

REFLECTIONS

BE REFLECTIONS?

Memoirs of MILANers



Editors

B P Prakash | N V Sathyanarayana | Shalini R Urs



The Department of Library &
Information Science,
University of Mysore, India (MyDLIS)

Mysore University Information
and Library Science
Alumni Network (MILAN)



www.milan-mysore.org

Knowledge is of two kinds.
We know a subject ourselves,
or we know where we can
find information on it

- Samuel Johnson

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Editors' Note

Post Time and Time to Pay It Forward

Fifty years is a tiny dune in the sands of time, but a significant milestone in the life of an institution and a joyous time to ruminate, rejoice and reunite for its alumni. It is time for us to look back; to recapture those fond and sometime poignant moments; recollect the coincidences that shaped our journeys; to pass forward to the future and possibly pay it forward.

The Post Time for MyDLIS (The Department of Library and Information Science of the University of Mysore) is June 24, 1965 and for its alumni every year since then. Last year on June 24, 2014, a good number of alumni gathered at the campus of our Alma Mater – the sprawling and picturesque campus of Manasagangotri to launch the Golden Jubilee celebrations. MILAN (Mysore University Information and Library Alumni Network) is an offshoot of the Alumni Meet on that day. Aptly named, MILAN became the meeting and melding point for the MyDLIS and its alumni and thus began the “Pay It Forward” journey for MILANers. The primary goal of MILAN is to pay tributes to our Alma Mater—MyDLIS. Believing in the wisdom that the only way one could payback to one’s Alma Mater is by *Pay it forward*, MILAN was formed. As in the famous movie “*Pay It Forward*” (American drama film, 2000 based on the novel of the same name by Catherine Ryan Hyde) MILAN plans to pay it forward through its network of good deeds.

The Post Time for MILAN to pay it forward began with our support for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of MyDLIS. MILAN will continue to support and strengthen MyDLIS through the next milestone of Diamond Jubilee in 2024-2040 and beyond.

Reflections: Memoirs of MILANers is a melange of ruminations of some MILANers—29 of them recounted in 25 pieces of memoirs—some of them short and crisp and some have gone down the memory lane and found it difficult to stop! It is a riot of feelings and moments! These 25 memoirs are full of nostalgia and have attempted to relate their times, learning, and leanings to their career journeys. We are happy to catch the first baby steps of MyDLIS way back in 1965 as narrated by Mohamed Khasim of the first batch to almost all vintages – the sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties, and the noughties. One thing that comes across quite strong through these narratives is the passion, personal care, professional grooming and support that the MILANers got from the MyDLIS and its faculty.

One can get a glimpse—though in an impressionist style of the journey and transformation of MyDLIS from a library centric domain to Content Management/Information Management/Knowledge Management oriented programs. The shaping of MyDLIS and the people who helped shape the careers and lives of MILANers emerges through this disjointed yet cohesive collection of narratives written in an informal and anecdotal style. Just like an Impressionist painting, the memoirs of MILANers include relatively small, thin, yet clearly discoverable brush strokes, in free style with an emphasis on accurate depiction of times in MyDLIS in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time). While the facts mentioned and focused are quite ordinary events, inclusion of a certain *moment* as a crucial element of ones perception and experience, and unusual angles make it an interesting reading. Like Impressionist paintings, these memoirs abandon the rules of academic writing by design.

Here we present an Impressionist painting of MyDLIS through the eyes of its alumni-MILANers. Read the memoirs and get the picture!

B P Prakash
N V Sathyanarayana
Shalini R Urs

18 June 2015

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Librarian by Choice

Mohamed Khasim

Chief Librarian (Retired), St. Philomena's College, Mysore. (mminhaj@sdmimd.ac.in)

I had completed MA and had an offer to teach in one of the colleges in Dharward. Filled with excitement, I was all set to start my career. Then came a turning point in my life. One fine evening in early 1965, my beloved guru and philosopher, Prof. Syed Iqbal Khadri (Late) from the Department of Journalism, Maharaja college told me about the launch of a new course and advised me to pursue the same. With lot of curiosity when I enquired further details about the course, I was surprised to hear from him that it was pertaining to Library Management. I had never heard about this course and I could barely sleep that night thinking about my career. "Do you think you have to really pursue

guru Prof. Iqbal Khadri (Late).

I surpassed my ambiguity and started this new journey with renewed energy, but there was disappointment right in the beginning with classes not



commencing as per the original schedule. I learnt that the classes were postponed due to the delay in the arrival of Prof. P K Patil from US.

"Do you think you have to really pursue a course to learn how to arrange books in a library?" -- is what one of my friends commented when I discussed the matter with him the next morning.

a course to learn how to arrange books in a library" is what one of my friends commented when I discussed the matter with him the next morning. Most of my other friends were also skeptical about me joining the new course. Coming from a humble middle class background and perhaps being the first post graduate of my family, I had no one in my family to guide me. It was a tough choice between a teaching job in hand and a new unknown turf to explore. I finally took the decision to join the course basically for two reasons: one, my eternal love towards books; two my respect to my beloved

The classes finally started in the University Library which was situated in the Maharaja College Campus. "Whatever happens in life, happens for good" was my mother's frequent advice, but I realized the true meaning of this after attending Prof. Patil's classes. His vast knowledge, patience to ensure that everyone understands every bit of his lecture and his pursuit towards academic rigour created a great interest in the subject to all the twenty members of the first batch of B.Lib.Sc. University of Mysore.

Subsequently Prof. Subramanyam was appointed and the professionalism demonstrated by him in his classes further augmented our interest in the subject. Cataloguing, classification gradually became enjoyable topics of discussion both in the

classroom and also outside the classroom during the tea and lunch breaks.

I believe one of the milestones in the history of MyDLIS was the appointment of Prof. K S Deshpande as the University Librarian. While the other professors helped us understand conceptual frameworks in an impeccable manner, the true practical learning commenced with Prof. Deshpande's sessions. The herculean task of shifting the library from the Maharaja College campus to the present library building was taken up under the able leadership of Prof. Deshpande. Besides library science, we learnt many management lessons from Prof. Deshpande. What is probably called today as "Management by example" was demonstrated by Prof. Deshpande during those days. Rolling up his sleeves he was the frontrunner in every task of shifting of the library, be it packing of books, loading it into the vehicle and for that matter cleaning the books. The inauguration of the new library building was to be done by the then President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The team of twenty students along the faculty and staff toiled for several months to ensure that the event is memorable in the history of University of Mysore. The department gave us a golden opportunity to meet the President of India which is unforgettable.

Even before we could come out of the hangover of meeting the President, we were told about the study tour to a few prominent libraries in Bangalore, Madras, Pune and Bombay. Prof. Deshpande's dedication and professionalism was any way admirable but during this tour we were also exposed to his other qualities. His love and care towards his students is something which I do not think I am capable to express in words.

This tour also gave us an opportunity to meet Prof. S R Ranganathan at DRTC. Prof. Deshpande was also instrumental in inviting many prominent library professionals like Prof. B S Kesavan to address the students in the department.

Another important phase of our course was the internship. I was among the few fortunate students who got an internship for almost six months. This opportunity facilitated me in understanding the nitty-gritties of different sections of the library and aided in the holistic understanding of the

I believe one of the milestones in the history of MyDLIS was the appointment of Prof. K S Deshpande as the University Librarian. While the other professors helped us understand conceptual frameworks in an impeccable manner, the true practical learning commenced with Prof. Deshpande's sessions.

library management. My learning during this phase, particularly the inputs that I got from beloved Prof. Deshpande is something that helped me in getting an edge over my peers during my short stint at University of Hawaii, USA for pursuing a Diploma in Documentation.

Now, when I look back at my career which spanned across four decades serving institutions like Yuvaraja College, Sahyadri college, ARAMCO Saudi Arabia, thirty years at St. Philomenas College and a few years with Farooqia Dental College after my retirement, I feel whatever little I have achieved in my professional life is only because of the great learning during the B.Lib.Sc. course and above all the values that were inculcated in me during my association with my beloved gurus, specially Prof. Patil and Prof. Deshpande. I owe my professional success to my Alma Mater, MyDLIS and my gurus. I pray to almighty for the prosperity of this great institution. Long live MyDLIS!

A Life Amidst Books

Ramaswamy C

Director, Ravenshaw Knowledge Center Kanika Library, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha.
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*Pictures are windows to any lands,
But a book is a door that ready stands
To him who will open and go outside
Where the rivers and plains are free and wide.
Pictures are windows, through which we look,
But the door of the world is just a book.*

-Annette Wynne

The Journey....

I am one of those favoured few, whose profession is also their passion. I hail from Mysore and completed my school education from Nanjangud, a pilgrim town famous for its Shiva temple on the banks of river Kapila. From the non-descript town of Nanjangud, located 22 Kms away from Mysore to Cuttack, the Culture Capital of Odisha, it has been an inspiring journey, interspersed with innumerable libraries and Knowledge Centers.

Never had I imagined that my spending long hours in the only local Municipal Reading Room at Nanjangud during my school days would eventually lead me to the library profession. Books always fascinated me since my childhood and I could draw solace and strength through books and was able to cope with the loss of my mother, at an early age. I had exhausted all the limited reading available at home, viz Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata in Kannada and was always yearning to read more...

The Reading room of the local library was my favourite retreat. I was introduced to a few

English newspapers and magazines like Readers' Digest, Bhavan's Journal etc., there. My association with the reading room fuelled my appetite for learning and going through the editorials of Frank Moraes of Indian Express, G K Reddy of Hindu, R K Karanjia's blistering attacks in Blitz was an invigorating experience. Learning stimulates and gives nourishment to our hearts, minds, and souls. It keeps us fresh and Vigorous.



In my small town Nanjangud, there were very few opportunities to learn more besides the school curriculum. However, I was lucky to study Sanskrit at the Samskrit Patashala and also Hindi to an extent. The Sanskrit Pathashala's teachings from Kalidasa's Raghuvamsha, Dandin's Avanti Sundari Katha and Swapna Vasavadatta by Bhasa influenced me to pursue Sanskrit studies as a second language up to my degree level. The passion for reading gained momentum with the vast collection of books at my maternal uncle's house in Bangalore whenever I visited them during summer holidays. Works of Tolstoy, Chekov, Maxim Gorky (translations in Kannada) and of other authors kept me constant company and remained a source of great delight. Visits to the Libraries of USIS, British Council, the Institute of World Culture and Ramakrishna Mission

in Bangalore, made an indelible impression on me apart from enriching my knowledge.

Transition from Kannada medium at the School level to English medium in intermediate (PUC) proved a formidable task, but I sailed through the difficulties fairly well, thanks to the habit of reading English dailies at the young age and regular use of Oxford Dictionary. Living in the small town, or lack of resources never deterred me and I was able to access good reading material through the courtesy of friends and well-wishers.

Commuting daily by train from Nanjangud to Mysore, I completed my graduation in Science from Sharada Vilas College and post-graduate degree in library Science from the University of Mysore. While returning from the college, there were many days I used to miss the train to Nanjangud, and spend time looking at the books on the pavement bookshops or visiting the city Public library in Mysore. Visits to The famous Maharaja's Library, Oriental Research Library, and the Mysore University Library instilled in me deeper appreciation for books.

I graduated from the 1968-69 batch from MyDLIS (Department of library Science of the University of Mysore). Our department had organized a study tour of reputed libraries in India which proved an eye opener and provided much insight into the functioning of libraries. We were exposed to diverse libraries which infused in us the concepts of creativity and customer service which helped us to explore avenues to enhance reading habits amongst people of all age groups and coming from all cross sections of the society.

On Libraries and Knowledge Centers

My first foray into the library profession began in 1969, as Librarian, Govt. College, Mangalore, then part of the University of Mysore, which is now a part of Mangalore University. The library had an impressive collection of over 45000 books and catered to the requirement of a large number of students. I received much encouragement from the principal and staff and was able to encourage students to make good use of the library, by adding new books, re-organizing the collections and organizing exhibitions on special occasions like Gandhi Jayanti etc.

Working from Project stage to the Plant stage was a great learning experience. Interacting with senior management, senior executives from Human Resources, R&D, and Works Departments taught me invaluable lessons in organizing Libraries, Knowledge Centers and Documentation Centers at various locations like Training, Works, Hospital, and Town Divisions etc.

Providentially, it has been my rare privilege to be associated with setting up of Libraries and Knowledge Centers in the green field as a turnkey project. The task requires high degree of imagination, vision, knowledge, skills, hard work, resource mobilization, execution, adherence to systems and procedures, alignment to the organizational objectives, capability building and a sound teamwork.

Working in the Technical Information Center, Bharat Electronics Ltd, in Bangalore from 1970 to 1977, provided me with the requisite experience, for documentation work, customer service and publications.

"The world of work changes quickly. The skills that make you successful today probably would not be the same forever. This means that whatever

your specialty, it is at the risk of being outdated soon. You do not need a crystal ball to see what skills you will need in the future. Instead, actively seek out opportunities that allow you to develop new skills, gain different experiences, and expand your networks”

While working in Bharat Electronics Ltd, I studied German Language at the Max-Mueller Bhavan, Goethe institute, Bangalore and completed 4 year Diploma in German, which played a pivotal role in my posting as German Translator and Officer-in-Charge, Library in Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd, Bangalore (BHEL) in 1978. I also completed a one-year Certificate course in French from Allianz de France, Bangalore.

My career path transported me from the comfort zone of Bangalore to the sultry Salem, to join Steel Authority of India, Salem Steel Project as a Library Officer in 1978. Working from Project stage to the Plant stage was a great learning experience. Interacting with senior management, senior executives from Human Resources, R&D, and Works Departments taught me invaluable lessons in organizing Libraries, Knowledge Centers and Documentation Centers at various locations like Training, Works, Hospital, and Town Divisions etc.

Innovative Customer Service like Current Contents from latest issues of journals, important articles on management and technical subjects, updating of Indian and Foreign Standards, Tender documents, Detailed Project Reports, Foreign Tour Reports, indexing of Collaboration Documents, Publications, Knowledge sharing activities won much acclaim from employees and senior management.

Let many libraries bloom!

My career path took a steady progression as I joined Tata Steel in 1982 as Assistant Manager in its Information Department and eventually

elevated to the position of Senior Divisional Manager and Head, Information Department. My long association with the Steel Company for nearly two decades, witnessed an unprecedented growth of libraries, Knowledge Centers across the organization and its sister companies. *“The soul of the library lies in its quality of service and its responsiveness to its users.”*

Today, you not only must read extensively in your own field to reach the top and to be successful, but also need to read extensively in other fields as well. The modernization programmes, technology upgradation, change management, knowledge management initiatives in Tata Steel spurred the need for knowledge intensification and knowledge sharing amongst employees at all levels. Quality Circles, Customer Satisfaction, Customer Delight, Knowledge Sharing, ASPIRE Campaigns and other Employee development activities focused extensively on employee learning. The success of the Information Department owes its credit to the enlightened vision, commitment to the philosophy of a learning organization and unstinted encouragement from the top management and a dedicated team.

Setting up of Knowledge Centers/Kiosks at the shop floor— a unique approach helped employees and workers access knowledge at their work areas. Knowledge Centers at the Blast Furnaces, Coke Ovens, Rolling Mills, Maintenance Department, Power Engineering, Tubes Division, etc. received enthusiastic response from the workers and employees. This knowledge revolution was contagious and Knowledge Centers spread across the organization and across different Tata companies and geographies.

Community Service

More than establishing Knowledge Centers, what mattered at the core was the spirit of service and

awakening the passion of reading amongst the young. Knowledge Centers served as vibrant family centers, instead of passive repositories of books.

Creativity was unleashed, as a new dimension to the library activities was added, with the setting up of an Internet Hall, having many computers. It opened doors to the young and elderly people, helped them access mails and also encouraged them to develop their computer skills. The spirit of youth, enthusiasm, energy and love for books took Information Department to astounding heights of popularity. It was a sheer joy to see families visiting the library on Sunday mornings prelude to their shopping plans. A separate children section was a major center of attraction to children and parents alike. High degree of social commitment, rich patronage by top management, steady growth of collections and user-friendly services, customer-care helped SNTI library carve a niche and find its place as a brand in the minds and hearts of employees and the people of Jamshedpur.

It was an incredible journey, patronized by top management of Tata Steel and ably supported by a self-motivated team. The principal architect for creation of Knowledge Centers in Tata Steel was Dr. J J Irani, the then Managing Director. It was a proud moment in the annals of Information Department, when Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of the Tata Group, inaugurated the Knowledge Center at Noamundi.

Rewards and Recognition

Recognition and honours followed as I embarked on the knowledge journey. Dr. J J Irani, MD, Tata Steel had advised me to modernize XLRI library. I was associated with the revamping of the Jamshedpur Women's College Library, Govt. College Library at

Mango, NML library, Jamshedpur. I was made the Convener for the only Public Library in Jamshedpur by the Deputy Commissioner, Jamshedpur and was responsible for its modernisation and upgradation of its services.

The toughest setback I had to face was the untimely and sad demise of my wife in 1997. As a single parent,

Today, you not only must read extensively in your own field to reach the top and to be successful, but you also need to read extensively in other fields as well.

bringing up my two sons, who were very young, was a challenging task. My children grew up spending most part of their free time in the library.

Attitude affects everything you do, both personally and professionally. There is nothing anyone can do to prevent you from reaching your potential; the challenge is for you to identify your dream, develop the skills to get there, and exhibit character and leadership.

