Post-Conference Report

G20 Library Summit

"Connecting Nations for Knowledge and Cultural Heritage"

Date: February 7–9, 2024
Venue: Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India

The G20 Library Summit 2024, hosted by Pondicherry University, served as a platform for global leaders, librarians, academicians, policymakers, and technology experts to deliberate on the evolving role of libraries in the digital era. This summit, themed "Connecting Nations for Knowledge and Cultural Heritage," aimed to foster collaboration among G20 nations to enhance access to information, promote digital literacy, and strengthen libraries' role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With over 300 participants, five members each for the Plenary Talk and Panel Discussion, 18 invited speakers, 12 chairs and co-chairs, 13 rapporteurs and co-rapporteurs, 212 paper presenters, and delegates from various countries, the three-day summit featured nine technical sessions with two sub-sessions, a plenary talk, a panel discussion, and inaugural and valedictory sessions.

Discussions focused on key areas such as digital transformation, open access, AI in libraries, literacy promotion, indigenous knowledge preservation, emerging technologies, and sustainable development.

The event commenced with an inaugural session and insightful technical presentations and discussions. Eminent speakers emphasized the growing need for international collaboration in sharing knowledge, digital innovation, and preservation of cultural heritage.

Inaugural Session

The summit was inaugurated by Prof. K. Tharanikkarasu, Vice-Chancellor (i/c) of Pondicherry University, who emphasized the importance of libraries as pillars of democracy and knowledge dissemination. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Devika Madalli, Director of INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad, who highlighted the critical role of libraries in bridging the digital divide and preserving cultural heritage. Other dignitaries included Prof. Constantine Matoke Nyamboga, Vice-Chancellor of Lukenya University, Kenya, Prof. Helene Guetat from the University of Toulouse, France, and Mr. Andrei Sokolov, Director of Business Development, Neopolsk, Russia.

Summit Sessions Overview

Plenary Talk:

The Plenary Talk on "G20 Library Summit – Connecting Nations for Knowledge and Cultural Heritage" was held on February 7, 2024, and chaired by Prof. Vaishali Praful Gudadhe from Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, India. The session featured distinguished speakers, including Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur (IGNCA, New Delhi), Dr. Sangeeta Kaul (DELNET, New Delhi), Prof. Constantine Matoke Nyamboga (Lukenya University, Kenya), and Mr. Andrei Sokolov (Neopolsk, Russia).

The discussions emphasized the role of libraries in fostering global knowledge exchange and the importance of international collaboration in leveraging digital technologies to enhance library services. The speakers also highlighted strategies for preserving cultural heritage through library-led initiatives, reinforcing the need for sustainable efforts in documentation and digitization.

Technical Sessions Summary

The G20 Library Summit 2024 featured a series of technical sessions, a plenary talk, and a panel discussion, all aimed at exploring the evolving role of libraries in a rapidly changing digital landscape. The Plenary Talk on "G20 Library Summit: Connecting Nations for Knowledge and Cultural Heritage", chaired by Prof. Vaishali Praful Gudadhe (Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, India), set the tone for the summit. Distinguished speakers, including Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur (IGNCA, New Delhi), Dr. Sangeeta Kaul (DELNET, New Delhi), Prof. Constantine Matoke Nyamboga (Lukenya University, Kenya), and Mr. Andrei Sokolov (Neopolsk, Russia), highlighted the need for international collaboration, knowledge sharing, and digital innovations to strengthen global library systems.

The technical sessions covered a diverse range of topics. Session I on Global Information Access focused on digital libraries, open educational resources, AI in libraries, and research ethics, with 11 papers presented. Session II explored Preserving Indigenous Knowledge and Languages, discussing digitization strategies, cultural preservation, and manuscript conservation, with 10 papers presented. The Digital Transformation of Libraries was addressed in Session III, split into two sub-sessions (III-A and III-B), featuring AI-driven services, automation, augmented reality, and digital repositories through 16 research presentations. Session IV, Public Libraries as Cultural Heritage Preservation and Access Centers, emphasized disaster management, indigenous heritage, and archival best practices, with eight papers presented.

