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FROM

PUBLISHER'S DESK

A New Year has started, with new beginnings & new initiatives. An interesting writeup on Happiness - A Choice has been given in this Newsletter.

For several years ADINET had appointed Ambassadors in all the large cities of Gujarat, which did not work very well. Now that we are working online, we have started Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for all categories of Libraries - be it School Libraries, College, University, Special, Public Libraries & even for LIS Schools. Introductory Meetings for almost all these SIGs have been conducted.

An interesting & informative Webinar on Promotion of School Libraries was held. A Report of this Webinar has been covered. ADINET has started a useful series on Innovative Initiatives, in which a LIS Teacher interacts with one of their Students who is working. A Moderator asks a few questions to both the Teacher & the Student. This initiative helps to identify the gap between what is taught and practiced. A Memorial Lecture for Dr. H Anil Kumar was recently delivered by Prof Narasimhan Ravichandran. A Transcript of his talk has been covered.

HAPPINESS - A CHOICE

As we have entered a New Year, it is time to reflect on the year that has passed.

Never before in our lifetime has an external event, shaken up the very foundation of our lives, that too at a global level.

Besides creating a lot of havoc, it has taught us many lessons, the main ones being how to appreciate & be grateful for what we have and also how to live simply. It has also shown us how dependent we are on external circumstances to feel peaceful and happy.

Perhaps now is the time to see how we can become and remain happy. As long as we depend upon external situations, upon our accomplishments and upon others to make

us happy, hijacks will happen because the key to our happiness lies in the hands of fate.

We are all co-creators of this beautiful journey called life. We do know that we create our reality based on our thoughts and based on how we feel. We also know that when we help others, we get a sense of satisfaction and feel happy. Then is it not high time that we use this power wisely and create a happy world?

Happiness is a choice that we can make on an ongoing basis. As a human race if a critical mass amongst us gets this right and wakes up every morning choosing to be happy, we may succeed in bringing more happiness in the world, so that we see more smiles than tears and more peace than strife. Can we practice waking up every morning choosing to be happy?

ADINET SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

In order to engage & empower LIS Professionals, ADINET has initiated the process of starting Special Interest Groups (SIGs), for all categories of Libraries viz. School, College, University, Public, Special Libraries & even for LIS Schools.

Objectives of SIGs:-

- To share ideas in creating/developing and providing innovative library services to the specialized community
- To examine/review the status of various categories of libraries
- To identify the challenges faced by the libraries in Guja

- To engage the librarians in meaningful and productive activities
- To empower librarians to connect and collaborate in professional activities
- To provide training and internship to the fresh LIS graduates/students for skill development in specialized areas

The rationale in creating these SIGs is to bring together Librarians of each SIG, to seek an identity for themselves. This platform will help them to address & overcome their challenges. It will also help them to upgrade their skills as well as to stay motivated by accessing expertise & essential resources. The Plan of Action & outcome have also been finalized.

PROMOTION of SCHOOL LIBRARIES A REPORT

A Webinar on Promotion of School Libraries & its Activities was organized by ADINET on September 27, 2020.

Dr Rashmi T Kumbar, Assistant Professor School of L.I.S., Central University of Gujarat was the speaker for the event.

She commenced the webinar by brainstorming on the job profile of a librarian. She stressed the need of optimizing library collection which can be achieved through promotion of library services and resources. Both students & teachers do not have much time to visit the library & are unable to explore all the

ADINET- School Libraries Special Information Group (ASL-SIG)

ASL-SIG Webinar Series

Topic: Promotion of School Libraries

Highlights:

- ADINET Initiatives
- ADINET School Library Support
- ASL-SIG Details
- Group Discussion

Resource Person

Dr Rashmi Kumbar
Asst. Professor, SLIS,
Central University of
Gujarat, Gandhinagar

Date & Timings:
27th September 2020
Sunday,
11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Joining Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87835370517>

Contact:
Ms. Rhoda Bharucha
Hon. Director
(ADINET), C/o
Sadvichar Parivar
Opp. Satellite Road
Ahmedabad 380015
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resources, hence it is very essential & also challenging to promote both the collection and services.

