

WBCLA

West Bengal College Librarians' Association

Golden Jubilee Celebration : 1962-2012

XXV Annual Conference 2012
and
Seminar

Kolkata, 2nd December 2012



**West Bengal College
Librarians' Association
(WBCLA)**

**GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION
1962-2012**

&

***XXV Annual Conference & Seminar
Kolkata, 2nd December, 2012***



WEST BENGAL COLLEGE LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION (WBCLA)

44, Gouri Bari Lane, Kolkata - 700 004

Website : www.wbcla.org.in

LA

2012

aph : Maiden President, WBCLA, Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta addressing the audience at the Annual Conference of the Association held at Senet Hall, University of Calcutta in the year 1980.

Dr. Rabindranath Kar
General Secretary
West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA)
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WBCLA

Golden Jubilee Celebration : 1962-2012

Telephone No.: 2200-1641

Fax No. :2200-0020



**Secretary to the Governor of
West Bengal,**

Raj Bhavan, Kolkata-700 062

e-mail: secy-gov-wb@nic.in

No. 4312-6

Dated : 19/11/12

His Excellency Shri M. K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal is glad to learn that West Bengal College Librarians' Association is celebrating its Golden Jubilee and organising its 25th Annual Conference on "College Libraries in West Bengal Challenges and Opportunities" on 2nd December, 2012.

The Governor extends his felicitations and best wishes to all those associated with the organisation and congratulates them on the occasion.

Chandan Sinha

Dr. R. N. Kar,
General Secretary,
West Bengal College Librarians' Association,
44, Gouri Bari Lane,
Kolkata-700 004



মন্ত্রী
 বিদ্যালয় শিক্ষা বিভাগ ও উচ্চশিক্ষা বিভাগ
 পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার
 বিকাশ ভবন, স-টলেক, কলকাতা - ৭০০ ০৯১
 ফোন : ০৩৩-২৩৩৪ ৬১৮১ / ২২৫৬
 ফ্যাক্স : ০৩৩-২৩৩৭ ৬৭৮৩, ২৩৪৮ ৮৮৫৮

MINISTER
 School Education Department
 and Higher Education Department
 Government of West Bengal
 Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake City
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 Telephone : 033-2334 6181 / 2256
 Fax : 033-2337 6783, 2358 8858

90(MKR)/HEMBA/2012
19/11/12

MESSAGE

It is a great pleasure to know that the **West Bengal College Librarians' Association** is going to organize the Golden Jubilee Celebration and 25th Annual Conference on College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" on 2nd December, 2012 at Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar, 17 Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata-700 009.

I wish a grand success of this programme and convey my best wishes to all concerned.

Bratya Basu
(BRATYA BASU)

Dated: The 9th November, 2012.

To
The General Secretary
West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA)

DR. RATNABALI BANERJEE
JOINT SECRETARY



MESSAGE

The library is to the institution what the central nervous system is to the human body. I am happy to learn that the West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) will celebrate its Golden Jubilee and also organize its 25th Annual Conference on "College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" on 2nd December, 2012. I wish the event a big success.

Ratna Banerjee
(Ratna Banerjee)

Dr. R.N. Kar,
General Secretary, Librarians' Association (WBCLA),
West Bengal College
44, Gouri Bari Lane,
Kolkata,
West Bengal-700 009.



UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI

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Alok K. Banerjee
Vice Chancellor

C./F.10/12/D.P. 480

November 07, 2012

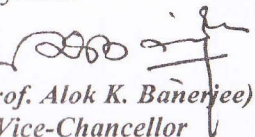
MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the members of the 'West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) are now all set to observe their well coveted Golden Jubilee Celebration and 25th Annual Conference on Sunday, December 2, 2012 within the tranquil ambience of the Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar, 17 Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata - 700 009.

The Association has already made its presence felt by launching various activities for the welfare of college librarians and university professionals with outstanding zeal. It spearheads the spirit of integrity and spreads the fragrance of unity amongst the college librarians and university professionals.

I repose my confidence that the 'West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) will scale greater heights by dint of undoubting spirit of all the members associated with the Society and will be proud of for their honest contribution towards the Society.

I convey my sincere thanks to all the members associated with the Association for their devotion towards the development of the University and wish a grand success of the conference.


Prof. Alok K. Banerjee
Vice-Chancellor
University of Kalyani



VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

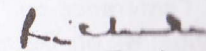
Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti
Vice-Chancellor

Date

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Golden Jubilee Celebration Annual Conference on "College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" of West Bengal College Librarians' Association will be held on 2nd December, 2012 at Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar, Kolkata.

I commend the endeavour of the organisers and convey my wishes for the success of the event.


(Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti)

Dr. R. N. Kar,
The General Secretary,
West Bengal College Librarians' Association,
44, Gouri Bari Lane,
Kolkata - 700 004

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SUGATA MARJIT

West Bengal State Council of Higher Education
Planning Board, Govt. of W.B.
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta



Msg-WBCLA/CM/414/SCHE/2012

November 29, 2012

Dr. R. N. Kar
General Secretary
West Bengal College Librarians' Association
Sourinagar, Gouri Bari Lane
Kolkata 700 004

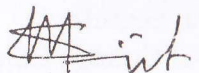
Dear Dr. Kar,

I am happy to learn that West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year and also organizing the 25th Annual Conference on "College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" on December 02, 2012 along with the publication of a commemorative souvenir on this occasion.

