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LIBRARY PROFESSION AT CROSS ROADS:
CHALLENGES BEFORE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

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To perpetuate the sweet memory of its General Secretary and First Registrar of School of Library Science, the EC of Delhi Library Association decided to institute a Memorial Lecture Series in collaboration with Prof. P N Kaula Foundation in the name of Padmashree Prof. Prithvi Nath Kaula.
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0. ABOUT PROFESSOR P N KAULA

Prof. Kaula Endowment for Library & Information Science was formed on 13th March 1975, the day being the Birthday of the Doyen Library Scientist.

I first came into contact with Prof. Prithvi Nath Kaula in July 1963, when I joined the Banaras Hindu University to study the subject of Library Science. Prof. Kaula at that time was holding the position of University Librarian and was also the Head of Department of Library Science.

My association with Prof. Kaula and his family has been over a period of more than four decades. I found that Prof. Kaula was a teacher/a person with a difference, who possessed rare qualities of a teacher having sound and in-depth knowledge of the subject, good command over language and communication skills.

Prof. Kaula was respected and revered not only in the teaching fraternity, but he also commanded respect from the students and the audience in class rooms, seminars and conferences.

Prof. Kaula was an author, bibliographer, documentation expert, educationist and a renowned librarian and information science specialist. He had authored and edited numerous books (more than 50 books), scholarly papers (more than 400 papers), compiled notes and news (more than 5000 items) in the field of library and information science.

Prof. Kaula served as UNESCO Expert and Consultant at UNESCO Regional Centre for Western Hemisphere for Latin American countries.

Prof. Kaula was decorated with various awards and honours for his outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of Library Science.

On 30.6.2004 in one such glittering ceremony, Prof. Kaula was awarded Padmashree by the Hon'ble President of India.

Prof. Kaula breathed his last at his residence in Lucknow on 30th August 2009.

1. THE CHALLENGES BEFORE PROFESSION

Herein below I am presenting a general review, in which I have relied on the literature of the subject, websites and ephemeral material such as minutes, annual reports, newsletters and memoranda to outline this write-up (A List of Documents Consulted and Relied Upon is given at the end). An examination of library association-related resources reveals that professional associations in the field of
LIS have received relatively less attention from the scholars and system analysts. Today library associations have to:

“provide a leading role in discussions and decision making process about the welfare and development of member library workers, open access to information, user rights, freedom of expression, management of intellectual property and the problems of copyright; and promote the development and advancement of the profession as well libraries as service institutions”.

Library Trends, an American journal, devoted an entire issue (1997, Vol. 46 No. 2) to library associations. This special issue considered some of the important issues and challenges associated with library associations all over the world.

The emerging challenges posed by the contemporary environment are many in number. These challenges are posed also by application of ICT, like digital repository, open access, user centric services (e-learning, e-teaching, information literacy, orientation programmes), web-based library services, application of social networking, library cooperation including consortia, and legal issues. Besides the felt need for catching up with /exploiting the facilities extended by the latest technology for offering high quality library service, there is another compulsion of a fundamental nature, that of constant cutting of cost i.e., serving more with lesser finance and staff.

The transformation of libraries from store houses to information institutions and later to knowledge centres started with World War II. The world, especially the Western part, was in a hurry to rebuild the devastated economy. The setting up of massive number of new industries and the new discoveries attributed to that period demanded a sudden thrust in publications in science and technology which eventually led to the so called ‘information explosion’. The libraries, quick to respond to the sweeping demands, took a new avatar/birth in the form of information institutions; drifting away from traditional job of servicing of books and documents to repackaging and supplying of information contained in them.

Whereas, the primary role of library association should be the effective advocacy on all the issues pertaining to LIS, our national library associations are feeling good only by promoting library services, having a little impact on policy decisions on librarianship as a profession in the country.

Information professionals in a developing country like India need relevant information to be effective in their positions and the latest practical know-how through Listservs and websites. The journey of progress from novice to an expert requires the development of situational knowledge within a field of practice. Unlike their counterparts in US and UK, the majority of library associations in India are failing in their role to provide robust leadership and fulfill the expectations of the professional community.

As the global information age becomes a reality, there is a widespread recognition about the role of library associations in educating and empowering professional communities, which holds that
traditional bureaucratic hierarchical models of library associations are rightly criticized as too inflexible to deliver products and services.

