

BOOK REVIEW

**EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND NEW
VISTAS IN LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCE: PADMA
SHRI PROF P N KAULA. EDITED BY
PROF C R KARISIDDAPPA, DR PAWAN
KUMAR GUPTA & PROF LAXMAN RAO**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BOOK

REVIEWER

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Emerging Technology and New Vistas in Library and Information Science: Padma Shri Prof P N Kaula. Edited by Prof C R Karisiddappa, Dr Pawan Kumar Gupta & Prof Laxman Rao. Managing Editor Dr S P Sood. Published by Raj Publishing House, Jaipur. ISBN: 978-93-88997-68-3. Year: 2024.

The present edited volume is an anthology of write-ups, to eulogize and pay tribute to the great luminary of the profession, Prof P N Kaula on his Birth Centenary in 2024. This work is edited by three distinguished illustrious personalities of the field. Preface portrays their respectful indelible impression on their heart and mind. Dr Jagdish Arora, Advisor, Ex-INFLIBNET Director and presently Advisor to NBA commemorates Prof P N Kaula in foreword mentioning his innumerable roles and contributions to the field of Library and Information Science.

There are 42 Chapters contributed by eminent scholars from the field which have been broadly grouped into three parts. The first major section of the volume is devoted to the personal interactions, admiration, reminiscences & impressions of Prof P N Kaula as a teacher. The second part is dedicated to emerging technological areas like, artificial intelligence, assistive technologies, networks, application of ChatGPT and Chatbots in libraries, etc. The last part is devoted to traditional areas like library resources, biblio/scientometric studies, library services, networks, NEP 2020 & Public Library Movement.

FIRST PART

The volume starts with a memorial tribute offered by a daughter (Namita Bhan), to her father (Prof P N Kaula),

appreciating his qualities and the role of her mother towards Prof Kaula to make him an “Epitome of Library Science”. This part belongs to his students and fans who appreciate his important qualities like- his towering personality, great oratory & writing skills, command on language, stereophonic voice, photographic memory, deep historical subject knowledge, conceptual clarity, mesmerizing quality of teaching for long hours and fatherly attitude towards the students.

Prof Karisiddappa and Prof Asundi paid a rich tribute to Prof Kaula by calling him a “pioneering library scientist”. They described him as an ardent follower of his Guru, Prof S R Ranganathan who played a very significant role in his life and made him to reach to the top of the profession. Chapter further expounds his acumen in editing and publishing the top-ranked journals like, “The Herald of Library Science” and “International Information Communication & Education”. They mention 2 about his published contributions of over 50 books, 43 bibliographies, 500 book reviews, and 6000 notes and news.

Prof Alaka in her article expresses about the absence of strong voices of stalwarts like “Guru-Prof Ranganathan” and “Shishya-Prof Kaula” who could have been heard and accepted nationally to resolve any crucial issue of national importance today. She credits the duo for convincing the Assam Government to start the Bachelor’s degree course in Library Science in 1966 at Guwahati University

Dr Shukla who did his D Litt on, “Works & Contributions of Prof Kaula” cites Prof Ranganathan, calling “Kaula is second to none in the profession” by recognizing his intelligence and competence. Prof Chandel and Sharma mention about the TWO FIRSTS of Prof Kaula in DLIS, DU, one as a student of PG

Diploma, second as the FIRST full-time Reader in 1958. They mentioned about “A Librarian Looks Back”, a tribute of Prof Kaula to Prof Ranganathan. Prof Satija and Prof Singh wrote about his services offered to Delhi Library Association as a FIRST REGISTRAR in 1955 under the directorship of Prof Das Gupta. Prof Raju expresses his experience of meeting Maharaja of Ramnagar and getting an opportunity to visit the ancestral home of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Ex PM of India) during his educational tour with Prof Kaula and credits him as his life changer after his entry to BHU. Prof Rawat entitled him as “Ajatashatru & encyclopaedic personality”, “most inspiring educator” and “prolific author”.

Prof Karisiddappa in his sole-authored article honored Prof Kaula by comparing him with “Will Durante”, an eminent American historian and philosopher, best known for his 11-volume work, “The Story of Civilization”. He mentions the elatedness of Prof Kaula on the news of his felicitation by the Karnataka Government on securing the highest marks in B Lib Sc in the whole state. When Prof Karisiddappa was going to Bangalore to receive the award, Prof Kaula advised him to have “Darshan” of Prof Ranganathan at DRTC.