I wish the event a grand success.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,


(Sugata Marjit)

West Bengal State Council of Higher Education

147A, Rashbehari Avenue, Kolkata 700 029, West Bengal (India)

Phone : 033-2466 0209, Fax : 033-2463 3712 / 2465 9566

E-mail : chairman@wbsche.ac.in



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chief Patron

Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakraborti
Former Head of the Dept. of LIS, CU

Patrons

Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel
Dept. of LIS, KU & Director, DODL, KU

Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana
Associate Professor, Dept. of LIS, VU

Prof. Swapna Banerjee
Head of the Dept. of LIS, CU

Chairman

Sri Dilip Kumar Roy

Vice Chairman

Sri Somnath Raha

Secretary

Dr. Rabindranath Kar

Jt. Secretary

Dr. Nitai Raychoudhury
Dr. Anup Kumar Gupta

Treasurer

Sri Asim Kumar Das

Members

Sri Sriram Tiwari
Sri Pankaj Jana
Sri Subir Das

Smt. Sikha Nath
Sri Raja Biswas
Sri Avijit Chakraborti



PROGRAMME

Garlanding the bust of Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar -
Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, *President, WBCLA*

Paying homage to Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar by the guests
and other dignitaries

- Opening song : **Smt. Atryee Choudhury, *Librarian, Sarojini Naidu College for Women, DumDum, Kolkata***
- Welcome address : **Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, *Chairman, Organizing Committee, and President, WBCLA***

Felicitation of the guests and the dignitaries

- Address of the Guest of honour : **Prof. Ashok Barman**
- Address of the Special Guest : **Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakraborty**
- Address of the Special Guest : **Prof. Juran Krishna Sarkhel**
- Address of the Special Guest : **Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana**
- Address of the Special Guest : **Prof. Swapna Banerjee**
- Address of the Chief Guest : **Prof. Siddhartha Majumdar**
- Address of the Secretary : **Dr. Rabindra Nath Kar**

LAUNCHING OF THE WEBSITE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakraborty

- Vote of thanks : **Sri Somnath Raha, *Vice-President, WBCLA***

TEA BREAK

TECHNICAL SESSION - I

- Chairperson of the Session : **Prof. Juran Krishan Sarkhel**
Dept. of LIS, KU & Director, DODL, KU

LUNCH BREAK

TECHNICAL SESSION - II

- Chairperson of the Session : **Prof. Pijush Kanti Jana**
Associate Professor, Dept. of LIS, VU

TEA BREAK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WBCLA

Golden Jubilee Celebration : 1962-2012 | 11

Introspection

I cordially welcome all the distinguished dignitaries guests and delegates present at Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar 17, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata -700006, known as Bidhan Sarani Campus of Vidyasagar College, adjacent to Vidyasagar College, Kolkata, on 2nd December, 2012 on the occasion of celebration of Golden Jubilee of the association as well as holding 25th Annual General Meeting.

The West Bengal College Librarians' Association which commenced its journey in 1962 has been completing its glorious existence for 50 years after withstanding various turmoil, financial adversities firmly only due to untiring industriousness of few past and present office bearers, spontaneous and ceaseless supports (mental, physical and financial) of some sincere members, both working and retired librarians.

I believe that everyone will be happy and feel proud becoming a party of this historic occasion in the form of Golden Jubilee celebration organized on 2nd December, 2012 at Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar and please remember that premises we have been permitted to use, houses famous Vidyasagar College, the very institution established by Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, renowned erudite scholar, relentless fighter, social reformer and great philanthropist.

On behalf of the association I like to extend my congratulations to all the Office Bearers and the Organising Committee of Golden Jubilee Celebration for exerting sincere efforts for making the mission successful. I also like to extend my heart felt thanks to all who have donated space in the souvenir, donated liberally in response to appeal of the association and also those who boost up the programme with kind advertisement.

Dilip Kumar Roy
President, WBCLA
&

Chairman, Organising Committee

The 2nd December, 2012



Down Memory Lane

Higher education is going through tremendous changes all over the world with the knowledge explosion that requires constant change in curriculum and courses, pedagogy, changing with information technology, globalization, privatization, liberalization and other rapid cultural changes in the society. Higher education is a major instrument of change that supports the sustainable development of any nation. The changing social and economic scenario all over the world indicate the flexibility, adaptability, capability to bring about changes would be the need of the 21st century.

Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) have its effects on the changes taking place in Higher Education. Professions of all categories are totally affected by LPG. Rapid development in the technology and communications are foreseeing changes within tertiary education across the world as ideas, values and knowledge changing the roles of the students and teachers and producing a shift in society from industrialization towards an information based society.

India having the second largest network of higher education institutions in the world with more than 556 universities and 33023 colleges has been expanding its higher education system only through private resources during the 15-20 years.

In this changing situation the college libraries throughout India have crucial roles to play and the role of the college librarians do claim their professional competencies in discharging quality of services for the good of the students and teaching community. The potential users also badly need these types of services in the realm of higher education. The college librarians possessing equivalent qualifications and other academic background for combating modern technology like that of college teachers have been able to establish themselves to face the challenges within the limited opportunities in collegiate education.

It is needless to mention that West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) claims that they have accomplished such a vital duty for the interest of college librarians in West Bengal and they are now more or less in prestigious position.