Significance of planning, designing and implementing promotional activities related to school libraries were stepwise elaborated. Organizing events like book fairs and promoting the library and its services during inter school events Keeping oneself updated and aware regarding the current trends related to the library profession is crucial. She shared some phenomenal promotional reading ideas with the librarians to ponder and practice in their own space.

She gave a stepwise approach for bridging the gap with the users. It was also described how librarians can be a niche in the library world by following different

methods. Blending of traditional and modern ways were emphasized for promoting libraries. Using technological tools for promotion were also indicated.

Dr Rashmi explained the following concepts: Marketing, Public Relations, Publicity, Promotion & Advocacy.

By implementing various promotional activities the important role of libraries in schools can be highlighted. It encourages lifelong learning in fun filled ways, thereby increasing student achievement. Holistic development of students is also achieved.

The management support to school libraries can be justified and increased when the value of libraries, it's resources & services are effectively projected.

Finally challenges faced were discussed by her along with ways to overcome them. It was an engaging, informative and effective session wherein new methods were learnt, queries were resolved and ways to deal with challenges were given.

Prof Rashmi's presentation was an eye opener not only for School Librarians but also for other categories of libraries.

Reported by Ms. Anubha

Arora

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES

A REPORT

A new initiative in the memory of Dr. H Anil Kumar was launched by ADINET on 31st October 2020. The series focusing on Innovative Practices and Perspectives began with the first conversation on Innovative Library Services between a LIS Faculty and student.



ADINET Initiative
in memory of
Dr H Anil Kumar



Innovative Practices and Perspectives - 2020

Join us for a conversation on the topic 'Innovative Library Services' with...

Date: 31st October 2020 (Saturday)
Timings: 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Dr Bhakti Gala
Assistant Professor
School of Lib & Info Sci.
Central University of Gujarat
Gandhinagar

Mr Sourav Debnath
Assistant Librarian
National Institute of Tech
Tiruchirapalli



Moderated by Dr Rashmi Kumbar, Asst Professor, SLIS, CUG

Link: <https://meet.google.com/gfv-zvap-pud>
Organized by
Ms. Rhoda Bharucha,
Hon. Director, ADINET,
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Ahmedabad 380015
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This initiative is an attempt to connect the theory with the practice by bringing forth discussions to bridge the gap between the classroom and the fieldwork. The participants of the dialogue were Dr. Bhakti Gala (BG), Assistant Professor at the School of L.I.S., Central University of Gujarat, and Mr. Sourav Debnath (SD), Assistant Librarian at National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirapalli. The event was moderated by Dr. Rashmi Kumbar (RK), Assistant Professor, at the School of L.I.S. C.U.G

1. RK to BG: Information Sources & Services are an important component of the Library and Information Science Curriculum. What are your views and comments on this?

BG: The components of sources of information & the services designed to

connect them with the users are integral to all LIS program taught globally. This paper has undergone a paradigm change over the decade in terms of its nomenclature, scope, types of resources, delivery and access to these resources, services designed to connect these sources with appropriately designed services both in the physical & digital platforms. The categories of information sources remain the same but more so in their never changing digital avatars.

This virtual domain has played a critical role in the redesign and delivery of this paper taught across the LIS schools and department. From Information scarcity to information overabundance or explosion, we are witnessing new yet sometimes dangerous trends in misinformation and disinformation. The current pandemic and the political situations globally have made us realize the importance of training the new LIS professionals with skills required to learn how to access and critically assess this massive mass of digital information.

2. RK to SD: I would like to know whether you agree that Library services determine the role and image of the library in a particular institution. What is your take on this?

