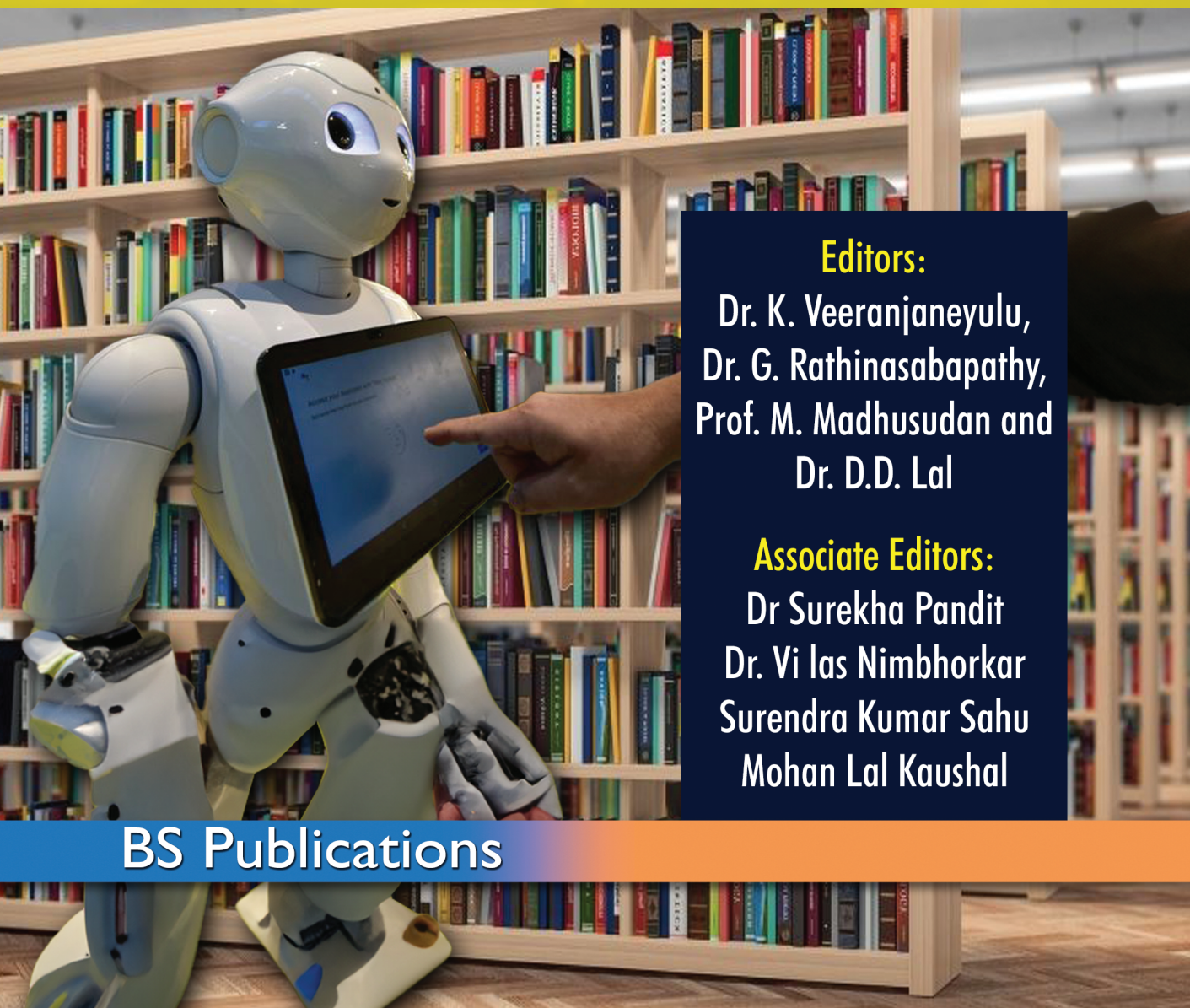
Leading the Information Revolution

The Role of LIS in a Connected World



Editors:

Dr. K. Veeranjaneyulu,
Dr. G. Rathinasabapathy,
Prof. M. Madhusudan and
Dr. D.D. Lal

Associate Editors:

Dr Surekha Pandit
Dr. Vi las Nimbhorkar
Surendra Kumar Sahu
Mohan Lal Kaushal

BS Publications

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PREFACE

It is a great honour for us to edit the Festschrift volume brought out in honour of Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh, Dean, School of Studies in Library and Information Science, Vikram University, Ujjain, on the eve of her superannuation in August 2024.

