

**Dynamics of Librarianship
in the
Knowledge Society**

(Festschrift in Honour of Prof. B. Ramesh Babu)

in 4 Volumes

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Dynamics of Librarianship in the Knowledge Society

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Volume : 1

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Foreword

It is great pleasure that we can dedicate this Festschrift to Professor B Ramesh Babu in honor of his retirement. The collection of articles provided in this Festschrift recognizes his many contributions in the areas of library and information science. It includes articles from many of his students, collaborators, and friends from home and abroad.

Dr. B. Ramesh Babu was born, according to the official records, in Pudipatla village (Near Tirupati), Andhra Pradesh, India, on July 1, 1952. After graduating high school, he learnt and studied wide variety of disciplinary areas -- he did M. Lib. Sc. degree at University of Mysore and obtained First Rank with Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Memorial Medal. The doctoral study in LIS completed in the University of Madras under the title of "A Study of the Characteristics of Indexes in Philosophical Books with Reference to the Standards on Indexing". Meantime, completing Master degrees both in political science and in cost accounts and Diploma in Tamil, he was awarded Commonwealth Fellowship for Post-Doctoral research at the Department of Information Science, Loughborough University, United Kingdom.

Some hold that various and diverse background and interests cannot be helpful for the in-depth research and study as a scholar. But Dr. Babu has demonstrated that we should start to digging the foundation wider, in order to excavate the hole deeper. As we can see through his wide range of research, it can be a very useful advantage especially for the researcher and professor of library and information science to cope with this ever-changing age of information society. He has already written or edited 13 books, published more than 250 articles in various journals and proceedings including those in 12 international journals, and those in 41 national journals, and guided 23 doctoral students. The ability and achievements of Dr. Babu has been acknowledged by many instances of awards and prizes including Dr. S. R. Ranganathan Memorial Gold Medal by the University of Mysore; C. D. Sharma Best Paper Award; REDIT 2001 Best Paper Award; Commonwealth Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research; Prof. Parvathaneni Gangadhara Rao Memorial Award; Best Teacher and Researcher Award; and

most recently IATLIS – Motiwale Best LIS Teacher Award for the year 2011.

This Festschrift to Professor B Ramesh Babu can be said as a monumental version of his lifelong commitment to the library and information science. The title of the festschrift thoughtfully coined by the Editors as, “Dynamics of Librarianship in the Knowledge Society”. It includes 135 research articles and impressions to him, consisting of following 14 sections: Impressions; Sociological Foundations of Library Science; Information Processing and Retrieval; Information Communication Technology; Information Security; Information Seeking Behaviour: Case Studies; Information Services; Knowledge Management; Information Literacy; Library Networks and Consortia; Institutional Repository; Scientometrics, Bibliometrics and Webometrics; Library and Information Science Education; and Scientometric Portrait of Prof B. Ramesh Babu. More than 150 LIS professionals from across India as well as from other nations including Germany, Japan, Korea, Bangladesh, UAE and Kuwait etc. have contributed their articles or impressions on Dr. Babu. The subjects included in these volumes encompass almost all areas of Library and Information Science, especially including those sketching his personal aspects and those analyzing his achievements using our own bibliometric methodology. All of these are enough to show aspects of Prof. Ramesh Babu's stature as a researcher, teacher, and active manager in library community, who proves that teaching, research and social service do not have to be contradictory.

Finally, I should cite a popular saying that “retirement is not the end but a new beginning.” I expect his retirement can privilege him from some burden of education and research from the University, and that he can take much more time with his family members, in addition to do his own research. We already know that his enthusiasm to the work and almost "natural" diligence do not let him take a rest with an easy mind without doing anything. So you shall continue to see Dr. B. Ramesh Babu, in the future, at the conference, through his books, and on many pages of your favourite journals. And I hope that Indian and world library community can continue to make the best use of the valuable experience and wisdom of Dr. Ramesh Babu, in the future also.

— Dr. DONG-GEUN OH

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Co-Editors in Chief: Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice

Preface

The present volume is a collection of research papers compiled and brought out in honour of Prof. B Ramesh Babu who is retiring from the services of University of Madras during June 2012. Prof. Babu who is popularly known by the student community as *Prof. BR Sir* has served in this noble profession since late seventies in various capacities. Started his career as Assistant Librarian in the State Regional Library, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh and moved to Chennai as College Librarian in Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College from 1980 to 1990. Later shifted to regular teaching in the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Madras with the blessings of Prof. P Gangadhara Rao. Since 1990 till 2012 he served in the department and finally retiring as Professor. During his tenure he is roll model and dedicated teacher worked for the cause of LIS education. He served both in the regular department and also in the distance education department of University of Madras even during his College Librarianship years. He endeared himself of a teacher, researcher, prolific writer and above all he earned the goodwill of thousands and thousands of LIS students, researchers, fellow teaching fraternity and professionals across the globe.