The role of libraries in international collaboration and policy advocacy was examined in Session V, where eight papers addressed AI adoption, research trends, and policy frameworks. Session VI, Promoting Literacy and Lifelong Learning, split into two sub-sessions (VI-A and VI-B), showcased 20 papers on inclusive education, digital literacy, and lifelong learning initiatives. Session VII, Libraries as Catalysts for Sustainable Development, explored sustainability, environmental awareness, and women's empowerment, with nine papers presented. Session VIII, Future of Libraries in a Changing Digital World, delved into emerging technologies, digital privacy, and user engagement strategies, with nine papers contributing insights into the evolving role of libraries. The final Session IX, Emerging Technology and Trends for Transformation of Libraries, explored AI applications, e-learning tools, social media, and drone technology, with 12 papers presented. Discussions highlighted digital libraries in e-learning, AI's impact on academic libraries, and innovative tech-driven library services.

The Panel Discussion, led by Prof. Pandurang Konnur (LIS Academy, Bangalore), emphasized collaborative efforts in knowledge sharing and cultural heritage preservation. Experts from India and abroad participated in a meaningful dialogue on global partnerships and the future of library networks in fostering access to information and cultural documentation.

Key Outcomes & Recommendations:

1. G20 Digital Library Network – Proposal for a global resource-sharing network.
2. Open Access & Digital Inclusion – Advocacy for free and inclusive digital resources.
3. Capacity Building – Training in AI, machine learning, and digital libraries.
4. Library Infrastructure – Increased funding and modernization initiatives.
5. Sustainability Practices – Green library initiatives and SDG contributions.
6. Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge – Digitization and community collaboration.
7. Literacy & Lifelong Learning – Inclusive education programs for marginalized communities.
8. International Collaboration – Addressing misinformation, digital privacy, and access.
9. Emerging Technologies – Adopt AI, AR, and drones in library services.
1. User-Centric Services – Personalizing library experiences using data analytics.

The valedictory session, presided over by Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh (Director General, National Library of India), highlighted the summit's impact on shaping the future of libraries. The event successfully fostered global partnerships and innovation, reinforcing the role of libraries in advancing knowledge, culture, and sustainability.

Pondicherry University was pivotal in hosting this landmark summit, leaving a lasting impression on the global library community.

List of Resource Persons:

1. Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh, Director General, National Library of India, India
2. Prof. Ramesh Chandra Gaur, Head-Kalanidhi Division, IGNCA, New Delhi, India
3. Dr. Sangeeta Kaul, Director, Developing Library Network, New Delhi, India
4. Prof. Constantine Matoke Nyamboga, Vice Chancellor, Lukenya University, Kenya
5. Mr. Andrei Sokolov, Director of Business Development, Neopoisk, Russia
6. Dr. Fathimath Nashfa, Librarian, The Maldives National University, Maldives
7. Dr. Rishfa Ibrahim, Deputy Librarian, The Maldives National University, Maldives
8. Dr. Aminath Riyaz, Department of Social Sciences, Maldives National University, Maldives
9. Dr. Dilara Begum, Department of Information Studies, East West University, Bangladesh
10. Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Assam University, Assam, India
11. Dr. B. T. Sampath Kumar, DLS, Tumkur University, Karnataka, India
12. Dr. Nageswara Rao, Director, Defense Scientific Information & Documentation Centre, New Delhi, India
13. Prof. Keshava, Department of Library and Information Science, Tumkur University, Karnataka, India
14. Prof. Dinesh Kumar Gupta, Central University of Haryana, Haryana, India
15. Prof. Santhosh Kumar K. T., DLS, Kuvempu University, Karnataka, India
16. Prof. Pravakar Rath, Department of Library & Information Science, Mizoram University, India
17. Dr. Elavazhagan K., Librarian & Chief Knowledge Officer, IIM Tiruchirappalli, India

