

Transformation of an average student into a thorough professional: My journey

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“Books alone are liberal and free; they give to all who ask; they emancipate all who serve them faithfully.”

A note in Library @ Los Angeles

Pre LIS days:

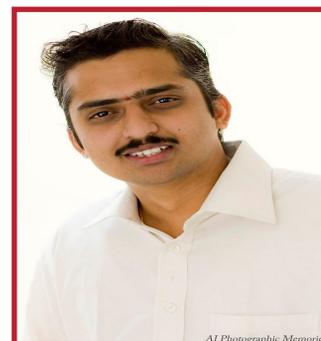
Srinivas is an energetic, helpful, talkative and easy going kind of person who completed his bachelors from Yuvaraja’s College of Mysore and wanted to pursue Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Mysore. Unfortunately it did not materialize due to his amazing scores in his bachelors and CET. As per his opinion, joining Library and Information Science (LIS) is the last option for students who do not get seats in the disciplines of their interest. He joined LIS course after failing to get a seat in MSW.

First Day in LIS:

June 16, 2003, if I recall correctly, Professor V.G. Talwar, Vice Chancellor, University of Mysore introduced him to the field of LIS fundamentals through Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 21 Edition) at 2:00 PM and completed at 7:00 PM. That day he never forgot because he realized the beauty, struggle, future, success, excellence of LIS. He had not anticipated that on day one Prof. VGT would conduct such an extensive, elaborative class on classification.

Fundamentals:

Faculties introduced him to fundamentals of Information Science, information resources, information technology and content management (CM) which became his favourite field. But back then he was not aware that his future career would be on CMS, KMS and records management related fields in multi-national companies (MNC) in India and USA.



Seminars: lesson learnt

As he was a fearless and talkative person, presenting seminars using OCR sheets was fun and not that difficult during the course. However every individual at times becomes over confident and commits mistakes. He was also punished to present a second time on synchronization and non-synchronization in the 2nd semester.

Early exposure to cataloguing @ Rangayana library, Mysore -

Mentors: He was aware that the role of mentors is the most vital part in one’s career. He considered Dr. N S Harinarayana as his mentor and took his guidance at all times who gave him

an opportunity to do cataloguing in real time at Rangayana Library, Mysore for two months during his 3rd Semester.

Dr. N S Harinarayana was the one who provided the stepping stone for his journey into the corporate sector by referring him to i2 Technologies - a supply chain management firm (JDA acquired i2 Technologies) for a Librarian's position after 4th semester.

A friend in need is a friend indeed:

In his inner soul somewhere he was passionate about working in corporate sectors rather than in academics and he realized that one must learn to speak good English to get into the corporate sector. Someone rightly said "a friend in need is a friend indeed" - Monica Sharma a batch mate who could not speak the regional language became a good friend in a short time and he started speaking in English with her for the first time in his life time and she supported him by correcting him at all the time.

Post LIS days:

He joined as Librarian at Sri Lakshmi Hayagreva College, Mysore before completing the 4th semester examination. He set up the library and increased the size of resources from 400 to 1000 in less than three months. Post this he got an offer from i2 Technologies to set up a library. He commemorates the day he approached his mentor and as well as Prof. Shalini R Urs to take a final call on accepting the offer. Prof. Shalini R Urs said "*This is the age you can take a risk. Accept it and explore the world*".

Later, as he realized that contract employees cannot avail all benefits offered by a company to its regulars, he started exploring the field of Knowledge Management and got an offer from a pharmaceutical firm called Pharm ARC Analytic. After working for two years in pharmaceutical firm, he moved to one of the Big four auditing firms of the world - Deloitte in the Records Management division in Hyderabad. He has received a number of awards and recognition from the leadership of Deloitte for his contributions throughout his career of eight years in the firm.

Someone rightly said "a friend in need is a friend indeed" - Monica Sharma a batch mate who could not speak the regional language become a good friend in a short time and he started speaking in English with her for the first time in his life time and she supported him by correcting him at all times.

Currently he is working at Capgemini, Bangalore providing support in the telecom sector as a Project Management Professional (PMP) for a group of 350 professionals.

Epilogue:

Throughout his journey, one can see all his roles were managerial and that is what he learnt in LIS - fundamentals of information, resource, technology, content, and knowledge and records management.

Hats off and a big thank you to the Department of Library and Information Science faculty for giving us a great and bright future.