professors on the topics of current interest. The distinguished speakers are:

1. Dr. W.A. Weerasooriya, Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
2. Dr. Ajay P. Singh, Professor, DLIS, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
3. Dr. B. Ramesha, Professor, DLIS, Bangalore University, Bangalore.
4. Dong-Geun Oh, Professor, Keimyung University, South Korea.
5. Dr. C. Jayakumar, Librarian, IIT, Roorkee.
6. Kim, Hwicheol, Librarian, Hanyang University Library, Seoul, South Korea.
7. Prof. M.F. Hibathul Careem, Registrar, Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka.
8. Dr. S. Siva Chidambaram, Chief Librarian, AIIMS, New Delhi.

Around 200 scholars from various Universities in India and abroad participated in the conference. Dr. M. Sadiq Batcha, Associate Professor, Annamalai University presented the conference report. Dr. R. Jeyshankar, Joint Secretary of the Conference proposed a vote of thanks.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu  
REGISTRAR