In this auspicious occasion I unhesitatingly mention that if there is any happiest person, I do claim I am one of the happiest persons as I have been alive to hold the post of General Secretary of this Association, one of the active Associations not in West Bengal but in India as certified by INDIANA twenty years back, our record says.

I feel much elated when I recollect those days of tremendous struggle for the cause the profession and also for the interest of the college librarians. I myself could not imagine that I shall be here to celebrate the Golden Jubilee function of the



Association with our retired and working librarians, that was started its journey under different odds, in the year 1962 and that was formed by some enthusiastic college librarians of Kolkata and suburban. It is also beyond imagination to some of our retired college librarians and to working librarians too. But it is true. The detailed up-to-date facts will be revealed from the article entitled "History of the Association" contributed by Sri Somnath Raha, Vice-President of the Association published in this Souvenir. It will be cleared that this Association with a small number of college librarians has been able to cross the long fifty years journey successfully with patience without end. I could not control my tears when I call to mind specially the names of following personalities with whom I spent a good number of days in connection with the Association activities Viz. Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta, founder President of the Association; Late Ardhendu Sekher Roy Chaoudhury, founder General Secretary, Late Subir Ghosh, founder Organising Secretary, Late Amarendranath Bhattacharyya, General Secretary, Late Madan Mohan Paul, Sri Satyendra Krishna Roy, Librarian, Mahadebananda College, N 24pg, President, Late Sambhunath Banerjee, Vice-President and others who are no more to-day and I feel proud for some of the members who support me continuously for smooth functioning of the Association viz. Sri Dilip Kr. Roy, President; Sri Somnath Raha, Sri Rajnajt Kr. Hazra, Vice-Presidents, Sri Sriram Tiwari, Hony. Treasurer, Dr. Kabita Mukherjee, Dr. Nitai Raychaudhury, Raja Biswas, Asim Kr. Das, Dr. Anup Kr. Gupta, and others who by hook or by crook directly or indirectly support me continuously I was elected Hony. Treasurer between 1982 and 2009 and now I have been discharging the duty of General Secretary from 2009. I pray to excuse me for non-mentioning of names of other librarians members who extend their help and support - actively, financially & morally - for the cause of the Association.

I beg to mention following the successive list of names of Presidents and General Secretaries of the Association till date:

Presidents :

- (1) Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta, Librarian, B.K.C. College, Kolkata
- (2) Late Madan Mohan Paul, Librarian, Burdwan Raj College, Burdwan
- (3) Smt Anima Sengupta, Ex-Librarian, Netajinagar Day College, Kolkata
- (4) Sri Ranajit Kumar Hazra, Ex-Librarian, Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata

From 2009 —

- (5) Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, Ex-Librarian, K. D. College of Commerce, Paschim Medinipur



General Secretaries:

- (1) Late Amarendranath Bhattacharyya, Librarian (Sel.Gr.), City College, Kolkata
- (2) Late Ardhendu Sekhar Roy Chaudhury, Librarian, Shymaprasad College, Kolkata
- (3) Sri Malay Krishna Bhattacharyya, Ex-Librarian (Sel.Gr.), Rabin Mukherjee College (formerly Behala College of Commerce), Kolkata
- (4) Sri Balai Lal Basu, Librarian(Sel.Gr), Librarian, Khalisani Mahavidyalaya, Hooghly
- (5) Sri Arun Kumar Ghatak, Ex-Librarian (Sel.Gr.), Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata
- (6) Sri Ranajit Kumar Hazra, Ex-Librarian (Sel.Gr.), Prafulla Chandra College, Kolkata
- (7) Dr. Anup Kumar Gupta, Librarian (Sel.Gr.), Budge Budge College, S. 24 Prgs
- (8) Sri Arun Kumar Ghatak, Ex-Librarian (Sel.Gr.), Deshbandhu College for Girls, Kolkata

From 2009—

- (9) Dr. Rabindranath Kar, Ex-Librarian(Sel.Gr.), Vidyasagar Evening College, Kolkata

You are well-aware of the fact that after ceaseless struggle, prolonged movements, forwarding memoranda, prayers to respective authorities concerned we are yet to get some of the benefits viz. status and service conditions. The present position in this regard will be available from the article by Sri Raha.

It will be perhaps relevant to mention that All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation(AIFUCTO) which was established in the year 1962 at Banaras,U.P. has been observing its Golden Jubilee at Banaras,U.P. from 15-17 December,2012. Our Association being one of the Institutional Members has been participating in the National Executive Meetings, Academic Conferences, movements etc. organized by AIFUCTO since 1980's when Prof. Mrinmoy Bhattacharyya was its General Secretary. We are in close contact with the present General Secretary, Prof. Asok Burman on various issues affecting the interest of the college librarians. We will also participate in the AIFUCTO Conference,2012 by sending a good number of our delegates.



In this auspicious occasion I fervently request the college librarians in this State to remind and rethink that WBCLA that was established by a few college librarians with outstanding zeal by way of rendering high quality of services and also fought ceaselessly to highlight the problems affecting the profession and to receive UGC pay scales at par with that of college teachers long fifty years ago. Their persistent endeavors for genuine cause has compelled us to follow the same path and I can assure that we will reach our destination very soon after a long journey. So, it is my humble submission that our college librarians need be united and to fight under the banner of WBCLA and it is the WBCLA not other associations/organizations will come forward for any sorts of help. It is this Association that fought past, has been fighting at present and will fight in future. In this connection a 'concluding remark' made by our teacher of Lib. & Inf. Science Dept. C.U. Late Prof. Piyush Kanti Mahapatra, at a gathering of Re-Union of the said Dept. more than one and half decade ago need be mentioned for caution "We have identified our enemies and the enemies are with us". At that time I took this remark lightly. But today as a General Secretary of the Association request our members to kindly note it seriously.