As the saying goes *“Surround yourself with good people who balance out your weaknesses with their strengths.”* I could surmount my limitations and grow as a person, I am today, and the invaluable association with the senior management, executives, intellectuals, and technical professionals has largely influenced in shaping my personality. It was a joyous journey filled with memorable experience enabling me to grow professionally, personally and spiritually.

An exhilarating association with AIADA

My early separation with Tata Steel in 2002 put me in a dilemma of leaving Jamshedpur but providence came to my rescue with the offer from the Govt. of Jharkhand for setting up of a Knowledge Center

in the Adityapur Industrial Area Development Authority. (AIADA). From the Corporate world to the corridors of the Government, the journey progressed as I joined as a consultant in AIADA, Ministry of Industries, Govt. of Jharkhand in June 2002. The success of Knowledge Center in AIADA led me to develop a well-equipped Knowledge Center at Indo-Danish Tool Room under the Ministry of Small-Scale Industries and present a project report for modernizing the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College under the Ministry of Health, Govt. of Jharkhand.

Adieu, Jamshedpur and welcome JSL Stainless Ltd:

Jamshedpur had been my home for nearly 23 years and it was a painful parting, when I had to leave the Steel City in 2005, to accept an offer as a Consultant (Knowledge Center) from JSL Stainless Ltd, Hissar.

The concept of reaching knowledge to the shop-floor through Knowledge Kiosks has gained momentum and knowledge resources are widely shared by all units across the organization. Knowledge Center's reach has been extended to meet the information needs of other units located in Gurgaon, New Delhi, and Indonesia. Close synergy has been developed with other Knowledge Centers in Jindal Organizations to facilitate better knowledge sharing. Innovative services include Thought for the Day, Current Awareness Service, publications like Article Alert, Knowledge Update, Book of the Week and Selective

Dissemination of Information. As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, Knowledge Center has set up a library facility at Gram Ramayan near Hissar.

Rendezvous with Ravenshaw Knowledge Center, Cuttack

"To every man there comes... that special moment when he will be figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a special thing unique to him... What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for that work which could have been his finest hour." (Winston Churchill)

True to the above statement, when I was offered the challenging task of modernizing legendary Kanika Library of Ravenshaw University, I couldn't resist and accept the assignment of Director,

More than establishing knowledge centers, what mattered at the core is the spirit of service and awakening the passion of reading amongst the young. Knowledge Centers served as vibrant family centers, instead of passive repositories of books.

Ranvenshaw Knowledge Center with all humility. To adapt itself to meet the changing technological trends, and blending the past to meet the future needs, Ravenshaw Knowledge Center (RKC), has been set up as a nucleus of the Kanika library.

Goals are tools for focusing your life, taking responsibility and getting you to take action. Achieving goals is just part of what is really important --- the quality of life you experience, the person you become, and the difference you make in the lives of others as you pursue and achieve your goals. The journey continues...

Rambling Thoughts

Kalyani K B

Deputy Librarian, I.I.T. Bombay (Retired). (kalyani.accanoor@gmail.com)

The year was 1968-69. A newcomer to the Department of Library Science, a whole set of unknown faces, none from the previous college or class (B.Sc.). Yes, I entered the Department and made friends slowly with the twenty only classmates, eight boys and twelve girls. Some freshers like me and some deputed from renowned institutions and, all in all a shy class. After all, what is Library Science? keeping stock of books, issue them, take them back. Was that all?!

As the classes started and progressed along with the syllabus, I came to know that there was something called Management, Organization Budgeting, Reference, Tools, Classification and Cataloguing. I wondered, do we need all these headings? Our teaching faculty, mainly Prof. T V Subrahmanyam (Late) was instrumental in making all these topics more meaningful. Prof. P K Patil, with his sense of humour and Prof. B N Nagappa added more meaning and understanding to the study material.

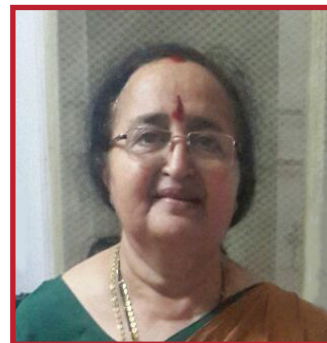
In between, we would have guest lectures from other eminent Librarians and Teachers. Foremost was Prof. Deshpande who had initiated the Department, and went onto establishing the Bangalore University Library and Department. His recounting of his experiences during luncheon discussions at the Bangalore University was most interesting and inspiring. Faculty and students from other universities would visit our department and

interact with us. So much so that during my lifetime, I was able to connect and meet some of them.

Our classmates, mostly shy in the beginning, began opening up. One very mischievous

Mr. N M Khan, the two bachhas, Sri. Raghavan (Swamy as we called him) and Sri. Ramaswamy. Ms. M G Leela was always full of her hockey experience, the philosophical Sri. Jaydevanna (Late) and Sri. Samba Murty. The very quiet ones, Ms. Shameem, Ms. Almas Banoo. I wonder what I was known as. I worked with Meera Alankar (late) in IISc later, joining Sri. Ratnakar, Sri. A G N Rao, and now all important Sri. N V Sathyanarayana. I always felt good that here was a bunch of alumni around me.

After graduation, the City Central Library, Bangalore, was my first place of work. Six months later, I joined the elite academic Indian Institute of Science, which made a great impact on me in realizing what I studied. CC was there in all its glory and to classify the new books was a treat, i.e., practicing what you learnt in the Department. A chance lecture in the State Central Library by the father of Library Science, Dr. S R Ranganathan, was



a dream come true. Watching him walk, with his hand on Dr. Gopinath's shoulder - lo! There he was in flesh and blood and I was contended that I saw him in person.

My practical experience from CC to DDC again at IISC was a mental exercise putting my theoretical knowledge to use.

Almost after ten years in IISc, I joined another elite organization, the IITB., Mumbai where I served till my superannuation. Forty years of living in Libraries and Information Sciences has been a great inspiration in understanding what I learnt as a B.Lib.Sc student.

All this was no roller coaster ride. It had its moments of stress, strain, upheavals, as we

librarians had to obey your boss, your staff, and appease the users. But the one "Thanks" you get

All this was no roller coaster ride, it had its moments, of stress, strain, upheavals, as we librarians had always to obey your boss, your staff, appease the users. But the one "Thanks" you get from any fulfilled user would always lighten your mood. A thankless job is well known but you can always turn it to a thank you job.

from any fulfilled user would always lighten your mood. A *thankless* job is well known but you can always turn it to a *thank you* job.

God bless the Department and may our tribe increase.

The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance.

Libba Bray

In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.

Linton Weeks

Making of a Career in Library & Information Services: Neither by 'Chance nor Choice' alone but on a blend with 'Challenge'

Samba Murthy N

Librarian (Retired), Institute of Social and Economic Change Library, Bengaluru. (nsm@inf.in)

The intimation card for interview for admission to B.Lib.Sc. course from the Department of Library Science, Mysore University, reached me in mid-1968 at my Vellore address redirected from Mysore, as I was working there at CMC Hospital, VRA Project as Statistician cum Medical Records Officer.

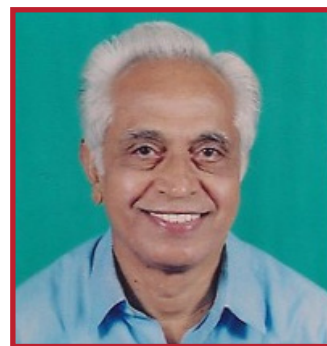
I hardly had any time to present myself for the interview, being scheduled for the same day afternoon at the Mysore University library. Immediately after getting the intimation, I informed over trunk call to my parents to request Sri Suresh Chandramy, a friend and former colleague at Mysore Medical College to immediately go over to the venue and explain the situation and to know whether I stand a chance to attend the interview at a later date. He obliged and went to the Library, met the VC and Chairman of the Selection Committee, Professor D Javare Gowda. He assured him that I would get the first chance in the waiting list from among the dropouts who normally opt out to join other PG courses. He also advised that I should meet the Professor & HOD for admission formalities.

Next week, I came from Vellore, met Professor P K Patil who welcomed and asked me immediately to complete the admission formalities at the Gangotri Administrative office, which I promptly did. Among our 1968-69 B.Lib.Sc. batch of around twenty students,

some were deputed from their Institutions & Govt. departments. Some were seniors with some work experiences like me. Most of others were students and freshers from their Degree or PG courses. During the

introductory session with all the teachers and library staff, each one of us got the feel that Library science & Library profession are emerging as Mother Science of other Sciences & Mother Profession of other Professions. Outcome of this introduction left an indelible impression in the minds of all of us that it is this challenge that has brought us to this Pedagogy of the scholastic learners and privileged teaching community.

During the course of our training programmes, all of us did discover that the Library Science course is not like any other academic course but based on a conglomeration of subjects based on ontological, logical and eclectic principles & cannons besides its subject analytics, knowledge mapping and data documenting facets- - all embedding in gurukula tutorial system, ultimate being mastering the art & science of searching for books and information stacked in the huge repository of systematically stored and arranged contents of textual wisdom



contained in book formats; wrapped in sections of printed pages firmly stitched hard & soft along with allied & kindled reading materials; searching tools & browsing devices to reach out to readers on their known or unknown query, deploying the analytical techniques and technological skills; stuck in self-imposed time limit to fetch them sourcing amidst the big & ever growing intellectual resource; finally culminating in the altar of the incoming cruel & boundless competitive knowledge economy.

Added to our traditional class room learning was an imperative tandem system too super imposed with field visits to a wide variety of libraries at local, regional & national levels. This gave us deep insight to explore all types of library systems pertaining to public, academic, specialised and contact library systems which imbibed in each of us the techniques of acquisition, processing, circulation, maintenance and curative functions based on different contexts for varied target groups and captive audiences.

At the end of our training, after the exams were over and on the announcement of the results in 1969, we all gathered again in the classroom and practical hall at our Library, brooding over the outgoing year and dreaming on the incomings. Ruminating over the training and the enlightenment bestowed on us by our teachers and other sister disciplines at Gangotri and our library community, we apprehended challenges ahead amidst abundant opportunities both for our higher professional education and for advancement of career prospects with bright perspectives. We could comprehend opportunities ahead as librarians and information service providers, information marketing professionals, and library professional trainers too; not by subjecting ourselves either to

the mercies of 'chance & choice' alone but meeting 'challenges' too with a judicious blend of all these three ingredients.

Needless to narrate again and again how happy each of us are, who had fanned out to our different

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career destinations, some at local, some others at state and national, some even more challenging ones serving in international organisations, all these fifty years of our "golden period" to congregate at our Alma Mater refreshingly to "Meet and Greet" each other.

Looking back at our 'more travelled logical library routes' of our yester-years, we are awestruck gazing at 'widely traversed logistical paths at technological parks' of our young information scientists. We all wish them all the best in their pursuit of instant information services to GeNext information seekers and library users. True to our Indian tradition and culture, may we, the students of BLib'68 batch remember, revere and offer our humble "pranaams" to the three of the many noble souls of our Motherland?

1. Professor S R Ranganathan: Who sharpened the scientific techniques & management tool for library system for Librarians & Information Scientists with a deep modular pile of foundation for Informatics, IT and I T E S structures for programming information storage, dissemination and retrieval for popular and professional consumption, with no bounds at local, national and global arena.

2. Professor B S Kesavan: Who built up our national library system from ground zero at Calcutta (Kolkata) reaching out to literary treasures of all of our linguistic repository, indexing them in our national bibliography volumes and depositing them in their respective State Central Libraries across our nation from Rameswaram to Himalayas.

3. Professor K S Deshpande: Whose imprint is etched at all the university libraries of Karnataka with a unique distinction of restructuring & rejuvenating library administration and founding of Library Science Departments for training of Librarians at the University Libraries of Karnataka in the less ploughed fields of our higher education campuses.

With a library you are free, not confined by temporary political climates. It is the most democratic of institutions because no one – but no one at all – can tell you what to read and when and how.

Doris Lessing

A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.

Lemony Snicket

Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

Laura Bush

Memorable, Educative and Happy Days they Were

Patwardhan D V

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If anyone asks me “which period of your educational life was very happy and pleasant, my obvious answer is my stay at Gangotri during the course of B.Lib.Sc. (1971-72). Late Prof. P K Patil was then the University Librarian and Head of the Dept. of Library Science and was a fatherly figure by age, maturity, and possession of domain knowledge. He has shown affection on all of us. Prof. Khan, Prof. N B Pangannayya and Prof. K S Raghavan were our great *gurus* to whom we are grateful for ever. Ours was a batch of 27 students consisting of twelve boys and seventeen girls. We spent our student life like members of one family. I was staying in Students Village Hostel with my classmates -- Sri P Y Rajendra Kumar, Sri T N Prakash and Sri Chikkaveerappa and had an opportunity to use university library from morning 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We had a nice local sight-seeing and temple tour to Nanjangud, Paper Mill, Talakadu and Somanathpura. Prof. Raghavan hosted lunch at his ancestral house near Talakadu to all the students and our teachers, Prof. Khan and Prof. Pangannayya, who accompanied us. In the evenings there were running competitions on the banks of river Kavery for men and women, Even Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Pangannayya participated in running race on a sandy shore. All were young in those days and everyone enjoyed the events.

We had an all India educational tour during November, 1971. Professor K S Raghavan was our faculty guide and Sri T N Prakash was the student leader. First, we travelled to Madras. We visited Libraries of British Council and U.S.I.S. and also Connemara Public Library. Prof. Raghavan was as young as 25 years then and some of the students like Sri Gopalaswamy and Sri Eraiah were much older than him. Hence, during our visits to Libraries some Librarians even mistook senior students as faculty guide instead of Prof. Raghavan. We travelled from Madras to New Delhi by Deccan Queen Express and spent our two days in the train by singing and chatting. We visited Libraries in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Pune and Dharwad. Prof. Khan was alumnus of Bombay University and had all the appreciation and high regards for his University. We were surprised to see many soldiers at Chandigarh railways station who were travelling to Punjab border. Later, we came to know that Indo-Pak war took place during December, 1971, and hence the troop movement took place during November, 1971. One may not believe that the cost of the tour was Rs.260/- only per person.



I wish to recall two incidents which took place during our tour. While touring in Bombay, we visited Elephanta caves located in an island of Arabian Sea. We gathered at “Gateway of India” and took a mechanized boat to Elephanta caves island which is ten km from Mumbai harbor. The visit was over at 4 p.m. and we were given the choice by the student leader either go directly to our rooms at Karnataka Bhavan (near King’s Circle) or go for shopping and return to Karnataka Bhavan before 9 p.m. My classmate Sri Eraiah and I opted to return to Karnataka Bhavan immediately. We moved to V T station, bought train tickets and boarded the local train. But, when I got down at King’s circle station I could not find Mr Eraiah. I thought that he can manage at his own and return to Karnataka Bhavan at 6 p.m. Mr.Eraiah returned at 9 p.m. and explained his story. Being ten years elder to me and bit slow, he tried to get down from local train in city bus style. But, local trains wait in each station for just 10 seconds and he could not manage himself in Bombay crowd. Hence, he unknowingly travelled three more stations when he got down from the train. The people around him in the station knew neither Kannada nor English and hence he could not communicate to them his problem. Somehow he managed to catch a train

coming from opposite direction, reach King’s circle station and walk to Karnataka Bhavan by 9 p.m. We had a sigh of relief after seeing him.

The second funny incident took place when we reached Pune station. All of us got down from the train along with luggage in the morning and eager to visit Jayakar Granthalay of Pune University. But, our good friend Sri N V Sathyanaranaya was still

But, our good friend Sri N V Satyanaranaya was still in train searching something. Sri Prakash was worried as train may start moving before Sathya gets down. Therefore, he again went into the bogie to ask Sathya why he is unwilling to get down. Later, Prakash came to know that when Sathya was getting down from top berth his 25 Paise coin fell down and he could not locate it.

in the train searching something. Sri Prakash was worried as train may start moving before Sathya got down. Therefore, he again went into the bogie to ask Sathya why he was unwilling to get down. Later, Prakash came to know that when Sathya was getting down from top berth his 25 paise coin fell down and he could not locate it. Mr.Prakash offered to give him a 25 Paise coin from his pocket and virtually pulled Sathya out of the train bogie. With his high regard and meticulous concern for money, no one at that time imagined that he would grow into an Entrepreneur of repute.

A great library is one nobody notices because it is always there, and always has what people need.

Vicki Myron

Courage and Confidence—Gifts from MyDLIS

Sathyanarayana N V

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In April 1986, India Today published a half page story titled — *Information Shops Keying Up*, profiling our Company and me. It was a story in the context of emerging digital information revolution driven by pre-Internet online. When the reporter who interviewed me asked about my educational background, I told him that I am a Librarian by profession. He said (incredulously) —“*How did you come to be in this business!*” I said -- this is the kind of stuff I was trained to do in our library school. Even today I consider that moment as a certificate of pride, I received from MyDLIS. This pride and the confidence I gained have been the driving factors of my professional and business life.

An Inspiring Beginning : My First Job

I guess it all started with my first job at Poornaprajna College in Udupi immediately after passing out of MyDLIS in 1972. Every bit of my experience here relates to my learning at MyDLIS. Let me narrate two instances: 1. how I managed to get my first job, which I consider my best even today out of my four jobs before I started Informatics; 2. a program that I came up with to catch the public attention to the library in the campus.

