



ILA NEWSLETTER

Organ of the Indian Library Association

ILA Newsletter 41 (11) November 2025



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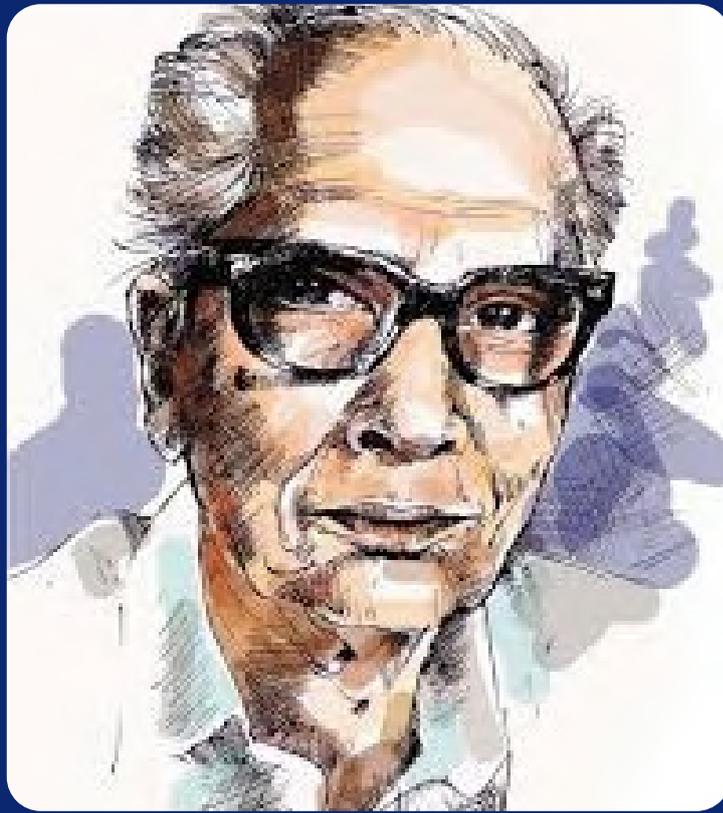
ILA Newsletter © Indian Library Association

Dear Professionals,

News from different regions/states are solicited from ILA members and other LIS Professionals for inclusion in the newsletter. News from 26th of previous month to 25th of current month (Ex: 26th Sept to 25th Oct) with photographs and brief reports may kindly be sent to ilanewslettereditor@gmail.com on or before 26th of current month.

The news includes, success stories, important and significant current affairs, organisation of functions, conferences, seminars, webinars, planned future events, appointments/career advancements, awards, achievements, obituaries, noteworthy readings, forgotten writings, rare pictures, book reviews etc.

Seeking cooperation from all professionals.



P.N. PANICKER

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Feature Article

Tragic Death of Librarian Highlights Rural Library Crisis



In a deeply distressing incident, Bhagyavathi Aggimath (40), Library Supervisor of Malkhed Grama Panchayat Village Library, Sedam, Kalaburagi, ended her life on Monday by hanging herself inside the library. In her suicide note, she cited non-payment of salary for the past three months as the reason behind her tragic step.

The incident raises serious concerns about the deteriorating condition of rural libraries and the lack of institutional support. Library associations and authorities have been urged to take immediate notice.

The Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Mr. Priyank Kharge, and Smt. Uma Mahadevan, IAS, known for her role in rural library development, are being called upon to respond and ensure accountability for this unfortunate event

.For details Read:

- 1.<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/no-salary-for-3-months-library-supervisor-ends-life-in-karnataka-3763159>
- 2.<https://vijaykarnataka.com/epaper/2025/oct/13-oct/malakhed-librarian-suicide/articleshow/124534457.cms>
- 3.<https://www.varthabharati.in/kalaburagi/kalaburagi-librarian-committed-suicide-by-writing-a-death-note-2092924>
- 4.<https://tv9kannada.com/karnataka/kalaburagi/kalaburagi-librarian-commits-self-death-after-leaving-note-over-non-payment-of-salary-1093636.html>
- 5.<https://youtu.be/gjADYmdBjnA?si=yz9SOVsscnbT8FIF>

