

MyDLIS Conspired my Career Destiny

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“And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

– Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

This memorable line by Paulo Coelho, quite sums up my journey of life. Let me take you through a short ride.

Circa 1995 is when history was created in my life. My aim was clear, to complete Masters at Manasagangotri, a dream destination for every student in Mysore. After B.Sc. in Electronics, the next logical step was M.Sc in Electronics, unfortunately this was offered at the Hassan center, a big no from the family for relocation led me to apply across Departments. Mathematics, Physics, MCA, MBA, English Literature and on the last day of filing the application the Department of Library and Information Science. As luck would have had it, I got a seat everywhere except in MBA and MCA. Now that got me thinking, as to where I should go. All the while I was guided by my mentor and guiding light, my late uncle. He kept pushing me to get into Library Science, promising me a great career ahead. A prophecy which was to come true in the coming years!

With books being love of life, I agreed to get in. Without any clue of what is taught in this course, I took up admission and started my two years. New friends, new subject, new tension, new apprehensions, everything around was new. I generally make friends easily but here I was a little off guard and would always run away

to Department of Statistics to meet my friends. Meanwhile, the academic session started. Prof. Pangannayya, Prof. Nagappa, Prof. Talwar, Dr. Shalini, Prof. Nikkam, Mr. Chandra Shekar, Mr. Venkatesh, Ms. Indira were so welcoming and made the subject as simple as it could be and not to mention interesting and intriguing. I loved spending long hours in the library reading newspapers from around the country, understanding the new subject and experimenting with new knowledge. During these two years, I unlocked a lot of potential within myself. A lot of activities which happened in the Department helped me realize my potential as a Master of Ceremonies(MC). I had a far off wish to take up these roles. MyDLIS brought forth this aspect of me and how....I became the default MC for most of the events which took place during my stint as a senior in the department. The biggest of them all being the farewell of Prof Nagappa, who was fondly called Anna by all the students, his daughter was our batch-mate and he ended up being dad for all of us.

The felicitation function of Prof Nagappa, was a window to us, the students, to meet the August Alumni of our department. Names we had heard were in front of us and they were such an inspiration for all of us to follow on. At the end of the event, the then VC Prof. M. Madaiah, whose pat on the back at the end of the function saying, “Great job” was such a big thing for a youngster like me. I was floating for a long time after that.

As part of the final year, we went on an All India Tour, Prof. Chandrashekar accompanied us. This



was a wonderful time, 21 days of excitement and exploration. Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Mumbai, Kufri, and Agra were amongst the few places we covered. Apart from being an educational tour, this was also time to get a feel of North India, food and culture included. This was the first time I saw the wonder of world, Taj Mahal....I still cherish that moment. Nothing can recreate those magical moments ever again in life.

Academic year ended with a big bang for me, I topped the course much to my surprise and happiness of my family.

After idling away for a few months, I joined CFTRI as a Project trainee, unfortunately not in the Library. After a few months, I got selected at National Center for Science Information (NCSI) for the trainee course. My joy knew no bounds since I would be under the tutelage of Dr. T B Rajashekar (Late). He was such an inspiration, a person who would weigh his words and whose effect would last on you for a long time to come. I had the fortune of working with him for the next two years and learned so much. Those were the most amazing years of my career.

Through Dr. T B Rajasekar (late) I had the privilege of working at Informatics India started by Mr. N V Sathyanarayana, who has proved that Librarians can be great businessmen. After year and half with these stalwarts I joined Deutsche Software, which later turned to be part of HCL Technologies. Here is where I could put in practice the entire knowledge I gained at the University of Mysore and the Library was a much sought after place in the company. This tenure helped me connect to entire fraternity of librarians across the country. My seniors at the University and NCSI, peers, Professors, teachers, each one left a

huge impact on me. During this time, I also got to attend a lot of conferences and be part of working committees, thanks to Prof. Shalini Urs, Prof. IRN Goudar and many such luminaries.

One of my inherent qualities is to connect and explore new avenues. I love to research and implement and probably this is why I was predestined to be a Library and Information Science student, sifting and scooping for the right

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information which gives the minutest detail is what keeps me going. My life and career has been like those pieces of puzzle which just fell in place as and when they need to get connected. I am so glad I got into this profession, since this helps me to connect to people, quiz them for their liking and help them with what they look for.

One event which keeps coming back to my mind is the inspirational words of Prof. S N Hegde. I very vividly remember an episode at Crawford Hall. This was the interview for the post of Lecturer at the Department. Prof. S N Hegde was the VC, Prof Talwar was the Registrar. After the regular questioning rounds by the panel. Prof Hegde said, you are very young; you are good but, He stopped for a heavily pregnant pause, me being the young and restless said, good but not so good. He was caught off guard. He quickly added saying, no, you need to get some experience, learn the tricks of the trade, gear up to face the professional world. Words of advice which always have remained with me.

Now as an educational entrepreneur based in Dubai UAE, I am helping students choose their career paths. After a wonderful roller coaster ride as an information professional, I feel good to be guiding the youth towards choosing their desired goals and professions. The love for books and my profession keeps pulling me back to my roots.

Every day I thank my luck for making me an information professional and feel blessed to have interacted and worked with stalwarts, most of whom are from my Alma Mater. A proud feeling which only a Mysorean can feel and

know. I wish MyDLIS many many more years to come and may our tribe increase. I take this opportunity to show my gratitude to my Alma Mater for making

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me who I am, for unlocking my potential, for letting me figure out who I am.

“In the library I felt better, words you could trust and look at till you understood them, they couldn’t change half way through a sentence like people, so it was easier to spot a lie.”

Jeanette Winterson

“I couldn’t live a week without a private library - indeed, I’d part with all my furniture and squat and sleep on the floor before I’d let go of the 1500 or so books I possess.”

H.P. Lovecraft

“If television’s a babysitter, the Internet is a drunk librarian who won’t shut up.”

Dorothy Gambrell