Try heart and soul to maintain the integrity of the Association removing all kinds of misunderstanding, if any. I request everyone to excuse me if I hurt anyone. My uttering in foregoing discussions have been made on the basis of my long experience and genuine feelings which I had have gathered as a general member from 1982, Hony. Treasurer from 1982 to 2009 and as General Secretary from 2009 to till date.

Finally, I convey my sincere respect and heart-felt gratitude to the respected dignitaries, seniors on the dais, and audience, delegates, and others present here in this historic Golden Jubilee Anniversary. For, their presence and co-operation we could make this glorious moment a grand success. I also extend my thanks to those who have contributed their articles for our Journal, Souvenir and who have donated spaces for advertisement, media persons and other friends who have directly or indirectly helped by way of their whole-hearted support and co-operation.

Mistakes and errors if any, are regretted.

Thank you all.

Long Live WBCLA.

Long Live Librarians' Movement.

Rabindranath Kar
General Secretary, WBCLA



History of the Association

The West Bengal College Librarians' Association was though established in the year 1962 by some College Librarians and University professionals of Calcutta to highlight the problems affecting the profession, the participant members perhaps could not imagine that college librarians would have to face more critical and complicated problems in near future. So the activities of the association was almost in a dormant stage. There was no regular meetings or conference and no attempt was made to involve most of the college librarians in a systematic way. There was no General Secretary and elected office bearers. Only there was convener or sometimes joint conveners were also chosen. In the second half of 70's some attempts were made by a group of college librarians to fight for introduction of UGC pay scale of Rs. 550-900/- along with introduction of the pay scale of Rs. 700-1600/- w.e.f. 01.01.1973. At that time joint conveners were Late Subir Ghosh, Librarian, Dum Dum Motijhil College and Sri Malay Krishna Bhattacharyya, Librarian, Behala College of Commerce.

During 1977 the demand for introduction of UGC pay scale of Rs. 700-1600/- in modification of the pay scale of Rs. 550-900/- as UGC stated in its order that to suit local conditions, the State Government might introduce a higher pay scale over and above the scale of pay recommended by the UGC. State Government already introduced the pay scale of Rs. 700-1300 in respect of four college librarians of Government Colleges viz. Presidency College, Sanskrit College and B.E. College, Shipbur. The small tiny association led by two conveners tried to draw attention of the Government towards the disparity. In 1977 Bengal Library Association convened a meeting of the college librarians to form opinion on introduction of UGC pay scale for the non-Government Colleges and Prof. Sri Manik Bal, General Secretary, W.B. Govt. College Teachers' Association attended the meeting. Several senior college librarians like Late Amarendranath Bhattacharyya, Librarian, City College, Kolkata. Late Subir Ghosh, Late M. M. Paul and others spoke in the said convention. Just after this convention Sri Satyasadhan Chakraborty, General Secretary, WBCUTA convened a meeting on the same issue at Vidyasagar College, Kolkata. Dr. Prabir Roy Chowdhury, General Secretary, BLA also attended the meeting. The convention was attended by a large number of college librarians and it was decided that college librarians would submit a memorandum to the then Higher Education Minister of W.B., Late Prof. Sambhu Ghosh. In September, 1977 a rally was organized at college square where leaders of WBCUTA and BLA like Late Dr. Prabir Raychauduri, Gen. Secretary, BLA were present and a large number of college librarians assembled there and the earlier stated two joint conveners were also present with banner and festoons. The WBCUTA leadership raised objection that festoons & banners of College Librarians could not



be exhibited in the rally as the assembly was convened by WBCUTA. Time wasted on arguments and counter arguments. Later on the procession started and reached Esplanade East where the police stopped and requested to submit memorandum to the Higher Education Minister by way of boarding a police van. It was seen that some WBCUTA leaders and Dr. Prabir Raychaudhuri boarded the police van and the college librarians were shouting to include also the two joint conveners as delegates viz., Late Subir Ghosh and Sri Malay Bhattacharyya. After some hesitation Sri Malay Bhattacharyya was allowed to get into the van. After half an hour the college librarians found that Sri Malay Bhattacharyya was coming back alone. He reported that in front of Governor house he was directed to get down and return. The college librarians assembled there became aggrieved. The assembly became thinner. Actually College Librarians were disappointed.

