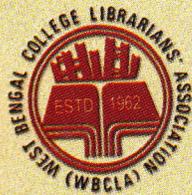


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COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN WEST BENGAL :

**CHALLENGES
&
OPPORTUNITIES**

Proceedings of
XXV Annual Conference
and
Seminar 2012
Kolkata, 2nd December, 2012



WBCLA

West Bengal College Librarians' Association

College Libraries in West Bengal : Challenges and Opportunities

**Proceedings of
XXV Annual Conference and Seminar, 2012
Kolkata, 2nd December, 2012**



West Bengal College Librarians' Association

44, Gouri Bari Lane, Kolkata - 700 004

www.wbcla.org.in

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Golden Jubilee Celebration: 1962-2012 and Proceedings of the Seminar

On 2nd December, 2012, West Bengal College Librarians' Association has celebrated its glorious existence of 50 years. The journey began on 1962 by few enthusiastic college librarians. 2012 was the golden jubilee year of the Association. On this historic event, we assembled at the Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar, 17, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata - 700 006 to celebrate the "Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Association". To commemorate the golden jubilee a State level seminar was held on "College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" on 2nd December, 2012. The programme was attended by distinguished guests, dignitaries and professionals in the field.

Dr. Nitai Ray Choudhury welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audiences. Prof. Siddhartha Majumdar, Chairman, West Bengal College Service Commission, was the Chief Guest. Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakraborty, former Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta, Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kalyani and Director, Directorate of Open and Distance Learning, University of Kalyani, Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana, Department of Library and Information science, Vidyasagar University and Prof. Swapna Banerjee, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Calcutta were present as Special Guests.

At the onset, Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, President, WBCLA garlanded the bust of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. The guests, dignitaries and the members of the Association paid homage to Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. The inaugural song was performed by

Smt. Atryee Choudhury, Librarian, Sarojini Naidu College for Women. Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, welcomed the august gatherings and delivered presidential address. Prof. S. Majumdar, Chief Guest in his speech, highlighted the role of CSC in recruiting the college librarians. Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakrabarti, Prof. J.K. Sarkhel, Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana, Prof. Swapna Banerjee, Dr. R.N. Kar, Secretary, WBCLA, in his thought provoking deliberation described the role of WBCLA for the cause of the college librarians as well as library profession. Sri Somnath Raha, Vice President, WBCLA, conveyed the vote of thanks. On this auspicious occasion, the Association has launched its website: www.wbcla.org.in. Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakraborty launched the website.

Two invited papers were received - *Educating library professionals for information era* from Prof. B. Chakrabarti and *Politics, policies, negligence and college librarianship* from Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana. 16 papers were received from the professionals. The Seminar was held in two sessions. Technical Session - I and Technical Session - II. Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel was the Chairperson of the technical session - I and Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana was the Chairperson of the technical session - II. 13 papers were presented in the seminar. There was an august gathering of academicians, scholars, researchers, librarians, library professionals from different part of the State.

Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakrabarti in his paper, *Educating library professionals for information era* discussed the value of library professionals and the challenges facing by them. He pointed out that although the core of the profession remains the same, the methods and tools for information delivery and the scope of the enterprise continue to grow and change dramatically. While maintaining their client and content-centred approach, practitioners increasingly require advanced knowledge of information technology to realize their full potential.

Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana in his paper, *Politics, Policies, Negligence and College Librarianship* rightly told that the college librarians in West Bengal neither have specific status nor have any specific service rules. For this peculiar conditions, they have to face many problems in their working places and in many cases they are also far beyond from their legitimate claims. In his lecture, he has

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made an attempt to show the several constraints faced by the college librarians in their day to day activities and services.

Sri Raja Biswas, in his paper, *A pleasant journey from CDS/ISIS to ABCD* discussed the various features of Automatización de Bibliotecas y Centros de Documentación, a new successor of CDS/ISIS in its implementation process. Sri Biswas highlighted some import facilities available in the ABCD, which may encourage its use specially among those librarians who may want to avail current day needs like web presence of the OPAC, barcoding, data import (Z39.50), etc.

Dr. Tridib Chattopadhyaya in his paper, *An analytical study of the information requirement and information use of the students and teachers of St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College of Kolkata from the point of view of information and communication technology (ICT) over the edge of information age* discussed about the information requirement of the students and teachers of St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College of Kolkata. The paper was an analytical study of the information needs of the users in the light of ICT.

Sri Asim Kumar Das spoke on *Growth of College Libraries in West Bengal and its human resource management: an observation*. At the beginning of his paper he described the role of Education Commissions, such as, Radhakrishnan Commission, Calcutta University Commission and many more, giving the emphasis on the development of the university and college library for its importance to support the educational process. He pointed out that the UGC has recommended for appointing qualified librarians to administer the college library. There are more than 450 degree colleges established in West Bengal till date. The college library management especially its personnel management is an important aspect for discharging proper library services. An attempt has been made in this article to review the government's staff pattern for the college library.

