

Preface

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the library and information services profession along with many other professions involved in the socio-economic-cultural empowerment of local citizens in global settings have reached a new height in pursuing human development goals conceived by the intergovernmental communities and national governments around the world. The concept of inclusive growth sets much importance in the 21st century, as we strive to achieve an equitable society in every corner of human civilization. The multi-level multi-layer global interventional programs envisioned by the learned intergovernmental communities, such as United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs), Education for All (EFA), Health for All (HFA), Information for All (IFA), Mobile for All, and Internet for All, rely on the transformative roles of Library and Information Services (LIS) professionals. The United Nations convened the World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) in 2003 and 2005, where LIS professionals assumed special roles in building knowledge societies in their respective regions and countries. They were recognized as knowledge workers, knowledge facilitators, as well as knowledge creators in knowledge societies. LIS professionals became building blocks in knowledge societies, handholding many other members of knowledge communities. LIS professionals were increasingly engaged in professional collaborations with communication, telecom, Information Technology (IT), and development professionals for effective creation of human capital in the world.

At the same time, the convergence of library, information, and communication technologies helps in the development of a new stream of services across the world to be delivered online in real time with less involvement of human beings in the process or during online transactions. A new term “ICT for Development” (ICT4D) was coined during the initiation of WSIS action plans, where Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) become very vital resources. ICT is being used in every segment of human development including in health, education, science, and governance sectors. A new stream of services are also being planned, developed, and deployed around the world that include electronic governance (e-gov), e-learning, e-library, e-health, e-banking, and e-science, which are delivered online or in Web-based platforms. Similarly, mobile-based services are made available to citizens around the world, due to increased tele-density and higher affordability of mobile communication devices by the masses. Mobile-based services, such as m-gov, m-learning, m-library, m-health, m-banking, and m-science have become common in many countries, whereas other countries are also catching up to empower and enrich their citizens with appropriate services.

Thus, the world of librarianship intimately experiences this transformation being part of the real world as well as part of the virtual world. LIS professionals have become key collaborators and key contributors in delivery of qualitative services to the real world. They also have engaged in delivery of converged services to the virtual world as one of the key contributors. In this century, LIS professionals

have slowly become one of the key facilitators, key knowledge workers, and key personnel in human capital formation.

Virtualization of every knowledge-based profession becomes very essential in the process of globalization. The globalization process started at the beginning of the industrial age. Globalization was a social construct of industrial society, essentially nurtured by the for-profit corporations for their own benefits. Commercially successful library and information products and services are mostly owned by for-profit corporations located in global north. The bigger the size of corporations, the higher the cost of services or products. This phenomenon led to another dimension of global concerns.

Sensible knowledge workers around the world led an alternate movement ideally against commodification of human knowledge for corporate profits. This movement led to creation of knowledge commons, which include scholarly contents, software, solutions, and standards. Here, human knowledge transforms into common goods in re-usable format without any restrictions of re-use for scientific purposes or greater societal benefits. International librarianship has also experienced this new knowledge creation wave and become part of the knowledge commons ecology. The LIS professionals have become actively engaged in development and deployment of open access contents with creative commons licenses, open source software, open standards, and open solutions. They also have become global partners of open society, based on principles of openness in recording human knowledge.

The concept of international librarianship or comparative librarianship and its globally networked actors believe that it has more dreams to pursue and many more roles to perform – roles of various hues and flavours that will enrich both the community of LIS professionals as well as its audiences – the library users and academics. International librarianship inspires to grow in the company of luminaries of intellect and talent available around the world. International and comparative librarianship are aimed at broadening minds of LIS professionals and equipping them with the ability to perceive the world around them in a different way. With this, an enlightened LIS community hopes to create future citizens who are able to bond better with their fellow humans and bring wisdom, values, and understanding into the world.

PREAMBLE

This book was originally intended as a Festschrift in honour of Professor S. B. Ghosh of India. Both the editors had the great fortune of being his students at the Associateship in Information Science (AIS) course in Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (CSIR, Govt. of India, New Delhi). They wished to pay tribute to his immense subject knowledge, boundless energy, and affectionate endurance to all the AIS students from all over India as well as from some other countries. However, as the idea grew on involving dialogues with many celebrated LIS scholars all over the globe, the book became a global documentation on the topic of *Collaboration in International and Comparative Librarianship*.

THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE BOOK

As is evident from the above discussion, this book serves a two-fold purpose. It is an effort to document the many instances of collaborations in the international LIS scenario as well as to honour the lifelong contributions of Professor (Dr.) S. B. Ghosh, the former Professor and Head of the Department of Library and Information Science in the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Professor Ghosh is one of the

LIS scholars who are truly international in character. He has travelled all over the globe on academic purposes, taught in the universities of many countries, published scholarly articles in various journals, and held responsible positions in national and international professional bodies. He is a Member of Standing Committee of Education and Training Division and also of the Regional Section on Asia and Oceania of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Now is the right time to bring out a volume of scholarly articles in honour of his long and worthy contribution to the field of Library and Information Science.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF AUTHORSHIP

Keeping in view the global character of the subject coverage of the book, we tried to include representation from as many countries as possible. We have started with an international advisory body with global scholars of the field from countries such as New Zealand, India, Italy, Australia, and the United States of America. Renowned LIS scholars of international acclaim form the Editorial Advisory Board. Their valuable suggestions enrich this volume to a great extent.

The authorship also reflects the views and experiences of LIS scholars all over the globe. Authors from India, the United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Uganda, Bangladesh, Romania, and other countries share thoughts and experiences on the issues that cover intra- and international perspectives of the LIS domain.

BOOK STRUCTURE

This book is logically structured to deal with seven thematic areas in comparative and international librarianship. The seven thematic areas are: 1) General and Ethical Issues, 2) Role of Professional Associations, 3) Collaboration in Specific Subject Area, 4) Global Collaboration Experiences, 5) Technology in Collaborations, 6) LIS Education and Collaboration, and 7) Scientometrics and Bibliometrics.

Chapters in these sections capture a wide array of perspectives of today's world, which will help the readers in understanding each theme.

Dr. A.K. Dasgupta has poignantly depicted the life and works of Professor S.B. Ghosh, one of the initiators of internationalization in Indian LIS scenario in his poignant 'Badal – as I know him'.

In the section 1: "General and Ethical Issues," Das and Chakraborty elaborate the notions of comparative and international librarianship in the world today. Globalization of knowledge resources is one of the major driving forces in developing conceptual frameworks of "international librarianship." Many international professional associations, such as International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Special Libraries Association (SLA), have been handholding the national and regional library associations in the global south for strengthening their professional capabilities and skill building of local LIS practitioners. International professional bodies help in the enrichment of library advocacy and outreach programmes in developing countries so that neo-literates and other beneficiaries of adult literacy missions can inculcate reading habits for their life skills support. Thus, global programmes such as Information for All Programme (IFAP) have been facilitating information, media, and digital literacy to young learners and lifelong learners. The educators in developing countries first need to have competencies in information, media, and digital literacy. Similarly, LIS practitioners

working in local public libraries and academic institutions also need to have similar competencies in order to guide young learners and lifelong learners. International librarianship helps in transforming the lives of local LIS practitioners to stay focused in their approaches of knowledge dissemination and knowledge creation. Now, local LIS practitioners have become part of the process of socio-economic empowerment of local marginalized communities in developing countries.

Many international and regional awards have been established in the last two decades for recognizing local library innovation programmes that help in socio-economic empowerment of local communities. Some well-known international awards are, namely, the Access to Learning Award (ATLA) initiated by the Global Libraries Initiative of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Public Library Innovation Programme Award (EIFL-PLIP) initiated by the eIFL.net. Both international awards are promoting library innovation initiatives around the world for the benefit of local communities. Das and Chakraborty depict many such global transpositions in their introductory chapter. In this chapter, the authors highlight global initiatives such as BMGF's Global Libraries Initiative, UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP), IFLA's Building Strong Library Associations Programme (BSLA), Bologna Process in LIS Education, and many such initiatives strongly focused on promoting international librarianship. No doubt, conceptual frameworks of international librarianship bring library communities very close to many global negotiations, such as in the processes of World Summit of Information Society (WSIS), Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and recently WIPO's "Treaty to Improve Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or otherwise Print Disabled" in 2013. IFLA in partnership with many other international civil society organizations and rights groups have been actively participating in many global negotiations and global treaties in order to protect libraries' clientele, knowledge workers, as well promoting universal access to information resources.