The Interview and After

The day before I had my interview in Poornaprajna, I was curious to see the library to get an idea of what kind of a library it was. My college library in Tumkur was the only library-like place I had

experienced before joining MyDLIS. It was the least inviting place in our college campus then. While entering MyDLIS, I was haunted by the kind of jobs I might get as a librarian which I thought may not come anywhere near my father's dream of his son becoming a Gazetted officer! I had joined MyDLIS as the only option left to pursue higher education then. I could not afford to miss it as I had secured the seat in the third-list despite securing distinction in B.Sc.



I was really attracted to the library building at Poornaprajna and began daydreaming, as if I had already got the job - *how nice it would be to start my career as a Librarian here!* It was a new library building in a large college campus designed by Prof. Pangannayya—my teacher in MyDLIS and my predecessor at Poornaprajna. It was Prof. Pangannayya who had encouraged me to go to Poornaprajna with some good tips for negotiating in the interview in terms of professional grade salaries offered in those days for the college librarians. Next day, when I walked into the place of interview and looked at half-a-dozen senior candidates in the lounge, I was not so sure of occupying the new library building as its

first librarian! However, the interview was exciting and I remember even to this day the confidence I displayed. At the end, I brought up the question about salary grade. Ananda Rao—a fondly revered Librarian in the region, in the interview panel was surprised and said I would get whatever scale as per the rule. I told the Principal that there were two scales—175-450 and 250-500, and I would like to get the latter. Principal, a bit puzzled, asked me to justify. My answer was - I have a professional qualification, hence I should be given this scale. I further argued that since a demonstrator in the science lab with just a B.Sc. was given 200-450 scale, I cannot accept the scale of 175-450. Principal smiled and said, we will consider.

I was happy but wanted to be sure that I was going to get the job. Before leaving for my village I knocked at the door of the Principal's house. He was surprised to see me. Pleading pardon for showing up at his residence without prior permission, I told him that I wanted to know whether I was selected. I even told him that I was keen to join his library as I liked the building designed by my teacher, although I had already got a job offer in Tumkur closer to my home. Principal said that my name was first in the panel of shortlisted three names, and I would get the orders in two weeks if the Chairman of the Trust selects my name. I left happy that I was first in the list. When I got the orders almost six weeks later, I was shocked that I was given the lower scale. Pangannayya advised me to meet the Principal again and insist on the higher scale as promised. I met the Principal and expressed my displeasure and intent to join only if I am offered higher scale. After some polite but firm assertions and pursations, I was assured that

I would get what I was demanding. Next day when I got the order with the salary scale revised, my excitement knew no bounds. *Perseverance pays, if one is willing to take the risk.*

Reference Service as a Game

Preparations for the annual day celebration of the college were on. Several programs were being organized in sports, music etc., with prizes for

My boss, Prof. B S Ramakrishna told me on the very first day *"We have nothing like a big library here. Do not get disheartened. Go to all the faculty, pick up the books they have, catalogue them and leave them back with them. Meet them regularly, ask them what information they want and help them to get.* Perhaps Ramakrishna knew that a good catalogue makes a good library, does not matter where the books are. This understanding is so true for a Digital Library eco system.

students . My friend from the Physical Education was the most visible man in the campus as most of these activities were planned by him. I started wondering why there was no program involving the library. I asked the Principal for a slot for the library in annual day competition programs. His suggestion was to give prizes to those who have borrowed highest number of books. It was difficult as the two card circulation system in the library did not maintain that data. I was given the freedom to figure out what I can do. In MyDLIS we were always taught that a librarian's job is to provide information or help users to find the right information. Reference Service was one area that had caught my imagination while studying at MyDLIS. The information service centric approach of the library that we were drilled about as students was exciting and yet intriguing as people came to library mostly to borrow books and ask for a book that they could not find in the shelf. I thought of

a game for students - select and display all major reference sources in the library; prepare a list of questions that could be answered through these reference books; ask participating students to find the source and the page having the answer for a question. I called this “Where to Find the Answer?” I was so happy when the prizes were announced and distributed at the annual day celebration calling “Where to Find Information” as a program of the Library. M V Kamath, the then illustrious editor of Illustrated Weekly was the chief guest of the function. In his speech he singled out the Library’s program and called it innovative. I was elated.

Fifteen months of my first job at Poornaprajana and Dr. Narayana Rao, the Principal of the college who was my first boss are deeply etched in my memory. He was a towering personality in the region and an Oxford scholar. The confidence I gained at Poornaprajana, thanks to MyDLIS learning, set the foundation for my later adventures.

L-World to I-Universe

I was lucky with my later jobs too. The next job at the Centre for Information Processing (CIP), in the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering (ECE), Indian Institute of Science helped me in transiting to a different domain of the library world. There was hardly any library at CIP-ECE as any kind of challenge to manage. My boss, Prof. B S Ramakrishna told me on the very first day *“We have nothing like a big library here. Do not get disheartened. Go to all the faculty, pick up the books they have, catalogue them and leave them back with them. Meet them regularly, ask them what information they want and help them to get”*. Perhaps Ramakrishna knew that a good catalogue makes a good library, does not

matter where the books are. This understanding is so true for a Digital Library eco system. Here I was literally a pure information service provider well on the lines of what MyDLIS wanted its students to specialize in. CIP was a defence project on acoustics and digital signal processing. Interacting with the scientists here was an interesting discovery for me that information of all kinds is measurable once converted into electrical signals. Here begins the story of information theory (expounded by

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Shanon) which is connected with the LIS world too but less explored by the LIS world.

Later in my next Job at the Smith Kline & French (now Glaxo SmithKline) I did very much the same except that it was a more organized effort directed more by institutional interest of the company than the typical individual interests of scientists in IISc. Research in pharma industry is information intensive. Smith Kline gave me an insight into the commercialization possibilities of information as a commodity or service. I recollect an interaction with the VP of Marketing, in the initial days to understand what I could do as his Librarian. I was trying to explain to him an SDI kind of an alert service, which I could develop on products that are his marketing focus. Nayak, his Market Research Manager sitting with him responded -- *Sathyanarayana, to provide him the kind of service you are talking about you will have to sit in the seat of Mr. Ferris for two years!* I felt let down, but realised

how important the domain knowledge is to win the confidence to offer the kind of information service we had learnt at MyDLIS. Information needs are intrinsic to users' work and hence to their domain. My work at HMT later was nothing much to write about due to my short stint there. But I had lots of professional colleagues at HMT including Keshav, my classmate at MyDLIS. B S Ramanand, my boss at HMT, was a very caring and kind hearted LIS professional. He was apprehensive about my plans to quit my job to start on my own. But he encouraged me a lot saying - *Do not quit until you find your ground firmly in whatever you want to do.* All these three jobs groomed me for the last job of re-positioning myself from the "L" world to the "I" Universe. I could take courage to start an information company in the late 70s with two friends as an enterprise which is now a public limited company called Informatics India Ltd.

Life and Times at MyDLIS

Our time in MyDLIS can be described as the world of Library Science with a slant to Information. It was still the Department of Library Science. We were in the main-frame age of computers then. But, we were given enough confidence to project and present ourselves as Information Scientists. I particularly enjoyed the social perspective strongly etched by Prof. Khan through his Library and Society course. MyDLIS is the place where my extra-curricular learning also started. Two things helped me here. First, I got an opportunity to work in the library while studying. It was something I badly needed to support myself and my studies in

Mysore. Thanks to Prof. Patil who gave a patient hearing to my need and gave me a chance to work in the library. Sixty Rupees that I could earn every month was a great support that I ever remember. This helped me gain work experience in all areas of the library from accessioning to reference service. I remember with pride that Mysore University Library had an independent Department for Reference & Documentation with a Senior Librarian (Mr. Lakshminarayana) heading that, something that is sadly missing now. Second, MyDLIS physically located in the Library building helped me spend more time in the library and explore.

One year moved very fast in MyDLIS. It was a very friendly place as the young teachers - Raghavan and Pangannayya, made us feel as if they are our friends. Educational tour was a great experience. It was both a vacation and vocational experience of knowing how major libraries in the country worked. I must remember two of my friends who are no more (Keshav and Gopalaswami) who were a big support for me all through. I was the youngest in the group of twenty four students dominated by girls. Three of us - Kalyani, Jayashri and I passed in distinction. The classmates that we are still in touch are - Rajendra Kumar, Nissar Ahamad, Patwardhan, T N Prakash, and Manjunath.

I entered MyDLIS unsure about my future career and with a thought that I may have to do something else after working for two or three years. When I left, I was sure that this was my profession whichever way I position. Thank you MyDLIS for carving my career path in a profession that I have come to love to be in.

Gurus and Wayward Wards

Geetha Venkatraman

Formerly Librarian Tata Consultancy Services, Bangalore. (geethavnkt@gmail.com)

MILANers Meet in the backdrop of Golden Jubilee Summit is a golden opportunity for us, the old students, to reconnect and reminisce.

I was a student of 1972-73 batch. It is very nostalgic visiting MyDLIS and interacting with the teachers. It brings back fond memories of my good old college days.

I had finished my graduation and had a PG seat in Biochemistry but for personal reasons, I could not join. Despite very little clue about the course, I decided to take up Library Science course. Like most of us, I joined the course not out of choice. It was not a very sought after PG course then. I remember vividly Prof. Patil telling us in lighter vein that not many girls were willing to marry him!

Our class was a mix of freshers and deputed students. The deputed students were more serious than us (girls). We were a group (or should I say gang?) of five with three 'Geethas' and two non-Geethas. As we had no great knowledge about the course, we were a bit anxious. While we eagerly waited to meet the teachers on the first day, entered an immaculately dressed, Prof. Patil (Late) and wished us with a wink! We later realized it was one of his mannerisms. For a head of the department he was pretty cool. Prof. Nagappa, a very active Dr. Raghavan, a sober Prof. Subramaniam, all wonderful and dedicated great teachers, made us feel at ease. Prof. Khan was a very serious and a no nonsense teacher. So, we were at our best of our behavior in his class. Prof. Pangannayya, (Late) an easy-going teacher, was more of a friend and we took complete liberty in

his class. Generally the girls were very noisy and bold, and often took his class a bit casually which the boys did not appreciate.

Fun apart, we were pretty good in internal assessment and regular in studies. One year was too short to learn new subjects and we had to make the best use of the available resources. I fondly remember the "Friday talks" where we opted for the last bench in a class with three rows of seats! The most memorable part of the curriculum was the educational tour. Visiting good libraries was a great learning and a good exposure for us, the budding librarians.

Well, the tour was more fun and pranks, which we of course looked forward to. Visiting library-after-library was getting a bit overbearing. In Delhi a bunch of our classmates took some time off to go around and have an exotic dinner. We lost our way back. Delhi was too unsafe for youngsters even in those days. After about three hours, a good Samaritan helped us find our way back by 11.30 in the night. Mr. Pangannayya, unaware of our whereabouts, was fuming (otherwise a very cool person) and refused to let us in. We pleaded and gave a written apology with a promise that our parents meet him, which of course never happened. We did the vanishing act in Chennai too by hiding in the huge pipes on the road!



Mr. Pangannayya, a great window shopper, bought a tie in a roadside shop in Delhi, a bright red tie! We were drenched in the rain and our teacher's tie too got wet. Next day the size of the tie was reduced to half its length as it had shrunk. I still remember his pathetic expression!

It is a pride to be a student of one of the early library science schools. I take this opportunity to thank all my teachers who were more of a guide than a teacher. "Guru is very representative of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. He teaches and spreads knowledge and destroys the weeds of ignorance. I salute all my teachers - who were truly The Gurus.

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light or dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

Germaine Greer

If we can put a man on the moon and sequence the human genome, we should be able to devise something close to a universal digital public library.

Peter Singer

Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

Laura Bush

Connecting the dots of my career: From Classification to Cognitive Sciences to Corporate Management

Shalini R Urs

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My entry into the LIS profession (as is the case with most of us) was NOT by design. The only thing that perhaps connected me to the world of libraries was my love for books—and in a way got me into and out of a tricky situation during my interview for admission to the B.Lib.Sc Course.

I still remember that day of my interview for admission in July 1973 when I was facing the panel chaired by Professor P K Patil, Head of the Department and University Librarian. He asked me “Why do you want to do the Library Science course?” I responded, “Because I love books.” He retorted good-humouredly —“then you would not be a good librarian, as you would not like to lend books!” He asked me to name the last book that I had read and went on to grill me about the instances in the same book. I learnt the art of interviewing that day—as an interviewee, be able to defend every answer you offer and as an interviewer, how to do a great interview without much preparation! And that has helped me a lot, as I need to interview a lot these days—recruiting students/staff for the two educational institutions that I currently head.

The initial weeks of my LIS student days were quite traumatic because of the loss of a very dear friend (especially since we both had joined B.Lib.Sc with the idea of being together) and also because I found the LIS subjects to be simplistic

and not intellectually challenging. Almost everyday I would go back home, moan and tell my mother that I am quitting. And my dear and clever mother would plead—just one more day, give it a try and you might find it

interesting. Finally it was our educational tour that changed me. After visiting some good libraries and making some very good friends (special mention goes to Uma and Vijaya), I stopped whining!

Ranganathan’s books (I read all of them—Five Laws of Library Science and Prolegomena to Library Classification were my favourites though) finally got me hooked to LIS. My favourite subject was “classification” as I found it to be intellectually intriguing and thus began enjoying my LIS journey. Classification taught me significant facets of information science and management—logic, principles, and philosophy. From a young age, my mother had intoned the importance of logic (she is a BA in Logic). Studying Classification in LIS reinforced the importance of Logic and helped my transition to programming and information management.



I had lots of fun learning classification from Prof. Pangannayya From the futility of Procrustean Approach to Facet Analysis to Ontology, I owe it all to Classification.

Students of that vintage cannot forget the “when I was in Chicago” refrain of Professor Patil. In the bargain we learnt the two different pronunciations of Chicago! We not only learnt physical planning (how important a janitor’s closet is and how in India we do not pay attention to the same) but also English Literature from Professor Subramanyam— who introduced us to Milton and his famous quote “A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.” Another important lesson that I learnt in life is from Professor Nagappa who embodied “humility is NOT a weakness but a strength.”

Winning the first rank and Gold Medal sealed my fate and future with LIS. So from a reluctant student, I turned into an avid professional studying almost all the rules of AACR 1967 during my M.Lib. Sc. My master’s thesis on “Corporate Authorship” helped me discover the “academic” in me. Professor Raghavan, my guide for the master’s thesis after reviewing my final chapter of the thesis gave back the draft with hardly any correction and suggestions. And when I nervously asked, he said it is perfect and needs no improvement—transforming me from a timid academic apprentice to a budding researcher. It was my master’s thesis that laid the foundation for my academic journey. The endorsement of my work on corporate authorship was when ISBD requested for a copy and I thank Sunder Singh (student of my first batch) who helped key in the entire thesis to be sent to ISBD.

My career began in January 1976, when I joined the MyDLIS as a temporary lecturer and thus heralding my entry into the beautiful world of academia. When I look back, two things stand out — despite my young age and inexperience, I was never treated as a novice in MyDLIS; on the other hand charged with many tasks and responsibilities—from

He (Prof.Patil) asked me “Why do you want to do the Library Science course? “ I responded, “Because I love books.” He retorted good-humouredly —“then you would not be a good librarian, as you would not like to lend books!”

developing the new curriculum for the semester program that was launched in 1976 to organising big academic events such as the Conference of Commonwealth University Librarians (South Pacific region), Mysore, 17-20 March 1980 and ILA Golden Jubilee Conference in 1983. These opportunities helped me discover and build my organising abilities. Professor Patil made me (then a young-28-year-old-lecturer) the Rapporteur General of the ILA National Conference much to the chagrin of many senior ILA office bearers! Though my association with Professor Patil started off stormily when I joined MyDLIS in 1976, it grew into a cordial relationship of mutual admiration and respect within a year. I doff my hat

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to Professor Patil for his magnanimity in setting aside old prejudices and biases.

My PhD research into “Relevance and Information Communication” was a period of intense scholarship

and helped me bring to bear everything that I had learnt from Physics to Philosophy into discovering the paradigms in information science to develop my thesis on the notion of information and study how cognitive styles affect relevance decision making. Exploring the phenomenon of “cognitive styles” took me to the wonderful field of cognitive sciences and expanded my horizon of information sciences to help develop an unbounded perspective of information—beyond the container centric view.

I am grateful to my PhD guide, Professor Khan, for giving me the freedom to explore the different directions of research following my very unconventional and unstructured approach to study the phenomenon of “relevance”; especially given his diagrammatically apposite systematic style. I was fortunate to have in Professor Khan, a research supervisor who had complete confidence in my competency and gave me the freedom to pursue my line of research. This unbounded and unbridled academic freedom sparked and sustained my exploratory approach to study everything in life. I am indebted to him for helping me discover and establish my scholarship.

It was once again Professor Khan, as the chairman of the Department who gave me complete freedom to establish the MyDLIS Computer Laboratory (a luxury those days!), way back in 1987 through a university grant of 1.5 lakhs for the removal of obsolescence in scientific equipment. By giving me a free hand in establishing the MyDLIS Computer Lab, Professor Khan practiced what is taught in management schools today—Google’s famous 80-20 policy spurring innovation and entrepreneurship incubation.