SD: Definitely, library services determine the role and image of the library and librarians serving the institution. Librarians have to acquire specific technical skills to deliver the right information to the right user

at the right time. They have responsibilities to meet the demands of tech-savvy users. Vikram Sarabhai Library of IIM-A was recognized as the Library of the week in 2019 by Oxford University. This recognition came because of the different Library services, reading facilities, research support, and technological facilities provided to users by the Library team, led by Dr. Anilkumar. Dr. Mahendra Jadhav, the Librarian of IIT Madras, has been recognized as the Meritorious Leader in the Convocation ceremony in the very last week for his dedication to research support to users. All these reflect the services rendered by them to their organization through Libraries.

3. RK to BG: how effectively can technology be used in teaching Library Services to students within the setup of a classroom or laboratory?

BG: The onset of the digital domain has taken the teaching of this paper to a different level altogether. Digital technologies have given us an edge in designing services catered to provide access to these information sources. Training must be given in the selection and use of the right digital platforms for providing these services. Having access to a digital lab with internet connection makes this highly rewarding.

Critical skills to evaluating information available especially in the digital format are another aspect which is the need of the hour. Since the last few years, we have been giving exercises to the students to use the CRAAP test effectively- which involve

the evaluation of every information from the perspective of currency, relevance accuracy, authority, and purpose. There are multiple modules and training exercise available online to learn these skills provided by IFLA and many other organizations.

The curriculum also addresses the key components and characteristics of online searching, knowing about the various plethora of sources under different domains such as government information sources, subject specialized sources, open access resources, search engines, designing of subject guides using different software, complexities of these resources and databases and last but not the least information literacy.

As a faculty I believe that students need to be taught to think out of the box moving away from the traditional and taking advantage of the various tools and techniques at their disposal while designing services while serving all kinds of users- from students, researchers, farmers, or illiterate people. Technology has given us the power to provide services wherever the user requests it- from the palm of his/her hand. Overcoming the barrier created by digital divide is a challenge and needs to be addressed by all of us. Students should not get too carried away with technology and always remain focused on the core skills of LIS.

4. RK to SD: How do you think the knowledge imparted, the related skills and techniques taught during the MLISc

program regarding the Library Services, has made a difference to your role in the institution?

SD: I am fortunate to have completed MLISc in CUG and edified by faculty members of vast domain experience. They did not bound us in theory only but put on the real practical aspects. Invited practicing librarians from reputed institutions imparted necessary skill sets and prepared us for the field. Their invaluable shared knowledge and experience succored us to clear Library Science's fundamentals. My first assignment in NITT was full stock verification. Dr. Anilkumar sir has helped me a lot by his never-ending administrative guidance which boosted me to take additional responsibilities like application scrutinizing for professor recruitment, data collection-analysis for institutional ranking, etc. Higher authority's firm belief and faith in my capacity to execute these tasks are not beyond the purview of skill sets gained during MLISc.

5. RK to BG: Do you think the internship and library visits help the students to grasp the nuances of Library Services?

BG: The two components fieldtrips and internships provide the real- world learning in a professional program like LIS. These provide the required connection between the theory taught in the classroom with the on- field requirements and real time operations. I see the transformation in the

student's psyche when we visit different types of libraries and information providing institutions. The location of CUG in Gandhinagar has given us the natural advantage of being in the proximity of some of the best libraries in the country. There is sense of awe I have seen in students when they see the complete set of Philosophical Transactions at the PRL library, or rare manuscripts at LD Institute of Indology, innovative services at libraries like IIT Gandhinagar, VSL library, IPR, copyright collection of the Gujarat Vidyapith library, different classification schemes used in libraries, book numbering methods and so on. The debates and discussions resulting after these field trips and internships provide an enriching learning experience for both the students and the faculty.

Both the field trips and internships provide the students with an opportunity to interact with experienced LIS professionals in the field. These interactions are the first step towards making the students feels a part of the LIS family. Our interactions with Dr. Anilkumar during such field trips to the VSL Library were always treasured by the students and faculty.

RK to SD: Sourav, would you like to share any experience in this regard?

