

## Rambling Thoughts

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The year was 1968-69. A newcomer to the Department of Library Science, a whole set of unknown faces, none from the previous college or class (B.Sc.). Yes, I entered the Department and made friends slowly with the twenty only classmates, eight boys and twelve girls. Some freshers like me and some deputed from renowned institutions and, all in all a shy class. After all, what is Library Science? keeping stock of books, issue them, take them back. Was that all?!

As the classes started and progressed along with the syllabus, I came to know that there was something called Management, Organization Budgeting, Reference, Tools, Classification and Cataloguing. I wondered, do we need all these headings? Our teaching faculty, mainly Prof. T V Subrahmanyam (Late) was instrumental in making all these topics more meaningful. Prof. P K Patil, with his sense of humour and Prof. B N Nagappa added more meaning and understanding to the study material.

In between, we would have guest lectures from other eminent Librarians and Teachers. Foremost was Prof. Deshpande who had initiated the Department, and went onto establishing the Bangalore University Library and Department. His recounting of his experiences during luncheon discussions at the Bangalore University was most interesting and inspiring. Faculty and students from other universities would visit our department and

interact with us. So much so that during my lifetime, I was able to connect and meet some of them.

Our classmates, mostly shy in the beginning, began opening up. One very mischievous

Mr. N M Khan, the two bachhas, Sri. Raghavan (Swamy as we called him) and Sri. Ramaswamy. Ms. M G Leela was always full of her hockey experience, the philosophical Sri. Jaydevanna (Late) and Sri. Samba Murty. The very quiet ones, Ms. Shameem, Ms. Almas Banoo. I wonder what I was known as. I worked with Meera Alankar (late) in IISc later, joining Sri. Ratnakar, Sri. A G N Rao, and now all important Sri. N V Sathyanarayana. I always felt good that here was a bunch of alumni around me.

After graduation, the City Central Library, Bangalore, was my first place of work. Six months later, I joined the elite academic Indian Institute of Science, which made a great impact on me in realizing what I studied. CC was there in all its glory and to classify the new books was a treat, i.e., practicing what you learnt in the Department. A chance lecture in the State Central Library by the father of Library Science, Dr. S R Ranganathan, was



a dream come true. Watching him walk, with his hand on Dr. Gopinath's shoulder - lo! There he was in flesh and blood and I was contended that I saw him in person.

My practical experience from CC to DDC again at IISC was a mental exercise putting my theoretical knowledge to use.

Almost after ten years in IISc, I joined another elite organization, the IITB., Mumbai where I served till my superannuation. Forty years of living in Libraries and Information Sciences has been a great inspiration in understanding what I learnt as a B.Lib.Sc student.

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All this was no roller coaster ride, it had its moments, of stress, strain, upheavals, as we librarians had always to obey your boss, your staff, appease the users. But the one "Thanks" you get from any fulfilled user would always lighten your mood. A thankless job is well known but you can always turn it to a thank you job.

from any fulfilled user would always lighten your mood. A *thankless* job is well known but you can always turn it to a *thank you* job.

God bless the Department and may our tribe increase.

*The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance.*

*Libba Bray*

*In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.*

*Linton Weeks*