My specialisation in computer applications through my stint as a “On-The-Job-Trainee” in Israel’s Office of Scientific Information in 1979, IGSS in the College of Librarianship, Wales in 1981, and the Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications in 1987, led me to the then emerging domain of digital libraries in the early 1990s. The sponsored research projects, international linkages

By giving me a free hand in establishing the MyDLIS Computer Lab, Professor Khan practiced what is taught in management schools today—Google’s famous 80-20 policy spurring innovation and entrepreneurship incubation

established during my Fulbright days as a visiting professor at the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech in 2000-2001, and my review article with Ed Fox on “Digital Libraries” in the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology (2003) catapulted me to the international arena. Though I never worked in a library, the Vidyanidhi Digital Library Project at MyDLIS honed my skills as a project manager and develop management practices. Vidyanidhi expanded my repertoire of knowledge and skill sets and gave me the platform to launch myself as an educational entrepreneur.

The tipping point of my career was organising ICADL 2001 under the aegis of MyDLIS, testing my leadership skills and organisational abilities in the aftermath of 9/11 and set me on a parallel career path of becoming an edupreneur leading to the establishment of ISiM (the International School of Information Management) as the first I-School in India in 2005 and later MYRA School of Business in 2012.

My Alma Mater MyDLIS—you seeded my academic career and more. I salute you—MA THUJE SALAAM.

An Enjoyable Learning Times

Adilakshmi R

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I studied B.Lib.Sc., during 1975-76 and the entry was by chance. My interest was to go for M.Ed course after IT studied B.Ed. I missed the seat by one mark for M.Ed Course. During that time, the candidates were intimated about getting the seat by post with a week's time to join the course.

We always remember the teachers who taught us which include : Prof. P K Patil, Prof. H A Khan, Prof. Nagappa, Prof. TV Subramanyam, Prof. Raghavan, Prof. N B Pangannayya, Prof. Shalini Urs. Out of these seven professors, it is very sad that we are missing three of them as the will of nature desired.

The intake for this course was thirty students and we were twenty eight students, most of them were Master degree holders from different branches. Out of twentyeight students, nine were girls, namely Rajalakshmi, Janaki, Ushadevi, Gangamma, Sandhya, Aruna, Savithri, Chudamani and myself.

The one year B.Lib.Sc. course was a semester scheme i.e. two semesters. I got the highest marks in Cataloguing Practicals. During my stay in the department, the girls used to be together always and did combined study, made notes by referring books that were available in the library, ate together and went to canteen together. The treat used to be from the person who had more money in her pocket that day. We all thoroughly enjoyed our stay in the department.

All the teachers were very friendly, taught the

subject well and had great concern for students. Prof. Shalini Urs is remembered very frequently, because she used to tell us not to call her as Teacher/Miss. She had just entered as teacher for the



second semester course immediately after her Master's degree. She used to feel shy, if we called her teacher. She used to be with us after the class hours, discuss and chat during leisure hour.

During our course, we were supposed to go to other libraries once in a week for work experience. For this, five or six students were grouped together. Each group used to go to the allotted library and work there. The libraries that were allotted were CFTRI, CIL, Regional College, University Library etc. We had good exposure for having worked in different libraries.

Apart from work experience, we used to have weekly lectures from eminent personalities. Some lectures used to be very beneficial and knowledgeable. We benefited a lot from work experience and weekly lectures. Educational/ Study tour was part of B.Lib.Sc. course.

We had the opportunity of visiting some of the reputed libraries along with our teacher Prof. Pangannayya. To mention a few -- Bhaba

Atomic Research Centre (BARC); Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR); Mumbai; Bombay University Library; International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); Osmania University Library, Hyderabad; British Council Library, Connemara Library, Madras University Library, Indian Institute of Science Library, INSDOC, NAL, ISRO, Bangalore. We would not have got the opportunity to visit some libraries individually, except for BARC and TIFR. Educational tour helped us to know, study and have practical knowledge of different kinds of libraries that were existing. Further, study tour helped us in our professional career, personality development, exchange of ideas and co-operative living.

Soon after B.Lib.Sc, I got my first job at Sarvodaya College of Education, Virajpet. I worked there for

two years and then joined S.L.N. College of Arts and Commerce, Fort, Bangalore. While working for S.L.N. College, I got a few offers for higher posts outside Bangalore, but I could not go as there was a commitment to stay at Bangalore. After serving for 4.5 years at SLN, I got a job in Bangalore University

I am always of the opinion that the importance of library professionals has to be made known to all the communities of people in the society through effective and efficient services.

Library in 1982 and served there for 30 years. I did M.L.I.Sc course in 1986-87 on deputation. Now, I am retired from the services.

I am always of the opinion that the importance of library professionals has to be made known to all the communities of people in the society through effective and efficient services.

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light or dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

Germaine Greer

MyDLIS, my Career and my Life: Thoughts and Theories

Mohamed Taher

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MyDLIS facilitated my personal, academic and professional development. I believe that it is good to follow the community of knowledge building teachers. Admittedly, teacher is a master; and students do not outgrow. Here are impressions and lessons as anecdotes (some comic, tragic, sentimental and some melodramatic) that are a reflection of school experiences, career, celebration and memorabilia.

School Experience & Career:

Joined the MyDLIS to just get a degree and a job; however unexpectedly the ROI was very high. Thanks for the opportunities. The impetus came from the physical presence, intellectual surroundings, practice, along with student's commitment and circumstances. Later this led to work with

communities of practice, where you are paid for what you know and how to do. Success in career is a reasonable metric of output, experts opine. I could not have received this training elsewhere.



I got education and training during 1976-78 from a Faculty who were a good sample of leading lights of Indian LIS Education: Prof. P K Patil; Prof. T V Subramanyam; Prof. Pangannayya; H A Khan; Prof. K S Raghavan; and Prof. Shalini Urs. It saddens me that of the six of my professors, three are no more.

The Course Catalogue@MyDLIS (BLIS 1976-77) and (MLIS-1977-78)

BLIS (1976-77): Semester I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library & Society Library & Management Information Sources Literature Survey Project (Eco Geology of Ferro Alloy Metals) Optional: College Library 	Semester II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Processing 1: Classification Technical Processing 2: Cataloguing Documentation Techniques and Services Project (Sepoy Mutiny), Field Work (in a public library) 	MLIS (1977-78): Semester I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information & Communication; Information Processing & Retrieval Part 1 Comparative Librarianship; Optional: Industrial Information System 	Semester II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Processing & Retrieval Part 2 Research Methods Optional: Education for Librarianship Advances in Classification & Indexing (Practice) Dissertation Project (Newspaper as source of industrial info)
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Later, while looking at a catalog of forty ALA schools discovered that the above courses were similar.

Lesson # 1: MyDLIS Faculty was an informed participant in keeping pace with the need for change.

Active learning environment:

It was closer to the time-tested Indian approach, than to asynchronous distance or experiential learning type. Space is insufficient to state everyone's spirit and determination (e.g., faculty, staff including Dasarath, and Chanchala) in facilitating the learning curve.

Learnt to search, then, in printed tools and in library card catalog (author, title, subject and dictionary + ALA card filing rules), using worksheets—a mind set that prepared for keyword searching. This did help me with transferable skills in an online menu. I was inspired by “documentation techniques” course to capture and manage data, which in turn facilitated understanding KM. Motivated by guidance to collect, analyze and synthesize data using industry metrics, and aided by research methodology course, I was eventually successful in receiving doctoral and post-doc degrees. Being trained to differentiate “reference bibliography” from “physical bibliography,” enabled me in identifying data formats and sources for biblio-mining. The Library & Management course guided me to create an album of every type of library's stationery — helps in picking Brodart, Gaylord's stationary.

Lesson # 2: Librarian is not a technician, rather a reflective practitioner. “Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners” (John Holt, 1984).

Librarians are live wires of the society:

Library & Society course taught us about Dr. S R Ranganathan's Laws in relation to human relationships wherein the user is foremost in the library trinity of — user, staff, and resources. Library staff makes resources accessible and useful to every user at the time of his/her need. Interestingly, this idea was practiced under the

Long-lasting LIS knowledge comes also from beyond the classroom—but not necessarily beyond books & bytes

same roof. A hard working junior staff in the MUL's reference never declined anyone's request; would know where to find what you needed. This attitude reflects the impact of SRR's Laws, i.e., proactive and timely approach with a human touch in meeting their needs. To such die-hard barefoot librarians I dedicated a book (Libraries in India's National Developmental Perspectives, 2001). Critics call this kind of service as ‘spoon-feeding’ ‘microwaved’ or ‘canned reference.’ Such critics may perhaps need go to school to learn as to why spoon-feeding is Google's best practice, e.g. Google's Directory (2000-2011), Google Instant Search (2010-), free tutorial videos to search the ‘Google’, etc.

Lesson # 3: Librarianship at its heart is a helping profession.

This role of librarian— to help, remains fundamentally unchanged. Librarians sustain their profession by enhancing serendipity—disseminating not just ‘popular’ resources as Google does, but also relevant and current, based on skills; best is to ignore such criticism. “When the reader comes amidst the library, there must be someone to say: Take my hand; for I have passed this way, and

know the truth.” (Gopinath, M.A., ed, Memorabilia Ranganathan, 1994).

Inspired by wise masters, I continue to learn by sharing the lessons, in areas such as, faith-based taxonomy, Web sights & Webometrics, bibliometrics, OPAC’s usability (esp., Thomas Mann: mysterious elephant amidst the six blind), Searchology, KM, digital literacy, and information literacy.

Educational Tours:

Educational tours (from one day and week long ones) exposed me to the works of stalwarts such as Mr. B P Shenoy (Osmania); Dr. B Johnson and Marshall (Bombay University.) Visits to TIFR, BARC, British Library and meeting Dr. VAKamath, Dr. L J Haravu, Dr. Chandra Prabha Vaidyanathan, and Mrs. B Prasanna Lakshmi, helped get first-hand information about best practices in libraries. Since then I have remained fascinated about Prof. Marshall’s contributions. To this mastermind I dedicated the Indian library history book (Librarianship and Library Science in India, Concept, 1994).

Lesson #4: Long-lasting LIS knowledge comes also from beyond the classroom—but not necessarily beyond books & bytes.

Celebration & Memorabilia:

Compassionate voice of senior faculty, e.g., ‘Where is you’ ‘how are you’ and ‘when I was in Chicago’ or ‘when I was using MEDLAR database’ ring in ears. In that same galaxy are voices of guest speakers, Prof. T K S Iyengar (IISc), Prof. Jakarti (Kolhapur University Librarian), Prof. K S Subramaniam (DrexelU), and Dr. Peter Lazar (Hungarian documentalist).

Lesson # 5: Getting to meet these experts with a variety of roles from a variety of institutions was a great exposure.

A few classmates were extremely talented; some specialized in fine arts, such as, music, dance and singing. Campus reminiscences include a walk/ride by the Kukkarahalli Lake, relax/chat at shaded benches, at Gandhi Bhavan, by-two coffee in the canteen, etc. The buildings and

Great masters built MyDLIS, no doubt; but institutions cannot survive on mere past reputation.

lanes are all recognizable, and even if navigating from any direction, GPS will not give up in confusion.

Had amazing times, cherish those moments. Unforgettable was a royal wedding ceremony of a faculty. In this grand event only one person—FK Irani, CEO of Ideal Jawa was in a simple dress. Had another feast at a classmate’s residence (just behind Jawa). It’s a bond of trust, which persists.

Lesson # 6: “You might forget those who made you laugh, but you will never forget those who were by your side in your darkest hours” (Kahlil Gibran).

Using the future to ‘sort out’ the present: Having received wisdom, need to pass this so that others too can thrive. Here are TAHER’s five brainstorming ideas for a soon-to-be library school student:

- Tapping your network, rather than making sole decisions — seek expert advice;
- Ask the LIS program about the percentage of hired grads — be realistic because your numbers

may be luckier;

- Have a plan about career—no degree guarantees you a job; it is you – with additional academic and professional motivation/skills, who will land in a job;
- Education for librarianship prepares you for skills that are transferable – think before you jump: it needs a proactive timely approach with a human touch, not a potato coach;
- Research both inside the field and outside for job market (know the areas in demand), and then apply knowledge not information in your final decision to join or not to join.

Endnote: This reminiscence is a horizontal view. However, a vertical narrative would have been better, with in-depth details, such as, a session amidst changing heads; a rush hour session with an emerging superstar; moments of response on finding someone struck in impasse; feelings of those who lost top-rank or did not pass the exam; and short and long-term impact of the influencers (aka outcome bias). Hence, need to inculcate the idea of documenting alumni stories (tacit and explicit) as it happens, or ASAP. Such narrative is a good ROI, both to increase alumni loyalty and be a trendsetter for the newcomers. Digging for ideas, after a time gap, are akin not just searching ‘ants carrying sugar’ (in scattered locations), rather brown sugar from

brown ants (in dispersed hiding places). So true!!! Nevertheless, the science of documentation needs both, story and data. It is better to record using a uniform template, such as, school experience, career celebration and memorabilia.

Here is a humble reminder for people of understanding. Based on the emerging scenario (school closures, disappearance of Associateship, saturated market, changing demands, recession 2008, UGC’s call to restore one year BLIS and MLIS, etc.) LIS programs require a different incarnation altogether. Re-branding from Lib economy to KM/IM, re-naming as in University of Toronto, Rutgers and transformation as was PKP’s proposition (1978), are already tested, and by now, in 2015, is it not time to state ‘LIS as frozen’ (‘not frozen in time.’ Shalini, 2002). If not, do we agree that ‘Mars works in universities & Venus in corporate organizations’ (John Kingston)? Whereas, as the business model in the market changes, shouldn’t LIS be open for different model(s) of librarianship and reinvent its info structure—for e.g., intensive collaboration (not competition; as is rampant in LIS with computer science) with related disciplines, such as, psychology, sociology, marketing, and law?

Lesson # 7 : Great masters built MyDLIS, no doubt; but institutions cannot survive on mere past reputation.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

Mahatma Gandhi

My Experience at MyDLIS

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Way back in 1979 I was waiting all through the summer to enter the 'Manasa Gangotri', University of Mysore. I felt excited and at the same time I was very nervous because for the first time I was going away from my parents and staying in a hostel.

I was selected for Chemistry M.Sc., as well as Bachelors in Library Science (B.Lib.Sc). Because a professional course will have more job opportunities and I wanted to be a career woman, I decided to join B.Lib.Sc and till date I have no regrets on my decision.

I joined the Gangotri ladies hostel first and met my room mate. Next day I walked to the library building, where the department was also located. I went to the classroom and Prof.H A Khan, then head of the department took the first class. He gave an overview of the course and we introduced ourselves. I liked the classroom very much because it had a very good view of the famous 'Kukkarahalli Kere'. It took some days for me to get adjusted to the classes which were too different from the subjects I studied in my Bachelor of Science course.

The classes were taken by Prof. H A Khan. (course: Library and Society), Prof. Nagappa.B. (course: Cataloguing Theory and Practice), Prof. Ponganayya.N B (Late) (course: Classification Theory and Practice), Dr. Shalini Urs. R (course: Information Sources and

Reference Service), Mr. T V Subramanyam (Late) (Reprographic services).

Though I stayed only for 10 months in the department and on campus, it was very memorable. As the university name coined by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu indicates, it was 'Manasagangotri'!! Later in 1998 I registered for PhD as an external candidate under the guidance of Dr. Shalini Urs. By this time everything had changed. The University campus and the department looked totally different. Doing PhD was a totally different experience, that too after about 16 years of work experience (teaching, providing e-information service and carrying out funded projects), two years of studies (for my master degree) at Documentation Research and Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore and one year Fulbright fellowship at the US. The changes that had taken place in Computer and Telecommunication media made my work to be comprehensive and exhaustive. I enjoyed every bit of my stay and work in the Department.



Regression to Good old days: Reminiscence of Wonder Years

Manjunath G K

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Whenever I visit Manasagangotri campus, I am overpowered by nostalgia. The sweet and indelible memories of my four years study there come to my mind like waves. The beautiful campus, its serenity, library, open air theatre and Kukkarahalli tank are deeply etched in my memory forever. I can never ever forget the committed and devoted faculty members there, and concern they had for students and the vast knowledge they imparted to students.

After successfully completing my Masters in Botany in 1978, I was wary of my job prospects! Doing PhD meant toiling for another five years and even then I was not sure of getting a job in a very scarce job market in those days. Once, I discussed with my friend Maheshwarappa who is now a professor at Gulbarga University, and decided that we must opt for a degree in Library Science. The reason was simple - job opportunities it would offer, both at state and national level. One of our seniors too supported our idea. Even though we knew about the course Library Science, we were not fully aware of what this discipline would teach us for two years and its career development opportunities.

In late 70s, the admission process would start some time during September-October and classes would start in late October. I was quite used to the demands of semester scheme which was introduced in the year 1976 as I had already obtained one

Masters Degree. Once the classes began, there was a total change in my thinking and attitude towards Library Science. The training was so intense that there was no time to relax. Even the theoretical sessions were full of practical tips driving us to be very alert and on our toes everyday and in every class. I realized that each and every paper had lots of applications and thus day by day my alertness, interest and concentration increased. I fondly remember all my teachers who came to class fully prepared.

Those days, each class used to be a marathon session of about two hours; yet no one ever got bored with any of the classes. Even today I remember the story which Prof. Nagappa told us while explaining the '*Law of Parsimony*' in the cataloguing class. He was a down to earth person. He was very practical in his approach and all the cataloguing tips he gave us became very pertinent when I actually started working.