SD: Library Science is a professional course. An internship is very much essential for gaining knowledge about best practices in different libraries. Some schools are recommending to intern in multiple libraries

for a short duration. I would suggest students work in every section of a particular library of their choice for the whole summer/ winter vacation.

6. RK to SD: What kind of autonomy is given to the library professionals for designing innovative L. & I. Services?

SD: Framing policies before implementing any new service helps to maintain standards in the long term. I am thankful to my administration for being with us to implement services like remote access in a residential institute urgently in a pandemic period. Later, it was approved by the Library Advisory Committee. Displaying scholars' publications was appreciated by scholars, and the idea came from the visit to VSL.

7. RK to BG: Along with the LIS skills, what other competencies do you feel should we develop in our students to develop the service attitude? What are the avenues to develop these competencies?

BG: It's a question which is fundamental when we consider curriculum design especially from the perspective of developing a good service attitude. There is enough literature documenting in detail the various competencies required by the 21st century LIS professional. Over and above the discipline specific professional skills which are required to be mastered by each student, personal skills comprising of attitudes, traits and values are needed to be taught by the faculty and cultivated by the students. A positive attitude, desire to always help, curiosity in learning new skills, adaptability and above all a deep interest

and passion in every work assigned are essential. Attributes such as being detail oriented, proactiveness, innovative thinking designing new services, mindfulness and critical thinking are the need of the hour.

Communication skills are the second most important skills which must be learnt. In a service profession such as ours, where command over the language, politeness in speech and humility while addressing our patrons strengthens the engagement into a long and lasting user relationship. At our school we encourage students to participate in various activities held under the banner of CHARM activities where they get a chance to develop other competencies.

There are many avenues for learning many of the above - mentioned skills. Online courses on critical thinking, communicating effectively are available for free. There are many resources offered by various associations such as <http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/librariycareerssite/whatyouneedlibrarian> The important trait that we all need to develop is to be a good human being and to never forget to smile while interacting with our users.

8. RK to SD: How important is it for the library staff to align with the institution's vision, mission, and objectives while planning the Library Services?

SD: As a subsystem Library and its services have significant roles in attaining the institute's objectives. Central Library, NITT is working continuously to implement state-of-the-art research support to align with its

mission to be globally trusted for technical excellence, striving to be in the top 500 world ranking by 2025.

9. RK to BG: What role does the LIS faculty have to play to ensure that more students take up LIS courses and continue to contribute innovative services to the user community?

BG: Two factors play a pivotal role in attracting more students to LIS programs. The first factor from the viewpoint of a faculty is to ignite the passion for this profession. As a teacher I feel it is my responsibility to help in making students interested in the various aspects of librarianship. As a faculty I aspire to bring my love for the LIS world into the classroom. Motivating students to go the extra mile in learning the diverse skills required to be successful librarians. Imparting the core values and ethics of our honorable profession is the essence of the work ahead for us. We plan events and activities that advocate our course through our brand ambassadors (our students) on the campus and within our society.

The second factor, I believe is the perceived image of the Library professional in the field. Librarians working in the field are the face of our profession. In every organization that they work in and in every capacity and designation- they are the ones people look at and build an image and it is this image which finally manifests itself into the status recognized by the society. Why are we not understood and appreciated by the community we serve? This is a lesson we all need to learn from Anilkumar Sir. The

kind of recognition and respect accorded to him was unprecedented. Working actively towards improving that image would go a long way in making potential students be interested in the course. To sum up the following goals of an LIS educator can go a long way in attracting talented and dedicated future LIS Professionals:

- To prepare LIS students for a decidedly digital future in libraries.
- To remember that 20th-century policies don't always work in 21st-century learning/sharing spaces.
- To promote truth and open communication.
- To give students environments for exploration and experience.
- To immerse students in the spaces and communities where they may work upon graduation

Reported by Dr. Bhakti Gala

MEMORIAL LECTURE

Talk delivered by Dr. N. Ravichandran, Professor (Retired), IIM-A on 'Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Libraries' as part of the 1st Dr. Anil. H. Kumar Memorial Lecture organized by the ADINET on December, 16, 2020. It is indeed very sad that I deliver this lecture in memory of my friend Dr. Anil Kumar. He was a competent professional & rapidly disappeared from this world. The title of the talk is 'To Look at the Future of the Libraries'. It is divided into two parts. In the first part, I describe a whole range of initiatives taken by Dr. Anil Kumar in his

capacity as a librarian, Vikram Sarabhai Library, IIMA.

