

8th MANLIBNET Annual National Convention on

Technology and Management Trends: Perspectives and opportunities for library professionals from 18-20 September 2006 at Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad

Main theme of the convention was "Technology and Management Trends: Perspectives and opportunities for library professionals" and the sub-themes were:

- Technology Trends: Access, Organization and Retrieval Technologies
- Library Security Trends: Video Camera, Magnetic Strips, RFID etc.
- Management Trends: Marketing, Finance, Human Resources and Strategy

Total 38 papers were selected for presentation at the convention, out of which 27 were presented during the event. Out of these 27, 19 were by the Library and Information Science professionals whereas 8 were from the academic fraternity. Apart from the paper presentations in eight different sessions, five commercial presentations were also made by various vendors like Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, EBSCO, Emerald and Global Information Systems.

The Inaugural Session on September 18, 2006 started with a welcome speech by Prof. R.G.Nambiar, Director, Institute of Management, Nirma University followed by a presidential address by Shri M.M.L.Goyel, President of MANLIBNET. Shri Goyal gave an overview of the MANLIBNET objectives, activities and milestone developments in MANLIBNET since its inception, and conveyed to the young LIS professionals the necessity of constant and continued learning. The Chief Guest, Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapith, during his lecture, expressed his views about the alarming speed of growth and acceptance of IT technology in all fields. He expressed his concern about losing fundamental values, ethics and human touch in the craze of winning the race. Prof. B.H. Jajoo from IIMA delivered a keynote address on the theme of the convention. He informed the audience about the key technological advances that took place during last 25-30 years and threw some light on the limitations of IT that are yet to be overcome for its even wider acceptance.

Prof. N.V. Vasani, Vice-Chancellor of Nirma University released the Conference Proceedings and the Organizing Secretary, Shri H.Anil Kumar proposed vote of thanks.

Presentations

First technical session started after the inaugural session and the Chairperson of this session, Dr. Madhu Mehta, Chief Architect of Nirma Labs did presentation on *Entrepreneurial Competencies for Library Professionals*. He opined that librarians are in a unique position to be change agents for the organization if they choose to be, and stressed on seven entrepreneurial competencies, conscious pursuits of building these, he believed, will make a difference to library professionals for sure. The competencies he narrated were: Firm belief that you can make a difference; Bias for Action - doing things urgent patience; Spot opportunities; Unjustifiable optimism; Tolerance for uncertainty; Genuine concern for other

people; and Leadership. Two more papers by library professionals were presented in this session, one of which was on *Impact of Technology on Library Services* by Dr. K. Manjunatha and the other one was by Ms. Gayatri Doctor on *Implementing an Institutional Repository*.

Three presentations were made during the post-lunch second session. One of them was made by Prof. Abhijit Bhattacharya of NIM on *Role of the Library to Commercialize Inventions of the University*; another one was by Dr. T S Kumbar on *Open Access Initiatives and their Impact on Library Professionals*, and the third one was by Mr. Manawwer Eqbal on *Electronic Journals: Trends and Implications for Libraries*.

Again, three more presentations were made during the third session - Ms. Asha Desai's presentation on *Automation and Usage of Digital Repositories@IBS Ahmedabad Library*, Mr. Bhaumik Shroff's presentation on *RFID: A New Milestone of the Saga of Library Security* and Mr. Shekhar's on *Blogging for Librarians*.

The paper jointly written by Mr. Bhaumik Shroff and me was presented with the help of PowerPoint presentation. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is quite recent technology being applied within libraries to provide better and efficient services to the users. Advances in information technologies have boosted the potential of this technology for its use in library automation and security. In our presentation, we included the information on RFID technology, its major components, history, benefits and limitations. Also gave an understanding of the similarities and differences between the RFID tags and barcodes. Efforts were also made to throw some light on the current applications of this technology and to draw attention towards the major challenging issues involved in the implementation of RFID technology. The presentation was followed by interesting discussion on RFID.

On the next day, during the fourth session, Dr. Mallikarjun of NIM did a presentation on *Measuring Efficiency in Libraries: A Dismal Science Approach*, Mr Amith Mehta from TCS Ltd. did a presentation on *RFID for Libraries and Information Centres* and Dr P.R. Goswami informed the audience about *Social Science Libraries Network*.

Among the four presentations made during the fifth session, Ms Nina Muncherji's (Professor at NIM) on *Trends in Human Resource Management* was quite informative. According to her, some of the latest trends in the area of Human Resource Management Processes are: Psychometric Testing, Emotional Intelligence, Mentoring, Assessment Centres, 360 Degree Feedback and Leadership. However, she could not relate these to the field of Library and Information Science and could not explain as to how these could be applied to the libraries and library professionals. Other three presentations were: Ms. Monita Shastri's on *Trends in Library Security*, Ms. Meenal Oak's on *Use of Program Flow Charts and Cause and Effect Diagrams* and Ms. Vrushali Rane's on *Marketing of Information Products and Services*. Based on her study of marketing potential of Management Libraries in Mumbai, Ms. Rane suggested that modern business libraries should be run like a business within the organization, and for this purpose, business libraries should deal more with information rather than a document.

The sixth session started with Mr. Ram Kumar's presentation on *Putting the Library back into the Librarian and Vice versa*, followed by a presentation on *Libraries as an Ideal*

Workplace by Mr. K. Tyagrajan, Chief Executive of Nirma Labs, and ended by a presentation by Mr Antony Jose on *Application of RFID Technologies in Libraries*.

During the seventh session, Mr. Chinmoy Sahu of NIM threw some light on *Activity Based Costing for Library Services*, Ms. Prabha Pattani did presentation on *Library Security Systems* and Ms. Tilottama Re tried to relate *Digital Library and Ranganathan*.

Eighth session: A presentation on *Copyright Law – Its Impact on Academia/Libraries* by Prof. Krishna Dev Rao and Mr. Dayananda Murthy of Gujarat National Law University was quite enriching. They included in their presentation, Copyright Act, Object of Copyright, General Principles, Copyright Infringement, Elements to Constitute Piracy and Certain Acts not to be Infringement of Copyright. This was followed by presentations on *Information Management Strategy for Information Professionals in the Digital Era* by Mr. M.G. Sreekumar, *Marketing Communication for Library Professionals* by Mr. Shailesh Yagnik, *A LibQUAL+TM Model for Improving Quality of Services in Indian Libraries* by Mr. S. Shyam Sundar Rao, and *Total Quality Librarian* by Mr. Rajesh Kumar.

During the **Valedictory Function** on the last day of the convention i.e. on 20 September 2006, the Rapporteur General for the conference, Dr. K. Manjunatha, Librarian of T.A Pai Management Institute, Manipal presented a report on the conference. This was followed by a valedictory address by Dr. Nambiar, Director, Institute of Management, Nirma University and presentation of mementos by him to the President and General Secretary of MANLIBNET and to the Rapporteur General. Dr. P.R. Goswami, General Secretary of MANLIBNET proposed the vote of thanks to all.