The five laws of library science, library and society, education for librarianship, etc., taught by Prof. H A Khan are ever fresh in my mind even today.

Informality was something unique in the library science department. Prof. Shalini Urs used to be much more informal with students. Her enthusiasm, seamless and impeccable teaching and willingness to share all her knowledge impressed all of us. We used to look

forward to her classes eagerly and kept our paper and pen ready even before she entered the class. Each and every reference sources she taught us in her marathon sessions were meticulously recorded by me which I preserved for more than 13 years, till I changed my first job. Surprisingly, some of the reference sources such as *Keesing's Contemporary Archives*, *Asian Recorder*, *Data India*, etc., which I learnt in her classes are not known to most of the youngsters with whom I interact today. Prof. Shalini's approach towards PRECIS (Preserved Context Indexing System) was extraordinary and her problem solving method was exemplary. I wonder whether PRECIS still remains in the syllabus at our department. I am very proud and privileged to be a student of Prof. Shalini who has achieved so much in her professional life. I revere her as a noble human being and also for all her unique and quintessential accomplishments. She, in my humble opinion, is a perfect teacher.

Prof. Pangannayya pedagogic method was something unique. In addition to his classroom teaching he used to give each of us assignments after a brief introduction to a specific topic and we were asked to make presentation. This method of teaching not only made us search for literature extensively, but also paved way for self learning.

Our relationship with teachers was beyond student-teacher relationship. We were treated like friends and they looked at us as future library professionals and not as students. Informality in LIS department was something that most probably did not exist in other departments in Manasagangotri. Those days, teachers taking students to canteen and offering them coffee was not a practice existing

in any other department except in our department. The beautiful canteen next to the library building was one of the liveliest and popular places in the campus. It was not only a place for refreshments but also a place for students' bonding and for discussions. The informal discussion we had there with faculty members always cherish in my mind. I feel sorry to see that this canteen now has lost its resplendence, aura and ambience.

Our relationship with teachers was beyond student-teacher relationship. We were treated like friends and they looked at us as future library professionals and not as students. Informality in LIS department was something that most probably did not exist in other departments in Manasagangotri

Lastly, the extraordinary training, which I got in our department, helped me to be competitive and secure a good job at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand in the year 1980, and later at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, in 1994. I owe a lot to all my teachers and feel proud to be an alumnus of the University of Mysore and the Department of Library and Information Science. I am lucky and feel proud and fortunate to have had such teachers of par excellence who imparted quality education with sincerity and devotion. They are true and worthy teachers and excellent human beings and it was our good fortune to have them as our faculty members. I will ever remain grateful to them for their services and for the extra mile they walked for the student. They will always remain as my true role models. I thank all of them from the bottom of my heart and will never forget them.

"It becomes increasingly easy, as you get older, to drown in sweet and memorable nostalgia"

The PP (Picnic & Party) Gang of 1981

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Why & How we joined Library Science...?

Meera: We were three close friends who were all set to join the Master's program in Mathematics at Manasa Gangotri. En route, I met my professor who taught mathematics to us in undergraduate course. He was happy to know that I had fared very well, but did not encourage my plan of joining PG in the same discipline. Those were the days, when engineering was booming and he was looking at mathematics

losing scope. He enquired about other options and I said Physics (my first interest) and Library Science (unknown subject). Professor immediately suggested that I opt for the latter. He did give couple of examples and the job opportunities in this unknown field of study. My sister also felt that Library Science would be a better option as she had seen Dr. L J Haravu's prosperous career at BHEL. That was the turning point... I decided to join Library Science. My friends were really upset and tried to dissuade me. But there was no looking back as I enrolled myself to our very own MyDLIS in June 1980.



(Studio pic of the PP gang, July 1981)

Prakash: My joining Library Science was due to some strange reasons. I had already done a PG in a (then) new age / hybrid subject, which should have straight away made us Assistant Directors in the State Government. But that did not happen and I had to do something else. Secondly, most of my close friends did double PGs and the PG hostel was our home away home. So I did not want to leave the campus so early! Lastly, during my first PG, I was subconsciously attracted to L&IS as I was helping a friend in translating his L&IS class notes

into Kannada. So all these put together landed me on the first floor of the library building for the next two years! (1980- 82)

Rama: My joining the course was an accident. I was interested in doing a PG course in Physics for which I did not get admission. I got Mathematics instead, in which I was not interested. When I got an admission letter for Library Science, I remembered that I had applied for it as it was a one year course. Mine was a late admission, and when I entered the class room everything -- subject, students, and teachers-- was alien to me. Others were already familiar with the subject and connected to each other. It took a little time to get used to the subject and classmates. The bonding developed just after the first test and with the PP gang simply grew bigger with each year.

Khan: Immediately after my Post Graduation, I was selected as Technical officer at Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi. Like all parents, mine too felt I was too young to take up a job at such a far-off place. They asked me to prepare for competitive exams. Most people do not like to leave the Gangotri campus - neither was I much interested in leaving the campus so early. Hence, I convinced my parents of my interest in doing a B.Lib.Sc. which later became the bread and butter of my life.

Madhu: My joining of LS Department was very weird but turned out to be wonderful. With a background in commerce I was looking at doing a PG in it, but I was not sure of getting admissions due to tough competition. One of my close friend's sister had done B.Lib.Sc. the previous year, so he suggested to me 'why not LS'? He cautioned me that it would be tough as most of the subjects are dry! However, he also told me that I would have plenty of job opportunities. The latter caught my imagination

as I was looking for a professional job with a PG. But it took some time to convince my parents!

The Anxious Beginning:

Manasagangotri, then the most beautiful campus for Post Graduate studies, welcomed all of us with love and warmth on 1st August, 1980. First day introduction ceremony was a mixed bag of joy, anxiety and apprehensions. The department

We still remember one of his catch phrases "If a student fails, hang the teacher"! So all of us were very sure that none of us would fail!

comprised of five teachers then and they were all seated on the dais. A spacious class room with good lighting and breeze enthralled us. Despite sincere attempts by faculty, the introduction to the course was hardly understood. However, what made all of us happy was the announcement about compulsory study tour! We were about twenty students, including ten seniors who had already acquired their master's degree in other disciplines. So, they had a fairly good idea of campus life and were the guiding spirits to begin with.

During the first semester we were diligent in the new subjects and were curious about practical(s) where Cataloguing, Classification and Indexing were taught. Practical classes used to be more enjoyable as we used to freely move around, discussing things, making fun of each other etc. Initially all the subjects were difficult to comprehend. However, slowly, we all settled in. After completing a few tests, we gained comfort and confidence that helped in getting a foothold in the new environment. We gradually got familiarized with the subjects, friends, teachers and the fun associated with campus life. Preparing joint notes, common lunch hours, visiting the

canteen for by-two coffee/tea + snacks can never be forgotten. Often, teachers would also join us in the canteen and we are sure they enjoyed our company. We had one interesting teacher in Dr. Umapathy (possibly the first teacher in the Dept. with a PhD) who used to teach Bibliography and we still remember one of his catch phrases “If a student fails, hang the teacher”! So all of us were very sure that none of us would fail!

BharathYatra:

Yes, you can call it that as we covered three of the four metropolitan cities, namely Madras, Calcutta and Bombay. Possibly for the first time in the history of the Dept, a lady teacher (Madam Shalini) was leading this rather ambitious trip. For many of us this was the first ever trip outside the state and naturally parents were very anxious. The visits were fine but there were other challenges like heavy monsoon at Madras and many members serially getting infected by conjunctivitis (Madras Eye)! They had to be treated with eye drops and care had to be taken to stop it from spreading. The train journey from Madras to Calcutta had some anxious moments as there were some local goondas trying to occupy our seats midway!

Thanks to our meticulous planning, tour expenses turned out to be less than the amount collected. Each one of us were to get a refund of Rs.35/- or so! None of us were ready to take back the money and we planned for a 2-day bus trip to Ooty, which MLibSc students and teachers with their families also joined. Thanks to the royal connections, we had the privilege to stay at Hotel Fern Hill Imperial. This was totally a fun filled trip with all sorts of games, music and dance, boating etc. During all these trips, our bonding with friends and teachers became much stronger.

The Second year (M Lib Sc).

By the end of 2nd semester B.Lib.Sc. we had understood what Library Science is all about and the subject was no more alien to us. The potential of the course in the job market was clear. Some joined work after B.Lib.Sc. and some chose to continue to do the Master’s program. We had a few from the previous year’s batch, few externals and some deputed friends joining in and thus, the complexion of the team changed. We had to work much harder with assignments, tests, local library visits for practical training etc. Through Friday talks, by external professionals and achievers we were introduced to various topics of general interest

We even made home wine in the Bio Chemistry lab (thanks to a PhD scholar there) and had a great wine party under the big Peepul tree, near the PG hostel! The PP Gang had become one of the most popular (and mischievous) group of Gangotri in those days.

and personal grooming. Dissertation was a big heroic exercise which we were supposed to do in the second semester and after a soft fight with HOD (Prof Khan) on extension of the date, we were forced to submit our dissertations directly to the Registrar!

As student volunteers, we had the opportunity of a lifetime to listen to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then PM, during her address to the 69th Indian Science Congress. One honest submission here is that our involvement in the extracurricular activities (sports, culture, fine arts, literary events, etc) of the campus during these two years brought good visibility to the department. Our batch took an active part in many campus activities and brought so many laurels and prizes to the department. It will not be an over statement to say that our batch helped making Library Science a popular and vibrant subject, among the student community.

The PP (Picnic& Party) Gang .. !

By the end of the 1st semester, some of us who were like minded were getting closer naturally. They say tours and trips do wonders and help attain better understanding of our surroundings and people. This is the occasion which turned around to form an inner circle called PP (Picnic & Party): a gang of ten including Geetha, Prem, Sheela, Ramesh and Venkatesh. We used to frequently visit each other's houses (seven were locals) and spend a lot of time eating and fighting and in the process all our parents & relatives knew all of us closely. We used to frequent all popular spots like Chamundi Hill, KRS, Ranganathittu, Balamuri, etc. and go to movies by default after every test or exam!

We would actively participate in sports, culture and other co-curricular activities in the campus and winning prizes had become a habit. Our teachers and seniors encouraged us during such programs and prize distribution ceremonies. We even made home wine in the Biochemistry lab (thanks to a PhD scholar there) and had a great wine party under the big peepul tree, near the PG hostel! The PP Gang had become one of the most popular (and mischievous) group of Gangotri in those days.

Only six from the PP's were back in the Department the following year (1981-82) for the MLibSc course. During this year it was more of academics and we enjoyed our stay in the department despite the assignments, tests, dissertation etc. We continued

The PP Gang still continues to be in good touch and active even after 35 years and has grown to include our spouses, children and even the grandchildren!

our social activities and were always game for fun and travel. Our visit to the canteen was more frequent than the previous year and some juniors added spice during the time. The PP Gang still continues to be in regular touch, active even after thirty five years and has grown to include our spouses, children and even the grand children!

The last word

Our dedicated teachers and their efforts have shaped our lives and helped us in becoming successful Librarians across prestigious institutions. We salute them!

Our kind remembrances to Prof. N B Pangannayya (late) who was an interesting teacher.



Some of us (the authors) during ICADL 2001

Mesmerizing MyDLIS and Me

Harinarayana N S

Associate Professor, Department of Studies in Library and Information Science, University of Mysore.
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I am of the same age as MyDLIS. The year, the month and the place of birth are common to both of us. The Department is just 15 days younger to me. There stops the comparison! While MyDLIS has grown by leaps and bounds in its achievements; my achievements are miniscule in nature. The very thought of comparison came to my mind just because I happened to be born in the same year and month, and not for any other reason.

‘Library Science’ was a new word unheard of by me until my father suggested me to apply for the bachelor’s course in it. He probably had a premonition that I may not get the seat for post graduate degree in any of the science subjects. He was right. I missed maths by 1 mark, stats by 3 marks and physics by 1 mark. I was not good at languages. So I had to opt for other programs. Unwillingly, at the insistence of my father, I applied for BLISc program, and equally reluctantly joined the course when I got a seat under waiting list.

My friends joined science programmes and looked very proud about their achievement. I was ‘odd man out’ in that group. One of my friends even ridiculed me that I continue to be science student as the word ‘science’ was there in the program name! At that time, I had no answer for his taunt. I had no alternative and felt that I had to live with the ‘unknown angel’. I was so depressed and disappointed that for the first few days I used to take the far end staircase to enter the department

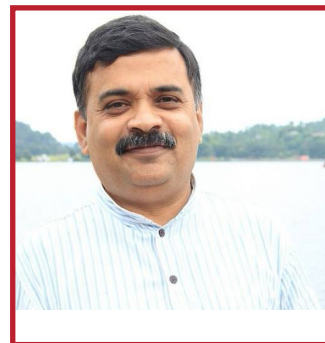
than the nearer one.

This behaviour of mine was not without reason. The far end staircase was deep-inside the library. I wanted to give an impression to my unsuspecting friends that I am going to the

library and avoid them from knowing that I have joined library science program!

I entered the class room on the first day and occupied detestable seat. The very first class was on cataloguing. The teacher was eloquently describing the Cutter’s objectives. This was followed by very stylish and scholarly exposition of the subject by another teacher on ‘Concept of classification’. I was shattered as I could not follow either the language or the content. I cursed my own past life. I thought that for the sins that I might have committed in those lives I am being punished by God in my present incarnation like this!

I wanted to drop the program. But, I did not have the courage to tell so to my parents. Fortunately for me I came to know that one classmate - by name Vigneshwar Bhat - who was from a known circle to my family also joined the program. I did not know him earlier. I somehow got myself befriended with him. I explained to him my predicament in



the classes and how I have got rattled by joining the program. To my pleasant surprise, he said even he was also in the same boat. This gave me a sigh of relief. He encouraged me to attend the classes just for fun and time pass until we get some other better things to do! I liked his idea. From then on we attended the classes together, sat in juxtaposition in classes, did the assignments jointly, and prepared for the exams arm-in-arm.

The first internal tests came in no time. I was nervous. Coming from a science stream, I did not know how to write long answers. I even lacked the acumen required for attending tricky questions, which were common in those days. My ability in English was pathetic and was highly inadequate for writing critical answers. I again became disillusioned. I told Vigneshwar Bhat that I will not take up the tests. He pounded onto me and literally dragged me to the tests. There were two tests a day. After the first one in the morning, Bhat and I used to go to open-air theatre to prepare for the next test in the afternoon. He was reading aloud for my sake. I was just listening to him. But for him, I would not have taken the first test at all. The test marks were announced. I got fairly good marks in all subjects except in Classification where I just got 2 marks out of 20. I couldn't accept the result. I went to the teacher and asked her - "is there any way that I could improve my marks?". I requested for a repeat test. She asked me "how do you know that you will get better marks in the next test?" For me the decision was quite simple. I thought any way I have reached the nadir of performance. The risk is only 2 marks! Hence, I said to her bravely that my next performance cannot be as bad as this. She just smiled and agreed to give me repeat test. I came to know later that the teacher had to face

the criticism for this student-friendly gesture! I take this opportunity to thank her and also offer my sincere apologies to her for having put her in such situation. This incidence taught me to face the failure as a step for subsequent success. In another anecdote, on looking at one of the assignments that I sincerely submitted, the teacher told me that I have the flavour for writing and asked me to develop that skill. She gave me confidence to write. I salute her. Needless to say that it is my

The first internal tests came in no time. I was nervous. Coming from a science stream, I did not know how to write long answers. I even lacked the acumen required for attending tricky questions, which were common those days

teachers who nurtured me during the formative years of my career in LIS. I got the skills through their words and deeds. My *pranams* to each one of them.

What did I get from MyDLIS? In a nutshell, it gave me many qualities required for life time. Cataloguing classes taught me the importance of diligence and meticulousness in writing. The classification and indexing classes induced in me logical thinking. The 'Five laws of library science' helped me to realize the philosophy of service. The 'Prolegomena to library classification' has promoted my 'scientific temper'. The information resources classes gave confidence and increased my ability to search for 'information'. The classification schemes and subject heading lists gave an idea about not only the panoramic view of the knowledge but also these tools helped to increase my vocabulary. Surprisingly PRECIS and other indexing tools helped me to understand the intricacies in English grammar! The 'information retrieval' course quenched the mathematical thirst in me. The ICT skills earned at MyDLIS proved to

be the turning point in my life. What else can one expect out of one's Alma Mater? It has given me bread and butter.

I had the fortune of pursuing my Ph.D. degree under one of the most revered, critical thinker and disciplinarian teacher - Prof. H A Khan. I learnt ABC of writing skills from him. He taught me from writing a casual leave letter to research report. His analytical ability - a virtue which was enviable to many - was inherited a bit by his students by virtue of being in his association. His perfectionist attitude induced in me the quality of having 'eye for details' in any work that I do. He made me independent and confident human being in my own way.

Being an introvert and not-so-socialising person, I never had any hilarious moments that are worth reporting. Or I do not recall any such incidence now.

