



# Visva-Bharati

(Where the world makes its home in a single nest)

## Library e-Newsletter

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### Note

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### 'Librarians' Day 2014' Celebrations at Visva-Bharati

Librarians' Day is celebrated in India on 12 August, the birth day of S. R. Ranganathan, who is considered to be the father of library science in India.

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Bengal Library Association (BLA) and West Bengal Public Libraries Employees Association (WBPLEA) in collaboration with the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) and Visva-Bharati Library Network celebrated the *Librarians' Day 2014* at Natyaghar, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan on Sunday, 17 August 2014. The entire programme was divided in to two parts i.e. Inauguration (10 am to 11.30 am) and Seminar Session (11.45 am to 1.50 pm). The topic of the seminar was *Primary Role of Library and Librarians*. Five hundred and sixteen (516) registered delegates from various districts of West Bengal and other invitees took part in the function.

#### Inaugural Function

The programme was started by an opening / inaugural song by the students, scholars and faculty members of the Sangit Bhavana, Visva-Bharati followed by the welcome ceremony (offer of bouquet of flowers and uttariya, to all the dignitaries present in the dais) and lighting of lamp.

Dr V. K. Thomas, Organising Secretary, Librarians' Day 2014 and University Librarian, Visva Bharati welcomed the dignitaries, speakers, library associations, VB associations, delegates, all Provosts, HoDs, Principals, Proctor, members of Library Development Advisory Committee, and all invitees and the VB library staff. He thanked Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, Hon'able Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, IASLIC, BLA, WBPLEA and RRRLF and Sangit Bhavana for their support in organizing this professional event and to pay homage and tribute to the illustrious guru S. R. Ranganathan.

He believed that Visva-Bharati was the appropriate place to hold the event as it was the fertile land where the two great minds (S. R. Ranganathan and Rabindranath Tagore) could meet through the media of seminar and discussions.

Sri Goutam Goswami, General Secretary, Bengal Library Association, Kolkata, in his welcome address, referred to the establishment of Bengal Library Association and role of librarians in spreading education to remote villages as exemplified by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He also, in the context of the theme of Librarians' Day, touched upon the issue of how the librarians should be conversant with the content available in their libraries, attract special group of users to libraries and act as resource persons to bridge the gap between the users and their required information.

The Inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, hon'able Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati. In his path breaking speech he tried to correlate S. R. Ranganathan with Rabindranath Tagore. He highlighted Tagore's insights on library service and quoted profusely from his writings like *Library* and *Librarir mukhyo Kartabyo*: মহা সমুদ্রের শত বৎসরের কল্লোল কেহ যদি এমন করিয়া বাঁধিয়া রাখিতে পারিত যে সে ঘুমাইয়া পড়া শিশুটির মত চুপ করিয়া থাকিত, তবে সেই নিরব মহাশব্দের সহিত এই লাইব্রেরির তুলনা হইত। এখানে ভাষা চুপ করিয়া আছে, প্রবাহ স্থির হইয়া আছে, মানব আত্মার অমর আলোক কালো অক্ষরের শৃঙ্খলে, কাগজের কারাগারে বাঁধা পড়িয়া আছে। ... He also interpreted these in his own way and added that Gurudev's message was still valid today. He went on to illustrate importance of library with the example of 'dictionary' and 'literature'. Whereas dictionary contained collection of words, literature is the writings which are more valuable than the dictionary because it reaches the readers mind, emotions, and fulfill the needs. In the same way library should not be priding over the size of its collections but on collections which fulfill the users' needs. He believed that even in the advanced form of (electronic) libraries, the basic nature and aims of the library still remain the same.

Dr. P.Y. Rajendra Kumar, Director General, National Library, Kolkata spoke as the Guest of Honour and recalled how he was overjoyed while using a book that had Gurudev's hand-written comment during his visit to Rabindra Bhavana Library. He maintained that the role of the librarians has undergone change due to application of ICT. To substantiate he cited the example of a new library course offered in Thailand called *Information Engineering and Management*, which reflects the new demand and challenges of library profession. He made an appeal to the delegates to propagate Librarians' Day amongst the public. As an example, he referred to Librarians' Day celebrations in the Gram Panchayat Library of Hunchalli at Sirsi taluk in Karnataka where the librarian (Visweswara Hegde) organizes the function annually involving all the villagers and the expenses met by the villagers themselves.

Sri Shibaprasad Chakraborty, General Secretary, WBPLEA, in his address, placed emphasis on popularizing Librarians' Day amongst the public. He talked about public library movement in the state level and hinted at different issues related with the status of librarians. In this context, he referred to certain proposals of NKC (National Knowledge Commission) on which satisfactory actions have not been taken so far.

Dr. Barun Mukherjee, Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha) & President, BLA & IASLIC delivered the Presidential Address. He highlighted the importance and role of different library associations in West Bengal in the promotion of public libraries. He expressed his appreciation of the associations for organizing Librarian's Day every year, and in different places. Recalling Prabhat Kr. Mukhopadhaya's writings, he illustrated how Tagore worked and used the library. He referred to the two famous quotations of Rabindranath Tagore on the library and recommended to read and re-read them for getting better insights into them.

Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, General Secretary, IASLIC gave the vote of thanks. He gave an insight into celebration of Librarians' Day in India. He also elaborated on various issues ailing the librarians in India. He thanked all staff of Visva-Bharati Library Network, speakers, delegates, and other dignitaries.

The first part of the Day was concluded by a closing song by the same team of Sangit Bhavana which was followed by a short break for Tea (11.30am to 11.45am).

### **Seminar: *Primary Role of Library and Librarians***

The second session of the day (seminar) was on the theme *Primary Roles of Library and Librarians*. The session was chaired by Dr. Barun Mukherjee. There were three presentations.

The first invited speaker Prof. Debabrata Dasgupta, former Vice - Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Nadia delivered a lecture on *Tradition and Modernity in Library Science*. It highlighted the functions of librarians as stated in Gurudev's articles. He pointed out that while the Brahma Vidyalaya (school) was started in 7<sup>th</sup> Poush (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1901) the school library was set up by Tagore much before with his own book collection from Calcutta. According to him Tagore was the pioneer of community education and rural reconstruction through library system. He also traced the various stages of development of Visva-Bharati Library like creation of post of Librarian, Scientific Classification, Modern Library Shelving, Chalantika Library, Children Library, Manuscript Section, and life long process of collection development. He listed functions and development of the modern library through various eras of its development like Computer Age, Information Age, Telecommunication Age, and Interactive Media Age. The impact of ICT on library services, importance of library & information networking, e-strategy, implication of the five laws of Library Science on webology, and ethical aspects of LIS were also described by him.

The second speaker Prof. Tapati Mukhopadhya, Provost, Culture, Cultural Relations & Humanities, and Director, Rabindra Bhavana delivered her lecture on *Granthagar: Rabindra Bhavanar Darpane*. She started her discourse by raising some vital questions on significance and demand for books and reading habit in the modern electronic age. She pointed out that the strength and weakness of library should not be measured by the size of the collection but by the yardstick of how rich the collection is. She quoted from Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's writings and illustrated them in her own perspective. Also dealt with the importance of librarian compared to teachers as visualized by Tagore.

The last speaker, Dr. Subodh Gopal Nandi, former University Librarian, Visva-Bharati delivered a lecture on *Library o taar karmokander kramobibartan: ekti alochana*. He touched upon the library activities from different perspectives like ancient perspective, human perspective with special reference to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and S. R. Ranganathan, and the modern perspective. He also depicted the history of the *Sthanu Library* 4500 years ago, development from pyramid to clay tablet, and existence of library in Mesopotamia (nearly 3000 years ago). He pointed out that the Nalanda Vishwavidyalaya Library was the largest library of ancient India. He deliberated on some important features of an ideal library. He has also looked into the future library which should have e-books, e-journals, and resources sharing facilities. Modern library should be fact finding rather than book finding place. User satisfaction will be the utmost goal of a librarian.

This programme came to an end with the Ashram Sangeet sung by the library staff which was followed by a tasty and delicious lunch.

*(Rapporteurs: Ajay Kumar Sharma, Sujit Kujur & Sukumar Das)*

## New Arrivals (Books and Periodicals)

Books : <http://14.139.211.2:8080/jopacgwt/GwtOPAC/GwtOPAC.html> (click)

Journals : <http://14.139.211.2:8080/jopacgwt/GwtOPAC/GwtOPAC.html> (click)

### Some Recent Library Activities / Developments

Librarians' Day Celebrations at Visva-Bharati: Proceedings are given in this issue - page 1-3

#### Library Orientation Programme

- a) Departments of Social Work, Palli Samgathan Vibhaga: organized on 26 August 2014 at the Conference Hall, Central Library at 10.30 am wherein 74 students were present.
- b) PSB Library: Introduced the Visva-Bharati Library Network in general and PSB Library in particular to the newly admitted B.S.W. Students of Social Work Department in the Journal Section of the Library at 12.30 pm on 31 July 2014.

### Conferences / Seminars / Workshops in Library & Information Science

1. ETTLIS-2015: 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on *Emerging Trends and Technologies in Libraries and Information Services*, Jan 6-8, 2015, Jaypee Institute of Information Technologies (JIIT), Noida, UP. For more details visit: <http://www.jiit.ac.in/lrcjiit/ettlis-2015>
2. IASLIC-2014: IASLIC National Conference on *Roadmap to usher in Knowledge Society*, Nov 25-28, 2014, DLIS, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam. For more details visit: <http://www.iaslic1955.org.in/fckeditor/userfiles/file/IASLIC%2026th%20Seminar%202014-call%20for%20papers.pdf>
3. National Seminar on *Opportunities and Challenges of the Institutional Library in Rural Areas*, organized by Sri Shakti Degree College, Shankhahari, Ghatampur, Kanpur Nagar – 209206 from October 05-06, 2014. For more details visit: [http://www.ssdckanpur.org/images/seminar\\_05\\_06\\_oct\\_ssdckanpur.pdf](http://www.ssdckanpur.org/images/seminar_05_06_oct_ssdckanpur.pdf)
4. National Workshop on *Library Automation using Open Source ILMS KOHA*, 6-8 November 2014 organized by University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, Energy Acres, P.O. Bidholi Via-Prem Nagar, Dehradun – 248007. For more details visit: [kohabrochure.pdf](#).

Photographs of Librarians' Day 2014, Visva-Bharati, 17 August 2014

