

Coping with change

Times are changing. The look of libraries has changed considerably. We do not have those ornate buildings with their high ceilings and gorgeous windows, period wooden furniture and rows and rows of remarkably long lasting and elegant leather bound volumes. The new library buildings are more modern and probably more functional. It is not just the building which has changed. Before Gutenberg's time thousands of scribes wrote the text of an author by hand on quality paper or vellum and the scribes acted as the intermediaries between authors and readers. Then came the libraries and librarians, often a dedicated lot providing selfless service to the community. For a few centuries librarians played a crucial role in building and sustaining scholarship. But we now have computers, automation, networks, Internet, and handheld cellular phones performing multiple roles of communication and computing device and an online access tool. On the role of computers as intermediaries in knowledge transactions, Seamus Heaney, the Nobel Prize winning poet and critic, told the more than 4,000 delegates to IFLA 2002 at Glasgow "it seems to me as omniscient as the eye of God."

The scribes of Europe in the Middle Ages and the ancient Indians who wrote on palm leaves (much of which are lost for ever, but for the ones collected by men of great foresight such as U V Swaminatha Iyer), were often scholars in their own right. In much the same way, the chief executives of the US Library of Congress are even today. But most librarians in most parts of the world, be they managing public libraries, academic libraries or special libraries, are just straightforward professionals trained in library schools. Often they pick up the skills needed to run their libraries on the job. The scribes in Europe, mostly monks in Christian monasteries, lost their jobs when Gutenberg (re)invented printing, an art known for long in China. Now the professional librarians are afraid they might lose their jobs to computers and those who are proficient in the use of computers. History, they say, repeats.

Till about a decade and a half ago, there was considerable opposition from labour unions in India for computerization of operations which could be done much more efficiently by computers than men. Fortunately, that phase is over and now we are able to book our train tickets much more efficiently than 25 years ago. Luckily, librarians have not objected to computerization or automation. But the problem of coping with the fast changing scenario persists. A number of library schools, my friends in the teaching profession tell me, are including IT-oriented courses. Dr U N Singh was one of the earliest to put together a balanced curriculum incorporating IT courses and conventional LIS courses at Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi. The Mysore University is another good example. But the best training in IT-related information

provision functions is provided at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, where Dr T B Rajashekar and colleagues are training a small number of library science graduates every year. I often wonder why is it that some of our best librarians are not from library schools but from other disciplines, and why is it that the best training programme to equip librarians for today comes from IISc and not from our library schools. Is there a lesson for all of us? Or are we Indian LIS professionals destined to oblivion as were the scribes of yore?

For me, the answer is simple. We can defend and retain our turf if we are committed to serving our clients, keep up with developments both in serving clients and in technology, and above all constantly remember that the reason for our existence is our clients and their knowledge needs. In my long career, I have met a few outstanding librarians and I am proud to count them among my closest friends. One of them is no more – the late Mr Sarangan who managed the CSIR headquarters library for a long time before he moved on to manage a one-man library at the Fertilizer Association of India. I learnt from him what it means to serve one's clients.

Subbiah Arunachalam

Know a Person – who loves libraries

Dr. B. Babu Manoharan, M.A., M.B.A., Ph.D., Director – St. Joseph's College of Engineering, is a lover of books and libraries. He is responsible for developing the state of the art library in his college. He gives importance to the library and the library professionals. He was born on 13th Nov 1958 to late Mr. A. Paulraj and Mrs Soundarabai in Thiruvavur. He is a trustee of, Jeppiaar Educational Trust since 1998 and in-charge of 'Dina Ithal', a newspaper.