Advance Information Network of
Libraries in Gujarat

Cordially invites you to the 1st

**Dr H Anil Kumar
Memorial Lecture**
ON
'Innovations and
Entrepreneurship in Libraries'

16TH DECEMBER 2020
WEDNESDAY
5.00 - 6.30 P.M.
: Zoom link :
<https://bit.ly/2K1XES8>

Guest Speaker
Dr N Ravichandran
Professor (Rtd.)
IIM Ahmedabad

RSVP:
Ms. Rhoda Bharucha
Hon. Director, ADINET
Ahmedabad
Email: alibnet@gmail.com
Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/2K1XES8>

This list is not exhaustive. In the second half of this lecture, I abstract from these examples as how a librarian can play an effective role in transforming a library to a public space.

Part A: Things that Dr. Anil Kumar did

1. When I joined IIM Ahmedabad as a faculty in 1980, they used to give a passbook to every faculty member to borrow books from the library. Over a period of time, Anil was able to get completely rid of this by digitizing the entire process. book. This is a classic example of transforming a process by digitization. This is not the only place where Anil had used technology to facilitate the user interface. In fact, the entire security system related to books in VSL is also RFID enabled.

2. The biggest challenge that Anil faced while he was running the operations at VSL was to facilitate VSL renovations. The renovations have made VSL a very modern place with the latest technology. But this took a lot of effort. The renovation required the entire depository of books in VSL to be moved to another place for a period of more than 18 months and brought back to the same library premises after the renovation is complete. Anil did this job very efficiently and made sure that there was almost no disruption to the members of the VSL community. He also used this opportunity to classify books as those which are rarely used (to be kept in the KLMD building) and those which are frequently used to be brought back to the main library. That way, he was able to save sufficient space and provide for future expansion.

3. He used to constantly experiment with new technology and he had an open mind to deal with things as he went along. He installed a three-dimension (3D) printer technology and facilitated users to experiment with it to develop a variety of prototypes.

4. His staff developed an interesting bookmark which would sit on the tip of the page in which one wants to keep the bookmark, and it looked like a semi open rectangle. It had the institute's logo on it, and the design was elegant. This is a classic example of how to motivate people to be innovative in whatever they do.

5. Anil started facilitating the usage of books by the members on the other side of the campus, i.e., the New Campus., by installing a book drop box to help members to drop books which they wanted to return

to the library. Again, an interesting example of bringing the library to the doorsteps of the people concerned.

6. Anil constantly and systematically encouraged multi-media approach in various aspects related to the library, be it video, be it social media networks or be it computerization of processes.

7. On very important occasions, like Republic Day, or Vikram Sarabhai's birthday, or any other major event that happened, the moment you entered the library, you'd see and feel a festive look in the library. All the books relevant to the event are brought together and made available to the public for their view and consultation. He was celebrating in his own way, the events of so many important people. Similarly, whenever a faculty member retired from the institute, he would get the entire collection of their books/works and keep it on display for a while so that people would get a sense of work done by that faculty member.

8. Anil paid adequate emphasis to keep the working papers and the cases of the faculty members intact, so that they can be readily accessed from the website itself.

9. He was always ready to provide support to faculty members who wanted to undertake research work on any topic. All one had to do was drop an email, indicating the topic on which secondary information is needed. In the next 24-48 hours, his team would get back with all reference material available on the topic. This proved to be of big help in writing a case, a research or a working paper.