This festschrift entitled **"Leading the Information Revolution: The Role of LIS in a Connected World"** is a humble tribute to the extraordinary career of Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh, a visionary leader who has indelibly shaped the landscape of Library and Information Science education. Her contributions to the field have been profound, inspiring countless scholars and practitioners to push the boundaries of knowledge and service.

Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh, has been a tireless advocate for the power of information to transform lives. Through her pioneering research, innovative teaching, and unwavering commitment to the profession, she has fostered a deep appreciation for the critical role of libraries and information centers in a democratic society.

Her work has spanned a wide range of areas in the field of LIS, including knowledge organization, digital libraries, information policy, etc. Each of these contributions has had a lasting impact on the field, and continues to inform research and practice today.

The Festschrift is divided into two sections. Section-I contains the Impressions shared by her colleagues, students, and admirers and the Section-2 contains 79 articles under nine chapters viz., Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies in LIS, Green and Sustainable Libraries, Library Management, LIS Education and Research, Metric Studies, Open Access Resources and Initiatives and Social Media and Libraries.

The chapters in this volume reflect the breadth and depth of Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh's scholarly and professional influence. We are honoured to have the opportunity to celebrate her remarkable career with this Festschrift, a collection of articles, which represent the diverse perspectives and expertise of her colleagues, students, and admirers.

As we honour Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh's legacy, we are also inspired to carry forward the torch of innovation and excellence in LIS. By building upon the foundation laid by Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh, we can continue to create a future where information is accessible, equitable, and empowering for all.

We thank the Associate Editors Dr. Surekha Pandit, Dr. Vilas Nimbhorkar, Mr. Surendra Kumar Sahu and Dr. Mohan Lal Kaushal for their contributions to bring out this Festschrift.

We take this opportunity to profusely thank all the authors for contributing articles for the Festschrift in honour of Prof. (Dr.) Sonal Singh. We specially thank the Publishers and Printers and others who directly or indirectly supported us to complete the task successfully.

***Editors* - Dr. K. Veeranjaneyulu**
Dr. G. Rathinasabapathy
Dr. M. Madhusudhan
Dr. D. D. Lal

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WRITING YOUR FIRST PAPER: A SIGNIFICANT GUIDANCE

Dr. D. D. LAL
Technical Officer (Librarian & Head of the NBRC Library) &
DeLCON Coordinator, National Brain Research Centre (Deemed University),
(Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology), Government of India
NBRC Library, NH-08, Nainwal Mode, Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana. PIN – 122 051
Email: ddlal@nbrc.ac.in; ddlal.delcon@nic.in

INTRODUCTION

Writing your first paper can be a daunting yet exhilarating experience, marking an important milestone in your academic journey. Whether you're a student preparing for your first research project or a novice writer interested in sharing your ideas, understanding the fundamental steps in the writing process can greatly enhance your ability to communicate effectively. This introduction serves as a guide to navigating the often-complex landscape of academic writing, highlighting the essential components and strategies that will lead you to produce a well-structured and coherent paper.

In the initial stages of writing your first paper, it's crucial to choose a topic that not only interests you but also aligns with the guidelines and expectations of your assignment. Begin by conducting preliminary research to gather information on your chosen subject and refine your focus. This process will help you formulate a clear and concise thesis statement, which serves as the foundation of your paper. A strong thesis not only articulates the central argument or claim you intend to make but also guides your research and writing process, providing direction and coherence to your work.