Dr. Babu Manoharan studied in Va. So. Men's Higher School, Govt. Arts College, Thiruvavur and later at Poondi Pushpam College, Poondi. He did his research in "Financial Administration of Tamilnadu" under the guidance of Dr. K. Senkottai, Principal, Thruthangal Nadar College, Chennai. Dr. Babu Manoharan is interested in sports activities and has won many prizes in District/ State/University level ball badminton and weight lifting. His ambition is to implement new & modern trends and technologies in academic environment. He is a man of excellence and remembrance who always thinks of new methods to be introduced. He has visited many countries such as Nairobi, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, U.K, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, South Africa and Italy. He is married to Ms. Sheila who is the daughter of Mr. Jeppiaar M.A., B.L., Chairman, Jeppiaar Educational

Trust . He has a son Mr. Jaikumar Christhuran and a daughter – Miss Jessie Priya

(About 750 young library professionals are working in various self –financing Engineering Colleges in Tamilnadu. At this hour of crisis, when many of our fellow professionals in other institutions face many problems, we need persons like Dr. Babu Manoharan who understands the important role of the librarian in academic institutions and has a keen interest in developing the library. SALIS appreciates the initiatives taken by Dr. Babu Manoharan.)

SALIS News

SALIS Coimbatore Chapter Inauguration

The inaugural function of Coimbatore Chapter of SALIS will be held on 19th Oct 2002 at 4.PM at the Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore. All are welcome.

SALIS Chennai Chapter

The EC meeting of the Chennai Chapter of SALIS was held at the SALIS office on **10th Sep and 2nd Oct 2002**. 15 members participated in the meeting. Mr.A. Hariharan, President, SALIS welcomed the members and explained various activities of the SALIS. He talked briefly about the workshop conducted by the SALIS Tiruchi Chapter and also about the opening of SALIS Chapter at Coimbatore.

The E.C also congratulated Mr. Yesudas Manalan, General Secretary, Mr. S. Swaminathan, Joint Secretary, and his team members for successfully conducting the workshop. The E.C also congratulated Mr. Perumal, Chairman-Special Library, SALIS for successfully organizing the lecture on '**The art of scientific writing**' at Tanjore. Mr. Yesuraj, Mr. Ezhil Pandian, Mr. Sreenivasan, Mr. Viswanathan, Mr. Sivakumar and Ms. Sivagami spoke during the meeting. It was decided to conduct a one day seminar on 'Digital Library' at Sai Ram Engineering College', Chennai. A committee has been formed to evolve guidelines in the preparation of a report on the status of the library, that needs to be submitted to the visiting AICTE/NBA/UGC/NAAC committees. Mr. Viswanathan, Secretary, gave the vote of thanks.

SALIS 3rd Seminar on Digital Library

SALIS Chennai Chapter is organizing a one day seminar on 'Digital Library' jointly with Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai on 26th October 2002 at Sri Sairam Engineering College

Resource Persons : Experienced professionals from IIT, SERC, IGCAR, CECRI, L&T, etc.

Fee: Rs.100/- for SALIS members and Rs.150/- for others

(Fee includes seminar material and kit, tea, snacks and lunch). Participation fee by means of DD only can be drawn in favour of 'The Principal, Sri Sai Ram Engineering College,' payable at Chennai. Registration form along with the fee may be sent to the Organising Secretary, Mrs N. Sivakami, Librarian, Sri Sairam Engineering College, Saileo Nagar, West Tambaram, Chennai – 600 044. **Last date** for the receipt of the filled

registration form is 21.10.2002. Registration form can be downloaded from the SALIS website.

For further details send e-mail to salis_info@yahoo.co.in or Contact 2380031(Sri Sairam Engg College)/2521085(SALIS)

