

**Report on Two day National Workshop
Librarian Development Programme
On
“Research Techniques in LIS”
Jointly organized by MANLIBNET and Atmiya Group of Institutions, Rajkot
Date: 30th & 31st March 2012**

With India as a Nation focusing on R&D and Innovation - Librarian Development Programme on *Research Techniques in LIS* is a timely designed programme keeping in mind the current demands from our Profession - be it mandatory or desirable. Research has now become an inevitable part especially if you are in the field of higher education. The LDP will served two purposes- it not only equipped the Librarians with techniques to do research in their field but also equipped them to help their users as a support team for carrying out R&D activities in their Institutions/ Organizations/ Companies they belong to.

The topics covered were:

- Relevance of research for librarians
- Identification of research problem
- Literature search and identifying classic papers on the topic
- Research methods
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis and basic statistics
- Trends and current topics in library and information science research
- Writing proposal, thesis and papers
- Funding sources for research
- Reference management tools for Research

Objective of the LDP was:

- To train the librarians in Research techniques and give them hands-on experience on the practical topics
- To give an opportunity to interact with experts from different Universities of India
- To orient the Librarians in trends and current topics of research in the field

The following is the detailed report of the Two day National Workshop; Librarian Development Programme on “Research Techniques in LIS”.

Inaugural Function

Inaugural session began with Invocation by SadhviSharnagat.

Mrs. Sheetal Tank, Workshop Coordinator, welcomed the dignitaries, delegates and staff of AtmiyaParivar and then briefed the gathering about origin of Atmiya group of Institutions, its growth over the years, academic programmes conducted, autonomous status , highest ranking in the state of Gujarat, of being accredited A level .





She introduced Dr H Anilkumar, President MANLIBNET, and Librarian, IIM, Ahmedabad and DrVarshaKanabar, Organizing Secretary, Librarian Development Programme.

After lighting of the lamp, Dr A U Patel, Principal, Shree M & N Virani Science College began his welcome speech with ashloka on Devi Vandana. He stressed on the importance of research and role of libraries.

Dr H Anilkumar informed about the history of MANLIBNET, activities of MANLIBNET, which comprised of annual conventions, award to Librarian for recognition in the profession and publishing of Journal of Management. He further informed about initiating Librarian Development Programme and its need in the present scenario and stressed on the importance of research and that how the theme chosen was relevant in present scenario.



Mrs. Sheetal Tank ended the inaugural session with Vote of thanks to Organizing Secretary, Principal, Manlibnet President Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. MeetaRathod, the coordinator of LDP and also Ms. Jyoti Bhatt for accepting to be the rapporteur of the workshop; the Atmiya family for their whole hearted cooperation, delegates for their presence and sponsors for the financial support.

Day 1

Lecture 1: Relevance of research for Librarians by Dr. H. Anil Kumar, Librarian & Head NICMAN, IIMA & President MANLIBNET.

This lecture gave an insight into the current & future scenario of the existence of libraries, the need for research due to the emerging technologies and its applications in the Library, the current trends in terms of services and operations of the Library, and what are the implications of these trends on aspects like Buying of books; reference services and the future whether the focus would be on the content or the service and a book or an experience. At the end of the lecture Dr. Anil Kumar with the help of his well written own research paper explained the different aspects what should one cover in these aspects of the paper. He also provided some topics for research and some useful tips to the participants in their journey of research.



Lecture 2: Identification and formulation of research problem by Dr. RajendraKumbhar Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Pune, Pune



Dr. Rajendra Kumbhar one of the living examples of a good teacher has an experience of about 20 years in the field of Library science Teaching and research. This was most appreciated lecture of the entire workshop. He started his lecture with current status of LIS research – some observations, then he explained what is a research problem. He highlighted and explained the different sources for identification of research problem viz. Reading different types of documents; Observations

in and around the library – issues related to staff , users & complaints; Reading material – new formats and impact on users; collection development; Technology – usability testing; Services; Systems; Current social issues and trends; Political issues; Publishing world; Ideological issues; Study of theories/ principles/ laws; Methodological issues: adapt methods; Imagination; Reading research in the peripheral subjects; Critical thinking – ask questions, challenge ideas and claims in research paper; A stem from present research; Seminars/ workshops/ refresher courses; Personal interest – your favorite area; Mentorship – working with experts. He also listed the checklist for a researchable problem and the format for formulation of research problem; he listed some pre requisites to formulate research problem and also provided guidance for the same. He provided the simplified version of the research problem identification process and concluded by providing some examples of interesting research problems one can work upon.