I was at IGNOU, New Delhi for a short stint as practicing librarian. It is here I applied what

I learnt. I could convince my superiors there that we need to go for library automation. I am extremely lucky to be a part of teaching faculty of MyDLIS now. When I am teaching many of the concepts that I learnt from my teachers, their

In another anecdote, on looking at one of the assignments that I sincerely submitted, the teacher told me that I have the flavour for writing and asked me to develop that skill. She gave me confidence to write. I salute her. Needless to say that it is my teachers nurtured me during my formative years of my career in LIS.

words would be lingering in my ears. It gives me great amount of satisfaction when I see the lustre in the eyes of the students when I was able to make them understand about a concept. MyDLIS has given me more than what I expected. I wish MyDLIS a great success.

Long live MyDLIS!

"I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it. Now, when I read constantly about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that the door is closing and that American society has found one more way to destroy itself."

Isaac Asimov,

My Days with MyDLIS

Nagaraja S

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I am very proud to say that, I am an alumnus of the MyDLIS and I feel very happy to give my reflections on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of MyDLIS. At the outset, I feel very fortunate to be in the department during 1986 to 1991 as a student of B.L.I.Sc., M.L.I.Sc., Junior Research Fellow and also as a Guest Faculty. I joined MyDLIS in the year 1986 for my Bachelor's Degree in Library Science.

The decision of joining Library and Information Science course was just by chance. Some of my friends motivated me to apply for the library science course and I was very lucky to secure a seat for B.L.I.Sc Course. The course was completely new to many of us and in the beginning it looked very difficult to understand. However, gradually the subjects became very interesting and challenging. In the subsequent years the library science course transformed me from an average student to a very studious rank student. It was the golden period of my academic years, where I learnt many good things, which helped me significantly in the later part of my life.

During my studies, the department had very committed, dedicated, disciplined and knowledgeable faculty members. I am very fortunate to learn library science from the great teachers like Prof. H A Khan, Prof. P K Patil, Prof. B Nagappa, Prof. N B Pangannayya, Prof. Shalini R Urs, Prof. Khaiser Nikkam and Prof. B S Maheswarappa. Their lectures were very lively,

interesting and challenging to me and I would hardly miss any of their classes. I always tried to revisit the scholarly teaching of Library and society paper by Prof. Khan, Library Management by Prof. Nagappa, Information sources by Prof. Pangannayya, Library classification by Prof. Shalini Urs, Documentation Technique and Information services by Prof. Maheshwarappa and Library Cataloguing by Prof. Kaiser Nikkam.

Our batch was so lucky that the semester scheme was replaced with annual examination from the previous batch and so we had sufficient time to prepare for our annual exams. Further, I was selected as the Secretary of MULISSA during the 1986-87 and this enabled me to freely interact with faculty members, seek their advice and guidance to organise activities including Friday talks. It was also a great opportunity to interact with some of my seniors like Dr. N S Harinarayana, Nandadevi, Latha, Kotaiah, Punayavati, Namitha and others who helped and encouraged me to organise various programmes. From the faculty side Prof. Maheshwarappa, was the co-ordinator and under his able guidance the MULISSA students' activities were conducted successfully during 1986-87.

As part of BLISc course, an educational tour was organised to Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Madras. It was a wonderful and thrilling experience for many of us, as it was our first trip outside Karnataka. Some of my active batchmates whom

I can remember now are, Jesudas Manalan, Rame Gowda, Lokesha, Shivashankara, Cheluvaraju, Lohit, and among girls Janaki, Nalini, Brunda, Vidhya, Manjula, Vasantha, Vani P. Rao, and Suvarna. We meticulously planned the tour well in advance under the supervision of Prof. B S Maheswarappa. First, we visited Hyderabad, where we had the opportunity to visit BHEL, ICRISAT, NGRI, British Library, Regional Research Laboratory, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, National Institute of Nutrition, Osmania University and other important libraries of twin cities. We also had an opportunity to visit some important tourist places like Golconda Fort, Birla Temple, Nehru Planetarium, Salar Jung Museum, Charminar and others.

From Hyderabad we travelled to Madras, where we had an opportunity to see the USIS Library, British Council Library, Madras University Library, Connemara Public Library, Central Leather Research Institute Library etc. Our visit to Madras was memorable as we had an opportunity to look at Dr. S R Ranagathan's chamber, his chair, his manuscripts (handwritten library catalogues) in the University library. This visit really helped us to understand the nature and functioning of different types of libraries and in turn motivated us to take more interest in our course. It was really an inspirational and motivational trip and all our batch mates thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great learning experience for me as a students' representative and it actually instilled a lot of interest and confidence in my organising capabilities.

After the successful completion of our BLISc course, It was a dilemma for me, whether to join the MLISc or not. Due to the economic downturn, jobs were becoming scare and there was a total

ban on the recruitments by State and Central governments. We all had very tough time during that period. When I met Prof. Mahaeshwarappa and explained my situation, he explained the merits and convinced me to join MLISc course. My experience as a student of MLISc was totally different and it was full of serious study, preparations and tough competition from classmates. Since all of us are very busy with the course, the whole year went off very fast.

Though the course was completely new to many of us and in the beginning, it looked very difficult to understand. However, gradually the subjects became very interesting and challenging.

For our MLISc practical exams, Prof. D Chandran, from Madurai Kamaraj University, was the external examiner. After the examinations he called me and asked if I would like to join as lecturer at Madurai Kamaraj University. It was a great surprise to me but I was in total confusion and was unable to decide. Prof. N B Pangannayya, came to my help and asked me to apply. My winning the gold medal was really a great achievement for me and that infused lot of confidence to take up teaching assignment.

I accepted the offer from M K University, Madurai. The fundamentals of library science, which I learnt at MyDLIS, came to my help and for this I am so grateful to all my teachers at MyDLIS. My strong foundation of library science, the knowledge gained while teaching library science, added with my continuous hard work helped me to successfully complete my UGC NET for JRF and Lectureship in library science during 1989-90. After that, I completed two academic years at MK University, I joined the MyDLIS as Guest Lecturer during June 1990. During this time all

the teachers were very co-operative and helpful. The atmosphere was very conducive for learning and we had great time with the senior faculty members of the department. All the teachers including senior teachers used to go for dinner in different hotels of Mysore during weekends. So I had good opportunity to taste different cuisines of famous hotels and to know the seniors more closely. I still cherish those wonderful evenings.

Within few months after joining as JRF at MyDLIS, I got an offer from National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT), Nagpur, and since it was a Government job, my well wishers advised me to join the job and do research later. After successfully serving NADT Nagpur for almost a year, I joined Central Silk Board, Bangalore, where I worked for nearly 6 years before joining RIE, NCERT, Mysore as Librarian during 1997.

After returning to Mysore, my interaction with MyDLIS was re-established. It was a home coming for me and I have been very actively participating in all the activities of MyDLIS. I was fortunate to

be a part of the team that worked towards forming 'MyLISA' under the guidance and leadership of Prof. Shalini R Urs. As the founder Secretary, Vice-President, and the President of MyLISA, I served the association wholeheartedly and organised several professional development activities and programmes in collaboration with MyDLIS.

It was a really inspirational and motivational trip and all our batch mates thoroughly fully enjoyed. It was a great learning experience for me as a student's representative and it actually instilled a lot of interest and confidence in my organising capabilities.

I am very much grateful and thankful to all the faculty members of MyDLIS for their continuous support and encouragement for the success of MyLISA. What I am today in this noble profession is because of MyDLIS. MyDLIS gave me everything including my life partner !

Long live MyDLIS !

"What in the world would we do without our libraries?"

Katharine Hepburn

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light or dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

Germaine Greer

MyDLIS Conspired my Career Destiny

Ayesha Taranum

Nexus KIT, Dubai UAE. (ayesha@gmail.com)

“And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

— Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

This memorable line by Paulo Coelho, quite sums up my journey of life. Let me take you through a short ride.

Circa 1995 is when history was created in my life. My aim was clear, to complete Masters at Manasagangotri, a dream destination for every student in Mysore. After B.Sc. in Electronics, the next logical step was M.Sc in Electronics, unfortunately this was offered at the Hassan center, a big no from the family for relocation led me to apply across Departments. Mathematics, Physics, MCA, MBA, English Literature and on the last day of filing the application the Department of Library and Information Science. As luck would have had it, I got a seat everywhere except in MBA and MCA. Now that got me thinking, as to where I should go. All the while I was guided by my mentor and guiding light, my late uncle. He kept pushing me to get into Library Science, promising me a great career ahead. A prophecy which was to come true in the coming years!

With books being love of life, I agreed to get in. Without any clue of what is taught in this course, I took up admission and started my two years. New friends, new subject, new tension, new apprehensions, everything around was new. I generally make friends easily but here I was a little off guard and would always run away

to Department of Statistics to meet my friends. Meanwhile, the academic session started. Prof. Pangannayya, Prof. Nagappa, Prof. Talwar, Dr. Shalini, Prof. Nikkam, Mr. Chandra Shekar, Mr. Venkatesh, Ms. Indira were so welcoming and made the subject as simple as it could be and not to mention interesting and intriguing. I loved spending long hours in the library reading newspapers from around the country, understanding the new subject and experimenting with new knowledge. During these two years, I unlocked a lot of potential within myself. A lot of activities which happened in the Department helped me realize my potential as a Master of Ceremonies(MC). I had a far off wish to take up these roles. MyDLIS brought forth this aspect of me and how.....I became the default MC for most of the events which took place during my stint as a senior in the department. The biggest of them all being the farewell of Prof Nagappa, who was fondly called Anna by all the students, his daughter was our batch-mate and he ended up being dad for all of us.

The felicitation function of Prof Nagappa, was a window to us, the students, to meet the August Alumni of our department. Names we had heard were in front of us and they were such an inspiration for all of us to follow on. At the end of the event, the then VC Prof. M. Madaiah, whose pat on the back at the end of the function saying, “Great job” was such a big thing for a youngster like me. I was floating for a long time after that.

As part of the final year, we went on an All India Tour, Prof. Chandrashekar accompanied us. This

was a wonderful time, 21 days of excitement and exploration. Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Mumbai, Kufri, and Agra were amongst the few places we covered. Apart from being an educational tour, this was also time to get a feel of North India, food and culture included. This was the first time I saw the wonder of world, Taj Mahal....I still cherish that moment. Nothing can recreate those magical moments ever again in life.

Academic year ended with a big bang for me, I topped the course much to my surprise and happiness of my family.

After idling away for a few months, I joined CFTRI as a Project trainee, unfortunately not in the Library. After a few months, I got selected at National Center for Science Information (NCSI) for the trainee course. My joy knew no bounds since I would be under the tutelage of Dr. T B Rajashekar (Late). He was such an inspiration, a person who would weigh his words and whose effect would last on you for a long time to come. I had the fortune of working with him for the next two years and learned so much. Those were the most amazing years of my career.

Through Dr. T B Rajasekar (late) I had the privilege of working at Informatics India started by Mr. N V Sathyanarayana, who has proved that Librarians can be great businessmen. After year and half with these stalwarts I joined Deutsche Software, which later turned to be part of HCL Technologies. Here is where I could put in practice the entire knowledge I gained at the University of Mysore and the Library was a much sought after place in the company. This tenure helped me connect to entire fraternity of librarians across the country. My seniors at the University and NCSI, peers, Professors, teachers, each one left a

huge impact on me. During this time, I also got to attend a lot of conferences and be part of working committees, thanks to Prof. Shalini Urs, Prof. IRN Goudar and many such luminaries.

One of my inherent qualities is to connect and explore new avenues. I love to research and implement and probably this is why I was predestined to be a Library and Information Science student, sifting and scooping for the right

I loved spending long hours in the library reading newspapers from around the country, understanding the new subject and experimenting with new knowledge. During these two years, I unlocked a lot of potential within myself. A lot of activities which happened in the Department help me realize my potential as a Master of Ceremonies (MC).

information which gives the minutest detail is what keeps me going. My life and career has been like those pieces of puzzle which just fell in place as and when they need to get connected. I am so glad I got into this profession, since this helps me to connect to people, quiz them for their liking and help them with what they look for.

One event which keeps coming back to my mind is the inspirational words of Prof. S N Hegde. I very vividly remember an episode at Crawford Hall. This was the interview for the post of Lecturer at the Department. Prof. S N Hegde was the VC, Prof Talwar was the Registrar. After the regular questioning rounds by the panel. Prof Hegde said, you are very young; you are good but, He stopped for a heavily pregnant pause, me being the young and restless said, good but not so good. He was caught off guard. He quickly added saying, no, you need to get some experience, learn the tricks of the trade, gear up to face the professional world. Words of advice which always have remained with me.

Now as an educational entrepreneur based in Dubai UAE, I am helping students choose their career paths. After a wonderful roller coaster ride as an information professional, I feel good to be guiding the youth towards choosing their desired goals and professions. The love for books and my profession keeps pulling me back to my roots.

Every day I thank my luck for making me an information professional and feel blessed to have interacted and worked with stalwarts, most of whom are from my Alma Mater. A proud feeling which only a Mysorean can feel and

know. I wish MyDLIS many many more years to come and may our tribe increase. I take this opportunity to show my gratitude to my Alma Mater for making

Every day I thank my luck for making me an information professional and feel blessed to have interacted and worked with stalwarts, most of who are from my Alma mater. A proud feeling which only a mysorean can feel and know. I wish MyDLIS many many more years to come and may our tribe increase.

me who I am, for unlocking my potential, for letting me figure out who I am.

“In the library I felt better, words you could trust and look at till you understood them, they couldn’t change half way through a sentence like people, so it was easier to spot a lie.”

Jeanette Winterson

“I couldn’t live a week without a private library - indeed, I’d part with all my furniture and squat and sleep on the floor before I’d let go of the 1500 or so books I possess.”

H.P. Lovecraft

“If television’s a babysitter, the Internet is a drunk librarian who won’t shut up.”

Dorothy Gambrell

My Ever Lasting Memories with MyDLIS

Dinesh K S

Deputy Librarian, IIT Roopar, Punjab. (dinesh@iitrpr.ac.in)

I have pleasant memories of my student days at the department of Library and Information Science, which is now acronymed as MyDLIS. After a brief work experience, I joined the department as part time research scholar. I enjoyed more as a PG student, because then we were all a nice bunch of students. I got admitted to MLISc without any future aspiration but just to do a PG. We were a total strength of 24 students, mostly coming from in and around Mysore; few of them from other districts including me and one from Tamil Nadu.

During the first week, I came to know that majority of the classmates had opted library science by chance not by choice. After hearing from them, I too realized the same. I presumed that throughout my two years of PG, I was not serious at studies. Mostly I would be in and out of the class, engaged in chatting with friends; roaming in the library premises; posing like studying hard. But I was sincere at collecting and photocopying notes from my classmates. Mr. Vinay was real store of study materials/notes. Everyone used to be after him to collect and xerox notes.

How can I forget the days I spent with Sathya, Ronald and Umesh. Sathya was my roommate in the new PG in second year. He was an excellent cook and bibliophile. The times spent with Ronald were unforgettable. He was inspiration for me. I can still recall the melodious songs of Rangaswamy & Sivamadaiah who were regular singers on all occasions of the department. For me Sunil and Anil

used to appear as visitors. I think I was too shy to make friends with female classmates. They seemed to be a bit serious. Mohan was a serious student, unfortunately he is no more.

We had amazing teachers. For instance Prof. Nagappa was down to earth; Prof. Khaiser Nikam was intellectual and motivating;

Throughout my two years of PG, I was not serious at studies. Mostly I would be in and out of the class, engaged in chatting with friends; roaming in the library premises; posing like studying hard. But I was sincere at collecting and photocopying notes from my classmates

Prof. Talawar was simple and well conversant with library management; Prof. Shalini Urs used to deliver expert IT classes; Prof. Pangannayya Information Storage & Retrieval was exemplary; Prof. Chandrashekar was master in DDC; Dr. Venkatesh was good in Information, Communication & Society.

My five years of PhD time in the department was really fantastic and splendid. After enrolling myself for a PhD, I repented as to why I missed doing dissertation at PG. My guide Prof. Khiaser Nikam was meticulous at work and a perfectionist; she took all the pain to transform me as a doctorate in Library Science. I can proudly mention that because my PhD work was done under the supervision of Prof. Khaiser, Currently, I am working at IIT Roopar. Now I am trying to bridge the gap between the theoretical aspects of library science and the current requirement of academic libraries.

My heartfelt thanks to all at MyDLIS who have contributed for my success. I take this opportunity

to wish my department, the very best in this mile stone event. I hope and wish all the alumnus support the Alma Mater untiringly.

"I had found my religion: nothing seemed more important to me than a book. I saw the library as a temple."

Jean-Paul Sartre,

"A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants: demagogues can persecute writers and tell them what to write as much as they like, but they cannot vanish what has been written in the past, though they try often enough...People who love literature have at least part of their minds immune from indoctrination. If you read, you can learn to think for yourself."

Doris Lessing

"Few pleasures, for the true reader, rival the pleasure of browsing unhurriedly among books: old books, new books, library books, other people's books, one's own books - it does not matter whose or where. Simply to be among books, glancing at one here, reading a page from one over there, enjoying them all as objects to be touched, looked at, even smelt, is a deep satisfaction. And often, very often, while browsing haphazardly, looking for nothing in particular, you pick up a volume that suddenly excites you, and you know that this one of all the others you must read. Those are great moments - and the books we come across like that are often the most memorable."

Aidan Chambers

Good Friends are Always close to the Heart!

Sheba Jesudass

Assistant Manager, Information Resource Centre, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai.
(sheba.j@tcs.com)

One fine morning on a bright sunny day of the year 1996... at Mysore...