In the past century library associations in India have played an important role in conveying useful messages and guidelines for library development, also by providing meeting places for professionals, helping them exchange opinions and promoting free access to information. Despite this scale of involvement, there has been relatively little analysis of the characteristics and services Indian library associations have been providing, how these can be enlarged, and also how associations should guide and manage the world of library workers.

All of us know that our noble profession is facing a crisis and there is an urgent need to modernize the professional associations and make them more effective and caring about the members. The problem is grave, since this time the crisis is from within, i.e., the crisis of faith and trust, confidence in self and in others, lack of transparency in decisions-making and in implementation. A good number of position holders are delivering results not for encouraging merit, but for some extraneous considerations. Such persons in the profession have preferred to remain on receiving side, always exhibiting their absence on the side of contributing to the profession. One may study the effects and reasons for huge losses and damages done to the profession out of the capital gains of goodwill/ status/ recognition the profession had earned up to 1960s. This decade on wards is the witness to the fact that the huge treasury created by the philosopher, teacher, guide, mentor and a genius, Padamshree Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan, fell the prey of decaying process by a large number of pseudo librarians/teachers of the subject who were experts in making personal gains and occupied Hi Fi positions. A band of such persons amassed absolute power and negatively mattered a lot in admissions, examination results, selection and appointments all for extraneous considerations and ignoring the merit. They worked as a law to themselves. Against this larger group pseudo professionals, only a few names are found who carried forward the Queen’s Batten left unguarded by Ranganathan in the year 1972, when he departed for a better seat in the Heavens. Have we not seen that many of our institutions of national and international importance, to name a few - Library and Department at Delhi University, Delhi Public Library, INSDOC, National Library (Kolkata), DRTC (Bangalore) – started loosing their sheen and fell from their positions. Only countable names of Professor P.N.Kaula at BHU and some two-three names (G Bhattacharya, M A Gopinath, A Neelameghan) from DRTC, could be the carriers of legacy of Ranganathan. All such names were individuals and not institutions/organizations.

2. PERIODIC GROWTH OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

In 1913 though Baroda Library Association, a local organization was started, but it was only in 1914 that the Andhra Desa Library Association, the first library association in the country, was formed. This association held nine conferences in different parts of the country from 1919 to 1934 but later became dysfunctional.

Dr S.R Ranganathan, the father of Indian library science, realized the necessity of library associations not only to unite and educate library professionals but also to popularize libraries and
library services, and he founded the Madras Library Association (MALA) in 1928, and subsequently with his initiatives Indian Library Association was established in 1933. It took over two decades of perseverance on the part of MALA for the Madras Public Libraries Act to be passed in 1948. This act, the first in the country, proved to be the model for the later acts. Ranganathan’s missionary zeal and untiring efforts had an impact on library associations in India especially after independence.

As mentioned above, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan founded the MALA on 31 January 1928. During its early years, the MALA launched many innovative programmes such as a mobile library service for the rural areas, a hospital library service, compilation of bibliographical lists, promotion of school libraries and organizing essay competitions among school children.

One may note that almost all the states, with only a few exceptions, have their library associations. Then there are associations of groups of Professionals (Medical, Agricultural, Teachers of LIS, Students of LIS, Alumni of LIS, Universities, Colleges, Schools, Public Libraries, Government Libraries, and many more). Also, some library organizations are fulfilling some of the objectives of library associations. According to a rough estimate there may be about 200 library associations in the country. It is a different matter, and of concern, that how many of them become dysfunctional, and, those many surviving are playing their role of public bodies serving the fair cause of our noble calling.

The Joint Council of Library Associations in India (JOCLAI) is a voluntary and informal body, which aims to promote, foster and establish coordination and cooperation among professional associations in India in the field of library and information science.

3. COMMON OBJECTIVES

The library associations are made and survive with basic purpose to serve, namely, ‘Promotion of [the] library movement and improvement of library services in all its aspects including library science education, improvement of status and service condition[s] as well as library legislation’. Let us have a look into the main objects of some of the premier library associations, stated in brief as follows.

(a) American Library Association (1876)

The **object** of the ALA shall be “to promote library service and librarianship”. The **Mission** is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all” **The Motto** : “The best reading, for the largest number, at the least cost”.

