

12th MANLIBNET NATIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

ON

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION THROUGH LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES

SHARING VISION FOR THE FUTURE

held at IIHMR, Jaipur during November 22-24, 2010

Conference Report

Dr.Tariq Ashraf, University of Delhi

Rapporteur General

The Twelfth MANLIBNET National Annual Convention on Knowledge Dissemination through Libraries and Information Centres: Sharing Vision for the Future held at Institute of Health Management Research, IIHMR, Jaipur. The convention opened on November 22, 2010 covered a wide range of topics beginning from Emotional Intelligence for librarians to, open source tools, initiatives and building knowledge depositories, internet based services, measuring quality, web 2.0 and several other topics across a wide spectrum of knowledge sphere. The serene and hospitable sprawling complex of IIHMR provided a stimulating environment and fostered an unleashing of intellectual creativity, debates and discussions.

The well attended event sourced together nearly 200 participants from almost all the parts of the country including the premier institutions. This included d Invited Speakers , Experts and Delegates ranging from Academicians, Librarians, Corporate Managers, Technocrats , Media Persons and Publishers.

The convention consisted 9 invited talks, 12 technical sessions, 6 product presentations, 53 paper presentations, two cultural evenings, exhibition of books and other library products. The conference was marked by lively talks, passionate presentations and subtle

arguments and counter arguments. Stalwarts from across the country grappled with issues and offered wide range of opinions and views.

One of the recurring and common thread which held the discussion alive for the 72 hours of convention was to have a focused approach on the emerging paradigm of Knowledge Dissemination. Further, it helped in deftly strategizing, to leverage its advantages for the common benefit of library users. Nevertheless, the canvas was large enough to cover allied areas too.

It was concurred that libraries are facing unprecedented challenges which requires the dismantling of outdated system and fabricating new structures with increased focus on user requirements. This can be achieved through innovative services and application of modern information and communication technologies. It is a matter of satisfaction that libraries have adopted contemporary technologies and moved ahead with times.

It was indeed a significant occasion for the professionals to have such disparate groups on a common platform and allow a free flow of healthy arguments and counter arguments to give a face-lift to the library profession.

Mr. Akhtar Parvez, General Secretary, MANLIBNET welcomed the delegates, sponsors, media persons and people from publishing industry to the 12th MANLIBNET Convention. He spoke about several activities being undertaken by MANLIBNET and requested the participants to become member of the Network. On behalf of MANLIBNET, he expressed his sincere gratitude towards IIMR for arranging to host the conference at their institute. Also, he congratulated the Organising Secretary, Ms. Lata Suresh and her team for managing conference related issues in a very professional way.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Laxman Rao emphasized the need to evolve futuristic approach to knowledge dissemination. He further highlighted the need for collaboration and networking among libraries to meet the challenges of new information environment.

Dr. H Anil Kumar, Vice President, MANLIBNET in his presidential remarks congratulated IIMR for choosing the most appropriate topic for the 12 MANLIBNET Convention '*Knowledge Dissemination through Libraries and Information Centres: Sharing Vision for the Future*'. He emphasized on the growing importance of libraries and information centres for dissemination and sharing of knowledge. Further, he stated that in the ranking chart, B-schools of India are at the 4th position in the world. This itself explains the standard of learning that has been provided in these B-schools. The libraries and information centres play a significant role in the growing image of business schools.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. S. K. Puri, Dean Research, IIMR. In his inaugural talk he deliberated upon amplifying the role of library services in an academic milieu and underlined the need for benchmarking and capacity building.

The plenary session of the conference was marked by a very lively invited presentation by Dr. Vipul Vyas, Director, Faculty of Management, Karjat. He dwelt upon the importance of emotional intelligence in managing the library services and identified the need for the control and regulation of emotions in provocative situations. The talk was followed by a product presentation. The first technical session of the conference had two invited speakers. The first presenter, Dr. G. K. Manjunath, Librarian, IGIDR, Mumbai dwelt upon very innovative and interesting open indexing initiatives and proposed for collaboration with MANLIBNET as institutional partner. The next speaker Mr. Parveen Choudhary made a very good presentation about the basic techniques of digital conversion of documents.