Lecture 3: Trends and Current topics in LIS research by Dr. Dimple Patel, Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad



This lecture was an important one interms of S&T librarians for those aspirants who are interested in working in the areas of intersection of Information Science & Computer Science; one of the most important lectures to look at the changing dynamics of the field of Library and Information Science today. She started her lecture by highlighting on the early research in LIS and moved on to the present research where she says the

field of LIS has become highly interdisciplinary in nature. Explaining about the interdisciplinarity of LIS she explained about topics related to the study of information are taken over by researchers from fields like computer science, business administration, education and communication; and also that there are several topics including Information/ Learning society and Information Ethics and law which are equally within the field of LIS and outside it. She later focused on the areas of research in LIS in the different aspects like Information Retrieval, Information representation and organization – Metadata, ontologies, topic maps & RDF. She also detailed each of these concepts. Moving ahead she also highlighted on aspects of research areas like Digital Libraries/



institutional repositories, Semantic web, e-Learning, Web 2.0, Library 2.0, Knowledge Management, IPR, Publishing, Open access/ Open Source Software, LIS education, Information Literacy, Library management etc. She then highlighted on Research Methods in LIS and the national scenario with the study conducted on the type of research in the field so far. At the end she also expressed her views and her vision for the field and type of research one should take in present day.

Lecture 4: Data Collection techniques and tools by Dr. RajendraKumbhar, Professor, Dept. of Library & Information Science, University of Pune, Pune



Dr. Kumbhar in this session started his lecture by answering questions like what is data and why it is needed. He went ahead explaining the types of data and the tools and techniques available for collecting the same. He focused on the Questionnaire method detailing its usefulness and the types of questions, the formats and online surveys available like surveyMonkey.com, concerns one should take care while designing the questionnaire, he also provided some tips for quality questioning. Then

he discussed about Interview method, the types of interview, issues in the same, then he spoke about new type of interview called Focus group interview, the procedure and its usefulness. He then explained about narrative interviews and the context in which they prove to be very useful. The next method he discussed was the Observation / field study method; he explained the methodology with appropriate examples in different studies that we can conduct; and also provided some tips for conducting the same. Here he also explained about the interesting aspect called Observation chart with an example. Diary and journal method was also explained meticulously with its usefulness, care to be taken, and also what could be the possible challenges in maintaining the same. He then highlighted on new concepts like Think Aloud Protocol (TAP) and its methodology with an example as to where we can use this methodology; he also gave tips to conduct the same and also the types of TAP one could conduct. He lastly focused on the different sources of secondary data and then gave some useful guidelines in choosing the best tool for data collection. He summarized by giving tips as to what one should avoid in order to have objectivity in data collection.

Lecture 5: Literature Search by Dr. Dimple Patel, Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad

Dr. Dimple started her lecture by defining what is Literature search? and then went ahead explaining why literature search is important & what are the different stages in the literature search. She then focused on the search techniques; she gave a flowchart as to how one should go about from defining and formulating the assessment problem in to main concepts- to search



terms – creating a search strategy- conducting the database searching – looking into bibliographic references and then the full text databases with tips at every stage how we will have to go back and forward evaluating each and every stage in the process of searching for information. She then highlighted on how one can use natural language search and the problems one should keep in mind while using it; she also gave details like truncation, wild cards and proximity and adjacency operators one could use which are the database features to support natural language search, she explained the Boolean operators and other search techniques like reference linking, manual searching and also the subject indexing for a key reference. She also gave tips for refining the search; also gave guidelines for evaluating the search strategy. She stressed in reference documentation and reference management with present day tools both free and paid services like Zotero, reference manager, endnote etc. She then detailed the types of information sources both physical and on the internet. She explained the use of subject gateways and their usefulness with examples of the same. Digital Libraries/ Institutional repositories were also explained with examples of LIS DL's/ IR's; Online ETD's and e-journals, DOAJ, ROAR, Wikipedia, online dictionary/ thesaurus, Visual dictionaries were also covered in the field of LIS. She gave a detailed checklist for evaluation of Internet information sources and explained the criteria for evaluation of resources as PROMPT (Presentation, Relevance, Objectivity, Method, Provenance & Timeliness). Each of these criteria were explained in detail. She then explained about identifying seminal/ classic papers on a topic – by detailing what are seminal/ classical papers; how to identify them on a topic; why citations are important; what are the citation tools available; she highlighted the use of Web of science, Google scholar – mycitations option etc.. She summarized the lecture providing some guidelines on post literature search.