Sri Subir Das and Dr. Nitai Ray Choudhury in their paper, *the college library in second life: discussion on the light of twenty-first century library services* told that 'Second Life' (SL) is a new and good means to interact with their patrons, helping traditional libraries to accommodate new demands and challenges. Second Life (SL) is a massive virtual world with many opportunities for learning and

entertainment. Second Life (SL) is an immersive 3D environment which may be used for entertainment and educational purposes. The article highlighted how college library may offer their present traditional service to accommodate 'Second Life' as a good means to interact with their customers, helping traditional libraries to accommodate new demands and challenges.

Dr. Bidyarthi Dutta in his paper, *Explosion and overloading of information: how to control* described different modes of information explosion and different causes of information overloading. He nicely depicted how information assimilation is closely linked with human psychology. He pointed out that excess information causes several mental disorders, such as Information Fatigue Syndrome (IFS) or Pseudo-Attention Deficit Disorder (PADD). Such types of disorders may damage decision taking capacities. A well-designed information management strategy is therefore essential for control and organization of information. Some effective measures about information overloading were also discussed in the paper.

Sri Avijit Chakravarti and Sri Pritam Gurey in their presentation, *Role of Librarians relating to use and effectiveness of social networking tools in college libraries* told that social networking refers to a process of relationship building among a group of people who have a common interest. They provide libraries with a new exciting form of communication for reaching users and nonusers. The aim of the paper is to assess the role of librarians/information professionals relating to the use of social networking sites in the libraries. The paper also discusses about the Social Networking Services and their types. Presently, the question is whether the librarians interact with the users through social networking sites and it would be effective for reaching out to webized patrons.

Smt. Suchismita Majumdar in her article, *Properties of pulp and paper: the significant determinants of longevity of paper based resources of academic libraries* stressed on the paper and pulp properties and how it affects the paper quality issues for longevity of paper based resources in academic libraries. BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) in India have prescribed requirements and methods of sampling and test for commonly used types of writing and printing

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Sri Prem Chand in his paper, *Britannica and Banglapedia: a comparative study of an encyclopaedia as the b* specially college libraries. He also v Britannica. He also v the National Encyclo similarities and dissir the Banglapedia.

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paper. The implications of BIS standard in the quality of paper based resources of academic libraries have been traced out.

Sri Prem Chand Mondal in his paper, *Encyclopaedia Britannica and Banglapedia: a Comparative Study* discussed the role of encyclopaedia as the back bone of reference collection of any library, specially college library. He highlighted the features of Encyclopaedia Britannica. He also vividly illustrated the value of Banglapedia or the National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh. Finally he discussed the similarities and dissimilarities of the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the Banglapedia.

Smt. Bahni Mukhopadhyay in her paper, *Library Orientation programme for Gen Y students: changing approach, accepting challenges* pointed out that students of the new generation are often blamed for not using the college libraries to the fullest. The habit of reading printed books and journals is being reduced fast. She urged that it is a challenging task for the college librarian to make the new-comer students and teachers library-oriented and growing among them a feeling of fondness for the library. The article intended to show that mingling some novel ideas with the commonly practiced steps may make library-orientation programme more interesting for the new students and increase their involvement with the activities of the college library. The implication of doing so is far-fetched because if the attempt is successful, then this will enable the librarian to place of the resources and as such the whole entity of the library will give a more favourable light to the users community.

Dr. Kabita Mukhopadhyay in her paper, *Status less world of the West Bengal College Librarians* mentioned that the main objective of the study is to review the actual position of the West Bengal College Librarians. Where they perform their responsibilities without any service condition due to the lack of proper status or they are looser in all respect, whether it may be in financial ground or also in respect of their mental set up. This atmosphere makes them apathetic in their performance and which ultimately crippled the field of West Bengal higher education system.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

In the year 1962, some College Librarians and University professionals of Calcutta established the West Bengal College Librarians' Association to highlight the problems affecting the profession. Now, this Association, one of the active professional Associations not only in this State of West Bengal but also in India, has completed its glorious journey of fifty years in 2012. In fifty years of string history the Association has steadily grown in stature and distinction and, which it shows in retrospect a story of noble achievement, it presents for the future an admiring prospect of yet more glorious prestige and renown in the history of library associations in India. Let us endeavour to preserve the integrity, independence and efficiency of the Association. Let us trust in the Giver of all good; our cause is righteous one and is sure to be crowned with success.

During this period this Association with the help of our members have been able to fulfill professional demands which includes enjoyment of UGC pay scales and allied benefits like that of college teachers excluding accordance of teacher's status and service conditions etc., the solutions are yet to be decided by the Division Bench, High Court, Kolkata, where the issue is pending.

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From its establishment we have been holding regular Annual Conferences, Seminars, participating in All India Conferences organized by AIFUCTO and such other Associations and Organisations, and related professional and other activities in addition to continuous publication of Journal entitled "College Libraries : An English Quarterly, Vol.27, No.1-4, 2012, and News Letter, Vol.XXI, January,2012-December,2012. The other publications are worthy to mention viz. (1) An Overview to Perspective of Library and Information Science; (2) Management of College Libraries in West Bengal;(3) West Bengal College Libraries and Librarians : A Comprehensive Handbook of Acts and Orders Vol.1,2,3; (4) West Bengal College Libraries and Librarians : A Comprehensive Directory.