

My Days with MyDLIS

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I am very proud to say that, I am an alumnus of the MyDLIS and I feel very happy to give my reflections on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of MyDLIS. At the outset, I feel very fortunate to be in the department during 1986 to 1991 as a student of B.L.I.Sc., M.L.I.Sc., Junior Research Fellow and also as a Guest Faculty. I joined MyDLIS in the year 1986 for my Bachelor's Degree in Library Science.

The decision of joining Library and Information Science course was just by chance. Some of my friends motivated me to apply for the library science course and I was very lucky to secure a seat for B.L.I.Sc Course. The course was completely new to many of us and in the beginning it looked very difficult to understand. However, gradually the subjects became very interesting and challenging. In the subsequent years the library science course transformed me from an average student to a very studious rank student. It was the golden period of my academic years, where I learnt many good things, which helped me significantly in the later part of my life.

During my studies, the department had very committed, dedicated, disciplined and knowledgeable faculty members. I am very fortunate to learn library science from the great teachers like Prof. H A Khan, Prof. P K Patil, Prof. B Nagappa, Prof. N B Pangannayya, Prof. Shalini R Urs, Prof. Khaiser Nikkam and Prof. B S Maheswarappa. Their lectures were very lively,

interesting and challenging to me and I would hardly miss any of their classes. I always tried to revisit the scholarly teaching of Library and society paper by Prof. Khan, Library Management by Prof. Nagappa, Information sources by Prof. Pangannayya, Library classification by Prof. Shalini Urs, Documentation Technique and Information services by Prof. Maheshwarappa and Library Cataloguing by Prof. Kaiser Nikkam.

Our batch was so lucky that the semester scheme was replaced with annual examination from the previous batch and so we had sufficient time to prepare for our annual exams. Further, I was selected as the Secretary of MULISSA during the 1986-87 and this enabled me to freely interact with faculty members, seek their advice and guidance to organise activities including Friday talks. It was also a great opportunity to interact with some of my seniors like Dr. N S Harinarayana, Nandadevi, Latha, Kotaiah, Punayavati, Namitha and others who helped and encouraged me to organise various programmes. From the faculty side Prof. Maheshwarappa, was the co-ordinator and under his able guidance the MULISSA students' activities were conducted successfully during 1986-87.

As part of BLISc course, an educational tour was organised to Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Madras. It was a wonderful and thrilling experience for many of us, as it was our first trip outside Karnataka. Some of my active batchmates whom

I can remember now are, Jesudas Manalan, Rame Gowda, Loksha, Shivashankara, Chelubaraju, Lohit, and among girls Janaki, Nalini, Brunda, Vidhya, Manjula, Vasantha, Vani P. Rao, and Suvarna. We meticulously planned the tour well in advance under the supervision of Prof. B S Maheswarappa. First, we visited Hyderabad, where we had the opportunity to visit BHEL, ICRISAT, NGRI, British Library, Regional Research Laboratory, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, National Institute of Nutrition, Osmania University and other important libraries of twin cities. We also had an opportunity to visit some important tourist places like Golconda Fort, Birla Temple, Nehru Planetarium, Salar Jung Museum, Charminar and others.

From Hyderabad we travelled to Madras, where we had an opportunity to see the USIS Library, British Council Library, Madras University Library, Connemara Public Library, Central Leather Research Institute Library etc. Our visit to Madras was memorable as we had an opportunity to look at Dr. S R Ranagathan's chamber, his chair, his manuscripts (handwritten library catalogues) in the University library. This visit really helped us to understand the nature and functioning of different types of libraries and in turn motivated us to take more interest in our course. It was really an inspirational and motivational trip and all our batch mates thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great learning experience for me as a students' representative and it actually instilled a lot of interest and confidence in my organising capabilities.

After the successful completion of our BLISc course, it was a dilemma for me, whether to join the MLISc or not. Due to the economic downturn, jobs were becoming scarce and there was a total

ban on the recruitments by State and Central governments. We all had very tough time during that period. When I met Prof. Mahaeshwarappa and explained my situation, he explained the merits and convinced me to join MLISc course. My experience as a student of MLISc was totally different and it was full of serious study, preparations and tough competition from classmates. Since all of us are very busy with the course, the whole year went off very fast.

Though the course was completely new to many of us and in the beginning, it looked very difficult to understand. However, gradually the subjects became very interesting and challenging.

For our MLISc practical exams, Prof. D Chandran, from Madurai Kamaraj University, was the external examiner. After the examinations he called me and asked if I would like to join as lecturer at Madurai Kamaraj University. It was a great surprise to me but I was in total confusion and was unable to decide. Prof. N B Pangannayya, came to my help and asked me to apply. My winning the gold medal was really a great achievement for me and that infused lot of confidence to take up teaching assignment.

I accepted the offer from M K University, Madurai. The fundamentals of library science, which I learnt at MyDLIS, came to my help and for this I am so grateful to all my teachers at MyDLIS. My strong foundation of library science, the knowledge gained while teaching library science, added with my continuous hard work helped me to successfully complete my UGC NET for JRF and Lectureship in library science during 1989-90. After that, I completed two academic years at MK University, I joined the MyDLIS as Guest Lecturer during June 1990. During this time all



the teachers were very co-operative and helpful. The atmosphere was very conducive for learning and we had great time with the senior faculty members of the department. All the teachers including senior teachers used to go for dinner in different hotels of Mysore during weekends. So I had good opportunity to taste different cuisines of famous hotels and to know the seniors more closely. I still cherish those wonderful evenings.

Within few months after joining as JRF at MyDLIS, I got an offer from National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT), Nagpur, and since it was a Government job, my well wishers advised me to join the job and do research later. After successfully serving NADT Nagpur for almost a year, I joined Central Silk Board, Bangalore, where I worked for nearly 6 years before joining RIE, NCERT, Mysore as Librarian during 1997.

After returning to Mysore, my interaction with MyDLIS was re-established. It was a home coming for me and I have been very actively participating in all the activities of MyDLIS. I was fortunate to

be a part of the team that worked towards forming 'MyLISA' under the guidance and leadership of Prof. Shalini R Urs. As the founder Secretary, Vice-President, and the President of MyLISA, I served the association wholeheartedly and organised several professional development activities and programmes in collaboration with MyDLIS.

It was a really inspirational and motivational trip and all our batch mates thoroughly fully enjoyed. It was a great learning experience for me as a student's representative and it actually instilled a lot of interest and confidence in my organising capabilities.

I am very much grateful and thankful to all the faculty members of MyDLIS for their continuous support and encouragement for the success of MyLISA. What I am today in this noble profession is because of MyDLIS. MyDLIS gave me everything including my life partner !

Long live MyDLIS !

"What in the world would we do without our libraries?"

Katharine Hepburn

Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light or dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.

Germaine Greer