Lecture 6: Data Analysis and basic statistics by Mr. C.M. Barasara, Asst. Professor, dept of Mathematics, Atmiya Institute of Technology & Science, Rajkot, Gujarat



Mr. Chirag Barasara conducted his lecture very interactively and lively by quoting examples for explaining different concepts. He started his lecture by explaining what is statistics in both layman language and also theoretically. Then he explained what is a variable; types of variable; explained Qualitative variables and Quantitative variables both Discrete and Continuous Variables with examples. Then he highlighted on populations and samples, as to why a sample is required & what are the different sampling methods. He then discussed about the experimental design of research – the general principles that should be considered in the conduct of research; the types of problem statement – Research question & Hypothesis testing both the types were explained with appropriate examples, and also the available testing tools for hypothesis testing were also listed. He then gave the exercises to work with different measures of central tendency like Arithmetic mean, Geometric Mean, Harmonic Mean and media; he explained as to where the different means should be used for analysis of data. The participants calculated the different means on the given set of data and the session was very much interactive and participative so was really enjoyed by the participants. And it was rated as an excellent session of the day 1 of the workshop.

Day 2

Lecture 7 & 8: Writing the research proposal, research report & research Paper by Dr. ShyamaRajaram Associate Professor & I/C head, Dept. of Library and Information Science, M.S. University Baroda.

Dr. ShyamaRajaram conducted this session very meticulously, taking every care that all the concepts are clear for the participants in the aspects of writing the research proposal, the research report & the research paper. She started her session with writing the research proposal. In this session she started by explaining what is a research proposal with a definition of the same; then she went ahead explaining the purpose of research proposal; value of research proposal and then detailed the suggested structure of research proposals as follows: Title, the research problem, followed by Literature review, procedures of the study, data analysis, the expected timeframe & the limitations of the study. She explained each of these aspects in detail with examples. She also answered many queries at the end of this segment.



In segment 2, She discussed in detail the aspect of Writing research report. She began her session by a note – “when research activities are effectively communicated they have excellent impact on the audience”. She highlighted the importance of writing a research report systematically. She went ahead explaining the general format for writing the research report. She detailed all the parts of the research report starting from Introduction, review of related Literature,

Conceptual framework and research methods used in study which comprises of research methods used; a research design & Procedure and methods used; followed by data analysis and findings and conclusions and suggestions. She also guided that there should be list of references at the end of each chapter; footnotes can be added, bibliography if sources consulted to be attached, and also explained about importance and situations for citing as explained by Bush and Harter in their book – Research Methods in Librarianship.

In the following session Dr. Shyama dealt with Writing of research paper. She said the basic structure of a research paper remains the same as writing a research report, the difference being only in dimension. A research paper she said should also have a n introduction specifying the objective of the study, a very brief overview of related literature, the research methods used in the study, followed by data presentation, analysis, finding and interpretations and ending with the conclusions and recommendations. She also specified that the first point of consideration for the researcher would be the choice of the right audience and the right journal. She stressed on the use of language and communication skills. She gave the guidelines in writing the paper in respect to the title, language, communication of the idea, flow of the sentences & the paragraphs, headings & subheadings, format and hierarchy of the headings and subheadings, numbering of pages, following the rules of grammar of the language, avoid careless mistakes, tenses, capitalization, pronouns, avoid abbreviations, Acronyms to be used sparingly, correct

punctuation marks, quotation marks to quote, use of standard English words instead of slang or jargon, Simple sentences, reference list to be provided using bibliographic standard adopted by the journal, footnotes to be added, credits to be given, over quoting to be avoided, careful proofreading to be done before sending the paper. She went ahead by giving tips on choosing the journals and the points to be kept in mind for publishing the work in journals.



At the end of the sessions the participants were

divided into groups; 8 groups of formed and each group of given a published

paper for doing a critical SWOT analysis. The groups were then made to speak out their analysis and Dr. Shyama gave the insights into each of the paper. And also mentioned the method for analyzing the paper by looking into the structure, the objective, methodology used and also stressed one must not run down to conclusions before analyzing a paper.

Lecture 9: Funding of research in Library and Information Science by Dr. P.R. Goswami, Director (Libraries & Central Secretariat Library), Govt. of India, New Delhi