Upto that chapter of the Association Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta, Librarian, B. K. C. College, Late Amarendranath Bhattacharyya, Librarian, City College, Smt. Anima Sengupta, Librarian, Netajinagar College, Sri Satyedra Krishna Ray, Sri Somnath Raha, Sri Ashit Moitra did not join the association. The Joint Conveners began to communicate with Late D. P. Gupta and Late A. Bhattacharyya to join the association formed by them. Then Late Amarendranath Bhattacharyya and Late D. P. Gupta made extensive tour in Kolkata and neighbouring districts, seeking active participation of College Librarians. To their call the College Librarians who joined the Association were Late Madan Mohan Paul, Burdwan, Late Sambhunath Banerjee, Burdwan, Sri Sibram Majumdar, Burdwan, Sri Joynarayan Ganguly, Burdwan, Sri Dilip Kumar Roy, Midnapore, Smt. Pravati Dasgupta, Midnapore, Sri Bidyut Kumar Hazra, Midnapore, Sri Nandalal Bera, Midnapore, Sri Sabita Prasad Dube, Murshidabad, Sri Santosh Kumar Sarkar, Murshidabad, Smt. Bina Nandi, Kolkata, Smt. Kabita Roy, Kolkata, Sri Amalesh Roy, Kolkata, Sri Binoybhushan Mukherjee, Kolkata, Smt. Amita Sinha, N. 24 Pgs, Late Basanti Chowdhury, N. 24pgs., Smt. Rajlakshmi Ghosh, Bethune College, Kolkata, Sri Rabindranath Guin, Kolkata, Late Subur Mukherjee, Kolkata, Late Ardhendu Roy Chowdhury, Kolkata, Sri Somnath Raha, Kolkata, and others. Within 6 months membership exceeded more than 100. Ultimately they agreed and said that if association was to be formed there should be a constitution and permanent office for public relation. It was decided that Dinendra Prasad Gupta and Amarendranath Bhattacharyya would be President and General Secretary respectively. The draft constitution was framed by Sri Binoybhushan Mukherjee of Jogesh Chanra Chowdhury College, Kolkata and Late A. N. Bhattacharya gave final shape to it. Sri Ashit Kumar Moitra of Vidyasaga College, Kolkata allowed the office bearers to use his drawing room at 24B, Bechu Chatterjee Street, Kolkata-9 for office purpose and later on, the said address was registered and it was our registered office. Thus the Association started its royal journey.



In the foregoing paragraphs the genesis of college Librarians' Association has been described. Amarendranath Bhattacharyya played a praise-worthy role as the General Secretary of the Association. Every evening Late Bhattacharyya and President Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta used to sit in the Association Office. Often Late Subir Ghosh and Ardhendu Ray Chowdhury and others accompanied them. During early 80's it was noticed that C.U. Acts. 1966 would be recast and amended. Dinenbabu and Amarbabu began to send memorandum to the C.U. authorities to determine the status and service conditions of college Librarians in the proposed Acts and Statutes. We also gave a representation to the Committee for framing statutes. Ultimately the C.U. Acts and Statutes 1979 were passed. The office of the Librarian was not defined. Librarians were defined as Librarian, only a category different from Non-teaching staff. The powers, functions and service conditions were not explained. The Acts and statutes of other Universities of W.B. were also enacted within a short time following the blue print of the Calcutta University.

At that time the W.B. Government issued a G.O. granting House Rent allowance in favour of Non-teaching staff only. It was known that the Government College Librarians had been enjoying the said benefit. Dinendra Prasad Gupta began to fight against this anomaly. He wrote to the then Chief Minister of W.B. Jyoti Basu drawing his kind attention to this disparity. Honourable Jyoti Basu quickly responded to the appeal of his old comrade and kindly granted an appointment. Dinendrababu and Amarbabu along with Late Madan Mohan Paul met the Chief Minister, who was accompanied by Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary. He was a broad hearted man. He asked the Secretaries to remove disparity between Govt. College Librarians and Non-Govt. College Librarians. His directive was quickly reflected in a G.O. granting house rent allowance in favour of Non-Govt. College Librarians.

The Associations had been struggling hard for accordance of Teacher's status and service conditions on the one hand and parity of UGC pay scales at par with teachers on the other.

Dinenbabu proposed for a five day long sit-in-strike in December 1980. Amarbabu opposed it. Then Amarbabu was asked to convene a meeting on this issue. The meeting was convened at CCBA College, Kol-12 and the proposal of the President was accepted unanimously. Only Amarbabu went against the motion. The five day long demonstration started on scheduled day of December 5th, 1980. Amarbabu submitted his resignation from the post of General Secretary. It was a difficult time. General Secretary being inactive, all bank operations remained inoperative. Consequently, we were compelled to collect special subscriptions from the participant Librarians in the demonstration. Prof. Sambhu Ghosh was Higher Education Minister at that time. He



refused to meet the delegates from the demonstrating college Librarians. Later on Hon'ble Chief Minister intervened and Prof. Sambhu Ghosh met the deligation. By this time the decision of Union Education Minister Prof. Pratap Chandra Chandra was declared by the Minister of State Mrs. Shila Kaul, on the floor of the Parliament that college librarians would enjoy the pay scale of 700-1600 at par with the teachers w.e.f 01.04.1980. We heard the news while demonstrating at Esplanade East. The Higher Education Department, Govt. of W.B. was compelled to introduce the pay scale keeping party with the teachers.

At that time the Association was passing through hard days without General Secretary. Dinenbabu became frustrated. About six months passed in this way. Amarbabu decided to hand over the charge only to an elected General Secretary. Joint Secretary Ardhendu Roy Choudhury was requested to perform the functions of General Secretary. At that time Sri Rabindranath Kar joined Vidyasagar Evening College, Kolkata as Librarian. In a meeting held at Vidyasagar College Sri Somnath Raha introduced Sri Kar who became also member. Sri Raha proposed to Dinenbabu to convene a meeting of the Central Council to elect new General Secretary and Treasurer thereafter replacing Amarbabu and Asitbabu respectively. The meeting was convened and Sri Balailal Basu was elected General Secretary and Sri Rabindranath Kar was elected Treasurer. Dinenbabu remained President. Amarbabu became ordinary executive member. After retirement of Dinenbabu Late Madan Mohan Paul became President. He was succeeded by Smt. Anima Sengupta, Sri Ranajit Kumar Hazra and Sri Dilip Kumar Ray so far.

