

**Minutes of the Meeting of Working Group on LIS Education and Training
held on 16th January, 2013
at Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore**

The Chairman of the Working Group on LIS Education and Training of National Mission for Libraries, Prof. A.R.D. Prasad, welcomed the members. In his opening remarks he thanked the members for attending the meeting and mentioned that the meeting was to discuss mainly two agenda items.

- 1) Setting up of Indian Institute of Library and Information Science
- 2) Initiating Training programmes for the Public Library professionals.

Members Present:

- 1) Prof. Swapan Chakravorty
- 2) Prof. C. R. Karisiddappa
- 3) Sri Arun Ghosh
- 4) Dr. Devika Madalli
- 5) Prof. A.R.D. Prasad (Chairman)

Special Invitee:

- 1) Dr. K.K. Banerjee

Members Absent:

- 1) Prof. M. Koganurmath, Central University, Gandhinagar

A booklet having the following was circulated to all the members (enclosed)

- 1) Email from Prof. Prasad to the member regarding the agenda, also requesting them to express their opinion about IILIS
- 2) Email responses from all the member
- 3) EFC on IILIS
- 4) Note on Training Programmes for Public Librarians

Firstly, the Agenda items were taken up and Prof. Prasad informed that as it was time to finalize the EFCs that are to be sent under various WG groups of the NML. Hence he called upon the members to deliberate on the two main items of the agenda

1. Long term plan for LIS education, research and training - Setting up IILIS
2. Short term plan for capacity building: Training Courses for Library Professionals.

The gist of the responses from the members is as follows:

Agenda Item 1: Setting up of IILIS (Indian Institute of Library and Information Science)

The email responses from the members of NML WG on LIS Education and Training was circulated to all the members, wherein, all the members unanimously felt the need for IILIS and expressed that the Institute should be initiated in the current plan period.

Prof. Swapan Chakravorty informed that Ahluwalia Committee suggested all the Gazettes and Government of India orders are to be digitized and hosted by the Parliament Library and these digital resources can be integrated when National Virtual Library (NVL) search facility is launched. Dr. Prasad responded saying that NVL will also integrate the information available under various ICSSR, CSIR, ICHR, ICAR etc. It is expected to have MoU with various governmental agencies.

Prof. C. R. Karisiddappa pointed out the lack of uniformity across the library schools curricula and courses in India and UGC Curriculum Development Committee (for which he was the Chairman) recommendations are too old as they were not revised since 2001 and suggested that IILIS should develop model curriculum periodically. Prof. Chakravorty opined that IILIS would set bench marks in evolving higher standards in LIS education.

Prof. Arun Ghosh commented of the state of research in the library science and stressed for the need continuous evaluation of the research outputs. He opined that IILIS should undertake such evaluation before the research agenda for future is planned. Members agreed that such a study had to be undertaken by IILIS. Prof. Arun Ghosh also pointed out that it is equally important to identify new and emerging areas of research, teaching and training and incorporate that same into curricula.

Prof. Chakravorty strongly felt that for the NVL to sustain and to successfully offer services to the public over a period of time, NVL work and updation of its content and technology should be carried out IILIS. Prof. Prasad supported this view and expressed the opinion there should be symbiotic relation between NVL and IILIS. Also that IILIS should build synergy between existing LIS education system of the country and requirements of the library sector through its training program and continuous engagement with the both the LIS academic as well as practitioners communities.

Prof. Prasad suggested to have brain storming session involving stake-holders from Academics, and Public Libraries to express their ideas about the various NML tasks. Dr. K. K. Banerjee informed the members that there may be one such event sometime

before April involving various governmental agencies also.

Draft EFC for IILIS that would mainly be the ancillary body to execute and sustain the NVL activities were discussed by the committee.

Agenda Item - 2: Capacity Building: Training Programs

Dr. K.K Banerjee informed the members that course content of the training programmes should be designed to

- a) Improve the communication skills of the Public Library Staff
- b) expertise in handling technology tools, even the basic skill like sending emails, making presentations, spreadsheets, search techniques for web search engines and OPACs
- c) The course content should be designed at 3 different levels, so that after finishing 1st level, they should be in a position to undertake next level of course content.
- d) He also opined that there should be different approaches to managerial and technical staff. In essence the proposal for Training courses should include eligibility criteria for selection of the staff that can undertake the training course (e.g. Qualifications, age, etc.)
- e) The training courses can be proposed across the corners of India and before June, 2013

All the members agreed with with Dr. Banerjee's suggestions.

The following are the resolution of the meeting

- 1) **Initiate Setting up of IILIS:** All the members unanimously suggested that IILIS was NKC recommendation. Now that NML is functioning, the next NKC recommendation that is IILIS, should be set up and there should be a symbiotic relation between NVL and IILIS. For long term sustainability of NVL, IILIS would be well suited to carry out the work of NVL, to maintain it, update it and make it technically complaint with latest and evolving technology as required. One of the main envisaged activities of IILIS is capacity building for the public library sector of the country. IILIS can take up, periodically, training programs for the Public Librarians and training the trainers and while updating and changing the course content keeping the view the changing needs of the end users, collections and modes of delivery.
- 2) **Training and Capacity Building:** The training courses should take into consideration all the suggestions made by Dr. Banerjee and conduct pan India Training programs before July 2013