

LIBRARY HERALD

Vol 59 No 2

June 2021

Role of Ranganathan's Legacy in LIS Education and Research in India

PROF. K P SINGH*

The Department of Library & Information Science started at the initiative of S.R. Ranganathan was the first school in the country to offer Master's and PhD programmes in Library Science. This study explores the role of professionals graduating from the LIS Department of the University of Delhi in LIS education and research, an attempt has been made to present a state-wise picture of the pioneering role played by the alumni of the Department. The study finds that sixteen prominent LIS departments were setup in the country by the alumni of Delhi University.

Keywords: *LIS Education, LIS Research, SR Ranganathan, Delhi University*

1 INTRODUCTION

The LIS Department of the University of Delhi is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee in 2021. The department started by S. R. Ranganathan at the invitation of Sir Maurice Gwyer, the then Vice Chancellor of the University, was the first in the country to introduce master's and PhD programmes in Library Science. Ranganathan and the programmes he introduced in Delhi University have undoubtedly made a significant contribution in the overall growth and development of LIS education and research in the country. The LIS professionals trained in the school have worked in various capacities and many of them have entered the teaching profession and have been instrumental in advancing LIS education and research in the country. There can be no two opinions that their training in Delhi University has impacted LIS education in the country. In this sense they carry forward Ranganathan's

* *Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110007*

legacy and the Platinum Jubilee of the LIS Department of the University of Delhi is a good time to examine how and in what ways this legacy has moved forward. This study is an attempt in this direction. The study seeks to examine in some detail the contributions of the top brass alumni, who after graduating from the department in the late sixties and later, have assumed responsible teaching positions in LIS schools all over the country. In fact some of these have been instrumental in founding new LIS schools in different states of the country. Some may be considered to be trend-setters in the field of Librarianship, LIS Education, and research in librarianship in the country.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study seeks to map SRR's intellectual legacy network by examining the role and contributions of the alumni of the LIS school of Delhi University with a view to show the extent of impact the Delhi school has had on the growth and development of LIS education and research in the country.

3 METHODOLOGY

This study is largely based on data collected from various documentary sources such as scholar register, annual reports, prospectus, etc. of Department/University of Delhi. The data is primarily qualitative in nature. This has been supplemented by personally contacting alumni of the Department. The collected data has been presented in the form of tables, charts, etc for convenience.

4 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The collected data has been presented in the following sections. Table 1 provides an overview of the current status of LIS education in India¹.

Table 1: LIS Departments in India- State wise Data

Sr. No.	State	No. of University Departments	
		Nos	%
1	Madhya Pradesh	24	10.13
2	Uttar Pradesh	23	9.7
3	Maharashtra	20	8.44
4	Punjab	20	8.44
5	Kerala	13	5.49
6	Gujarat	12	5.06
7	Rajasthan	12	5.06
8	Tamil Nadu	12	5.06
9	West Bengal	11	4.64
10	Karnataka	10	4.21
11	Haryana	09	3.8
12	Orissa	09	3.8
13	Telangana	09	3.8
14	Bihar	07	2.95
15	Andhra Pradesh	06	2.54
16	Delhi	06	2.54
17	Uttarakhand	06	2.54
18	Assam	04	1.69
19	Tripura	04	1.69
20	Arunachal Pradesh	03	1.27
21	Chhattisgarh	03	1.27
22	Chandigarh	02	0.84
23	Jammu & Kashmir	02	0.84
24	Jharkhand	02	0.84
25	Meghalaya	02	0.84
26	Goa	01	0.42
27	Himachal Pradesh	01	0.42
28	Manipur	01	0.42
29	Mizoram	01	0.42
30	Puducherry	01	0.42
31	Sikkim	01	0.42
Total		237	

Clearly the situation has changed vastly in the last seven decades since the first Master's degree programme in LIS was introduced in the University of Delhi. That there has been a huge expansion in LIS education at the university level in the country is clear. Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have maximum numbers of universities/colleges offering LIS education programmes followed by Maharashtra. Of the 28 States and 8 Union territories of the country only Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Ladakh do not have LIS schools. Since the idea of this paper is to see the legacy of Ranganathan and the role of the LIS students of the University of Delhi in establishing LIS schools, in the following sections we examine the LIS schools that have been established in different regions of the country.