Tiruchi Chapter

Workshop on NET/SLET exam

The Tiruchi Chapter of SALIS conducted the above workshop on 17-18 Aug, 2002 at Bishop College, Tiruchi. **Dr. M. Marcus Diepen Boominathan, Principal, Bishop College**, inaugurated the workshop. **Mr.A.Hariharan**, President, SALIS, gave the welcome address. 52 professionals from various institutions were participated. **Mr. L. Parisutharaj**, Chairman, Tiruchi, Chapter of SALIS presided over the function. **Mr. Jesudas Manalan**, General Secretary, SALIS explained about the significance of the workshop and **Mr.S. Swaminathan**, Joint-Secretary, SALIS and Course Co-ordinator gave broad outline of the workshop. **Mr. Abdul Bahree** Treasurer, presided over the valedictory function and addressed the participants. **Mr. Senthilnayagam**, Vice-Chairman, SALIS introduced the resource persons and addressed the participants. **Mr. S.A.Sampathkumar**, Secretary, Tiruchi, Chapter was also spoke on the occasion. **Dr. Poorna Chandran, Ms. Ally Sornam, Ms. Swaroop Rani and Ms. V. Geetha, Mr. S. Swaminathan and Mr. S.C. Kumaresan** were the resource persons.

This workshop and the quiz programme were sponsored by M/s AutoLib Software Systems, Chennai.

Special Meeting at Tanjore

A special meeting for the SALIS members from Tanjore region was held at 6.00 PM on 27th Jul 2002 at Tanjore (at the Meeting Hall of **Conybio Atchaya Traders**, 759, Kondirajapalayam, Tanjore -1.) 45 professionals participated in the meeting. Mr. A. Hariharan, SALIS, President welcomed the gathering and explained the various activities being planned by SALIS. He requested all the participants to actively take part in the activities of SALIS.

Mr. R. Srinivasan, Associate Editor, SALIS, gave a special lecture on '**The art of scientific writing**'. A lively discussion was held followed the lecture. The meeting was aimed to induce the professionals to develop their writing skills and also to write technical articles in seminars and various journals. Dr. Padmanabhan and Dr. Ganesan, were some of the senior professionals who participated in the meeting. Mr. Jesudas Manalan, General Secretary, Mr. S. Swaminathan, Joint Secretary, SALIS spoke on the occasion. Mr. S.A.Sampath Kumar, gave the vote of thanks. Mr. Perumal, (Conservator, Sharaswathi Mahal Library), Divisional Chairman - Special Library, has organized the meeting .

SALIS Membership

All the library professionals are requested to enroll as member of SALIS and contribute for the development of this society. (Fee: Ordinary(yearly) – Rs.50/- Student (Rs.25/), Life - Rs.300/. Institutional Rs.500/year)

AutoLib Awards - AutoLib Software Systems, is one of the leading Library Automation Solution providers. One of their objectives is to promote applications of IT in libraries and provide library automation solutions at a nominal cost. As part of their activities, they have instituted 'AutoLib Yearly Award' for Best Librarian, Library, Student and Paper published in association with SALIS from the year 2002 onwards. Look for details regarding eligibility, nomination, etc in the next issue

SALIS Website - www.autolib-india.net/salis.html.

Information about SALIS, Council Members, Members list, SALIS News, LIS & IT news, Download files, etc are available in this site. All the activities and programmes of SALIS will be made available regularly. Membership form, SALIS Newsletter, etc can be downloaded from this site. This site has been designed and maintained by M/s AutoLib Software Systems for SALIS

Job opportunities in Library Science, a new service for budding professionals has been started and made available on the web site **A Directory of Publishers, Booksellers/Distributors** was also compiled and made available on the website for the benefit of the working professionals.

Know a Library – Boothalingam Library - MSSRF Boothalingam Library - the information unit of MSSRF is becoming one of the major research libraries in the country. To be a leading professional research library in the areas of agriculture and sustainable development is its endeavor. The library primarily serves the Scientists, Scholars and Researchers of MSSRF. **However, it is open to the academic community for reference.**

Collection: 17,000 books, 68 core journals, 1350 back volumes, 190 videocassettes in the field of agriculture, biology, environment, forestry, and gender are the core subject areas that shape the collection. Project documents of MSSRF are available here for reference

Automation: Bibliographic information of all the documents can be accessible through the campus wide network. The library also functions as a storehouse of the organisation's publications. The library has recently been computerised and the routines automated with the help of the software "AutoLib".