In section one of this book, six chapters discuss national and regional challenges while venturing in collaborative development of library and information services, particularly in the developing world. Ismail Abdullahi discusses the ethical challenges of globalization and library and information science. Paul Sturges explores the problem of library donations from the perspective of international cooperation. Achala Munigal and S. Chakraborty explore philanthropy in libraries. They also revisit specific roles played by philanthropic foundations. Alan Hopkinson highlights efforts in reducing the digital divide through international librarianship.

In section 2: "Role of Professional Associations," three case studies of different library associations are broadly drawn, namely, Special Libraries Association (SLA), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and American Research Libraries (ARL). Sheila L. Rosenthal explains the role of the SLA in promoting library professionals on a global scale. Dinesh K. Gupta narrates the role of IFLA Marketing and Management Section's global initiatives in promoting local library and information services. Barbara I. Dewey writes about international scholarship and the role of ARL.

In the section 3: "Collaboration in Specific Subject Area," two chapters on national and regional experience in collaborative library and information services in specific subject areas are drawn. Deva Eswara Reddy delves deep into the intricacies of collaboration and international cooperation in the domains of agricultural research. He also highlights the role of American Research Libraries in this respect. Reeta Sharma and Shantanu Ganguly present a case study detailing international sphere of activities of the Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development Knowledge Center established at The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), India.

In the section 4: "Global Collaboration Experiences," six chapters discuss national and regional experiences in collaborative development of library and information services around the world, and

more particularly in developing world. Maria G. N. Musoke and Ane Landoy describe capacity building through collaboration through. They share an interesting experience of collaboration between two countries. Swapan Kumar Patra analyses the collaboration patterns among selected foreign Information Technology (IT) firms in India and China. Ana Maria B. Fresnido and Joseph M. Yap talk about different aspects of library and information science collaborations. Luisa Marquardt and Dianne Oberg present their unique experience of collaboration in editorship while editing a book titled *Global Perspectives on School Libraries*.

In section 5: “Technology in Collaborations,” three chapters draw national and regional experiences in collaborative deployment of library technologies. Neelameghan shares his experience of leading a cooperative international programme to support and supplement Web-based information exchange using satellite communications. Gobinda G. Chowdhury gives an expert opinion about cloud computing, the latest technology that shook the world of information sharing and exchange. He proposes a green information service model for cloud content. Neelameghan and K. S. Raghavan narrate their exposure of developing a digital library software and South Asia Network through international cooperation.

In section 6: “LIS Education and Collaboration,” five chapters on national and regional experience in collaborative LIS Education are drawn. Ane Landoy proposes the learning mode for the future generation of learners. Nafiz Zaman Shuva and Ragnar Andreas Audunson critically analyse the curriculum contents of Digital Library Education (DLE) in Europe. Swati Bhattacharyya provides an ICT-based collaborative approach towards internationalization of LIS education in India. M.P. Satija discusses competing approaches for internationalisation of LIS education in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. Anna Maria Tammaro discusses how the Bologna process approach helps in internationalisation of LIS Education in Europe.

In section 7: “Scientometrics/Bibliometrics,” two chapters are presented based on scientometric analysis of LIS research literature. B. K. Sen explains the trends of collaborative authorship pattern of the Indian LIS research literature published in the beginning of the 21st century. K.C. Panda and Bipin Bihari Sethi analyses the global productivity of social science research literature.

CLOSING REMARKS

With the above-mentioned backdrop, this book, *Collaboration in International and Comparative Librarianship* shows the ramifications of recording community efforts in shaping international librarianship and comparative librarianship around the globe. This knowledge product emphasises reflecting North-South and South-South cooperation for enrichment of professional knowledge in the specific areas of library and information services. The international library associations and professional societies have significant roles in developing and nurturing international librarianship. They also have played a pivotal role in capability development and capacity building of LIS professionals working in developing countries, transitional economies, and least developed countries, and experiencing several barriers. A number of global efforts are also documented in different chapters in this book where interconnected global communities help in socio-economic upliftment of local communities with necessary library and information service facilities. Philanthropic foundations have been supporting ICT integration in public libraries. They also help in massive restructuring of public library systems and community information services in developing countries around the globe. Thus, this book helps in understanding the global nature of

international and comparative librarianship, and more particularly, how library communities responded to the notion of the “think global, act local” motto in their respective nation or region.

We hope you will enjoy the deliberations and discussions as depicted in this volume, documenting approaches to international and comparative librarianship in the 21st century. Happy reading!

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