10. He made VSL as a place where students could come and enjoy. To support

this VSL was air conditioned, well-lit, spacious, inviting customer friendly.

The footfall to IIM Ahmedabad library is often as high as a thousand. Given the fact that the batch size is about 450, this is a big number. IIM library has evolved as a social hub where people can come and simply read newspapers, sit and read books, search and collate information, discuss and consult, access multi-media material or even do a project work together. It is a user-friendly space for exploration of ideas.

11. Anil was a people-oriented person. His staff simply loved him. When he was hospitalized due to a transplantation procedure he was away from work for extended periods of time, no VSL user felt any discomfort in engaging with the library services. His team members covered up for him during his absence from.

12. He started dedicating special spaces for group discussions in the VSL for the students. He initiated monthly book discussion seminar series where someone to speak on a recently launched book.

13. He was willing to help any library which needed professional advice. I do not know the exact details, but I know that he was involved with several libraries.

14. Anil was a great conversationalist. He had an open mind to take suggestions, comments and even criticism. He was humbly appreciative in accepting good words from the users.

15. He sometimes even went out of the way from his official responsibilities to help individuals in terms of their library requirements.

16. He maintained a well-represented collection in the Vikram Sarabhai Library which made all of us to feel very proud.

17. Anil was a great administrator. He never bent rules for anybody. Even if a faculty member returned a book after the due date and a fine of Re. 1 per day was applicable, however small the amount be it was collected from the faculty member concerned with all politeness.

18. Anil equipped VSL with several kindles to facilitate and promote the use of e-books. A user can borrow a kindle from the library counter use it to read a book of his choice and return it back to VSL

19. His contribution as member/chair of the Staff Evaluation Committee was impactful. He enthusiastically provided administrative support and oversight to the celebrations of Institute day. This helped him to place VSL in a central place in the context of IIMA eco system.

Part B: Towards the future of libraries: A pathway

1. The future of libraries will depend on the leadership and the entrepreneurship qualities of the librarians who are heading these organizations.

2. The relevance of libraries so far has been in terms of (a) accessibility to a large collection of books in a variety of subjects, (b) repository of related comprehensive data and information, and (c) research support. In addition to this, some libraries have been providing general reading material and access to internet facilities.

3. The relevance of libraries is getting threatened by changes in the Information Technology, databases available and online

publishing, etc. It is no more necessary to go to a library to read a book. It is possible to read a book on Kindle/ online. It is possible to listen to a book through audios.

4. It is possible to get many related books online by appropriate searches and therefore, the second purpose of collecting relevant & related information on a subject can also be reached by just a click

5. Research support infrastructure is still possibly done by accessing a library. There are number of databases which are available online. It is possible to search for related articles & to search content from online journals. It is possible to access and read relevant literature. Therefore, to a large extent, library visits can be avoided. Essentially, what this means is that the physical existence and the purpose of libraries is completely threatened by the availability of academic, non-academic & scientific material online.

6. How can libraries survive? Libraries can survive the onset of information technology by adopting I. T. appropriately. The solution to the problem lies in the problem itself. What libraries will be required to do is (a) to embrace technology to the maximum extent possible, (b) to digitize the processes that are involved, including the procurement, storage, retrieval, issue of books, collection of reference material, etc., (c) to focus on customer touch points so that every customer who visits the library is delighted and feels that he is treated very differently and given due importance, (d) to identify various user segments and meet their expectations completely. The librarian has to be entrepreneurial and creative in identifying and anticipating the requirements of each one of these segments and make sure that those requirements are fully and completely met. For ex, in the context of

staff, the library can be a small recreational reading space. If it is a public library, public would, by and large, come to look for general material, read a newspaper, browse the internet, and read some motivational books or books of general interest. The wider the collection of books, the better it is to attract the general public.