18. Dr. D. V. Singh, University Librarian & Head, SRM University, Haryana, India
19. Prof. S. Ravi, DLIS, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu, India
20. Prof. Muttayya Koganuramath, Former Dean Central University of Gujarat, India
21. Prof. Laxman Rao Nagubandi, LIS, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India
22. Prof. Thanuskodi S., Head, DLS, Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu, India
23. Prof. C. Krishnamurthy, Department of Library and Information Science, Karnatak University, Karnataka, India
24. Dr. R. Venkata Kesavan, General Manager & Head, Times Archives Knowledge Centre, The Times Group, Mumbai, India
25. Dr. Deependra Kumar Pandey, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Uttarakhand, India
26. Prof. B. Ramesh Babu, University of Madras, Chennai, India
27. Prof. B. U. Kannappanavar, Kuvempu University, Karnataka, India
28. Prof. J. Vivekavardhan, University Librarian, Central University of Kerala, India
29. Dr. Lata Suresh, Head-KRC, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, India
30. Dr. M. Krishnamurthy, Associate Professor, DRTC, Bangalore, India
31. Prof. Pandurang Konnur, President, LIS Academy, Bangalore, India
32. Prof. P. M. Naushad Ali, DLIS, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India
33. Prof. M. Masoom Raza, DLIS, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India
34. Dr. Praveenkumar Kumbar, Librarian, Gulbarga University, Karnataka, India
35. Dr. Takappa R., Chief Librarian, Goa Institute of Management, Goa
36. Prof. K. L. Mahawar, DLIS, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, UP, India
37. Prof. Sivaraman P., Librarian, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India
38. Dr. Fazlunnisa H., University of Madras, Tamil Nadu, India
39. Prof. P. Ravichandran, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India
40. Dr. Sanjeev K. Sunny, IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India
41. Dr. Vijayakumar K., Associate Professor, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India
42. Dr. Anand M. Dodamani, Deputy Librarian, TISS, Mumbai, India
43. Prof. Ramesha, DLIS, Bangalore University, Karnataka, India
44. Dr. Ishappa Bandi, Chief Librarian, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
45. Dr. Suresh Jange, University Librarian, Gulbarga University, India
46. Dr. Veeresh Hanchinal, Deputy Librarian, TISS, Maharashtra, India

47. Dr. Rekha Rani Verghese, DLIS, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
48. Dr. Mamata C. Mestri, Deputy Librarian, Gulbarga University, Karnataka, India
49. Dr. Kohila G.T., DLIS, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
50. Dr. R. Jeyshankar, DLIS, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
51. Prof. Vaishali Praful Gudadhe, DLIS, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Maharashtra, India
52. Dr. Biswajit Adhikary, Deputy Librarian, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India
53. Dr. M. Leeladharan, DLIS, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
54. Dr. Mangkhollen Singson, DLIS, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
55. Dr. Nimai Chand Saha, Librarian, Visva-Bharati, West Bengal, India
56. Prof. Mohd Yousuf, Librarian, Central University of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, India
57. Dr. K. G. Sudhier, Assistant Professor, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu, India
58. Dr. Satish Kumar H. T., Technical Officer, DRDE, Ministry of Defence, Madhya Pradesh, India
59. Dr. Ramesh Yernagula, Director, NASSDOC-ICSSR, New Delhi, India
60. Dr. B. Mini Devi, Assistant Professor, University of Kerala, India
61. Dr. Shishir H. Mandalia, University Librarian, Sardar Patel University, Gujarat, India
62. Dr. Jayaprakash G. Hugar, Librarian, DM's College and Research Centre, Goa
63. Prof. C. Ranganathan, DLIS, Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu, India
64. Dr. M. Baskar, ARPL, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
65. Dr. G. Sivasubramaniyan, ARPL, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
66. Dr. Shibu K. M., ARPL, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
67. Dr. P. Vijayakumar, ARPL, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India
68. Dr. K. Palanivel, ARPL, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India