(b) The Library Association UK (1877)/ Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (CILIP): Its **Vision** “A fair and economically prosperous society is underpinned by literacy, access to information and the transfer of knowledge”. **Mission**: “CILIP exists to “Promote and support the people who work to deliver this Mission” “Be the leading voice for information, library and knowledge practitioners, working to advocate strongly, provide unity through shared values and develop skills and excellence”.

(c) Indian Library Association (1933): **Objectives**: i) Promotion of library movement and improvement in library services in all its aspects in India. ii) promotion of library
science education and the improvement in the training of libraries in India. iii) promotion of bibliographical study and research in library science. iv) improvement in the status and conditions of services of librarians. v) affiliation of the state and other library associations with Indian Library Association and cooperation with international organizations with same objectives”. vi) publication of bulletins, journals, books etc which will tend to realization of the objectives of the Association”. vii) establishment of libraries, documentation and information centres and assistance in their establishment and working”. viii) promotion of appropriate library legislation in India”. ix) providing a common forum for all persons engaged or interested in library and information work by holding conferences and meetings for discussion of professional, technical and organizational issues”. x) accreditation of institutions imparting library and information science education and training”. xi) promotion as well as formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc. for management of library information systems and services”; and xii) Carrying out all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above mentioned objectives”.

(d) Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centers (IASLIC) (1955),
i ) To promote the quality of library and information service, ii) Coordinate the activities, iii) Foster mutual cooperation and assistance among special libraries, scientific, technological and research institutions, learned societies, commercial organizations, industrial research establishments as well as centres of studies in social sciences and humanities, iv) Improve the technical efficiency of the professionals, v) Act as a centre of research and studies in special librarianship and documentation techniques, and vi) Act as a centre of information in scientific, technical and other related fields of LIS in pursuance of the aforesaid objects.

(e) Delhi Library Association: (founded on 10th March 1939 with registration No.161/1940-41 (May 1940). Got revived in 1953). Objectives :
To promote library movement in Delhi. 2. To provide training facilities in library science. 3. To strengthen cooperation among libraries in Delhi and work for the improvement of library service. 4. To improve the status and working conditions of persons employed in the libraries. 5. To take up publications work in library science, and 6. To cooperate with other organizations with similar objectives.

Taking a clue from above, we may identify some common missions/mottos/objectives of a library association, mentioned as follows.

1) To promote library movement and improvement in library services in all its aspects. The best reading, for the largest number, at the least cost.
2) To provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. To be the leading voice for information, library and knowledge practitioners, working to advocate strongly, provide unity through shared values and develop skills and excellence
3) To promote library science education and the improvement in the training of libraries.
4) To improve the status and conditions of services of librarians/library workers.
5) To publish bulletins, journals, books, etc. which will tend to realization of the objectives of the association.
6) To promote appropriate library legislation.
7) To provide a common forum for all persons engaged or interested in library and information work by holding conferences and meetings for discussion of professional, technical and organizational issues.
8) To promote as well as formulate standards, norms, guidelines, etc. for management of library information systems and services.
9) To foster mutual cooperation and assistance among libraries.
10) To improve the technical efficiency of the professionals.
11) To encourage and assist professionals to maintain the integrity and competence of the profession; and
12) To foster a sense of partnership among the professionals engaged in these fields.

For accomplishment of such sane objectives, the library associations plan and organize such many activities/programmes as, meetings of study circles, workshops, seminars, conventions and conferences, orientation and refresher courses, talks, lectures, power presentations, panel discussions and such others. An association may publish (also in e-formats), books, proceedings, festschrift volumes, annual reports, directories, bulletins, newsletters, notes and news, brochures and such others. An association may also prepare and submit memoranda before decision makers on various bigger issues, and propose and pursue the draft public library bills. Some of the library associations have established specific awards for the outstanding performances and contributions by professionals, students and others.

One may agree with the maxim that ‘An association is what its members make it by their active collaboration and participation in its programmes and activities, no more, no less’, keeping always in mind the maxim “Sanghe Shakti Kaliyuge”

4. STRENGTHS/ACHIEVEMENTS OF DELHI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (DLA)

The Delhi Library Association is the most active state library association equipped with much richer infrastructure facilities. But, one may observe that the DLA has more weaknesses than strengths on one hand, which fact gives to its well-wishers an opportunity for self introspection, and on the other, greater levels of opportunities than threats. It is suggested that the DLA needs to re-present itself as an open, pro-active, participative organization representing a progressive profession and should work to secure greater levels of cooperation within the library professionals.

SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis helps in identification of needs, problems and issues, and straightens the strategic planning. The strengths and weaknesses are within the services provided to the members. Opportunities and threats come from outside the service/ the environment. Before any progress can be made, information about the opportunities and threats facing the associations from outside must be acknowledged. Information in this regard can be obtained by
checking the current trends in the society and changing needs or the voices of dissent of the members. The purpose of the SWOT study is to identify (and pursue) opportunities that builds strengths, minimizes weaknesses and meets boldly the potential threats.

The DLA enjoys some major advantages over other state level and in some cases even at national level library associations. Some of its strengths and weaknesses of DLA are mentioned in brief as follows.

(1) The DLA is the only state level representative body of all types of libraries in the region. Its regular publications and annual functions/seminars/memorial lectures, award giving ceremonies are likewise well regarded.

(2) Strengths highlighted are membership based, i.e. senior level involvement, vocational commitment and membership expertise. Another key strength is the permanent building with number of distributed alternative access points which means that members do not have to travel long to get the services of the Association. At this point, I take the opportunity of paying our tributes to Shri Nand Kishore Goil ji for his farsightedness and creating a building fund for giving a permanent look to Delhi Library Association. Goil ji worked as its Treasurer, and his integrity and contributions to the profession won admiration even from hard core opponents. I myself and Prof. Vashishth have learnt many valuable tips from him for serving and saving the cause even when surrounded by fierce attacks. To have a Treasurer of the caliber, devotion, missionary zeal and competence of Shri Goil is always a matter of pride for any association.

(3) The Association has a number of inbuilt strengths such as nomination power vis-a-vis the Elected Executive Council. If utilized wisely and with objectivity this power alone can infuse the much required transparency in distributing the fruits of its success to larger number of members.

(4) One of the major weaknesses of the Delhi Library Association is that it has not sufficiently responded to the changing needs of members, under the shadow of empowered position holders always assuming that only their services remain wholly relevant and are the last words ever said.

(5) Further, one may find the lack of local visibility and advocacy and lack of strategic networking with other groups, especially opponents. Non-representation of huge percentage of professionals and library workers in the vicinity of NCT Delhi – many non-members have never been approached to join up and are largely unaware of the organization. Proper social-cum-professional networks should be created. No online newsletter is available. If added, it will provide members an open forum to suggest, contribute and even to criticize the existing regime round the year and beyond the limited number of General Body Meetings.

(6) Even when we had a good and perhaps one time opportunity in a library professional (Late Dr. Sahib Singh Verma), occupying the positions of State Education Minister/Chief Minister/Cabinet Minister at the Center, the DLA could not earn the credit of enacting of Public Library Act for the NCT/NCR Delhi. More sincere and concerted efforts, and no blame-game, are needed to achieve this objective.

(7) There are more than 1000 schools and their libraries in the region, but DLA has exhibited little concern for much wanting and effective policy decisions on improvement of school library services and the library workers in these schools.
The cooperation and understanding of larger number of members is not sufficiently high and some sort of wastage of Association’s funds is real aches.

A qualification in librarianship should be an essential requirement for membership. Well grown membership of professional associations is a prerequisite for professional growth and development.

While waiting for yet another spell of healthier improvements and developments in near future, please allow me to appreciate the efforts of Association’s office bearers of the past decades for having continued its training programmes, holding periodic elections and General Body meetings, publishing its quarterly journal regularly, organizing award giving ceremonies, memorial lectures, and above all, maintenance and upkeep of its infrastructure facilities including an impressive building, and such other activities.

5. THE FUTURE

“The future is an amorphous flow of possibilities that continually change as they come into the present”

The contemporary library and information profession is changing fast and facing increasing pressures to achieve higher and higher levels of performance in a fast paced and competitive global environment. The main mandate of library associations remains, however, professional development and growth.

Library associations in India can play a role by setting norms or standards about which technologies should be adopted by libraries in order to remain competitive. According to Karrissidappa (2002), library associations can contribute to the development of information societies by promoting enhanced library and information services, by supporting the development of information literacy skills, and by helping to create an enforceable legislative and regulatory framework. However, library associations should be steered by these four principles:

- a clear vision of the future;
- non-parochial policies;
- bringing on board other stakeholders in an information society; and
- building on national and international partnerships.