The invited talks were followed by presentations from World Bank, Cengage and Proquest.

The second technical session had Dr. R. K. Bhatt as invited speaker who delivered a highly interesting and important talk on personality development in a very flamboyant style. The day ended with a cultural extravaganza in the evening.

The proceeding of the first half of the second day of the conference was marked by felicitation function. The MANLIBNET Best librarian award 2010 was conferred upon Dr. T.S. Kumbar, DAIICT, Gandhinagar and MANLIBNET Promoters Award were jointly presented to Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jha, Librarian, IWSB, Greater Noida and Mr. Akhtar Hussain, Deputy Librarian, IMT - Ghaziabad.

The session was also marked by the inaugural talk delivered by Dr. S.D .Gupta, Director, IIMR, address by Chief Guest, Prof. M.M. Salunkhe, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Central University, Rajasthan, Presidential address by Vice-President, MANLIBNET, Dr. H Anil Kumar and address by the General Secretary, MANLIBNET, Mr. Akhtar Parvez.

All the speakers praised the organizers for organizing such a successful convention and for bringing together so many diverse streams at a single platform and for discussing issues both in context and threadbare. Further they anticipated that all the participants will go back to their work places much wiser and will keep the memories of these three days eventful convention alive in their minds and will also put to test some of the hypothesis presented by the speakers.

The agenda of all subsequent technical sessions were 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; they were Dr. M G Sreekuma, Dr. S N Singh, Dr. I R Kumar, Mr. Dharmendar Sachan and Dr. Nirmal Swain

These technical sessions witnessed scores of presentations as contributed papers which covered topics like, Role of ICTs, CRM, Marketing and promotion of library services, Information literacy, Open source web content management, Semantic Digital Libraries, Internet usage, TQM, and WEB 2 and other web based library services, Information resources and services, Resource Sharing and Networks etc.

Although all the papers presented during the conference were followed by animated discussion, it would be worthwhile to name a few which generated lot of interest.

ICT- preparing a path to enable in LIS by Mr. Mahesh Singh Rana, Customer Relationship Management in Library and Information Centres presented by N Padma., Paper presented by Ms Chandrakala N Pai titled “ Communication Skills and Library Services , “ Stress in Library : An Overview” presented by Dr. Rajesh Kumar., “ Key Words-A boon for OPAC Search engine in Academic Library” Presented by Ms. Archana Poojari were some important papers of 3rd technical session, whereas Information Literacy Teaching Methods and Techniques by Babita Garg., Measuring Resources Utilization : a TCS Chennai IRC Practice” presented by Ms. Padma C. and Wi-Fi Technology: Planning and Setup for Library Campus” by Vilas G. Jadhav were other few important presentations of fourth technical session..

Technical Sessions five and six were marked by interesting and lively presentations. First Paper titled “Library and Open Source Software” was presented by Ms. Neeta Gundawar., the second paper of the session was presented by Asmita P. Agale titled as “Drupal: Open Source Web Content Management System for Library Environment”. The next paper “Semantic Digital Libraries: An Introduction to Bricks, Simile, Jeromedl and Fedora”, by Selvam Masilamani. Another one, “Digital Preservation Management Implementing short-term strategies for long-term problems”, by Shyam Bihari Gupta and Shyam Chaurasia and “Revolution of Table of Content (TOC) service in the E-Journal Era through Tic Tocs project: case Study at NIPFP Library”, by Mr. Siva Chidambram were some of the important papers of these sessions.