Events Organised

Dr. Pardeep Rai Delivers Keynote Address at National Seminar on "Digital Preservation and Emerging Innovations of Eternal Knowledge Embedded in Vedic Literature"



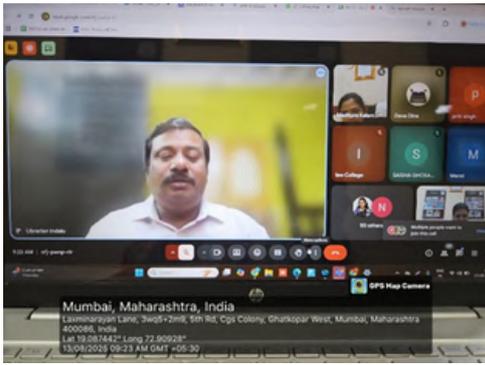
Dr. Pardeep Rai, Librarian, Maitreyi College (University of Delhi) and President, Indian Library Association (ILA), was invited as a Keynote Speaker by Nalanda Pustakalaya Shodh Evam Anusandhan Kendra, Lekhal Gaon, Dehradun to participate in a three-day National Seminar on "Digital Preservation and Emerging Innovations of Eternal Knowledge Embedded in Vedic Literature".

The seminar was organized by Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishtha, Ujjain from 31st October to 2nd November 2025. The event brought together scholars, librarians, and researchers from across the country to discuss the intersection of digital technology and ancient Vedic wisdom.

Dr. Rai's presence and insights enriched the discussions on preserving India's vast intellectual heritage through modern digital innovations and scholarly collaborations.



National Webinar on “Legal Research in the Age of AI” at HVPS College of Law



On National Librarians' Day 2025, the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) and IQAC of Hindi Vidya Prachar Samiti's College of Law organized a National Webinar on “Legal Research in the Age of AI” on 13th August 2025 via Google Meet.

Dr. S. K. Asok Kumar, Chief Librarian & Campus Director, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai, served as the resource person, sharing insights on AI's role in legal research and databases like WorldLII, LexisNexis, and Manupatra.

Dr. (Mrs.) Madhura Kalamkar, In-charge Principal, highlighted the importance of digital competence in legal studies. The session also addressed AI tools, predictive analytics, assistive technologies, and ethical challenges. An interactive Q&A coordinated by Ms. Neha Naik, Librarian, concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Bhavna Tiwari, Student Head of LAC. The webinar emphasized AI's growing significance in legal research and education.

Seminar on “J-Gate – Innovating Access to Global Research Literature”



Marwadi Siksha Samithi (MSS), Ramnath Guljarilal Kedia College of Commerce, Hyderabad, organized a seminar on “J-Gate: Innovating Access to Global Research Literature” on 18th September 2025 in the college auditorium. The event began with Saraswati Pooja and Lighting of the Lamp, followed by a welcome to Mr. Rathish Iyer, the resource person. Prof. Dr. Vandana Samba, Director of Research, delivered the inaugural address highlighting the importance of global research accessibility.

In his session, Mr. Iyer explained that J-Gate (Journal Gate) is a major journal aggregator offering access to over 115 million articles, supporting features like SCITE citation management, HS Talks, search builder, author finder, and personal library folders. The seminar, attended by 182 participants and live-streamed online, concluded with an interactive Q&A session and felicitation of the speaker. Dr. Ramsha Khaliq, IQAC Coordinator, proposed the vote of thanks, marking the successful conclusion of the event.

Orientation on “Knimbus Digital Library” at CMR College of Engineering and Technology

The Library Staff of CMR College of Engineering and Technology organized an orientation program on “Knimbus Digital Library” on 19th September 2025. The event was inaugurated by Major V. A. Narayana, Director, with active participation from students and faculty.

