

Information Science and Communication for the Society

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Glimpses of the Seminar

TO dwell on various issues related to diffusion of scientific information among the society, the Society for Information Science (SIS) organised a seminar on the topic “Information Science and Communication: Opportunities, Expectations and Strategies” during 14-15 October 2022.

In his inaugural address, Chief Guest of the inaugural session Prof. Sachidanand Joshi, Chairman, National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India & Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts & Culture emphasized that today is the age of information overload and we need to be judicious in filtering out the right information. He also explained the overall importance of

communication and specifically science communication to the society.

In his presidential speech, Prof. Krishan Lal, former President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) said we need to have accurate vision of information science nationally and internationally. Guest of Honour Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida emphasized the importance of documentation in information science. Dr Manoj Kumar Patraiyia, Chairperson of SIS in his keynote address gave information on the importance of information science and science popularisation.

Two professionals were also awarded for their outstanding contribution in the field of information science



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and communication. They are Dr Jagdish Chander, Head, MERITE-ISG, Ministry of Education, Government of India and Dr Ankita Mishra, Editor, *Invention Intelligence* and *Aavishkar*, NRDC.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the importance of information science and science communication. The Seminar was focused on new opportunities, expectations and challenges in the field of information science and communication. Original contributions were invited under the following subthemes of the Seminar:

1. Emerging global and Indian landscapes of information science
2. Software and databases in knowledge creation and management
3. Communication, collaboration, and computation during COVID-19
4. Open science, open data, and open information resources
5. Multidisciplinary interrelations and information society

Around 21 papers were selected for presentation at the seminar. In the first session speakers like Dr S.K. Senapati, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-CBRI; Dr Rajani Meshram, Savitribai Phule Pune University; Ms Saloni Chaudhary, Department of Library and Information Science, Banaras Hindu University; and Dr Anshu Arora, Associate Professor, Amity University discussed various topics related to the emerging landscape of Indian Information Science. In-depth discussions took place with regard to One Nation, One Subscription-Conception to Execution, Melvil Dewey and his scheme of Classification, NEP 2020: Fostering new forms of learning through Open Distance Learning and Open Educational Resources in the Indian education system and online-healthcare services.

The second scientific session was on Software and databases in knowledge creation and management. Speakers like Mr Puttaraj A. Choukimath, Tata Institute of Social Sciences; Ms Anita Sharma, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar and Mr Mohit Garg, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi elaborately discussed topics like Intelligent Libraries, visibility of the Indian Central University Library Websites in Google Index and Open-Source Environment for analysis of Open Data.

In the third session on communication, collaboration and computation during COVID-19, speakers Mr Murtala Ismail Adakawa, ICCR Research Student, University of Mysore; Dr Chhavi Jain, Manav Rachna International School, Gurugram;

Dr Manika Lamba, ICCSR Doctoral Fellow, University of Delhi and Dr Pramukha S.P., ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry presented papers on the outbreak of COVID-19 and impact and effect on information science research and development post-COVID.

The fourth scientific session was focused on open science, open data and open information resources. In this session speakers like Dr Manorama Tripathi, University Librarian, JNU, New Delhi; Ms Alpana Saha, Research Scholar, AcSIR, CSIR-NIScPR; Ms Khushboo Thakur, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, New Delhi; and Ms Priya, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP) had constructive discussions on open science, open data and open information resources and its impact and role on various sectors.

The fifth and the last scientific session was on multidisciplinary interrelations and information society. Speakers like Dr Nabi Hasan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; Dr Diwakar Kumar, Centre for Studies in Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy, Central University of Gujarat; Mr Manohar Pathak, Directorate of Education, GNCT Delhi; Dr Ranju Sharma, CSIR-NIScPR and Ms Lata Kumari, CSIR-NIScPR discussed multidisciplinary interrelations of information science.

In the concluding session of the conference, Dr Sujit Bhattacharya Chief Scientist of CSIR-NIScPR gave the Dr Nagarajan Memorial Lecture on the topic Scientific Misconduct, Good and Bad Science and Beyond. In the presidential address during the Valedictory Session Dr R.K. Bhandari, Formerly Chair, Disaster Management, Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi spoke on the importance of being alert and aware about the advancement of information science in particular and science in general.

Chief Guest Dr Sanjeev Kumar Varshney gave an insightful speech on communication and impact of effective science communication on the society. The Guest of Honour Prof. R.S. Sangwan, Formerly Director, Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad, delivered a speech on the importance of information science.

Dr G. Mahesh, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, presented the seminar report and Shri Tariq Badar, Member, Organising Committee gave the vote of thanks.

Alpana Saha and Navneet Gupta are pursuing PhD from CSIR-NIScPR