7. Improve the value chain of the libraries: Library value chain is essentially the collection of information, processing that information and delivering that information to people who need it. To a large extent, this is what is being done by online platforms. At the low end of the value chain is the reading hall. At the next level would be the discussion rooms and the further next level would be the multi-media engagements. The research support would be the high end. The festivities that are organized by the library will provide a value-added service. Regular film shows on various topics of interest and book talks will add to the overall value chain of the library.

8. A public library should connect to the society and an institutional library should connect to the organization, in a general sense. In an academic institution, libraries tend to be a separate independent unit. It is up to the librarian to build bridges within the ecosystem of the organization in which the library is functioning. That would help to keep the value chain intact and meaningful.

9. A library should be positioned as a meeting place for societal value. It is important to make sure that the library is not only seen as a place where information is collected, stored, assimilated, processed and delivered. It is more than that. It is actually a meeting place for societal value. It should be the happening place of a particular geographical area or an institution.

10. A librarian is required to continuously innovate and improve. He should make every effort necessary to build an exclusive brand.

11. A librarian should connect with important stakeholders in a routine and systematic manner. He should leverage his leadership qualities to a large extent. Focus on staff development, staff welfare and staff appreciation.

12. Offer a wider and better collection of material in terms of books, e-books, films, videos, and internet accessibility. Embrace state of art multimedia technology in library operations and reading tools.

Transform the library as a workstation for a researcher. Convert the library to a socially connecting place for the general public. All of this requires constant monitoring, kaizen, small improvements, process reengineering, adopting technology, experimenting, investment and risk taking. That is why, a librarian must operate with an entrepreneur mindset and leverage leadership qualities.

At the end of the day, a library is not a commercial enterprise. A library is an investment center of the society and therefore, the librarian should recognize and appreciate the fact that he is leading a service organization. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the librarian to nurture the library and make it socially relevant for the context of the society.

If the library is developed as a societal place with adequate and suitable technology adoption and also, aligned to the trends and expectations of its users, then the library will be able to provide the much-needed value-added services in terms of access to relevant, useful knowledge resources and information.

Anil was an outstanding example who did

this remarkably well.

“પુસ્તકોના માણસ” જયંત મેઘાણીની વિધાય

ગુજરાતી સાહિત્ય પરિષદમાં સૂચિ વિશેના સેમિનારમાં વક્તવ્ય આપતા જયંતભાઈ મેઘાણી (૨૦૦૯). ફોટો-સ્રોત:

http://urvishkothari-gujarati.blogspot.com/2020/12/blog-post_4.html

પુસ્તકોના માણસ” જયંતભાઈ મેઘાણીના ચોથી ડિસેમ્બરે થયેલા અયાનક અવસાનથી પુસ્તકોએ એક અલગારી યાહક ગુમાવ્યો. તેઓ સાહિત્યની પરખ અને સમજ ધરાવનાર સાચા પુસ્તકપ્રેમી તથા રવીન્દ્ર સાહિત્યના અનુરાગી



અભ્યાસી હતા. ઉપરાંત ઊંચા ગજના અનુવાદક, સંપાદક, પુસ્તક-પ્રસારક, પ્રકાશક અને એક ઉત્તમ ગ્રંથપાલ પણ હતા. સહુથી વધુ તો એમના પરિચયમાં આવનાર કોઈપણ વયની દરેક વ્યક્તિને પોતીકાપણાનો અનુભવ થાય એવા સરળ, વિનમ્ર, સ્નેહાળ વ્યક્તિ હતા.

જયંતભાઈ મેઘાણી ૧૯૬૨માં “ગાંધી સ્મૃતિ”માં ગ્રંથપાલ થયા. પહેલું કામ કબાટોમાં તાળામાં રહેલાં પુસ્તકોને વાયકો માટે ખુલ્લાં મૂકવાનું કર્યું. આગવી સૂઝ-સમજથી સક્રિય સેવાઓ આપી. ૧૯૭૨માં અમેરિકાની પીટ્સબર્ગ યુનિ.માં આસિસ્ટન્ટશીપ મળતી હતી તે જતી કરીને ભાવનગરમાં અનોખો પુસ્તકભંડાર ‘પ્રસાર’ શરુ કર્યો ,