4.1 THE NORTHERN STATES

Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, and J&K are the Northern states of India. The table presents data on LIS departments in this region.

Table 2: Statistics of LIS Department of North India

	State	Nos	Prominent LIS Departments	
1	Delhi	06	DU & IGNOU	02
2	Uttar Pradesh	24	AMU, BHU, BBAU, LU, Agra Univ. & Jhansi University	04
3	Uttarakhand	06	-	-
4	Haryana	09	KU & MDU	02
5	Punjab	20	Patiala & GNDU	02
6	Chandigarh	02	PU	01
7	Himachal Pradesh	01	CUHP	01
8	Jammu & Kashmir	02	JU & Kashmir University	02
		70		

Note: Although there are 70 (seventy) institutions that are offering LIS programmes, which include private colleges/universities, self-financing colleges, Polytechnics and professional associations, Only the LIS departments mentioned in the column 3 have been considered.

Of the 14 (fourteen) prominent departments, 9 departments *i.e.*, DU,

IGNOU, AMU, BHU, KU, MDU, PU, Jammu, and Kashmir were established by the alumni of the Department, including DU (which was established by Dr. Ranganathan and Prof. S Das Gupta. Even though the departments in CUHP, GNDU, LU, and Agra BBAU were not established by the alumni of DU, these are the DU alumni have been indirectly responsible for these.

411 CHANDIGARH AND JAMMU

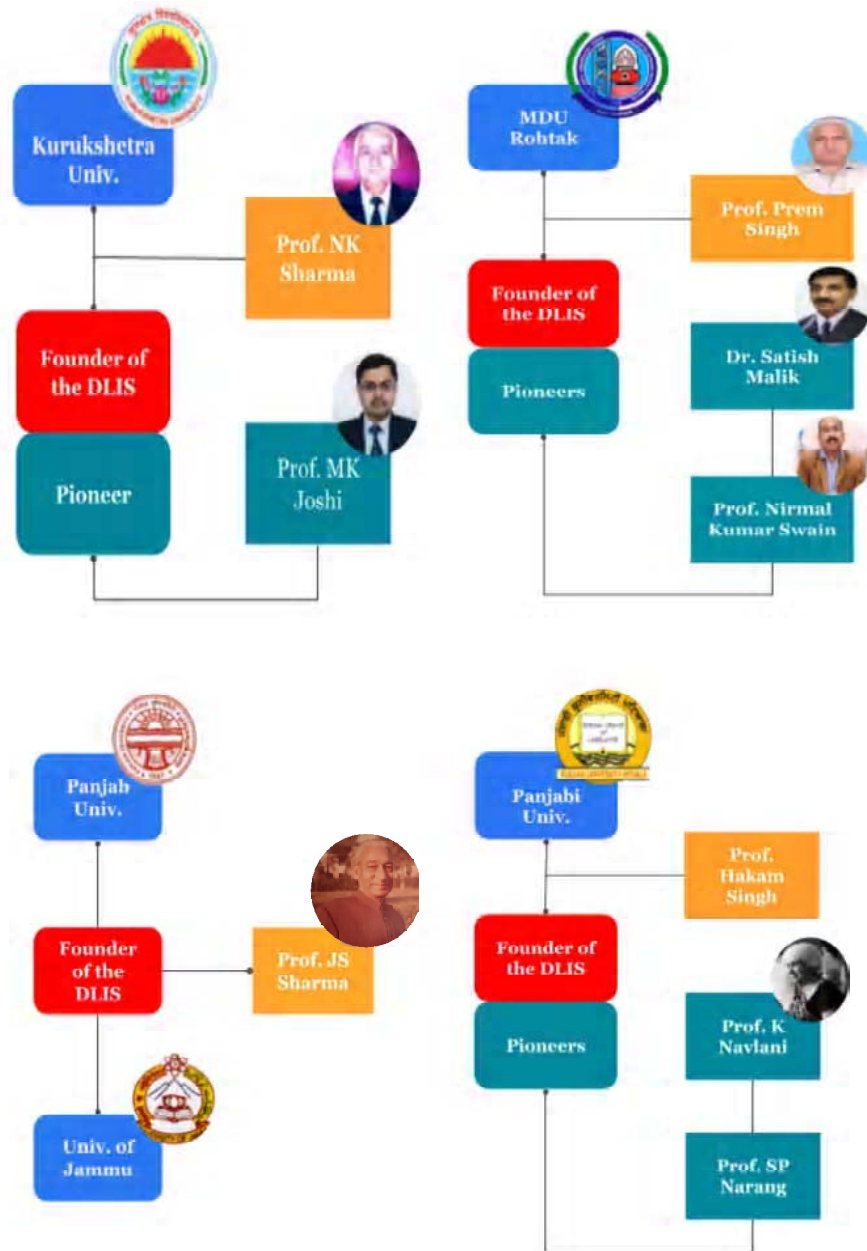
Late *Prof. Jagdish Sharan Sharma*(1924-1994), a direct student of Dr. Ranganathan and Prof. Dasgupta at DU (first batch student (1947-48)), was instrumental in setting up two LIS departments, one at Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1960 and the second one at the University of Jammu, Jammu in 1983. Prof. JS Sharma also had the distinction to be the first Indian librarian cum teacher to obtain Doctor of Philosophy (Ph D) in Library Science from the University of Michigan, USA in 1954².

