

First Circular

**REDEFINING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN
INDIA**

The Knowledge Society Imperatives

NATIONAL SEMINAR

**6 - 8 August 2008
Thiruvananthapuram, India**

Organized by

**Kerala Library Association
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 002**

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India is in the threshold of a vibrant growth in the techno-economic sectors, thus transforming itself to a super power of the world in the near future. The academic and scientific development programmes envisaged in the XI Five Year Plan will undoubtedly accelerate the process of advancement. The socio-cultural fabric also needs to be reinforced for a balanced development of our nation.

The power of information fuelled by enabling technologies has to invariably play its unique role to educate and empower the vast population of our great nation. The role of Public Libraries in the transformation process is very significant. Though many attempts have been made internationally to cogitate on the new roles public libraries have to play, like the initiatives of IFLA, UNESCO and UK, no significant effort has been made in India in that direction. Other significant works include the monumental publication *New Library: the People's Network* (1997) and the discussion paper entitled *A Blueprint for Excellence: public libraries 2008 – 2011: connecting people to knowledge and inspiration* (2007), both in UK. So, time has come for India to redefine its major role as a proactive instrument in the fast emerging knowledge society. It has become imperative to infuse new direction and new energy to empower the Public Library System in India transgressing their existing regional roles.

Conceptualizing the need for an integrated approach to the Public Library System in India to play its new role, the Kerala Library Association has ventured to organize this National Seminar. The theme of the seminar is **Redefining the Role of Public Libraries in India: The Knowledge Society Imperatives**. We strongly feel that the outcome of this Seminar will be a turning point in the history of Public Libraries in India.

Objectives

- To critically evaluate the status of the public library set up in India and examine how far they fulfill the roles bestowed on them.
- To apprise the professionals and the authorities alike of the need for change.
- To discuss the modalities of the desired changes in the public library system in the context of the emerging knowledge society.
- To help create the new landscape of public library system in India and to ensure the feel of its impact in our society.
- To formulate an action plan for the reorientation, reengineering and rejuvenation of the facilities and services in the upcoming scenario.

Who can participate?

LIS professionals, LIS educators, LIS students, authorities and staff of public libraries, other stakeholders and anybody who is interested in the development of the public libraries as an instrument for social change.

Special invitees

Policy planners, public library authorities, decision-makers at the governmental and non-governmental level and social scientists.

Programme

The seminar is envisaged to have seven Business Sessions in addition to the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions and Panel Discussion.

Facets of the Theme

Public Library System in India : A Critical Appraisal

- State-wise Scenario: Current and Futuristic
- Role of Professional Societies & NGOs

Library Legislation in Different States

- Major Provisions
- Limitations
- Expectations

Public Libraries and Knowledge Society

- Perspectives on Knowledge Commission Recommendations
- National Policy for Library and Information
- Public Libraries and Information Literacy
- Changing role of Public Libraries in Education
- Public Libraries as Cultural Centres

Impact of Technology

- Preservation /Digitization
- Problems of Automation
- Information Storage, Retrieval and Dissemination in a Network Environment
- Methods and Techniques of Knowledge Management
- Influence of the Media

Resources and Services

- Information Resources: Traditional & Modern
- Resource Sharing
- New Dimensions in Services
- Marketing, Public Relations, Publicity
- Content Management
- Community Information Service and Village Knowledge Centre

Resource Mobilization and HRD

- Sources of Finance - Regional, National and International
- Self-generating fiscal mechanisms
- Human Resources – Planning, Development and Management

Special session on Public Libraries in Kerala

- District-wise presentation of:
 - Case studies
 - Issues and Problems
 - Development initiatives

Submission of papers

Abstracts of papers on the above facets and sub facets are invited for oral presentation. The authors are requested to submit the extended abstract (not less than 200 words) typed in 1.5 line space on A4 size paper as Word File or by e-mail as Attachment File, to the General Convenor.

Papers for oral presentation will be selected by a Screening Committee. The remaining papers, subject to their quality clearance, will only be published in the Proceedings afterwards.

Registration Fee

Delegate	Rs. 750.00
KLA Members & Participants sponsored by Kerala State Library Council	Rs. 600.00
LIS Students (Only limited no. of seats. Registration on first come first serve basis)	Rs. 300.00
Accompanying Persons (Non-Delegates)	Rs. 400.00

Accommodation

We do not provide accommodation to the delegates. However, we would help the participants in arranging accommodation at nominal rates on payment in advance, subject to the condition that such payments are received by us on or before 25th July 2008.

Dates to remember

Submission of abstract : 31 May 2008
Submission of full papers : 23 Jun 2008
Payment of registration fee : 15 July 2008

Communication

All communications have to be addressed to:

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or

Dr. K. P. Vijayakumar
Joint Convenor, KLA National Seminar &
General Secretary, KLA
Lecturer (Selection Grade)
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Registration form

Name :
Designation :
Institutional address :

Telephone Office : Residence :
E-mail :

Professional experience :
(in years)

Details of payment of Registration fee:

Category

- KLA Member Participant sponsored by Kerala State Library Council
 LIS Student Accompanying Person/Non-Delegate

Amount: Rs.

Mode of Payment :

*By DD drawn in favour of Kerala Library Association & Payable at Thiruvananthapuram
OR by Cash to the General Secretary, KLA.*

Cash / Demand Draft No. datedDrawn on,
at

Date

Signature

General Convener, KLA National Seminar 2008
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