જ્યાં લખેલું: ‘પુસ્તકોની નાનકડી દુનિયા’. દેશ-વિદેશની અનેક શિક્ષણ સંસ્થાઓ માટે અહીંથી પાર્સલો મોકલાતાં. એમણે ‘લાયબ્રેરી ઓફ કોંગ્રેસ’ માટે ત્રીસેક વર્ષ સુધી ગુજરાતી પુસ્તકોની પસંદગીની જવાબદારી નિભાવી હતી. ગ્રંથ-વ્યવસાય ઉપરાંત ગ્રંથાલય પ્રવૃત્તિનાં ઇતિહાસ અને વર્તમાનની પણ એમને ઘણી સારી જાણકારી હતી.

તા. તેરમી ડિસેમ્બરે યોજાયેલી એક વર્ચ્યુઅલ સ્મરણાંજલિ સભા સેન્ટર ફોર એક્સેલન્સ (ભાવનગર), પોઝિટિવ મીડિયા પરિવાર, ગુજરાતી પ્રકાશક મંડળ, માતૃભાષા અભિયાન, ગાંધીનગર કલ્ચરલ ફોરમ, માતૃભારતી, શિશુવિહાર-બુધસભા (ભાવનગર), ગુજરાતી બુક ક્લબ, શબ્દ સંવાદ, આઈના (અમેરિકા), મારી ભાષા ગુજરાતી તથા વઢિયાર સાહિત્ય મંચ એમ વિવિધ સંસ્થાઓના ઉપક્રમે યોજાઈ હતી, જેનું સંચાલન જાણીતા લેખક-સંપાદક-પત્રકાર રમેશ તન્નાએ કર્યું હતું. એમાં અમેરિકાથી જયંતભાઈના ભાઈ અશોક મેઘાણી પણ જોડાયેલા, એમણે કહ્યું હતું કે અમારા પિતા ઝવેરચંદ મેઘાણીનો સાચો પરિચય એમણે અમને કરાવ્યો. ગ્રંથપાલ તરીકે કામ કરી ચુકેલાં આશાબેન સરવૈયાએ એક ઉત્તમ ગ્રંથપાલ અને ઉમદા વ્યક્તિ તરીકે જયંતભાઈ પાસેથી પોતાને મળેલા માર્ગદર્શનની વાત કરી હતી. સી.ઈ.આર.સી.ના પૂર્વ ગ્રંથપાલ, ૭૩ વર્ષના શ્રી પ્રતાપરાય મહેતા પણ જોડાયા હતા અને તેમણે જયંતભાઈ સાથેનાં ખૂબ સુંદર સ્મરણો કહ્યાં હતાં. કાર્યક્રમના સંચાલક રમેશભાઈ તન્નાએ કહ્યું હતું કે આપણે બધાંએ ભેગાં થઈને પ્રત્યેક ગામમાં એક સરસ પુસ્તકાલય હોય એવું કરવું જોઈએ, એ જ એમને સાચી શ્રદ્ધાંજલિ કહેવાય.

આમ, જયંત મેઘાણીની “રાષ્ટ્રીય શાયર ઝવેરચંદ મેઘાણીના દીકરા” ઉપરાંત પોતાની આગવી ઓળખ હતી. ગુજરાતી પ્રજામાં પેઢીઓ સુધી જે સાહિત્યરુચિ-સંસ્કારસિંચનનું ભગીરથ કાર્ય એમણે કર્યું છે એને માટે ગુજરાતી પ્રજા હંમેશાં એમની ઋણી રહેશે. ‘સમગ્ર મેઘાણી સાહિત્ય’ના ગ્રંથોના સંપાદનનું ખૂબ જ મહત્ત્વનું કામ એમણે ઉપાડેલું, એ હાથ પર હતું. ભાવપૂર્ણ શ્રદ્ધાંજલિ.

—કે. હેમા રાવલ