When Rs. 700-1600/- pay scale was introduced for the College Librarians, those librarians who did not possess UGC prescribed qualifications were allowed to get the pay scale of Rs. 550-900/-. Late Subir Ghosh was very much agrieved. He pressurised the President to fight for parity among the Librarians. President Dinendra Prasad Gupta and Executive Committee could not accept his proposal. Late Gupta announced that college librarians should strive for attaining UGC prescribed qualifications. Subir Ghosh resigned and formed a tiny separate organisation with a few of his followers who did not posses UGC prescribed qualifications. Ultimately they could not achieve success and return to the main stream.

In this connection it will be relevant to point out that during early 80's some of the Non-Teaching Staff of Naihati RBC College, North 24 Pgs. moved High Court, Calcutta demanding UGC pay scale of Rs. 550-900/- as enjoyed by the Librarians who did not poseess UGC prescribed qualification and prayed for stoppage of payment of salary. The Court passed the injunction order. We had no other alternative but to move High Court to vacate the injunction and we approached Mr. Shakti Mukherjee,



Advocate, High Court, Calcutta to vacate the injunction. In a single hearing Mr. Mukherjee vacated the injunction and the trouble created came to an end. Thus we won the battle.

In 1986 UGC, for the first time, introduced promotional pay scales for the College Librarians and Teachers viz. Rs. 2200-4000/-, Rs. 3000-5000/- & Rs. 3700-5700/- on the basis of recommendation of the Mehrotra Committee. Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta, the then President of the Association along with Late Amarendranath Bhattacharya, Sri Somnath Raha, Sri Balai Lal Basu, General Secretary; Sri Rabindranath Kar, Hony Treasurer; met the visiting team of the Committee at Great Eastern Hotel, Kolkata, emphasizing parity between teachers and librarians in respect of pay scales and other benefits in the forthcoming recommendations of the Committee. The W.B. Govt. introduced promotional pay scales for the teachers and the lower tier i.e. Rs. 2200-4000/- for the College Librarians as General Secretary, WBCUTA recommended to the Government that the College Librarians should be covered by pay scales recommended by the then Pay Commission appointed by the Govt. of West Bengal. The Association refused to accept the pay scale. The Govt. failed to introduce it. Strikes, demonstrations, submission of memorandum etc. were continued. Ultimately the promotional pay scales were introduced on the issuance of GO on 28.12.1994 i.e. after 8 years. The promotional pay scales of 1996 was introduced simultaneously with the teachers. In 2006, for the first time, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, and University Grants Commission declared that the college teachers and the college librarians should be treated as equivalent category having equivalent grade. In the UGC pay scale 1996, the college librarians were deprived of getting the fitment benefit of Rs. 14940/-. After strenuous movement and with the help of constant pressure of AIFUCTO, the said benefit was restored after a long 10 years and was extended to all eligible college librarians. All over India, the librarians, who retired before 01.01.2006 have also been granted revision of their pension at par with teachers following the Pay Band of Rs. 37400/- with AGP of Rs. 9000/-. Thus, the librarians have obtained higher grade of death-cum retirement-benefit. Following the recommendations of the Rastogi Committee, a team comprising Sri Ranajit Kumar Hazra, Genl. Secretary, Sri Somnath Raha, Sri Sriram Tiwari, Sri Rabindranath Kar, Treasurer met Chairman, UGC, at New Delhi for solution of problem of not getting fitment benefit of Rs. 14940/- w.e.f. 1.1.96 in case of college librarians. In this case also a team of the Association comprising Sri Arun Kumar Ghatak, General Secretary; Dr. Rabindranath Kar, Treasurer; Sri Somnath Raha, Vice-President and Sri Balai Lal Basu, Office Secretary met the UGC Pay Review Committee at Jadavpur University Campus and also Calcutta University, Alipur Campus ventilated our grievances over non-receipt of fitment benefit of Rs. 14940/- w.e.f. 1.1.96 and also to equate college teachers and college librarians in respect of pay scales (2006) and other benefits.



It is needless to mention that during the year 1992 DCRB for College Librarians was granted by Govt. like that of Non-Teaching Staff. College Librarians' enjoying higher pay scales were always crossing the ceiling of pension enjoyed by the Non-Teaching Staff. But being treated like NTS, the college librarians were allowed to enjoy very poor pension due to barrier of the ceiling at that time the then President Dinendra Prasad Gupta wrote to the Govt. that even during reign of tyrant Zar Lelin's Mother used to receive accurate pension due to her. But the present regime was too cruel to ensure proper benefit the college librarians. For this we had to fight hard and after a decade long pursuation the DCRB for Non-Govt. College Librarians was granted without leave encashment benefit which the Govt. College Librarians have been enjoying.