Once you have a solid understanding of your topic and a well-defined thesis, the next step is to organize your ideas into a structured outline. An effective outline will help you break down your paper into manageable sections, ensuring that each part contributes to your overall argument. As you flesh out your outline, consider the importance of crafting compelling introductions and conclusions, as well as integrating supporting evidence from credible sources throughout the body of your paper. By following these steps and maintaining a clear focus, you'll lay the groundwork for a successful writing experience that not only fulfills academic requirements but also encourages personal growth as a writer.

HOW TO START?

Prioritize your writing by considering what inspired you to write the piece. After completing a study, you might believe that the results are so significant that they should be shared with as many people as you can. On the other hand, you might believe that producing a paper will improve your resume and future employment opportunities. If a colleague is "nagging" you to write up a clinical finding, you might need to silence them. Many people will have a mix of these; ask yourself if the paper will be worth your time and effort, and if you'll be happy with the way it turns out.

Selecting the journal to send your article to is a smart idea before you begin writing. Articles submitted to various journals must adhere to specific stylistic guidelines, and the journal selected will determine the paper's subject. For instance, if a study of a novel imaging technique in pregnancy is taken into consideration, a scientific journal will probably accept an article about the technique's novelty; an obstetric journal would be the best place for an article focusing on the technique's

application to pregnancy; and a general clinical journal might accept a paper outlining the technique's wider clinical applications.

Generally speaking, it is simpler to get a manuscript published in a journal with a small readership than one with a large readership. Every journal has a "impact factor" that shows how frequently articles published in the journal are cited by other publications; the Lancet has a greater impact factor than Placenta. Though it's rare for someone to have their initial research published in Nature or the New England Journal of Medicine, you should still aim high because there's not much to lose. You can always submit your work again to a publication with a lower impact factor if it is rejected. After you've made your decision, you should get the journal-specific author instructions.

START WITH AN OUTLINE

Now that you have time allotted, you must choose how to begin writing. Creating an outline is the best course of action. This outline will differ from the ones you are accustomed to seeing, with Roman numerals for each part and a clean, sequential listing of the main ideas and arguments. This outline is going to resemble a paper template. The outline will first serve as a framework for your work, inspiring thoughts and developing hypotheses.

George M. Whitesides advised, "... start with a blank piece of paper, and write down, in any order, all important ideas that occur to you concerning the paper." You can follow his instruction.

List your findings and include any supporting documentation, such as tables, figures, formulas, equations, and algorithms. These will make up your outline's initial level, which will progressively grow as you delve deeper.

Outline – Level 1

1. What is my paper's topic?
2. What makes this topic crucial?
3. How should I put my theory together?
4. What are my findings (with pictures included)?
5. What is the main thing I learned?

The addition of structure and context comes next. The Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion/Conclusion sections are where you will organize all of your thoughts in this part.

This stage will go through your ideas and assist your work become more coherent.

Outline Level-2

Introduction/Overview

1. What makes your research noteworthy?
2. What is the subject known to be?
3. Describe your theories.
4. What goals do you have?

Materials and Methods

1. What supplies did you utilize?
2. Who made up your study's subjects?

3. How was your research designed?
4. Which process did you adhere to?

Results/Outcomes

1. Which of your outcomes are the most noteworthy?
2. What supporting findings do you have?

Conclusions and Discussion

1. What are the main conclusions of the study?
2. How do the findings signify or have implications?

You are now prepared to move on to the next phase, which is to discuss the ideas for your paper with your mentor and colleagues once you have enlarged your outline. Graduate students can book one-on-one sessions and get help with their paper drafts at several universities' writing centers. Getting input on your draft early on can help you save a ton of time. People can conceptualize and arrange their thoughts to find their course without wasting time on pointless writing when they discuss ideas aloud.

The best method for sharing your ideas and generating discussion is to outline. Additionally, this is the ideal time to choose the magazine to which you will submit the paper. Many make three decisions and talk about them with their mentors and coworkers. If your work is denied, having a list of journal priorities will enable you to resubmit it as soon as possible.

