Report on the Two-Day National Seminar on Enriching Communities: The Role of Emerging Technologies & Techniques in Libraries Towards Societal Advancement & Upliftment

10th to 11th September , 2024

Organised by:

Department of Library & Information Science (DLIS), University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Venue:

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir

Dates:

September 10-11, 2024

1. Introduction

The Two-Day National Seminar on *Enriching Communities: The Role of Emerging Technologies & Techniques in Libraries Towards Societal Advancement & Upliftment* was successfully conducted on September 10 and 11, 2024, at the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS), University of Kashmir. The seminar, organised in collaboration with the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), provided a significant platform for discussing the transformative impact of emerging technologies and techniques on library and information science, information dissemination, and societal progress.

The seminar witnessed the participation of **over 150 delegates**, including researchers, academicians, and Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals from across India. A total of **72 research papers** were presented across various technical sessions, offering critical insights into contemporary LIS challenges and technological advancements. Discussions revolved around how libraries can serve as hubs of knowledge empowerment, contribute to digital literacy, and facilitate access to information in both urban and rural areas.

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In addition to scholarly discourse, the seminar also aimed to foster a collaborative spirit among LIS professionals, strengthening networks that could lead to future interdisciplinary research and policy recommendations. The outcomes of these discussions are expected to shape the evolving role of libraries in the modern era, particularly in their contributions to education, social inclusion, and technological adaptation.

2. Inaugural Session

The seminar commenced with a grand inaugural session held at the Media Auditorium of the University of Kashmir. The session was moderated by **Dr. Zahid Ashraf Wani**, Associate Professor, DLIS. The dignitaries and speakers in attendance brought forth their perspectives on the evolving landscape of LIS and its potential to enrich communities.

Welcome Address

Prof. **Sumeer Gul**, Head, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, delivered the welcome address. He highlighted the importance of emerging technologies in LIS and their role in bridging the knowledge gap in communities, advocating for libraries as essential pillars of academic and public institutions.

Address by Special Guest

Prof. **Preeti Mahajan**, Department of Library & Information Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh, shared insights into the evolution of digital libraries and the necessity of technological integration in contemporary librarianship. She emphasized the necessity of training LIS professionals in data management, digital curation, and AI-based information retrieval techniques.

Address by Guest of Honour

Prof. **Sangita Gupta**, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Head, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Jammu, emphasized the role of LIS professionals in ensuring

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equitable access to knowledge. She elaborated on the increasing need for digital preservation, research support, and AI-powered cataloguing systems in modern libraries.

Special Address

Prof. **Naseer Iqbal**, Registrar, University of Kashmir, spoke about institutional efforts to modernize library services in academic settings, stressing the role of open-access initiatives and collaborative research repositories.

Book Release

Two books were released during the session:

1. *Impact of Migration on Psycho-Social and Economic Well-being of Elderly Pandit Migrants.*

2. *Youth Entrepreneurship and Education in Conflict Areas.*

Presidential Address

Prof. **Nilofer Khan**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, delivered the presidential address, underscoring the necessity of digital literacy and innovative practices in libraries. She advocated for policy-driven initiatives to enhance information access and resource sharing among institutions.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. **Rosy Jan**, Sr. Assistant Professor, DLIS, University of Kashmir, expressed gratitude to the dignitaries and participants for their contributions, acknowledging their insights in shaping future research directions in LIS.

3. Invited Talks

Two invited talks were delivered on separate days, providing valuable insights into key advancements in Library and Information Science and the evolving role of technology in the field. On the first day, **Dr. Raj Kumar Bhardwaj**, Librarian, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, delivered a talk on *Research Data Management (RDM)*. He discussed the principles and best

practices in managing research data efficiently, emphasizing metadata, FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles, and ethical considerations in data stewardship.

On the second day, **Prof. Jitendra Shrivastava (designation missing)** delivered an invited talk on *Artificial Intelligence and the Role of Library Professionals: Challenges, Issues, and Implications.* He discussed the transformative role of AI in library operations, emphasizing its impact on automation, digital archiving, and research assistance. He also addressed ethical challenges related to AI, such as biases in machine learning models and the need for responsible AI deployment in LIS. His talk provided a balanced perspective on leveraging AI to enhance library services while maintaining professional ethics.

4. Technical Sessions and Presentation Modes

The seminar featured **ten** technical sessions, conducted simultaneously at two venues—Media Auditorium and Library, DLIS. These sessions covered a wide range of topics related to LIS, emerging technologies, and societal impact. Each session was chaired by esteemed academicians and researchers and was moderated by research scholars and students from the department, who actively facilitated discussions and ensured smooth proceedings. The sessions included research presentations from experts and budding researchers.

Day 1: September 10, 2024

A total of **28 research papers** were presented across four parallel sessions. Key themes included:

- Personal Information-Sharing Behaviour
- Impact of Predatory Journals on Scholarly Communication
- Anti-Plagiarism Software Awareness
- Sentiment Analysis in Disaster Events
- Role of Artificial Intelligence in Library Automation
- Theoretical Frameworks for RFID in Libraries

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- Mental Health Implications of Social Media

Day 2: September 11, 2024

The second day featured six technical sessions with **44 research paper** presentations focusing on:

- AI-Generated Linguistic Complexities in Research Articles
- Cloud Computing in Library Services
- Libraries as Emotional Support Centers
- Digital Transformation Challenges
- Leadership in Academic Libraries
- Gender Discrimination in LIS Research
- AI in Academia and Research Writing
- The Role of Libraries in Public Engagement and Social Upliftment

The seminar accommodated virtual presentations as well, with **Technical Session 6** specifically designated for virtual presentations via the Google Meet platform. A total of **6 research papers** were presented online, allowing wider participation from scholars across different regions. Each session provided an opportunity for rigorous academic discussions and interdisciplinary collaboration, reinforcing the role of LIS professionals in societal transformation.

5. Valedictory Session

The seminar concluded with the valedictory session, moderated by **Dr. Nadim Akhtar Khan**, Sr. Assistant Professor, DLIS, University of Kashmir. The key highlights included:

Welcome Address

Prof. **Sumeer Gul** provided an overview of the discussions held during the seminar and emphasized the significance of continuous research in LIS.

Address by Special Guest

Prof. **Shahid Rasool**, Dean Academic Affairs, Central University of Kashmir, discussed the evolving role of LIS professionals in knowledge management and their responsibilities in tackling misinformation and digital divide challenges.

Presidential Address by Guest of Honour

Prof. **M Sultan Bhat**, Dean Research, University of Kashmir, highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaborations in LIS research, particularly in leveraging AI, cloud computing, and open-access resources.

Certificate Distribution

Certificates were awarded to participants, paper presenters, and contributors in recognition of their academic engagement.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. **Rabiya Mushtaq**, Faculty, DLIS, University of Kashmir, delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the support of the organizing team, speakers, and participants.

6. Conclusion

The Two-Day National Seminar successfully enriched discussions on technological advancements and their implications for libraries. By fostering dialogue among scholars and professionals, it paved the way for future collaborations and policy recommendations in the LIS domain. The event set a precedent for future LIS research, encouraging greater integration of technology in library services.