The Director, Principal, and Management Committee appreciated the Library Staff for their effective organization. The Valedictory Function was graced



by Sri Ch. Gopal Reddy (Secretary & Correspondent), Sri Ch. Abhinav Reddy (CEO), Major V. A. Narayana (Director), Dr. A. Seshu Kumar (Principal), Dr. G. Devadas (Academic Dean), and Dr. P. Ravi Kumar (Student Dean). The event was coordinated by the Library Staff team – K. Vamana Rao, B. Prashanth, K. Mary Andasamma, D. Ranjith Kumar, S. Noorjahan, S. Ravi Kumar, K. Anjamma, and G. Bhagya Lakshmi – marking the program a grand success.

Community Service and Social Responsibility Programme at Boda Ramanna Gadda



On 19th September 2025, the Department of Library Science and IQAC of Government Degree College, Mulugu, organized an outreach programme at Boda Ramanna Gadda, a tribal village in Jagganna Gudem, Mulugu Mandal, Telangana.

Led by Dr. K. Mallesham, Principal, and coordinated by the IQAC team, faculty, and students, the event included distribution of provision kits worth ₹1,000 each to 22 tribal families and awareness sessions on health, hygiene, literacy, and women's empowerment.

The initiative promoted social responsibility and community engagement among students. Active participants included Dr. B. Balaiah, Dr. Ch. Bhaskar, Dr. S. Kavitha, Dr. B. Jagadish, and other faculty and staff members.

Educational field trip by students from Kallam Anji Reddy Vidyalaya



The Indira Gandhi Memorial Library buzzed with enthusiasm and curiosity during a two-day (i.e., 14th & 15th October 2025) educational field trip by students from Kallam Anji Reddy Vidyalaya established with the aim of making quality education accessible to children from economically backward homes. Nearly 300 students from Classes VIII and IX, accompanied by their teachers and librarian, explored the University's vast learning space and discovered the many ways libraries nurture education and creativity.

The visit began with a warm welcome by Dr. O. Sivasankar Prasad, University Librarian I/c, who introduced the young children to the fundamentals of the library system. He spoke about the library's history, its role in fostering intellectual growth, and the importance of developing a love for reading from an early age. His inspiring words reminded students that libraries are not just repositories of books but gateways to endless discovery.

The students then embarked on guided tours of different sections of the library, including reading halls, reference areas, the digital library, and archival collections. The library staff, known for their dedication and warmth, provided engaging explanations about cataloguing, digital databases, lending systems, and reference services. Their patient guidance ensured that every student gained valuable insights into how a modern university library operates.

Read more at: <https://herald.uohyd.ac.in/curious-minds-from-kallam-anji-reddy-vidyalaya-explore-the-igm-library/>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DP6Ld_OAZ4o/?igsh=MWkwanQ5d2hodWMOeA==

GK Contest at Kalidas Girls college, Ujjain



Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's 133rd birth anniversary was celebrated as National Librarians Day at Govt. Kalidas Girls College, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on 12 Aug. 2025, under which a general knowledge competition and lecture were organized in the library. The key speaker of the program, Librarian Dr. Leena Shah, said that Dr. Ranganathan had made five Laws in library science and all the libraries of India provide services based on them. Despite being a student of mathematics, Dr. Ranganathan got interested in library science and he was the first to classify this discipline in India. He wrote books on Colon Classification Theory, Five Laws of Library Science, Classified Catalogue Code, Reference Service and Library Administrative Service, etc. Dr. Ranganathan was the first to start a course in library science at Vikram University, Ujjain in 1957. On this occasion the IQAC incharge Dr. Ajay Bhargawa, exhorted the students to use library resources. Principal Dr. Vandana Gupta said the library is the wisdom of the past, the understanding of the present and the possibility of the future. She asked the students to apply the knowledge of books in their lives. The library gave the Best Reader Award to Babita Panchal, The Best writing Award to Renuka Malviya, the Best Volunteer Award to Mahima Yadav, Jaya Sahu, Jiya Panwar and Rishika.