But the questions of status and service conditions of College Librarians remain unsolved till date. The Association was compelled to take shelter of Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta in 2003. The Court directed the Government to frame service conditions of College Librarians. On 30th Sept, 2004 the Govt. issued a memorandum without framing service conditions violating Court Order. So WBCLA filed a Writ Pition again in 2005 on the basis of earlier writ petition of WBCLA Hon'ble Justice Bhaskar Bhattacharyya of Calcutta High Court directed the Higher Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal to appoint an Expert Committee to formulate the status and service conditions of the college librarians and the Committee had to recommend certain measures inter-alia for the recruitment of college librarians through West Bengal College Service Commission. Consequently, WBCSC(Amendment) Bill, 2005 was passed in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and henceforth college librarians are being appointed on the basis of the recommendations WBCSC with a direction that The West Bengal College Teachers Security of Service Act, 1975 will be extended to cover College Librarians.

On 2nd July, 2010 the Hon'ble Justice Mr. Maharaja Sinha of Calcutta High Court declared that hearing had been completed and writ petition was also determined by him as CAV. On 7th February, 2011 Hon'ble Justice Maharaj Sinha of Calcutta High Court delivered his historic verdict in favour of librarians working in different non-Government colleges, affiliated to different Universities of W.B. He vehemently criticized inaction of the then Government in not determining the status and service conditions of non-Government college librarians several times in his judgement and summed up, "Thus there will be an order in terms of prayers (a), (b), (c) & (d) of the Writ petition. It is also made clear that the librarians of Non-Government Colleges will be entitled to the similar or if not identical leave rules as framed for the teachers of such colleges including leave encashment, leave accommodation benefits with effect from the date from when such rule is framed, namely within four weeks from the date of communication of this order.



It is made clear that the order passed herein is to implemented positively within a period of eight weeks from the date of pronouncement of the judgement." But Higher Education Department, Government of W.B. without implementing the directive moved to the Division Bench and now the association has been fighting in defence.

The West Bengal College Librarians' Association, I have already stated, commenced its journey in the year 1962 and this year i.e., 2012 completed 50 years of its glorious existence. The Golden Jubilee Celebration and 25th Annual Conference along with a Seminar entitled "College Libraries in West Bengal: Challenges and Opportunities" have been scheduled to be held on 2nd December, 2012 at Vidyasagar Sabha Ghar (Ground Floor, just beneath Vidyasagar College Library) 17, Bidhan Sarani Campus, Kolkata -700006, adjacent to Vidyasagar College, Kolkata.

On the eve of completion of 50 years of Association, the earlier association's registered office address has been changed from 24B, Bechu Chatterjee Street, Kolkata-700009 to 44, Gouri Bari Lane, Kolkata-700004 due to demise of Ashit Kumar Moitra, Ex-Assistant Librarian, Vidyasagar College in 2011 who till death kindly allowed the association to use his premises for transaction of official functions of the Association.

In fine I remember few words often uttered by our first President Late Dinendra Prasad Gupta in different meetings and writings that even referring to more developed education system of England, T. H. Huxley disappointedly opined hundred years ago that students work to pass and not to know and the nature takes its revenge. They do pass and they do not know. Dinen Babu always emphasised through out his tenure as President that this lacuna of academic system can only be removed by way of introducing library-centered education. The library-centered education can only supplement and enrich class room oriented education and the young learners may develop self dependence, self knowledge, self esteem. Such education can only generate genuine urge among them for quest of knowledge, self attainment and self content. The first conference of WBCLA after establishment as registered association was presided over by Dr. R. K. Dasgupta, one time holding Tagore chair of Delhi University and later on the post of Director, National Library spoke in the conference with famous remarks that the libraries are seats of counter revolution as all roling parties open ignore or neglect library system for the readers may develop their independent thinking, opinion by way of using library materials under the guidance of able librarian besides prescribed curriculum of the State Policy of education.

Somnath Raha
Vice-President, WBCLA



West Bengal College Librarians' Association (WBCLA) Golden Jubilee Anniversary

Prof. Bhubaneswar Chakrabarti

On this historic occasion we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee anniversary of the Association. In fifty years of stirring history the Association has steadily grown in stature and distinction and, which it shows in retrospect a story of noble achievement, it presents for the future an admirable prospect of yet more glorious prestige and renown in the history of library associations in India.

It is indeed, a great moment of universal cooperation interlinked by different ages and countries. And India has her responsibility to hold up the cause of truth and offer her lessons to the world in the best gifts which she could produce. The messengers of truth have ever joined their hands across the seas, across historical barriers and they help to form the great continent of human brotherhood. This brotherhood exists in the spirit of our members and the Association grows stronger and stronger to hold up the cause of truth.

In the birth, the growth and development of the Association mention should be made about three noteworthy personalities-Somnath Raha, Ranajit Kumar Hazra and Rabindranath Kar. Somnath has impressed us as a cautious, careful man, somewhat leisurely and slow in movement, soft-spoken, witty but not voluble, convivial and courteous but unbending where principles are concerned. By reading and rereading his writings I have tried to gauge the source of the extraordinary felicity of expression and the intellectual subtlety and imaginative vitality displayed in his writings. The ideas are not new and many have subscribed to them,. What is new here is the way in which these are fused in his creation. The other two are no less useful to the Association. Both are dynamic, honest and sincere to the tips of their fingers.

The trio carry the impression of Thomas Gray:

Full may a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste sweetness on the desert air

Let us salute them with admiration. I have seen comparable dedication but not nearly comparable result. The trio along with Sreeram Tiwariji, courteous and kind hearted are still holding the sway and doing the needful for the Association.

Let us endeavour to preserve the integrity, independence and efficiency of the Association. Let us trust in the Giver of all good; our cause is righteous one and is sure to be crowned with success.