I was weeping holding my brother's hand....Yes that was the first day I began my life all alone in a new place with a new set of people. My brother consoled me and made me enter a large, spacious class room of 1stYear MLISc. I saw few boys and girls seated in the room. My brother was making signs, asking me to sit next to a girl who was sitting all alone in a row. I looked at her. She looked so pretty yet so proud. I felt reluctant and uncomfortable going close to her and so chose to sit with others. Tears filled my eyes with the very thought that my brother would leave me and go home far away. Everyone in the class room started introducing each other and was talking in Kannada which I could not understand at that time.

LIS department professors came in, wished us and made us introduce ourselves to each other. I was least bothered to know the name of the girl with whom I never wanted to be connected. I had planned to make many friends and was trying to figure out who could be a good friend. Almost every girl in the class spoke very cheerfully and I felt reassured that I would be able to make new friends among them. After an hour we were asked to go around the campus. I followed everyone and all of us in the class, both boys and girls, sat under a pleasant tree. Only that girl, who I was uncomfortable about, left the class and we got to

know that she went home. This convinced me that she was not sociable.

Two days passed by, I started talking to everyone in the class. All my classmates were very jovial and affectionate and they made me feel very comfortable because I was the odd one out, knowing neither Kannada nor Hindi. In the first class of Prof. B. Nagappa, he called out my

In first class Prof. B Nagappa, called out my first name LISA and told me your name is the abbreviation of Library and Information Science Abstract.

first name LISA and told me your name is the abbreviation of Library and Information Science Abstract. That moment I looked at that girl big headedly, as if I had conquered her proud attitude, and thought that I had made her less arrogant. But that afternoon, when everyone was moving out for lunch she asked me, 'Sheba, shall I join you for lunch at your hostel?' I was quite surprised but reluctantly agreed to take her along with me. She came to my hostel room and saw my lunch. She spoke little about her family and instead enquired about my family and native. The next day after this meet, I had a surprise waiting for me. She got nice non-vegetarian food from home sent by her mom especially for me. I felt so ashamed of myself and realized the meaning of 'eye of the beholder'. It was then that I felt how caring she was. Yes, by now all my classmates who read this would have guessed the name of that beautiful yet bold girl -

‘Salma’. Since then I started believing she is a God given gift to me.

She took me to her house, ensured I ate good food, and safeguarded me always. She always monitored my whereabouts. She used to visit my hostel at least once, even during weekends just to give me hot homemade food. We were found together almost everywhere. If by chance Dr. N B Pangannayya happened to see me alone, he would immediately ask, ‘where is your mom ‘Salma’?’ She stood by me at all times of happiness, victories, trials and hardships. We exchanged books, study materials, and went together for all interviews.

Under the University Librarian Dr. Achyutha Rao’s guidance we worked at the University Library for a few months on a project. Prof. Pangannayya helped us both get that project then. We were both chosen by American Library, Chennai as trainees. Our times of happiness, joyous moments, our travel together to my home town, and stay at

Chennai in a hostel are nostalgic. Finally we took two roads: I chose to work in Chennai and Salma at the Mysore Zoo Library. She was a bridge between me and my guide Dr. Pangannayya while completing my M.Phil. Dissertation. She used to promptly get his signatures and corrections and convey them over phone and by mail. Now I hold an MPhil, I

If by chance Dr. N B Pangannayya happened to see me alone, he would immediately ask, ‘where is your mom ‘Salma’?’ She stood by me at all times of happiness, victories, trials and hardships.

can ride a two wheeler; speak fluently in Kannada - all because of her! Though almost a decade has gone by everyone knows I have a friend very close to my heart though she is miles apart. I happen to have settled in Chennai and Salma in Dubai. At any stage of my life I can boldly and loudly say Salma is one of the best friends I have ever had. I take this opportunity to thank our department for the opportunity given to reconnect with such wonderful friends again via MILAN.

“The old man was peering intently at the shelves. ‘I’ll have to admit that he’s a very competent scholar.’

Isn’t he just a librarian?” Garion asked, ‘somebody who looks after books?’

That’s where all the rest of scholarship starts, Garion. All the books in the world won’t help you if they’re just piled up in a heap.”

David Eddings

Between Cricket and MyDLIS

Sunil M V

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Time has gone by very fast. I cannot even imagine that 18 years have passed after the completion of my Masters from MyDLIS. In Gangotri, most of my class hours and evenings were spent at 'Downs Tea Canteen' or 'Gangotri Canteen', with my Yuvaraja's College batch mates who were from Life Science departments. This made me pay 'attendance shortage fine' successively for two years.

As is the case for most MILANers for me too it was a 'by chance' entry to the LIS course and not 'by choice'. I was not aware that such a course existed in the Master's Level until my friend Subbi (Subramani, our alumnus, friend) told me that 'Maga, it is very easy course, need not study too much. You need common sense to get first class in this degree'. I passed out with a first class. Thanks to my teacher Prof. Shalini R. Urs (SRU has taught us many things, she did not just deliver lectures) for giving me permission to appear for the examination in Second Year. That "conditional permission" (not mere permission but a serious warning from my teacher to take the profession seriously) made me take up librarianship as my profession.

Being an ardent cricket fan, I would like to use the metaphor to describe the teachings of my teachers. Facing their teaching was like facing a bowler. The *Yorker* was used by Prof. VG Talawar and *slow delivery* by Prof. N B Pangannayya. Prof. Y Venkatesha used the *Malinga style*, Prof. Nagappaa *medium pace*,

Prof. M Chandrashekara *spin*, Prof. Khaizer Nikam *bouncers* and *Googly* by others. My friend Shivaram used to say 'Anna, for all questions, you start with Ranganathan's five laws and end with ICT implementation in library services'.



The most unforgettable moment of my student life at MyDLIS was at the 'Manasa Exhibition'. The exhibition made the entire batch to work as a team. Prof. NBP's calm instructions "*swalpa nodi... Chandrashekar swalpa help madi... thind tarsuva... thinuva...*" Prof. YV's memorable

I was not aware that such a course existed in the Master's level until my friend Subbi (Subramani, our alumnus, friend) told me that 'Maga, it is very easy course, need not to study too much. You need common sense to get first class in this degree'

discussion "*No baba... Happy Monday... What baba, no Englisha...Fridge inside the cockroach*" and Prof. VGT's (I don't know whether it was request or set of instructions) "*yenri marayare bega kelasa mugsu...VC barthare...*" and above all, imitation of faculty members by Sheba Rani,

Srilakshmi, Savitha, Salma, Ronald, Sathya, Umesh were superb.

We had a Dr. SRR in our batch also; it is none other than Vinay. He was the key source of information for all the 'xeroxed' material, class notes and very important for the examination. Not only studious but also very courteous. The timely Kannada dialogues by Shivaram, Mallikarjuna, Dinesh, Mahadevaswamy during class hours were the light moments we enjoyed.

As experienced by many MLISc degree holders, I was totally blank and was not aware of what to do next. When I asked Mr. Kumar (research scholar), he guided me to take up the apprenticeship program at IIMB Library. I learnt about library management from my teacher and alumnus of MyDLIS, Sri Chikkamalliah, Former Librarian, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIMB). But the teacher who moulded my professional life is Dr. N S Harinarayana, a guide, friend, well-wisher, professional and a good mentor. NSH is the "Key Reference" for whatever I am today.

My learning with MyDLIS continued even after joining SDM Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD) as a librarian. I was fortunate enough to be associated (directly and indirectly) with the department in IEEE research study, MyDLIS 40th Year

I was fortunate enough to be associated (directly and indirectly) with the department in IEEE research study, MyDLIS 40th Year Celebration, COLLNET and most importantly with MyLISA, which is having its secretariat at MyDLIS

Celebration, COLLNET and most importantly with MyLISA, which is having its secretariat at MyDLIS. The involvement made my professional life more meaningful and relaxed.

"No matter how much time passes, no matter what takes place in the interim, there are some things we can never assign to oblivion, memories we can never rub away" -- said Haruki Murakami. Yes, even after 18 years, no matter if we have completed 16 years of our professional life; there are some captive memories of MyDLIS and our teachers which we can never rub away.

"It has long been my belief that everyone's library contains an Odd Shelf. On this shelf rests a small, mysterious corpus of volumes whose subject matter is completely unrelated to the rest of the library, yet which, upon closer inspection, reveals a good deal about its owner."

Anne Fadiman

Balancing Sports and Studies: Memories of MyMLISc Days

Madhu K S

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“There are moments when I wish I could roll back the clock and take all the sadness away, but I have the feeling that if I did, the joy would be gone as well.” — Nicholas Sparks, A Walk to Remember

At the outset, I must admit that I joined Master of Library and Information Science (MLISc) not by choice but by chance. I was more into sports (cricket) and even wanted to pursue my career in the game. But that did not happen. One of my cricket teammate’s elder brother was pursuing MLISc and he suggested the course to me and said that I can get a job very easily. I now realize that it was indeed really good to have friends who had experience in the field of Library Science.

During MLISc I was not studious but I was good at pretending to be very intelligent by sitting in the front row all the time and attempting to answer the questions asked by professors! But this did not last for long. When the Department conducted the first test for freshers after one month, I stood sixteenth out of twenty six students. It was quite disappointing since our seniors had told us that whoever comes first in this test will also go onto get the gold medal in the final exam. The result of this first test was quite strange also because the top 5 positions were all taken by girls! However, I did not give up hope and started concentrating as I already stopped fantasizing about a career in cricket.

But then how could I forget cricket as I got my seat through sports quota and so I had to represent the University and Post Graduate team. Well we had a very good college and university team and we always

ended up either as the winners or runners up in finals. So I was spending most of my PG days in the cricket field or travelling to play matches. Till today I think 1999 - 2000 batch holds the record of winning 5 inter-department tennis ball cricket tournaments in the history of our department. I hope our tennis ball cricket team photo is still there on the department class room wall.

What I am today is because of my teachers, my seniors and my classmates. They have always encouraged me to do well in sports. Even my teachers helped me to get a sports scholarship. Since I was representing PG and the University Team, attendance for classes was never an issue. However, I never missed my classes except during the match days. I still remember ours was the first batch to get a computer lab. We were so enthusiastic we used to sit next to each other and send greetings to one and all. In the year 2000, library automation was a very big thing.



Thanks to our University and Department they were able to provide us with computers so that we could be well versed in the science of library automation.

There were 25 students and we used to help each other in collecting and preparing notes. This warmth and togetherness was under threat when the time came for elections. There were lot of groups and inter-group rivalries and even violence. Luckily I was away playing cricket matches during that time! Thankfully, once the election got over we forgot everything and moved on as before.

I used to miss a lot of practical sessions, especially of classification and cataloguing in the first year. But my classmates were very helpful by not only in lending me their notes, but also taking time off to teach me some of these essential skills.

One of the biggest events of our Batch was the 15-day Study Tour. We are forever thankful to our Professor Malinath Kumbar who made this happen. I still remember everyone was so excited to go for that tour and many of my friends' parents came to the railway station to see them off since it was their first trip. I saw everyone carrying 3 to 4 pieces of baggage since it was a long trip. I used to travel a lot for cricket and had good experience of luggage one should carry. I actually carried 2 pairs of jeans and a few t-shirts. I still recall that everyone was worried about me because I reached the railway station just when the train was about to leave. When I reached the platform the whole group of parents started staring at me and started shooting questions. When the train was about to leave, a few of my class girls even asked me -- where is your luggage?! To their surprise I said it's

with me! To that they replied 'only 2 small bags'? I told them since we were going to New Delhi I would buy clothes there, as it would be cheaper! I believe they were quite impressed with my sense of budget shopping!!

Till today I think 1999 - 2000 batch holds the record of winning 5 inter-department tennis ball cricket tournaments in the history of our department.

We went first to Hyderabad where we visited University of Hyderabad which was famous for library automation and then the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) which was a special library. Then we travelled to Delhi. There we visited Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), British Library and American Central Library. Apart from the study tour we also visited few pilgrimage / tourist places like Haridwar, Rishikesh, Agra, Mathura etc. We had a wonderful time in New Delhi, especially while shopping as most of my classmates were weak in Hindi. I still remember one incident. One of the girls was asking a sweater vendor to pack 3 sweaters, and she managed to convey that by mixing Kannada, English and Hindi in one sentence - *Mure* (three in Kannada) *piece* (English) *dhe* (give in Hindi)! Someone has rightly said that women love shopping. Our class girls did so much shopping and finally they made the boys carry all their extra luggage! The tour ended with an amusing but a painful incident when our Professor got bitten by a monkey in Haridwar!

After the tour, we were soon preparing for our final exams. The dates got announced and the exam fees had to be paid. Our parents had



Class of MLISc 2000 in front of Taj Mahal during the Study Tour

already spent so much money on our study tour and many of us were scared to ask more. Luckily Prof. Kumbar asked us to assemble in our class and he announced that there was some money left from our study tour and he would distribute that among us equally. The amount was enough to pay our examination fees.

Before the exams, the first year students gave us a warm farewell since we had welcomed them to the Department. This is indeed a nice tradition and I hope it continues... The farewell was significant also because few of our class girls had got married even before the exams!! Exams were about to start but we were still busy writing autographs and exchanging our postal address and emails.

One sad thing which hurts me even today is that we had planned to give a warm farewell to one of our senior professors, but it could not be done. In fact

he invited us for dinner and wished us for our bright future. We reciprocated by presenting a memento, but I still regret that we did not organize a farewell.

The dates got announced and the exam fees had to be paid. Our parents had already spent so much money on our study tour and many of us were scared to ask more. Luckily Prof. Kumbar asked us to assemble in our class and he announced that there was some money left from our study tour and he would distribute that among us equally. The amount was enough to pay our examination fees.

Finally exams got over, results came and not surprisingly all the gold medals went to girls. Some of us thought that we should have been more serious while taking the class tests in the beginning of the course. However, we have now realized that life has so much more to offer than just doing well in exams! Nothing matches the exuberance with which every day I look forward to learning something new in the Library!

My Reminiscence of MyDLIS Days

Manju Naika

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When I was doing my graduation at Maharaja College, Mysore, I used to come to Manasagangotri campus occasionally with my seniors. Those visits attracted me to study at Gangotri Campus after seeing that beautiful campus greenery with various plants/trees, cool weather surrounding academic departments and Downs Canteen etc. During school days my ambition was to become a teacher but due to some reasons I could not get admission to any teacher training courses. Since library science is related to the education sector, after my graduation in commerce I joined MLISc programme at MyDLIS in 2001. MyDLIS introduced the first new semester scheme of MLISc with revised curriculum based on industrial needs in 2001. My first few days at MyDLIS were horrible as all library science papers were completely new subjects not only to me, but also to many of my classmates as well. We did not have any basic knowledge of Library Science prior to joining this course. In the beginning I was irregular to the classes as well. In each semester we had to submit five assignments; prepare for five tests, submit some homework assignments and take final exams for five papers during four months period. Not able to cope with this tough semester schedule I was toying with the idea of quitting the course!

MyDLIS used to organize Friday Talk and some special invited talks on other days given by guests. One of my most favorite events was to attend the Friday Talk which inspired the

students to think out of the box and look at things from a different angle. Students are students, whether they are KG students or PG students. That is the age we do not know what is right

and wrong and enjoyed the thrill of breaking class rules and regulations. I still remember how a few of us used to bunk the classes, submitted photo copies as assignments, and switch off the main power supply to the classrooms in order to stop power point presentation of student seminars. My most memorable days at MyDLIS were my seminar days where I received best compliments from my classmates, seniors and teachers for my best presentation. Another most memorable day for all our classmates was a day in 4th semester when Prof. Shalini hosted high-tea party for our entire



Another most memorable day in many of my classmates was one day in 4th semester when Prof. Shalini madam, provided high tea party for our entire class she was one of the toughest teachers at MyDLIS, it was very difficult to satisfy such a teacher as she expected highest perfections and standards in whatever we did

class. She was one of the toughest teachers at MyDLIS, it was very difficult to satisfy such a teacher as she expected highest standards and

perfection in whatever we did. Our entire class received complements for this from our seniors and teachers for the honour of getting a tea party hosted by such a teacher. That day we realized that it seems to be at 4th semester we have reached a certain standard which Prof. Shalini expected from us.

Prof. V G Talwar, Chairman and Professor who is a very simple and down to earth person, soft-spoken was my beloved teacher and mentor. His advice, lecture and his reference made tremendous positive impact on my life. I am very proud about the fact that personality like Prof. V G Talwar and Prof. Shalini R Urs were my teachers. Teaching methods of Prof. Harinarayana, and Prof. Indira B C were excellent who were teaching Information Technology and Knowledge Organization papers in a very simple way. I also remember the discussions and classes of Prof. Mallinath Kumbhar, Prof. M Chandrashekar, Prof. Kaiser Nikam, and Prof. Venkatesh who were very friendly with all of us. Two supporting Staff, Mr. Purushotham and Mr. Allam were really helpful and supportive of students.

After MLISc from MyDLIS I worked in Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore as a Resource Person, and then served as an Assistant Officer at VTLS software Pvt Ltd. Currently I am working as Assistant Librarian at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

I realized that it is not only a certificate to get job rather its transformation of students into responsible citizen of the society. I appreciate the efforts of MyDLIS teacher's dedication and their perseverance for preparing the best library science graduates in India.