CD-Rom Library has been initiated on the timely exploration of non-book media and due to the growth. Its timely delivery of right information to the right user at the right time leads the research directiveness, minimizing the duplication of work in research and is the motto of the CD-ROM Library. The collection includes agriculture and allied literature from the year 1939 to current year, and is updated regularly. The CAB Abstracts and the CAB Spectrum CDs such as CABPEST, E-CD, SOILCD, HORTCD, CROPCD, and TREECD are its main sources. The uniqueness of this service is that it is entirely free to the users.

Opening Hours: 9.30 AM to 5.00 PM (Monday - Friday)
9.30 AM to 1.30 PM (Saturday)

Professionals: Ms. Sylvia Snehalatha Manager(Library and Information Services) M. Madhan (Assistant Librarian)

CD-ROM Library Request Form and the Current List of Serials subscribed can be accessible at: <http://www.mssrf.org/library.html>

Know a Librarian - Dr. R. Ramasamy. Born in 1952 at Shoraipattu, Vilupuram District in Tamilnadu. He studied M.A. in Tamil and English literature and Economics, B.Ed and M.L.I.S. He did his Ph.d in Library Science on 'District Central Libraries in India' at Sambalpur University, Orissa. He worked in Govt Law College, Highway Research Station at Chennai for more than 11 years. Presently he is working as a Field Officer(Southern Region) at R.R.L.F since 1987. He inspected over 2670 public libraries in 8 states and 4 U.T in India since 1987 and traveled over 7 lakhs K.M for that. He is the member of several professional bodies including life member of SALIS. **Awards:** He got the Best Author award from the Tamilnadu Govt in 1991 for his book 'Computer Dictionary: English - Tamil' and second best author award in 1998 for his book 'Information Technology' in Tamil.

Publications: Dr. Ramasamy has written more than 60 books in Tamil and English on various subjects. He has also written more than 3000 pages of articles, essays, small stories, etc in leading journals and magazines. He has participated in several seminars and conferences. He has delivered more than 50 lectures and presented more than 25 technical papers and in also many T.V. programmes. He has participated in several State Planning Committee Meetings. He is also the President of 'Readers Forum', Ashok Nagar Circle Library, Chennai and has conducted series of meeting.

Know a Website – ScienceDirect www.sciencedirect.com

The essential information resource for millions of scientists around the world. Since its commercial launch in 1999, Science Direct has evolved from a web database of Elsevier Science journals to one of the world's largest providers of scientific, technical and medical (STM) literature.

The Science Direct of today offers a rich electronic environment for research journals, bibliographic databases and reference works. One of the world's most advanced web delivery systems for STM information, ScienceDirect is powered by superb searching and linking technology and navigated via a simple user interface. ScienceDirect today offers the following outstanding range of options and services to meet the evolving needs of the digital library: it provides access over 1500 scientific, technical & medical peer-reviewed journals and Search over 40 million abstracts from scientific articles Link out to articles from over 120 other publishers

Licensed users benefit from quick and advanced search functionality to: Search across all information in the database. One can view abstracts of all 2 million full-text of articles in titles subscribed to by the institute **Guest users** are allowed to browse sample ScienceDirect and the Journal tables of contents, view abstracts of all 2 million articles, and buy single full-text articles with pay per view.

Know a Software

M/s AutoLib Software Systems, one of the leading Library automation solution provider, recently released a software called '**Journal Article Performance Analysis Reporter (JAPAR)**'. This can be used for bibliometric, citation, impact

factor analysis of articles published in journals. It has seven modules for Database creation, Search, Advanced Search, Reports, Tables, Charts and Mapping.

It allows to enter bibliographical details of the articles in the database and also allows to maintain a **Digital Library** of journal articles (full text of the contents in various formats such as PDF, HTML, ASCII, WORD, etc) and also search the database using various fields and display the results in various formats including the full text. The search results is linked to authors, journals and subjects.

The performance/productivity by an author, a division, an institution, a city/country/subject/year as well as impact factor can be studied. The output can be presented in the form of reports, charts, tables, etc.

dtSearch- - a powerful text retrieval engine, developed by **dtSearch Corp. USA**. The dtSearch product line instantly searches gigabytes of text across a desktop, network, intranet and internet. It products also serve, as tool for publishing with instant text searching, large document to web sites or CD/DVDs.