Today services provided by libraries are based on the newest, cutting edge technology and professional associations have a major role to play in this developmental process. Recent developments in digital technology and management practices, such as, wireless communication (Wi-Fi – a high frequency wireless local area network), knowledge management, short-term employment contracts, outsourcing and the like are affecting the knowledge and skills of information professionals to do their job effectively on a daily as well long-term basis.
A thoughtful consideration for carefully planned public relations programmes to be carried out by leveraging convergence technologies, can guarantee the long-term success of library associations. The important and most wanting mission of any library association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library services, to promote excellence through continuing educational programme, publications, communications and awards, and to undertake other such innovative programmes. The purpose is to develop, expand and enhance the professional knowledge and status of the personnel in the domain of library work.

6. OBSERVATIONS & HUMBLE SUGGESTIONS

India has a great potential for the successful development of activities and infrastructure of library associations, based on a government which is firmly committed to the use of convergence technologies for library development and a large number of dedicated professionals and publications of international value.

Let us agree with Maitrayee Ghosh (2006) that the emerging newer trends and their implications to librarianship need to be accepted, so that library associations may better prepare their members to adapt the forthcoming changes, stated in brief as follows.

1. *End of digital information as an additional format and its emergence as the only format.*
   
   We have already entered a decade where publishers start delivering in terms of online journals only, online books only, and online music only. Development of JStor in late 1990s and the later effort of Google, Microsoft etc towards massive digitization of books heralded this shift. The consequences are two-fold, a) bypassing of library as a middleman, and b) losing of identify of library as a store of information Library is emerging as a guide and facilitator.

2. *Ownership vs Holding:* Downloading contents or receiving them in form of discs for preservation is no longer practiced.

3. *Prominence of Open Content:* Open content movement started a decade ago. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has made all its course materials available through the web, accessible to anyone, free. Delhi University, while launching its Four Year Degree Programme, is falling in line. Besides, saving on education cost or providing easy access to the unreachable regions, it responds to the changing choices of people as to when, what and how to learn. The members of library associations should recognize and be prepared for this new trend in teaching-learning.

4. *Emergence of Informal Learning:* The new mode of learning is that one should be able to study wherever and whenever he/she wants to. Hence there is an emerging demand for informal learning.
5. **Sense Making**: Sense Making is the ability to assess the credibility of information or judge the value of information available online. Here the educators as well as the librarians are placed on equal footing in guiding the users.

6. **Cloud-based Technology**: Yet another development the librarians should take into account is the growing model of browser-based software that is device independent.

7. **Emerging Predominance of E-books**

8. **Strong Surfacing of Resource Sharing**: (a) Consortia movement, and (b) Inter-disciplinary nature of studies/works.

9. **Application of Web 2.0 and 3.0**: Application of Web 2.0 in libraries has taken the libraries into a new generation. Web 3.0, also known as semantic web, is smarter and can understand what you want. The searcher no longer needs to filter out search results, thereby, the searcher needs to be less specific and more natural with his queries.

10. **Virtual Reference**: Where users communicate with the Reference Librarian electronically, often on real time. However, it’s another instance of doing one’s daily business in a better way, but basically in a different way.

11. **New Form of Scholarly Corroboration**: These forms of scholarly corroboration (like giving links to blogs in research papers) are being considered for incorporation by important science publishers today.

12. **Growing importance of Mobile Technology and Simple Augmented Reality**: (a) Mobile learning - For instance in India, the IGNOU has facilitated download of course materials on to the mobile, and (b) Simple Augmented Reality is getting portable on laptops and smart phones.

13. **New Technologies**: The Horizon Report: 2010 Edition has singled out two technologies to watch in the near future. They are (a) Gesture-based Computing, and (b) Visual Data Analysis.

One does not know how these technologies are going to affect the library services and the way it is organized. But, to be aware of them at the earliest available opportunity is important as they are knocking to enter the classroom tomorrow.

The academic exercise performed in above sections, enables us to formulate some observations on the working of library associations, especially the Delhi Library Association, and to put forth some humble suggestions, given as follows:

- Library associations in India have been playing an important role in conveying useful messages and guidelines for library development, facilitating meeting places for
professionals, helping them exchange opinions and promoting free access to information. Despite this scale of involvement, there has been relatively insufficient analysis of the characteristics and services our library associations do provide, how these can be enlarged and up dated, and how associations should manage the entire professional community.