National Vedic Seminar Organized at the Country's First Writer's Village



A three-day All India Vedic Seminar was organized under the joint auspices of Maharshi Sandipani National Ved Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, Nalanda Library Research and Study Centre, and the Department of Library and Information Science, Sparsh Himalaya University.

Based on the theme "Digital Preservation and Emerging Innovations of Eternal Knowledge Embedded in Vedic Literature," the seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' as the Chief Guest. During his address, Vidushi Nishank stated that "the preservation of Vedic literature is the strong foundation of cultural and intellectual development."

Eminent speakers including Prof. Pradeep Rai (President, ILA), Dr. Anoop Kumar Mishra, Prof. Devi Prasad Tripathi, Prof. P.V.K. Subramaniam, and Dr. Savita Mohan shared valuable insights. Dr. Indu Bharti Ghildiyal expressed gratitude to all for making the event a grand success.

133rd National Librarians' Day 2025 Celebrated at GDC Mulugu



The Government Degree College, Mulugu, celebrated the 133rd National Librarians' Day on 12th August 2025, organized by the Department of Library and Information Science. Principal and Chief Guest Dr. K. Mallesham inaugurated the event by garlanding Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's portrait and lighting the lamp, stressing reading habits and proper library use. Dr. B. Jagadish, College Librarian and Convener, highlighted Dr. Ranganathan's Five Laws, classification work, and Padma Shri honor. Faculty members Dr. J. Somanna, Dr. B. Balaiah, Dr. K. Kavitha, and others shared their views. Events like Book Exhibition, Essay Writing, and Elocution were held with prizes for winners. Nearly 50 students participated, and Dr. Jagadish thanked all for their support.

Success Story

Science Gallery Bengaluru Takes Exhibits to Rural Libraries

Science Gallery Bengaluru (SGB), in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR), Government of Karnataka, has launched an initiative to bring exhibition-based learning resources to rural and peri-urban libraries across the state.

The pilot phase engaged 180 participants from all 31 districts, showcasing strong community interest. The project includes three learning tools – Exhibition-in-a-Box, Activity Handbook, and Open-courseware – available in Kannada and English, supported by training workshops for library staff.

SGB is currently seeking public donations to achieve its fundraising goal within three days.

Support the initiative: <https://give.do/fundraisers/training-workshops-for-public-libraries-across-karnataka>

Awards

State Award to Meritorious Teachers – 2025



Dr. P. Shankaraiah, Librarian, Honoured with Telangana State Award – 2025

Dr. P. Shankaraiah, Librarian at Government Degree College, Godavarikhani, Telangana, received the Telangana State Award to Meritorious Teachers – 2025 for his distinguished service. Beginning his career in 1993 with the Department of Public Libraries, he later joined Collegiate Education after qualifying UGC-NET in 2012. He has also served as Public

Information Officer (RTI), NSS Programme Officer, Career Guidance Officer, and Media Incharge. The award was presented by Smt. Yogita Rana, Secretary for Education, and Smt. Sridevasena, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Telangana.

Certificate of Registration of Design by the Patent Office, Govt. of India



Mr. Pravakar Thakur, Assistant Librarian at Amity University Kolkata and Lifetime Member (EL-17422) of ILA, has been granted a Certificate of Registration of Design by the Patent Office, Government of India, for his innovation titled "Self Operated Reprographic Kiosk for Libraries" (Design No. 454510-001).

Ph.D. Awarded



Research Title: "Assessment of Information Literacy Skills of Government Social Welfare Schemes among Rural Community: A Case Study of Kalyana-Karnataka Region"

Research Scholar : Ms. Latha

Research Guide : Prof. Gavisiddappa Anandhalli, Department of Library & Information Science, Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women University, Vijayapura.

News you can use

Encyclopedia Britannica and Merriam-Webster Sue Perplexity for Copyright Theft and Brand Damage

Encyclopedia Britannica and Merriam-Webster Dictionary have filed a lawsuit against AI search company Perplexity in a New York federal court, alleging unauthorized use of their copyrighted materials and brand identity in Perplexity's AI-powered "answer engine."