I assumed that MyDLIS trains students just to get a Librarian job. Now I realize that it is not only a certificate to get job but also a transformation of students into responsible citizens of the society. I appreciate the efforts, dedication and perseverance of MyDLIS teachers in preparing the best library science graduates in India.

I treasure every moment I have spent at MyDLIS, and remember my teachers and friends who made MyDLIS days memorable.

"We can imagine the books we'd like to read, even if they have not yet been written, and we can imagine libraries full of books we would like to possess, even if they are well beyond our reach, because we enjoy dreaming up a library that reflects every one of our interests and every one of our foibles--a library that, in its variety and complexity, fully reflects the reader we are."

Alberto Manguel

MYDLIS ನಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ನೆನಪುಗಳು



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MYDLIS ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿಯ ಕೊನೆಯ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳು ಕೆಲವೇ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಜೀವನ ಮುಗಿದು ಬಿಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ಭಾರವಾದ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ DLISಗೆ ಗುಡ್‌ಬೈ ಹೇಳೋದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. Juniors ನಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಶುಭ ಹಾರೈಸುವ ಆ ಸಂದರ್ಭ ಬಂದೇ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿತು. ಇವೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಭಾವನಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡ ಎಂದೂ ಅಳಿಸದ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ನೆನಪುಗಳು.

* * * * *

MYDLIS ನಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ 2003-05ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ಜೀವನದ ಅನುಭವಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿಂಹಾವಲೋಕನ ಮಾಡಿದಾಗ, ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಅಪರಿಚಿತರೇ. ಡಿಗ್ರಿ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಬಂದ ಯುವ ಮನಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನಸ ಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಒಂಥರಾ ಮೋಜು. ಯುವ ಹಕ್ಕಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಹಾರಾಡುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ, ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ಸು ಸಾಧಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯಿಂದ 2003 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲು ಏರಿದ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳು. ಅಬ್ಬಾ! ಎಷ್ಟು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಸ್. ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಒಂದೇ ತರಹದ ಮನಸ್ಸು, ಒಂದೇ ತರಹದ ಭಾವನೆ. ಹೊಸ ಕೋರ್ಸ್, ಹೊಸ ವಿಷಯಗಳು, ಹೊಸ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು. ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಹೊಸದು. ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಏನೋ ಹುರುಪು. ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಖುಷಿ, ಭರವಸೆ, ಉತ್ಸಾಹ, ಧೈರ್ಯ. ಹೊಸ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರ ಪರಿಚಯ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸೀನಿಯರ್ಸ್!

ಇವರು ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಾದ

ನಮಗೆ ನಾಯಕ-ನಾಯಕಿಯರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರು. ಕಿರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಾದ ನಮಗೆ ಇವರನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸುವ ಧೈರ್ಯವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ಇರಲು ಮನಸ್ಸಿಲ್ಲ. ಸೀನಿಯರ್ಸ್ ಹೇಳಿದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲೇ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕು. ಜೊತೆಗೆ Seniors ಮತ್ತು Juniors ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಒಂದೇ ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆ ಬರುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ, ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಒಂದೊಂದು ವಿಷಯ ಚೂರು ಚೂರಾಗಿ ಓದಿ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯೇ ಬಂತು. ಅಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಗಿದಿತ್ತು.

ನೋಡು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹಾಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ವರ್ಷ ಬಂತು. ಈಗ ನಾವು Seniors ಆದೇವು ಎಂಬ ಗತ್ತು ಬೇರೆ ಬಂತು. ಅಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಸೈನ್ಯ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಅವರಿಗೆ ನಾವು ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡೆಲ್ ಆಗಿದ್ದೇವು.

ವಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಆರು ದಿನ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್. ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಬರುವ ಮೊದಲೇ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. DDC & UDC ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟಿಕಲ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್, ನಂತರ ಸಂಜೆ Round-Canteen ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರ ಜೊತೆ ಹರಟೆ, ನಂತರ ಜಾಲಿಯಾಗಿರೋಣವೆಂದರೆ ಬಿಡದ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್‌ಗಳು, ಅಸೈನ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳು, Presentation ಗಳು ಮತ್ತು Final Project. ನೋಡು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹಾಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ವರ್ಷ ಮುಗಿದೆ ಹೋಗಿತ್ತು. ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷ ಕಳೆದದ್ದೇ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

DLIS ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳು ನೆನಪು ಮಾತ್ರ ಅಂತ ಯೋಚಿಸಲು ಬೇಜಾರಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನೀನು ಆ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಮಾಡೇ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀಯಾ ಅಂತ ಬೆನ್ನು ತಟ್ಟಿ ನನ್ನನ್ನೂ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸಿದ ನನ್ನ ಗೆಳೆಯರು, ಮುಂದೆ ಗುರಿ ಇರಬೇಕು ಹಿಂದೆ ಗುರು ಇರಬೇಕು ಎಂಬಂತೆ ನನಗೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕ ಗುರುವೃಂದವನ್ನು ಮರೆಯಲಾಗದು. King ಆಗ ಬಯಸದೆ King Maker ಗಳಾಗಿ ಎಲೆ ಮರೆಯ ಕಾಯಿಯಂತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯನ್ನೂ ಗುರುತಿಸಿ, ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣ ಮನುಷ್ಯರನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿದ ನಮ್ಮ ಗುರುಗಳು ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ Great.

MYDLIS ಈಗ 50 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. 2003-2005 ನೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಶುಭಾಷಯವನ್ನು ಕೋರುತ್ತೇನೆ.

My Days at MyDLIS: Two Reflections

Vasanth Raju N

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Classes that Foretold the Future of Information

My admission to MLISc is accidental, just like many of my classmates. But in the beginning, the interdisciplinary nature of the subjects aroused some interest in me. The Foundation to Information Science classes (in the first semester) handled by Prof. Shalini Urs was very stimulating as she was bringing her rich experience to juxtapose literature, information science, library science and other subjects to make us understand the nature of information from an interdisciplinary perspective.

We were introduced to Derek deSolla Price's "Little Science, Big Science", J C R Licklider's "Libraries of the Future" and Englebart's idea of world encyclopaedia kind of classic works to understand the changing nature of the availability of information (analog to digital) and also the changing nature of the container of information.

We were also told about SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), BioOne (a non-profit publisher that aims to make scientific research more accessible) and ArXiv, one of the early open archive initiatives, which later revolutionized the scholarly communication models. We were lucky to be introduced to new concepts, latest developments and cutting edge technologies in our field early in the formative stage of their evolution

The Information Retrieval (third semester) and Information Society (fourth semester) both papers handled by Ms. Indira was also stimulating because she also introduced us to read non-fiction

works such as Third Wave, The Future Shock written by Alvin Toffler, Peter Drucker's works on Knowledge industry, Vannevar Bush's classic article "As We May Think" which shaped the world of today's information retrieval techniques. Apart from this, there was encouragement for questions, comments and discussions.

Unicode (encoding system for representing different language in computers) was introduced for us way back in 2002. It took us sometime to understand the concept. Now we realized the importance of Unicode for interoperable purpose and representing vernacular language in



What I am trying to reflect here is that the syllabus was ahead of its time. We were always exposed to new concepts and technologies that influence library and information science

all kinds of gadgets. Dr. N S Harinarayana used to demonstrate to us how Kannada script can be represented in computers.

What I am trying to reflect here is that the syllabus was ahead of its time. We were always exposed to new concepts and technologies that influence library and information science. This equipped us to understand the changing world of information.

The Accident that I cannot forget

It was in our last semester that our class decided to take a two-day trip in Coastal Karnataka to make our student days memorable. All of us except one or two classmates decided to take the trip in Feb 2004. It was well planned with Pradeep Kumar U.M. taking all the responsibilities for travel arrangements.

We set off on the night of 14th February 2004. All was fine until the early hours of the morning at 5.00 AM on that fateful day. We met with a terrible accident near Sulya. Passers-by thought that there were some serious casualties. It took sometime for us to understand what had happened. We were thrown out of our seats, the front glass and windowpanes of the vehicle were broken into pieces. We slowly tried to come to terms with the accident. Some of us got injured but fortunately none was very serious. We still wonder how on earth we were able to escape such a horrific incident with only minor injuries. With pain and some kind of dejection we walked towards the Sulya Bus stand. Murgesh was looking for the vehicle driver and his assistant. They had escaped from the spot immediately and were nowhere to be seen.

The girls were in agony and busy contacting their families. Some wanted to return to Mysore soon.

We got treated in one of the private hospitals in Sulya. There was complete gloom while we looked at each other wondering what to do next. Local people in Sulya who had seen the damaged vehicle started to flock at the bus stand to see us.

Finally we decided to hire another vehicle and continued the trip although some of us were reluctant. The fear was there in all our faces. We had wild thoughts - "what if we meet a similar fate"? Fortunately the driver seemed to be

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experienced and assured us a safe journey. On the evening of 15th Feb we were in Kapu Beach in Udupi. The time was right. It was twilight and a very soothing environment. All of us got back the energy we had lost in the morning and went swimming in the sea.

We all had a very joyful evening and totally forgot the incident. We stayed in Udupi and visited Sringeri and Belur the next day and safely reached Mysore on the 16th evening.

Till date except my classmates (2002-2004) and few junior students (2003-2004) no faculty in the Department knew of this incident and in fact they did not even know that we had gone for a trip without the permission of the Chairman of the Department!

Transformation of an average student into a thorough professional: My journey

Srinivas P S

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"Books alone are liberal and free; they give to all who ask; they emancipate all who serve them faithfully."

A note in Library @ Los Angeles

Pre LIS days:

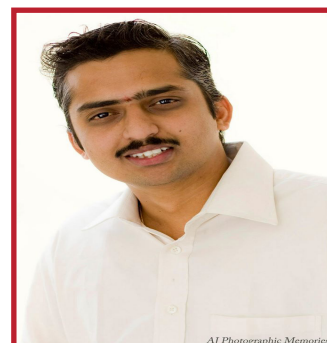
Srinivas is an energetic, helpful, talkative and easy going kind of person who completed his bachelors from Yuvaraja's College of Mysore and wanted to pursue Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Mysore. Unfortunately it did not materialize due to his amazing scores in his bachelors and CET. As per his opinion, joining Library and Information Science (LIS) is the last option for students who do not get seats in the disciplines of their interest. He joined LIS course after failing to get a seat in MSW.

First Day in LIS:

June 16, 2003, if I recall correctly, Professor V.G. Talwar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mysore introduced him to the field of LIS fundamentals through Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 21 Edition) at 2:00 PM and completed at 7:00 PM. That day he never forgot because he realized the beauty, struggle, future, success, excellence of LIS. He had not anticipated that on day one Prof. VGT would conduct such an extensive, elaborative class on classification.

Fundamentals:

Faculties introduced him to fundamentals of Information Science, information resources, information technology and content management (CM) which became his favourite field. But back then he was not aware that his future career would be on CMS, KMS and records management related fields in multi-national companies (MNC) in India and USA.



Seminars: lesson learnt

As he was a fearless and talkative person, presenting seminars using OCR sheets was fun and not that difficult during the course. However every individual at times becomes over confident and commits mistakes. He was also punished to present a second time on synchronization and non-synchronization in the 2nd semester.

Early exposure to cataloguing @ Rangayana library, Mysore -

Mentors: He was aware that the role of mentors is the most vital part in one's career. He considered Dr. N S Harinarayana as his mentor and took his guidance at all times who gave him

an opportunity to do cataloguing in real time at Rangayana Library, Mysore for two months during his 3rd Semester.

Dr. N S Harinarayana was the one who provided the stepping stone for his journey into the corporate sector by referring him to i2 Technologies - a supply chain management firm (JDA acquired i2 Technologies) for a Librarian's position after 4th semester.

A friend in need is a friend indeed:

In his inner soul somewhere he was passionate about working in corporate sectors rather than in academics and he realized that one must learn to speak good English to get into the corporate sector. Someone rightly said "a friend in need is a friend indeed" - Monica Sharma a batch mate who could not speak the regional language became a good friend in a short time and he started speaking in English with her for the first time in his life time and she supported him by correcting him at all the time.

Post LIS days:

He joined as Librarian at Sri Lakshmi Hayagreva College, Mysore before completing the 4th semester examination. He set up the library and increased the size of resources from 400 to 1000 in less than three months. Post this he got an offer from i2 Technologies to set up a library. He commemorates the day he approached his mentor and as well as Prof. Shalini R Urs to take a final call on accepting the offer. Prof. Shalini R Urs said *"This is the age you can take a risk. Accept it and explore the world"*.

Later, as he realized that contract employees cannot avail all benefits offered by a company to its regulars, he started exploring the field of Knowledge Management and got an offer from a pharmaceutical firm called Pharm ARC Analytic. After working for two years in pharmaceutical firm, he moved to one of the Big four auditing firms of the world - Deloitte in the Records Management division in Hyderabad. He has received a number of awards and recognition from the leadership of Deloitte for his contributions throughout his career of eight years in the firm.

Someone rightly said "a friend in need is a friend indeed" - Monica Sharma a batch mate who could not speak the regional language become a good friend in a short time and he started speaking in English with her for the first time in his life time and she supported him by correcting him at all times.

Currently he is working at Capgemini, Bangalore providing support in the telecom sector as a Project Management Professional (PMP) for a group of 350 professionals.

Epilogue:

Throughout his journey, one can see all his roles were managerial and that is what he learnt in LIS - fundamentals of information, resource, technology, content, and knowledge and records management.

Hats off and a big thank you to the Department of Library and Information Science faculty for giving us a great and bright future.

My Memories are the Library of My Life

Pramodini B

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Life has changed dramatically over the years, from childhood to school, from school to college, college to university and finally to the profession. But we still have a thousand miles to walk. We have always believed that our life is synchronized and we have stepped slowly into the pages which have been pre written and we just need to put our feet in those shoes. We open our eyes facing a beautiful world staring in our parents' eyes... and in no time we realize that plenty of expectations have already been drawn, though we were too young to feel the heat.

We grew up with all the fun and peace that one can have, smiling for every moment we lived, sometimes crying, someone trying hard to keep us quiet. And we did not realize when that age came that made us tall enough to gear up for our university life. We walked there as a learner, things changed and we came to know what this world is all about. A phase when we were taught, learning we enjoyed... a time that now resides deep down in our memories.

My degree gave me an opportunity to rebuild my life when I thought it had fallen apart, I came to the department from slightly unusual circumstances as I wanted to do something else. I am still grateful that the department considered my application, even though my undergraduate qualifications marks

of average differed slightly from those of a standard candidate.

On my first visit to the Department of library and Information Science I was immediately struck by the warmth and frankness of the department," All the academics spoke with such a compelling enthusiasm for Library Science and sense of discovery in their work. It was clear that each student was an individual there. The knowledge, guidance and encouragement offered by teachers has been so valuable, everyone I encountered has been incredibly supportive, intellectually and personally.



The most difficult and painful situation was farewell time, a big bye bye to the friends and the university. I remember all of us cried including the boys on the last day in front of the library.

I joined the Department in 2004 and we were about 34 students out of which eleven were girls. I stepped into the department having plenty of things in mind, feeling uncomfortable at the beginning and that's the time where I just met

few friends. Many glimpses of university life flash -- those small fights with friends, lovely short conversations with my four best friends Manjula, Bhavya, Rekha and Swapna, sitting in the periodical section getting ready for semester exams, getting ready for seminars, sitting in the Kannada library section and writing records, making noise and fun in the computer lab, waiting for bus number 129 and 130 to reach home, sitting in front of the library and seeing all other department students coming to the library - commenting on their walk, dress, hair style etc., taking a small walk to eat our favourite churmuri which was near the girls hostel, and plenty of discussions with friends. I regret not bunking the classes, going for movies and not going round to the canteen. The most difficult and painful situation was farewell time, a big bye-bye to the friends and the university. I remember all of us cried including the boys on the last day in front of the library. I really miss you all.

Coming to our beloved teachers I remember our first class was engaged by Y V sir. I felt it was a free laughing class for the students. M C sir's favourite word "so" can never be forgotten and the way he used to stand behind the podium and we could see only his head. N S H sir though he looked very soft spoken I always felt each of his words came out like a missiles. M K sir always confused me as to who he was exactly looking at. V G T sir, I felt, should have been a doctor as we never understood his writing. K N madam's laugh can not be imitated by any one "ha haha" and

coming to SRU madam - she always made us felt we are in some foreign university because of her vocabulary.

The diversity of the department's methods of teaching is a vital part of its success. It also helped me to bloom as a very beautiful flower as I scored very good marks securing four gold medals with a cash prize even though I was an average student in the U.G. Beginning at the department was certainly challenging, but I learned that the more effort you invest, the more rewarding it becomes." I can confidently say there is no substitute for my teachers, as they are the best in the world. I still bow my head and respect them for their wonderful teaching, contribution to the department and their

The diversity of the department's methods of teaching is a vital part of its success. It also helped me to bloom as a very beautiful flower as I scored very good marks securing four gold medals

support to the students. My heartfelt thanks for the supporting staff Aslam sir and Purushotham sir for their support and help that they have rendered us.

Friends, every stage of life must be lived at its best and then only can you live your life with a smile which can never be taken by anyone or by anything. That's the way I have lived so far and I think nothing can be better than this.

I can sincerely say I have loved every minute and feel greatly lucky to have had the chance to study in the department of Library and Information.

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