It indexes and searches various file formats such as PDF, HTML, ASCII, WORD, XML and databases such as MS-ACCESS, FoxPro, dBase, etc. It has more than two dozen text search options. Allows for indexed, un-indexed, fielded and full-text searching

WEB SPIDER included with dtSearch products, indexes and searches web sites. It has the following versions:

1. dtSearch Desktop – find anything anywhere instantly
2. dtSearch Web – publish with instant text searching in web site
3. dtSearch Network – search the many forms of data that exist across network a large enterprise network.
4. dtSearch Publish – publish searchable database to CD/VCD

Application: Digital Library, Technical and Personal Information Management, Electronic Publishing, Medical, Financial, Legal , Corporate MIS, etc.

M/s AutoLib Software System, Chennai is the authorized distributor and support and solution provider for dtSearch. For more information send **e-mail to:** autolib@yahoo.com

L & I and IT News

Dr. S. Ranganathan's Birthday celebrated

Ashok Nagar 'Readers Fourm' celebrated Dr. S.R.Ranganathan 110th birthday on 12.8.2002. at the Circle Library. Dr. Ramasamy, President, welcomed the gathering and explained the various activities of the forum. Mr. Mugam Mamani presided over the function. The photograph of Dr. S.R.Ranganathan was unveiled by Mr. K. Sankaraiah, President, MALA, and Mr. R. Muthukumarasamy, President, TLA who spoke about Dr. S.R.R. The others who spoke on the occasion were Balam Kalyanasundaram, Poet Manimozhi, and S. Ramalingam, Asst Director, DPL. Mr. Vadivelu, Librarian proposed a vote of thanks.

Central Library, IIT Madras organized a Training Programme on "Emerging technologies for effective management of library services" in collaboration with DELNET during 18-20th Sep 2002.

Forthcoming Conferences, Seminars

MANLIBNET's 5th National Convention on 'Emerging Digital Library Initiatives and Future of Business and Management Information in India', XLRI Jamshedpur, March 6-8, 2003. <http://www.xlri.ac.in/newwww/e-Brochers1.htm>

XIX IATLIS National Seminar, Dept of LIS, Utkal University, Bhubaneswer, 15-17 November 2002 **Theme:** Manpower Development for Information Management in a Competitive Environment. Address: The Secretary, IATLIS, C/o Dept of LIS, Osmania University, Hyderabad-500 007

INFLIBNET Workshop On Network Management for Libraries, October 7-11, 2002, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad. Contact: Dr. T A V Murthy Director, INFLIBNET CENTRE, PB-4116, Gujarat University Campus, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009

Personalia

Dr. Harish Chandra Chief Librarian, IIT, Madras has delivered key note address at the Workshop on 'The role of library and information resources in engineering education, organized by Jaya Engineering College, Chennai on 21.9.2002

Dr. Florence, Librarian, Women's Christian College, Chennai has been awarded Ph.D by the University of Madras on her topic 'Mapping the dynamics of human nutrition' under the guidance of Prof. A.Amudhavalli

Dr. A. Kaliammal, Asst Librarian, Barathidhasan University Library, Trichy has been awarded Ph.D on the topic 'T.M.Sarfoji Saraswathi Mahal Library: a critical evaluation of its resources for global access'.

Dr. J. Dominic , Asst Librarian, Karunya Institute of Technology, Coimbatore has been awarded Ph.D by the University of Mysore on the topic ' Measuring book availability performance of University libraries in Tamilnadu' under the guidance of Prof. Shalini R. Urs
Congratulations to all !

** SALIS is compiling a directory of Ph.D holders in Library and Information Science' in Tamilnadu. This directory will be made available on the SALIS website after compilation. Ph.D holders are requested to send the details (Name, topic, guide, university, year, address, phone, e-mail,etc) to SALIS by E-mail or post.