Key Allegations:

- Copyright Infringement: Perplexity allegedly scraped and reproduced copyrighted encyclopedia articles and dictionary definitions verbatim.
- Trademark Violation: Claims suggest misuse of their content may cause brand confusion and damage.
- Traffic Impact: Plaintiffs argue Perplexity's summaries divert users from their websites, affecting traffic and revenue.

This case highlights growing tensions between traditional publishers and AI firms over unlicensed content use.

— r.s.v.

Sources:

1. <https://qz.com/merriam-webster-encyclopedia-britannica-sue-perplexity-ai>
2. <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/encyclopedia-britannica-sues-perplexity-over-ai-answer-engine-2025-09-11/>
3. <https://www.pymnts.com/cpi-posts/britannica-and-merriam-webster-sue-perplexity-ai-over-copyright-claims/>
4. <https://winbuzzer.com/2025/09/12/encyclopedia-britannica-and-merriam-webster-sue-perplexity-for-copyright-theft-and-brand-damage-xcxwbn/>

Call for Nominations of ILA Awards/ Fellowships 2025

Nominations are invited for the following ILA awards/fellowship latest by 15th December 2025

1. ILA - KAULA BEST LIBRARIAN AWARD 2025: The Award, instituted by Prof. P.N. Kaula Endowment for Library and Information Science, Guntur (AP), is for the professionals in the field of LIS in India. The Award carries a shawl, citation and memento.

2. ILA - DR. L M PADHYA BEST UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AWARD 2025: The Award instituted by Mrs.

Kantaben L. Padhya in memory of her Late husband Dr. L. M. Padhya who had retired as University Librarian, from Smt. Hansa Mehta Library, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat. The Award carries a shawl, citation and memento. Applications received for the award must fulfill the following conditions:

- Only a state/central Government University recognized by the UGC can apply for the award.
- The Applicant University must be a Member of AIU.
- The Applicant Library should be the Institutional member of ILA.

3. ILA - GIDWANI-DESHPANDEY BEST ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN AWARD 2025: The award, instituted by

Prof. K. Navalani, former Professor and Head, Department of Library and Information Science, Punjabi University, Patiala is for the professional in the field of Academic Libraries in India. The award carries a Shawl, citation, and a memento.

Pl. Note: Prescribed forms are available at www.ilaindia.net

Detailed C.V. along with duly filled in applications should reach to ILA General Secretary, Indian Library Association, A-40-41, Flat No. 201, Ansal Building, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, latest by 15th December 2025.

The following awards are also given during the forthcoming 71stth ILA conference, no nomination required as these awards will be decided by a committee as per ILA norms.

1. ILA - C D SHARMA AWARD 2025:

The Award is meant for the author of the best paper written and presented during the forthcoming 70th ILA Annual Conference. The Award was instituted by Mrs. Kamla Sharma w/o Dr. C. D. Sharma. The Award will be announced at the time of All India Library Conference. It consists of presentation of book worth Rs. 1000/-.

Note: The author will be selected by the Award Committee as per ILA norms during the Conference.

2. ILA - A G MOTIWALE AWARD 2025:

The Award is meant for the young author of the best paper written and presented during the forthcoming 70th ILA Annual Conference. Author must be below the age of 40 years. The Award was instituted by Mrs. Sushila Motiwale w/o Late Dr. A. G. Motiwale. The Award will be announced at the time of All India Library Conference. It consists of cash award of Rs. 500/- or Book worth Rs. 1000/-.

Note: The author will be selected by the Award Committee as per ILA norms during the Conference.

3. ILA - P V VERGHESE AWARD 2025:

The Award has been instituted by Sh. P.V. Verghese and is meant to be given to the author of the best paper published in Journal of ILA in the year 2025. The Award will be given for the volume 61 at the time of the conference. It consists of cash award of Rs. 500/- or ILA Publication.