The technical sessions 7 and 8 which had just preceded the valedictory function had several important presentations like “Managing change to enhance web based services”, by Dr. M. Natarajan, “Gaining focus: Use of Focus groups”, by Ms. Anjali Bandiwadekar, “Post automation problems in small college libraries of Gujarat”, by Ms. Meeta Rathod, “Perception and role of information professionals”, by Mr. Mannower Eqbal , “Trends and implication of web 2.0”, by Mr. Sohail and Akhtar Hussain,

“Quality of web information”, by Mr. Deepak Shukla and lastly “Impact of ICTs”, by Ms. Babita Pant. The session also had a very important invited talk which had been delivered by Dr. Dinesh Gupta.

The valedictory function of the conference was graced by Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, IIHMR, Dr. P. R. Goswami, President, MANLIBNET, Mr. Akhtar Parvez, General Secretary, MANLIBNET and Dr. P. K. Gupta, Conference Director and Ms. Lata Suresh, Organising Secretary of the conference.

Dr. S.D. Gupta expressed satisfaction over the overall conference proceedings and offered to host more such programmes for the development of library professionals.

Mr. Akhtar Parvez, on behalf of MANLIBNET expressed his deepest gratitude to IIHMR institute for its unconditional support in holding the conference and thanked all those involved in the successful event, especially the Organising Secretary, Ms. Lata Suresh and her colleagues. MANLIBNET also presented mementoes to Ms. Lata Suresh and the other team members, Mr. Kamlesh, Mr. Alok, Ms. Neetu and Ms. Seema.

Further, the 12th MANLIBNET Best Paper Award was jointly conferred upon Ms. Meeta Rathod, Librarian, BRCM College of Business Administration, Surat and Ms. Padma C, Information Resource Centre, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai.

The session ended with the vote of thanks by Ms. Lata Suresh. She expressed her sincere gratitude to Dr. S. D. Gupta, Director, IIHMR, for entrusting upon her with the task of organizing this national conference. Further, she thanked the sponsors for their financial support without which, this conference would not have achieved the desired goals.

She expressed special thanks to MANLIBNET, in providing timely support and advice extended by Mr. Akhtar Parvez and the other EC members during the conference preparation.

Some of the important issues deliberated upon during the conference by eminent guests, invited speakers, session chairman, authors, paper presenters and participants can be summarized as:

- The unimaginable developments in the information environment such as improved accessibility, interoperability and open access to educational materials has on one side facilitated a shift in the paradigm but on the other side have posed a serious challenge to harness the technology and provide state of the art services, otherwise the LIS professionals will be left behind in the transformational phase.
- 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. Management libraries need to respond to the growing and diversifying information needs of the end-users and they must become a local gateway to world's knowledge and information. The most important and critical issue is how to manage change in the libraries so as to create a balance of printed publications and digital documents. The future library must be a hybrid library which must be user-centerd and expert-assisted.
- Faced with this unprecedented challenge, the libraries should dismantle their outdated system and illustrate new structures with increased focus on user requirements through innovative services and application of modern information and communication technologies.

- Management libraries should 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. There is need to critically examine the strength and gaps in the management of library system and suggest new management models, mechanism, policies and programmes for reshaping these libraries into next generation libraries for higher education.

Recommendations

1. Facilitating and Enhancing collaboration among management libraries across the country.
2. To foster greater cooperation among management and business libraries through regular and sustained professional activities and interaction
3. Developing specific policies and programmes for strengthening ICT infrastructure, and setting up of centres of excellence in Advanced Learning and education in library and information science and also for the promotion of research activities.
4. Promoting Standards and Best Practices for enabling special libraries to work in a networked environment.
5. Evolving and promoting value added and customized information services for enabling Business and Management libraries to market their products and services.
6. Developing and promoting Information Literacy, Competency and Life Long Learning programmes for the users of special libraries.
7. Taking up of advocacy activities for shifting the focus from traditional print based services to modern electronic and digitalized concepts of library services among all stakeholders.

Dr. Tariq Ashraf, Rapporteur General, in brief presented the report of the conference.