He has been awarded *Dr.S.R.Ranganathan Memorial Gold Medal* by the University of Mysore for the first rank in M.Lib.Sc; *C.D. Sharma Best Paper Award* by the Indian Library Association in 1999; *READIT 2001 Best Paper Award* by the IIT Madras, Chennai.; *Commonwealth Fellowship* for Postdoctoral research during 1999-2000 and has worked on Web OPACs in the UK Academic Libraries in the Department of Information Science, Loughborough University, UK. He has also been conferred *Prof. Parvathaneni Gangadhara Rao Memorial Award* for 2007 by the Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad and the *Best Teacher and Researcher Award by the National Association of Indian libraries (NAIL)* for the year 2008. He has been awarded the most prestigious National award namely *IATLIS –Motiwale Best Teacher* for the year 2011 by the Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science. Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS) Prof. B. Ramesh Babu after three and a half decades of committed and innovative

professional service, will be superannuating in June 2012. We, the fellow library and information science professionals and admirers of Prof. B. Ramesh Babu felt that he deserves to be honoured for his multifarious and multifaceted professional and research contributions.

Many library and information science professionals expressed their fascination for his professional contributions. Taking into consideration of his role in the Indian LIS professional scene, professional friends and well wishers desired to bring out the Felicitation volume in appreciation of his commitment and dedicated services to the cause of Librarianship. The Editors and Editorial Board whole heartedly thank him for allowing bringing out this Festschrift.

The theme of the Festschrift has been entitled as “Dynamics of Librarianship in the Knowledge Society”. The Festschrift has been presented in two volumes and divided into 14 Sections as follows:

Section 1: Impressions

Section 2: Sociological Foundations of Library Science

Section 3: Information Processing and Retrieval

Section 4: Information Communication Technology

Section 5: Information Security

Section 6: Information Seeking Behaviour: Case Studies

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Section 14: Scientometric Portrait of Prof B. Ramesh Babu

A total of 135 articles have been received across the globe. In addition to Indian contributions, professionals from Germany, South Korea, Japan,

Bangladesh, Kuwait, and UAE have also responded to the invitation by the Festschrift Committee. Contributors to this Festschrift are by renowned faculty and practicing LIS professionals. Views expressed in these contributions are of the respective authors only. The Editors are no way responsible for the thought content of the articles. The Editors wish to congratulate the authors for their spontaneous response made by the Festschrift Committee.

The Editors record their deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Prof. Dr. Dong-Geun Oh, Keimyung University, South Korea a distinguished LIS professional for writing the FOREWORD to this volume.

The Editors are sure that these volumes would be a valuable addition to the LIS literature.

The production and publication of these volumes in a record time and the quality and its aesthetic get up is due to the tireless efforts of Mr. . Our millennium thanks to the B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi who is one of the leading publishers of LIS publications.

The Editors wish Professor B Ramesh Babu with good health, long and peaceful life and many more professional innings.

Editors

Crest Jewel of LIS Professors

Universally the role of teachers has been acclaimed as an important factor in shaping every one's life by giving a meaningful and purposeful direction. In our Indian Tradition we have always given the position for our Gurus even before the position given for God the Almighty.

A teacher is one who perfects himself in his thought, word and deed. He not only perfects himself and acquires knowledge but also makes the seekers of knowledge easily understand even the intricate theories and practical lessons by expositions which will enlighten them. A teacher is one who has no likes or dislikes in imparting the knowledge to the seekers. A teacher is one who is compassionate and one who is capable of inspiring the students and make them have the righteous path by his exalting elucidations.

Our Guru, Professor, Dr.B.Ramesh Babu is a living testimony to the accepted declarations which are in vogue regarding a perfect teacher. Apart from achieving his own heights and being a personification of perfection in the endeavors taken by him, he also comes down to the level of the students and uplifts them to the sublime heights of knowledge which makes him a teacher par excellence.

On a certain day our revered Professor Dr.B.Ramesh Babu was not keeping good health and appeared exceptionally tired. However he meticulously attended to his daily routine at the University and helped the scholars and students in the department in correcting their research articles. We asked him is it necessary that our Professor should trouble himself like this? why wouldn't he take rest for the day. He said "I can understand your concern. I do agree that this organic cage is afflicted by disease, but why jump to the conclusion that rest is imminent? I shall carry on with my duty. As long as this body is destined to face this affliction, let it". This shows that he is a Karma Yogi and the compassion he has on the students community as such is very well revealed.

Our teacher Professor Dr.B.Ramesh Babu has always said to "cultivate the habit of feeling happy about the other person's success. If possible you should

also go to the person and whole heartedly say `I'm so happy about your success in life". He has made his scholars and the students always imbibe good qualities. He has given due position and respect to those persons who are being neglected by other head strong persons who fail in their respective duty.

Our teacher Professor Dr.B.Ramesh Babu has always helped all the seekers of knowledge with compassion and without likes and dislikes. He is verily a Crest Jewel of LIS Professors.

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