CHOOSING A TITLE

Upon reading the names of certain published papers, it seems as though the authors have chosen a title that is as arcane as possible in the hopes that no one will bother to read the article. Some titles only provide a cursory overview of the paper they relate to. You're not writing a detective story; the finest titles summarize the main discovery or outcome of the investigation. Nonetheless, there are ways to highlight the unique contribution your work makes.

In a piece that offers advice on creating "nifty titles," Yankelowitz (1980) proposed the subsequent tactics:

- Some stages suggest soundness: "A controlled experiment involving...” "An analysis of multiple linear regression of..."
- Certain expressions imply candor: "The inability of. to impact." "The untrustworthiness of... in evaluating..."
- Some expressions seem creative: "A hypothesis regarding the pathophysiological relationship between... and." "The factor: a crucial new criterion in analysing...,"
- Other names, such as "The relationship of to urban health care," imply timeliness. Press on since, regrettably, some publications never get past the title.

AUTHORSHIP

The authorship of the work is the subject of your next decision. Potential authorship should be discussed before any writing is done, and ideally before the research is done, as this can occasionally lead to conflicts. You will usually be the first author if you have completed the most of the work and are writing the paper, or at least the first draft. Usually, the senior author, who is overseeing you and your work, is the last author. Other people may also be eligible to be authors if they have made

contributions to the study design, the work described in the paper, or the writing of the publication; the order of these people should represent their respective contributions. It is your responsibility to confirm that each author has contributed in a meaningful way; numerous publications have strict requirements. One option if you believe someone's work does not warrant co-authorship is to mention them in the acknowledgements section; for instance, authorship would not be justified if a colleague only made it easier for you to reach patients. Before the manuscript is submitted, you must also make sure that all co-authors have reviewed and approved the final draft.

WRITING INTRODUCTION

The rationale behind the study's importance should be mentioned in the beginning. You should give a succinct overview of the background, emphasizing the areas of inquiry. Your introduction should be fully referenced, but it should also make sense to your readers without them having to search up the references. Make an effort to customize your introduction for the publication you intend to submit to. For the British Medical Journal, you will require far more information about Edwards Syndrome than you would for Prenatal Diagnosis, for instance, if you produce an article on screening for the disorder. Above all, you should be very explicit about the question you aimed to address and the theory that guided your research.

METHODOLOGY

Usually, this is one of the simplest sections to write. In your description, make sure to include enough specifics to allow any reader to carry out the research themselves. It is acceptable to cite the prior research and give simply a brief description of a certain technique step if it has been thoroughly covered in another publication. Included should be the procedures used to validate the method or test, as well as the inclusion and exclusion standards for patient selection. If you have any doubts or worries about your statistical analysis, you should talk to your co-authors or a statistician connected to your hospital. You might need to pay close attention to the statistical procedures described in the study.

HOW TO INCLUDE RESULTS?

It's important to take your time choosing the most effective way to display your data; tables, graphs, or written text can all be used to convey your findings. It is advisable to refrain from presenting your data in many ways. You should leave any speculation or interpretation of your results to the comments section rather than the results section.

ABOUT DISCUSSION

You should think about if the study has provided answers to the questions it set out to answer and whether the introduction's hypothesis has been validated. You should think about the consequences of your work: do additional studies or adjustments to clinical practice need to be made? This section gives you the chance to hypothesize, extrapolate, and analyse your results in light of earlier research, emphasizing areas of agreement and clarifying regions of dispute. You might decide to point out limitations in the study or make changes that would enhance similar research in the future.

Writing Reference

Make sure that this part is error-free and omission-free; don't ignore it. A reviewer of your work can be an author you have misconstrued or neglected to credit. If there is a misspelling and the reader cannot locate the reference you have mentioned, they will quickly lose patience.

Using a reference manager software tool will make it easier to change the style of references in the event that your work is rejected and needs to be submitted to a different journal. Different journals have varied preferences when it comes to the format and style of references.