Note: The author will be selected from published articles in Journal of ILA by the Award Committee as per ILA norms

Delhi High Court Bans Sci-Hub and Similar Sites in India

The Delhi High Court has ruled in favor of Elsevier and others against Ms. Alexandra Elbakyan, ordering a complete ban on Sci-Hub and similar shadow libraries in India. Internet providers and government agencies have been directed to ensure these sites remain inaccessible across the country.

The verdict, based on copyright law, will affect thousands of students, teachers, researchers, doctors, and journalists who relied on such platforms for academic resources. The decision has renewed calls for open access initiatives in India, urging researchers to retain copyright and publish preprints of their work to ensure wider public access.

Source: [SpicyIP](#) – “Sci-Hub Now Completely Blocked in India”

Forthcoming event

MMTTC Two-Week Refresher Course (Online) on “Smart Information Systems: AI in Action”

The Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) is organizing a Two-Week Online Refresher Course on “Smart Information Systems: AI in Action” in collaboration with the University Library, Central University of Punjab, from December 8–20, 2025.

Conducted under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) of the UGC, this course aims to enhance the professional competencies of library and information science faculty and professionals through the integration of Artificial Intelligence in library systems.

There is no registration fee. Interested participants may apply via <https://mmc.ugc.ac.in> by November 20, 2025.

National Workshop on “One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) for Research Excellence”

The Government Degree College, Mulugu, Telangana, will host a One-Day National Workshop on “One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) for Research Excellence” on 7th November 2025, sponsored by RUSA/PM-USHA, jointly organized by the Department of Library Science and IQAC.

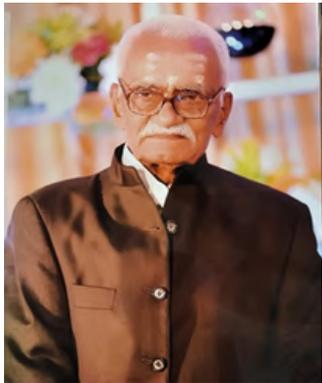
Smt. A. Sri Devasena, IAS, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Telangana, is the Chief Patron, and Dr. K. Mallesham, Principal, serves as Chairperson. The workshop is convened by Dr. B. Jagadish, Librarian, and coordinated by Dr. S. Kavitha, Assistant Professor of English.

The event focuses on promoting equitable access to global scholarly resources through the ONOS initiative. Eminent speakers – Dr. Iranna M. Shettar (NIT Warangal), Prof. S. Sudarshan Rao (Osmania University), and Dr. B. Radhika Rani (Kakatiya University) – will address participants on enhancing research quality through ONOS.

Faculty, librarians, research scholars, and students are invited to participate.

Obituary

ILA Mourns the Demise of Dr. Shivanna, Former Deputy Librarian, Bangalore University

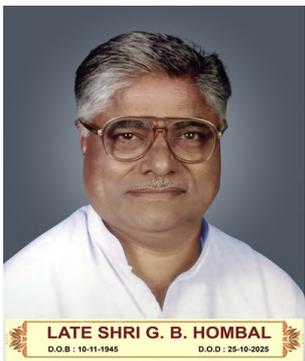


The Indian Library Association (ILA) deeply mourns the passing of Dr. Shivanna, former Deputy Librarian, Bangalore University. Renowned for his humility, scholarship, and dedication, Dr. Shivanna began his career in the Indian Army, pursued professional education at Banaras Hindu University, and served in the Department of Public Libraries, Karnataka, and later as Lecturer at the Library Training School, Bangalore.

At Bangalore University, he was fondly known as the “encyclopaedia of the Central College Library” for his vast knowledge and helpful nature. Even after retirement, he continued his literary pursuits through Sharana Sahitya and maintained a personal library dedicated to it. He was honoured with the Rajyotsava Prashasti and the Best Librarian Award by the Department of Public Libraries, Karnataka.

The ILA extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues. May his noble soul rest in peace.