Dr. Goswami discussed the issues off how to select a research topic, major agencies to sponsor research, writing research proposals and their submission, new opportunities for funding. He mentioned about the major government agencies like UGC, ICSSR, DST/CSIR, and nongovernment agencies like UNDP, UNESCO, IFLA, and other international donor agencies from USA, UK and European countries. He then detailed on present scenario of Social Science research in India which according to the analysis shows the social science research remains under funded. He then debated on the quality or research and also shared the findings of ICSSR review committee report 2011. He also showed the comparison of UGC funding for social science and basic science research. He then gave guidelines as to what is a good topic for financial aid and stressed on taking up a trend analysis/ source of information study which is to study a particular category of Publication, bibliographic research, survey of research in a particular area that can be done collaboratively. He also discussed some case studies – Case 1 - Gazette of India as a source of Information; case 2 A.R. Venkatachalapthy on a social history of Tamil book publishing. He also got the attention of the participants on the ICSSR survey of research in different disciplines that come under Social Sciences. He also stressed that one should explore new areas of research quoting the example of UNESCO's memory of the world programme and ALADIN project. He also explained the important factors of project funding. He also detailed about the technology information facilitation programme, under the dept. of Industrial research. He then provided the guideline for eligibility criteria for applicants, project approval mechanism & also put some light on Need based project which had many queries by the participants and he helped them with the



answers. He gave some areas of research one can take up such as collection study: heritage libraries, theme based research projects and recent opportunities such 150th Birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, 150th year of first war of Indian Independence etc. He also showed his concern on capacity building for research projects & that collaborative programmes are the need of the hour. He concluded by saying that the opportunities for getting research fund are many provided one can select a relevant and useful topic.

Lecture 10: Reference Management Tools; an overview by Dr. T.S. Kumbar, Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



Dr. Kumbar, introduced the topic by highlighting on the importance of citations, references which are fundamental to a good research. And that the whole process of collecting, organizing and using references is a tedious job. Thus effectively managing the references is very important. He then went ahead the generations of TM tools- how they have evolved from hand written notes on index cards, to RMs in 1980, networked versions in 1990's to web versions in 2000 and how RMs are playing a role in almost all the evolving e-learning

environments. He then elaborately explained the broad features & functions of RMs. He then listed and detailed some selected RM tools namely – EndNote, Refworks, Zotero, Mendeley, CiteULike, Connotea with their features and availability and went ahead listing some more RM tools available today. He then gave a comparison table for features & functions of CiteULike, Mendeley, RefWorks&Zotero. He also listed some of the useful resources for comparisons. He also stressed on self study/ tutorials of RM's as a good starting point to explore these tools. He summed up the session detailing the importance and availability of RM Tools today.

Valedictory function

The dignitaries of MANLIBNET present during the valedictory function were Dr. P.R. Goswani, Dr. T.S. Kumbar, Dr. MeetaRathod, LDP coordinator & Ms. Jyoti Bhatt, the rapporteur of the workshop.



Ms. Jyoti Bhatt read the report of the workshop. Dr. Varsha Kanabar, organizing secretary, presented a memento to Ms. Jyoti Bhatt & Dr. Meeta Rathod for their support for this workshop. Dr. P.R. Goswami then addressed the participants and also spoke about the MANLIBNET, its inception, the activities & also about the Journal which will be published in June this year.

Then Dr. MeetaRathod addressed the participants highlighting the concept of LDP as it was her brain child and what are the objectives of the LDP, she thanked the participants and the organizers for the success of the workshop. She then requested Dr. P.R. Goswami to handover the memento to Dr. VarshaKanabar, organizing secretary and Dr. T.S. Kumbar to handover the memento to Ms. Sheetal Tank, the workshop coordinator.

Two participants, Ms. RashmiKumbar from Gujarat and Dr. P.L. Sharma from Haryana, expressed their views about the workshop. They said that this workshop has definitely guided them to start their research and Dr. Sharma also said that this kind of workshops should be conducted on regular basis but for a longer period.

Mrs. Sheetal Tank ended the valedictory function with Vote of thanks to Organizing Secretary, Principal, Manlibnet President Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. MeetaRathod, the coordinator of LDP and also Ms. Jyoti Bhatt for accepting to be the rapporteur of the workshop; the Atmiya family for their whole hearted cooperation, delegates for their presence and sponsors for the financial support and specially Dr. RajendraKumbhar for attending all the sessions and participating in the discussions for the benefit of the participants.



Group Photograph of Participants of the LDP.

As per the feedback of the LDP received the participants were satisfied with the content and the resource person selection and overall it was marked as an Excellent workshop, some of the suggestions received were as follows:

For topics

- The session on research methodology could be continued with focus on different aspects in details for a period of minimum 3 days
- Practical research which improve library service and management misconception
- Article writing practice in presence of experts
- Training as managers & IT professionals
- Precise workshop on national level funding & International level funding
- HRM & Communication Skills
- Reference management tools – exploring them

For improving the sessions

- Background study and hand outs could be provided in advance for making sessions more interactive
- More hands-on sessions
- Provide more examples
- Practical's for better understanding
- Time management – not too long and not too short.