Prof Prasad called him a “Visionary” and “Destiny maker”. He mentioned about the beginning of his association with Prof Kaula at BHU and credits him for his complete professional career and academic journey. Prof Binwal quoted Prof Kaula as a professional of rare qualities who used to think and dream of Library Science day and night.

Prof Vyas and Prof Raina who were not his students, also mentions about his illustrious qualities of dynamism and as a fearless crusader. Dr Jeevan who too was not his student, writes about his mentoring through

letters during 1997 to 2007. His paper, in the Centenary Celebrations at Jaipur calls for 10-point Action Plan to uphold the legacy of Prof Kaula.

Dr Vaishnav elucidates her first interaction with Prof Kaula in 1987 as an expert for her selection as a Reader. She called him a “storehouse of tremendous knowledge, a teacher of par excellence”.

SECOND PART

The next part of the volume covers interesting chapters on cutting-edge technologies, trends, and challenges and their application in the field of Library Science. Chapter on “assistive technologies” explains about the usefulness of such technologies to provide “support independent services” to the users having different types of disabilities to improve their functionality. Authors have conducted a study on this aspect, based on UGC list of 53 universities and found that 11 Indian universities are offering such services. Next Chapter on, “Connecting the Dots: The Story of Artificial Intelligence”, traces the history of AI, its types, functionality, advantages and disadvantages, and its application in different fields and libraries. Chapter on “Digital Transformation in Libraries” explains how with the help of AI, social media, and machine learning technology, variety of services can be offered to users. Chapter on “Online Learning Management System (OLMS)” discusses EduNext, an OLMS, developed by Columbia University and established by Harvard and MIT in 2012. This is an online platform used for preparing, conducting and analyzing online courses. Chapter on “Tools for Detecting AI-Generated Contents” discusses the flip side of generative AI tool ChatGPT, being used for writing theses, research papers and assignments, etc., leading to a serious problem of adoption and detection of unethical practices

of copying and also the inability of existing plagiarism tools for tackling such problems.

THIRD PART

This part covers the much-talked areas of the past like resource utilization, library networks, INFLIBNET, library services, information divide, scientometric study, websites, and library movement, etc, focusing on their practical relevance in libraries and their applications in different types of library settings. Ch Singh mentions that “Library Movement” (North-East India and Himachal Pradesh), had been an important area of concern for Prof Kaula whom he called as the “Father of the Library Movement in India”. He credited Prof Kaula for the development of the discipline of library science and also for creating a wave of Library Movement in North-East India at a time when none of the North-East region states had public library legislation.

Chapter by Prof Meera and Pooja on scientometric study on Prof Kaula reveals about his national and international contributions towards the advancement of librarianship. Kumari & Dr Kumar presented their study on Blockchain technology in 12 subject areas, during 2019-2023. Another 4 scientometric study on “Air Pollution” is by Payal and Verma. Saxena and Shrivastava has written on websites which includes evaluation of library websites of 36 medical research institutes through content analysis based on four parameters - general information about the libraries, their collection, services, and links to electronic resources. Chapter on “Quality Services Delivery: Application of Internet of Things in libraries” describes 12 quality services in libraries using IoT. Prof Tadasat writes about, “What and About Smart Libraries” giving details about their structure, dimensions, basic requirements, functions, etc. Mili Bajpai talks about the need and different aspects of resource sharing in libraries. Chapter,

dedicated to “DESIDOC Discovery Services” describes resource discovery service, various technical aspects involved in it, and its usefulness in libraries using open source software VuFind.

Chapter authored by Kushwaha and Thapa throws light on the empowerment of farmers through “Information Literacy” by mentioning different types of global initiatives taken in agriculture and the programs started by GOI to support them. They made few recommendations also. Dr Chauhan writes on “Use of Consortia among Students and Faculty of Agriculture Institutes of Rajasthan”. This is a questionnaire-based case study with data collected from 207 users on usage of digital resources available in CeRA and SKNAU (Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner)

and its 15 constituent colleges located in Rajasthan. It provides 6 findings and 3 recommendations.

To sum up about THE CELEBRITY of our profession, reviewer feels, “nothing can be more rewarding than offering a GRAND TRIBUTE to an UNFORGETTABLE teacher by organizing a conference to remember and celebrate the immense contributions of their “Guru” with utmost reverence even after 54 years”. In conclusion, about the role of editors, it can be said that they have done a commendable work with their distinct vision and scholarly acumen, resulting into a rich and insightful depiction of ideas without losing the sight of the theme. This will be a very useful addition to any academic library.