G.B Hombal



LATE SHRI G. B. HOMBAL

D.O.B : 10-11-1945 D.O.D : 25-10-2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Gurusiddhaya Basayya Hombal, who died at the age of 80 on October 25, 2025, in Dharwad at his residence, 'Chetana'.

Born on 10th November 1945 in Ingalahalli, Hubli Taluk, Mr. Hombal completed his early education locally before earning a B.A. in Arts in 1968 and a B.LIB. in 1969 from Karnataka University, Dharwad.

A dedicated public servant, he served for decades in the Department of Public Library in Bangalore, beginning as a temporary Inspector in 1970. He achieved the rank of District Chief Librarian, serving across Kolar, Chikmagalore, Belgaum,

Dharwad, Gadag, Mangalore, and Chitradurga. His life was marked by his profound commitment to education, notably his contribution to empowering young readers and children's libraries. A significant achievement was starting a first of its kind Children's Library Division in the Karnataka Public Library system in 1987. He also contributed to literature by encouraging and helping young authors to publish their writings particularly in children literature, every year. Furthermore, he established an endowment in his mother's name at the Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Dharwad to celebrate Librarian's Day every year on August 12, underscoring his lifelong dedication to the profession. He retired from service in Dharwad in 2003.

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Nationality: Sole Owner of Periodical Name & address I, Dr. Dharam Kumar, General Secretary on behalf of Indian Library Association declare that the particulars given above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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 Phone: 91-11-41726602

Publications of Indian Library Association



1.	70th Annual ILA- Conference on Proceedings- International Conference on Libraries and Artificial Intelligence: Empowering Users for Sustainable Knowledge Systems, Chief Editor Dr. Parashuram S. Kattimani, Editors Dr. O.N. Chaubey, Dr. Machendranath S, Dr. Veeresh Hanchinal, Dr. Abhijeet Sinha, Dr. Iranna M. Shettar & Dr. Rupesh Gaur during 20-22 March 2025. Rs. 3500, US \$ 175 (ISBN: 978-81-956643-3-7)
2	69th Annual ILA-Conference Proceedings-International Conference on Building the Future: Transforming Libraries for Sustainability through Capacity Building, Chief Editors Dr. O. N. Chaubey & Dr. Pardeep Rai, Editors Dr. Dharam Kumar, Dr. Abhijeet Sinha & Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh during 1-3 February 2024 Rs. 3500, US \$ 175 (ISBN: 978-81-956643-9-9)
3	68th. Annual ILA Conference Proceedings-International Conference on 'Re-Engineering of Libraries in the Context of Emerging Technologies: Myth or Reality, Chief Editors, Dr. O.N. Chaubey & Dr. Pardeep Rai, Editors Dr. Dharam Kumar, Dr. Abhijeet Sinha and Mr. Qumar Abbas during 19-21 January 2023. Rs. 3500, US \$ 175 (ISBN: 978-81-956643-1-3)
4	66th ILA Conference Proceedings- International Conference on 'Visualizing Librarianship in the 21st Century : Connecting Minds and Creating the Future, Chief Editor Prof. Ashu Shokeen, Prof. B. Ramesh Babu, Editors Dr. O. N. Chaubey, Dr. Dharam Kumar, Dr. Pardeep Rai, Dr. Suresh Jange at Gulbarga University Library, Kalaburagi, Karnataka during 27-28 September 2021 Rs. 3500, US\$ 175 (ISBN: 978-81-85216-53-3)
5	65th ILA Conference Proceedings- International Conference on 'Digital Landscape: Re-invention and reengineering of Libraries: Issues and Challenges', Chief Editor Dr. O.N. Chaubey, Editors Dr. Dharam Kumar, Dr. Pradeep Rai, Dr. Mohan R, Kherde, Dr. Rishi K Tiwari and Dr. Gururaj S Hadagali, at Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati (Maharashtra) during 26th – 28th February. 2021. Rs. 3500, US\$ 175 (ISBN: 978-81-85216-52-5)
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