College Libraries Today: An Introspection

Dr. Swapna Banerjee

*Head Department of Library and Information Science
University of Calcutta*

The three pillars of an academic library are school library, college library, and university library. Among these, college library is perhaps the strongest pillar in terms of its footprints in the academic world. The college library is a fortified castle which encompasses the youth in all its aspects. This spirit of youth is at a junction, where the budding sensation of the glimpse into the outer world is reflected in their activities. This is the stepping stone into a greater academic sphere, emerging from a lesser or a miniature circle of academic pursuit. As the youth steps into the college premises, a seamless ocean of dream circumscribes him; and at this junction the library is one of the and the most important outlet to cherish his dreams.

Therefore the college library functions as a centre of fulfilment of the ambitions and future seeking notions of the students. Looking at this aspect of the college library, it is safe to say that the library therefore has a great responsibility in shaping the careers, academic endeavours', and dreams of the student community. Therefore, we can look at the opportunities which the college library can provide the students in this millennium.

In the epoch of information and communication technology, the concept of college library has been entirely diversified. The college library is not only now a collection of information resources, but it is the centre of information dissemination activities, in whichever mode may it be followed. The information resources housed in it, come in various forms physically as well as digitally. This amalgamation of two extreme forms-physical and digital, create a noteworthy challenge to the librarians, in not only storing, but also effectively managing them in the best possible manner. Information management has become a herculean task for the librarians with the limited space, financial hurdles and minimal staff. Information service, on the other hand, has gained tremendous importance, and has also changed the route of librarians in a new direction. Information service in 2012, does not mean only the traditional circulation work, as one is habituated to label the librarians work; but it means creation of a computerized database, and induction of an automated library working system. This automated system includes online circulation, web opac search, web based learning, article and news alerting services, email services, etc. within the college itself. The other external activities outside the four walls of the institution, includes interlibrary loan activities, networking and resource sharing, to mention a few.



The role of the college librarian in making an information literate student is one of the most important functions in the information society. Information literacy is the term known to all in the educational sector and the steps to imbibe the visual literacy, media literacy, audio literacy, technology literacy to the students is a great and serious task. The positive effect of this makes a well informed citizen, and the negative effect has a diminishing and contradictory impact on the youth.

A career counseling cell is the must for an institution which nurture students to follow a career after their completion of graduation. This part can be well organized in a college library. If all parameters work well, this cell, cornered in the college library, will work very well. Since the library is an ocean of information, therefore information related to courses in careers can aptly be disseminated from its, and information resources related to these can be stocked. Prints and hard copies, along with soft copies related to careers are also to be disbursed from this part.

Looking at the human part, a strong bondage between teachers and students could be built up through this learning centre. This intimate bondage, which is diminishing in the era of restlessness, anxiety and bitter feeling, can be strengthened through the bridge of knowledge for which probably library would be the best acumen. The induction of a new writer, or a noble prize winner, or the dimension of a new book, a best seller, could be introduced to the students, outside their prescribed syllabus, by the teachers in the college library itself. This temple of learning could then reach its height of knowledge transmission centre.

All these could be achieved only in a warm, friendly environment. By environment, we mean the physical and the human mediated internal environment, both of which have an impact on the uses of the library. The physical environment is to be a healthy, comfortable, well ventilated, well lighted, cozy one; as well as the internal environment needs to have warmth in it, an inviting atmosphere is the keenly sought one. One could enter it as a stranger, but leave it as a friend. These friends of the libraries are its most sought, most esteemed customers, or members. Therefore, in no way, discomfort could sustain on them.

Though the above facts may not all be idealistic, in the realm of staff shortage, fund crunch, minimal and improper infrastructure, space inadequacy, and overall the reluctance of the authority to pay attention to their trivial matters, yet the general and positive features related to college libraries must be mentioned. In India, it is aspiring to note that the visit of NAAC in the colleges have given a boost to the erstwhile downtrodden condition of the libraries. The libraries have been paid attention to by most of the authorities, and steps have been taken in many cases to upgrade these in terms of computers, healthy environment, new furniture, equipments and the other



essentialities of the libraries. In many colleges, new equipments have been purchased for the libraries, and the most modern CCTV have also been installed to reduce the risk of information resources been damaged or loss. UGC has given importance to the libraries in the knowledge society. This is a great sign of advancement of learning. In many colleges, librarians have been chosen as a representative in the Governing bodies, which shows some new steps towards recognition of the profession of librarians. It is really enthusiastic to notice that some librarians have submitted project proposals, which have been accepted by UGC and they are working successfully on these aspects - this is an indication of the academic flourishing of the library managers. The installation of software for library activities in almost all colleges in West Bengal is noteworthy progress in the scenario of academic librarianship. The libraries have been trained in these packages, making them a complete professional and a cybrarian too.

All these point to the progress of the college libraries, breaking through the hurdles of scarcity of various essential features. Overcoming these hurdles with patience, acute opinions and personal capabilities, the librarian marches towards the pillars of success, making himself the indispensable person of his institution, and also giving the institution its most sought prestige. Let us praise the managers of the information centers in making this learning centre an abode of technology, human touch and apex of the best information resources one could dream of. Let us cheer for the librarians who is the navigator of the youth, friend of the teacher community, ally of the non-teaching employees and the trustworthy of the authority.



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ABSTRACTS



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