Writing an Abstract

Even though the abstract comes before the introduction, it would probably be better if you wrote it after finishing the manuscript. The abstract holds greater significance than the body of the article because it will be read by a larger audience. As a result, your abstract should be as precise and educational as feasible. Additionally, the abstract must be as brief as possible because many journals have word restrictions. Certain publications demand that abstracts follow a specific format (methods, results, conclusion, and hypothesis/rationale), while others only accept one paragraph. Examine a few abstracts from the publication you are submitting to so you can understand the format needed.

Writing a Covering Letter

You must submit your article to the journal's editor along with a letter outlining your submission and explaining why the journal ought to take your work into consideration when the final text has been approved by each co-author. You should be clear and succinct when emphasizing the significance of your work as well as its possible effects. It is not necessary for the initial author to be the one designated for correspondence; in fact, it would make more sense to designate one of your co-authors to communicate with the editor if you are planning to move hospitals.

The Response

The response times of journals differ greatly. You will only be able to wait for the editor's response after your manuscript has been evaluated by a minimum of two referees.

Three categories can be used to group responses:

- **Acceptance without change**: this is extremely uncommon but wonderful.
- **An invitation to address criticisms:** Generally, acceptance of your article depends on your ability to address the editor's and reviewers' remarks. You must prepare a thorough answer that tackles each issue one at a time. While some of the criticisms are probably accurate and reasonable, others might not be. If you have made the necessary changes to the paper, you should indicate in your response whether you have taken into account every comment or whether the suggested changes are superfluous or inappropriate.
  Congratulating the reviewer when their proposed changes improve your article never goes wrong. The editor may then decide to accept your work or make more edit suggestions.
- **Rejection:** Sorry, but you're in good company—among many others, there's James Joyce, J.K. Rowling, and William Golding. Numerous articles are approved by publications with greater influence than the one that was initially selected. After giving careful thought to every critique, you should edit your work to incorporate any insightful and constructive suggestions. Where to resubmit, your article should be decided upon after consulting with

your co-authors. If your paper is turned down more than once, you should consider if it really deserves to be published.

Proofs

The publisher will send proof copies to the corresponding author soon before an accepted paper is published. Even though the initial submission was made months ago, you will still be required to reply quickly. While you should proofread the proof copies carefully and fix any typos, this is not the time to make any significant edits.
Above all, if you have read this far, then you should definitely write the first draft of your paper without delay. It was most likely less difficult than you had anticipated.

Time to Submit

Once more, it is late at night. You're still in your lab, polishing the last touches on your article in preparation for submission. You are relieved to have completed a year's worth of work. You know you can accomplish it, and you will submit your paper tomorrow, no matter what happens. If your manuscript is rejected by one journal, you will use the criticism to improve your next submission. Your publishing is going to be your greatest accomplishment.

Even more crucial is the time you have allotted for writing, which you will use for grant writing, reading and taking notes, evaluating papers, and publishing in the future. This time, you won't tire out and you'll develop into a successful scientist. But let's celebrate the paper's conclusion for the time being.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, writing your first paper is a significant milestone that requires careful planning, dedication, and attention to detail. The process begins with selecting a compelling topic that piques your interest and aligns with your academic objectives. Conducting thorough research is crucial, as it provides the foundation upon which your arguments will be built. As you outline your paper, focus on crafting a clear thesis statement that encapsulates your main argument, guiding your readers through your insights and analyses. Writing multiple drafts allows for refinement, enabling you to incorporate feedback and improve clarity, coherence, and overall quality. Additionally, ensure that you meticulously cite all sources to uphold academic integrity and bolster your credibility.

Ultimately, the experience of writing your first paper can be both challenging and rewarding. Embrace the journey as an opportunity for personal and intellectual growth. Remember that writing is a skill that improves with practice; thus, gaining feedback from peers, mentors, or writing centers can offer invaluable perspectives that enhance your work. As you finalize your paper, focus on its presentation, paying attention to formatting, grammar, and punctuation. A polished final product not only reflects your hard work but also sets the tone for future academic endeavors. With persistence and a willingness to learn, you can turn this daunting task into a fulfilling experience that paves the way for your continued success in writing and research.