- There is an immediate need for restructuring these associations in pursuit of a new working model which would involve functioning in close partnership with other groups; the associations need to make their financial backing strong and should feel more concerned for pursuing and meeting the objectives and goals of the members of association. To this end, an Indian Institute of Library and Information Science should be established on the pattern of the Indian Institute of Technologies. This Institute may also aim to produce ‘Chartered Librarians’ or ‘Library Management Consultants’ which will make a new opening for professionals for earning their livelihood through privately practicing their professional skills and expertise. This approach be given due consideration by our library associations, since it will fulfill the century old gap in between the education and training of other professions and that of our library profession.

- PSG Kumar (1987) narrated activities of national library associations in India and their contributions in Indian library movement. He lamented that library associations in India have not made much of an impact in the field of library cooperation. Let our library association make concerted efforts to fulfill this objective.

- The library profession is facing many challenges and there is an urgent need to modernize the professional associations and make them more effective and caring about the members.

- Quality publications of associations can have a deep impact on professionals and should be considered an important tool for empowering the professional communities. Library associations should pay special attention to this aspect.

- The demand for techno-savvy professionals is pressing hard on librarianship. The DLA can take initiative and may add to its training programmes some specialized short term courses for library workers and students.

- Library associations exist and should thrive to promote and support the highest standard of practice and the best quality of delivering services.

- Our library associations should go ahead to provide a congenial environment for interaction among information innovation, industry, technology management and services which are socially relevant in the interest of the Nation.

- The cooperation and understanding of members is not very high and the transparency lacking are the real bottlenecks. To make them more popular, effective and acceptable, our library associations need to introspect their performance.

- Our associations can develop an interactive website and collaboration on integrated service delivery to include web form, e-mail, phone and chat. The website should provide innovative ways of delivering services such as virtual tours or subject-specific tutorials that present information for a particular class of professionals.
The strength of any library association lies in its continuing ability to react flexibly to new challenges and create sufficient infrastructure to accommodate changes. The primary need is to provide an analysis of the contemporary situation on a continuous basis rather than as something that starts and then falls into neglect.

Library associations in India should develop a realistic strategy that would see an increase in membership and expand and reinvent the associations in the context of pervasive convergence technologies, unifying them over a boundary less, organic network with a uniform interface.

INTROSPECTION by the outgoing Presidents/Secretaries/Office Bearers should be made a regular feature and published in the newsletter, annual report, web-site of the association. ANNUAL REPORTS should provide justifications for each of the activities and amounts spent, failures in the past and plans for the ensuing year should also be incorporated and placed before the General Body Meeting for information and consideration of all members. The effects of Introspection will sharpen the performance if it is done with due objectivity and with the specialized approach and art of viewing a MIRROR (DARPN). LET self-interest be subdued to the interest of the association. LET the critiques be accorded with a smile. More involvement be there, to remain on contributing side with least efforts for drawing benefits for self and other favorites.

Friends, my this dialogue with you, my professional friends, will be incomplete without remembering S R Ranganathan’s views in his foreword on DLA’s publication (1964).

“This shows the great potentiality Delhi has for a collective pursuit of library science. This is essential as library service is ever on flux. To adapt library techniques and library service to the changing social demands from time to time, such collective pursuit of library science is essential. I think Delhi commands unique facilities to be the seat of vanguard of the library profession in India”.

Dr S R Gupta s/o Shri Rishi Ram Aggarwal & Smt. Shanti Devi was born on 5th May 1939. He received his MA (Hindi) degree from the Univ. of Deli in 1963. Did B.Lib.Sc from Banaras Hindu University in 1964. He did M.Lib.I.Sc. from the Univ. of Delhi in 1973. He received his Ph.D degree from the Banaras Hindu University in 1988 under the guidance and supervision of Prof P N Kaula. He began his professional carrier from MMH College, Ghaziabad where he worked between 1964-1968. Between 1968-1989 he worked in Rajdhani College, Univ. of Delhi as Librarian. He joined the Department of Library and Information Science University of Delhi in 1989 and retired as Reader in May 2004. He has been on Editorial Board of Journal of Library & Information Science, Univ. of Delhi. He has contributed over 2 dozens research papers and written one book. He has guided over 10 M Phil & Ph. D Scholars.