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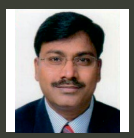
Leading the Information Revolution: The Role of LIS in a Connected World

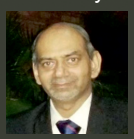
Editors

Dr. K. Veeranjaneyulu served as Professor & University Librarian, PJTSAU and Librarian & Head of Central Library, National Institute of Technology, Warangal. He has more than three decades of professional experience. His contribution to scholarly communication includes 43 books and about 200 articles. He has participated in more than 160 National events and guided 10 M.Phil. and 5 Ph.D. Scholars. He severed has a member of Committee for data validation for the ranking of the Agricultural Universities for the years 2020 and 2021 and also member of NAAC DVV Committee. He is the past President of AALDI and a life member of various learned societies. He visited many foreign countries including Hong Kong USA, Canada, Tanzania, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. He has been honoured with the prestigious "Life Time Achievement Award" by the AALDI.

Dr. G. Rathinasabapathy is serving as the University Librarian of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai. He has 30 years of professional experience and contributed 135 research publications and authored/edited 12 books. He is a Member in Editorial Board of 6 International/National Journals. He was appointed by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu as Nodal Officer for Vice-Chancellor Search Committees of six Universities. He visited USA, Canada, France and Japan. He is a Fellow of AALDI and honoured by the "ULEKTZ Wall of Fame" as "One of the Top 50 Outstanding Librarians in India - 2020" and "Best Librarian Award" by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during 2023.



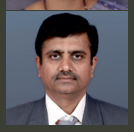
Dr. M. Madhusudhan is a Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Delhi, with over 25 years of experience. He has served as Deputy Dean of Academics, University Librarian (I/C), and a key member of the Academic Council. He has received sixteen awards and is an active member of several professional associations and committees. He has the highest GS citations (2291), h-index (22), and i10 Index (43) among LIS faculty in India and was ranked among the top 2% most influential Indian scientists by Stanford University in 2023.



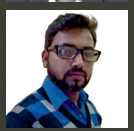
Dr. D. D. Lal is Head (Librarian) of the National Brain Research Center Library, Manesar, since the Year 2000 and he serving as the DeLCON National Coordinator for the DBT's Electronic Library Consortium (DeLCON Consortium) since the Year 2009. He is a founder General Secretary of the Library Association of Bihar (LAB) and an active member of various Library Professionals bodies such as ILA, IASLIC, LPA, MPLA, CGLA etc. and active member various National Level Consortium.

Associate Editors

Dr. Surekha Pandit is presently working as a librarian in Government College Rau, Indore. She has attended various national and international conferences and presented more than 10 papers. She has over 30 years of professional experience in the field of librarianship. She is a life member of ILA and ISALIC.



Dr. Vilas Nimbhorkar is presently working as Library Professional Assistant-III in Indian Institute of Management Indore. He has attended various National and International Conferences and presented 10 papers. He has over 26 years of Professional Experience in the Information Management using ICT & Modern Library administration and Management. He is member of MANLIBNET and ILA.



Mr. Surendra Kumar Sahu is now working as a librarian at Govt. Mahendra Karma Girls College in Dantewada (Chhattisgarh). He obtained a PGDLAN from the University of Hyderabad. He was also successful in the UGC-NET test and is qualified for the UGC-JRF (2012). He has 14 years of expertise in the library profession. He has contributed research papers, which have been published in renowned journals, conference proceedings, books, and so on.

Dr. Mohan Lal Kaushal is presently working as Librarian in LDC Institute of Technical Studies Prayagraj. He has attended various National and International Conferences and presented 8 papers. He has over 16 Years of Professional Experience in using ICT. He is member of UPLA and ILA.

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