412 HARYANA AND PUNJAB

Late *Prof. NK Sharma* (1935-2014), an alumnus of DU(student during 1963-64), was one of the founders of the LIS department at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra in 1969. In addition, Prof. Sharma was also instrumental in starting Diploma, Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in Library and Information Science at Kurukshetra University through distance mode. He also played a key role in the implementation of Haryana Public Library Act in 1989.

Another alumnus of DU *Prof. Prem Singh*(born in 1954 batch 1977-78), a Fulbright scholar, founded the LIS department of MD University of Rohtak, Haryana in 2010 after serving as University Librarian of Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, LBS National Academy of Administration and Delhi University Library System.

Mr. Hakam Singh(now settled in USA), an alumnus of the department during 1959-60, was instrumental in establishing the LIS department, at Punjabi University, Patiala in 1969. The department was later nurtured by two brilliant alumni of the department namely *Prof. K. Navlani*(batch 1958-58) and *Prof. SP Narang* (batch 1967-68), both of whom joined as lecturers the newly instituted department at Punjabi University, Patiala in 1969.



413 REST OF NORTH INDIA

The LIS departments of AMU, BHU, IGNOU, GNDU, CUHP, University of Kashmir, BBAU, Agra and Lucknow University also have direct links with the DU.

The department at AMU which was founded by late *Prof. S Bashiruddin* in the 1950s. Prof S Bashiruddin was associated with DU as Professor and Head during 1966-67. The LIS Department at BHU, was at the suggestion of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan and was nurtured and developed by the alumni of DU late *Prof. Jagdish Saran Sharma*, late *Prof. PN Kaula* and late *Prof. B Guha*.

The LIS department of the IGNOU came into existence in 1989. *Prof. Uma Kanjilal*, currently working as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU was a student of DU during 1985-87. She joined the newly created LIS department of IGNOU in 1989. Three other alumni of DU, *Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo*, *Prof. Jaideep Sharma*, and *Dr. Zuchamo Yanthan* are also working in the LIS department of IGNOU.

While the founders of LIS departments at GNDU, Amritsar and Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharmshala were not alumni of DU, they were direct students of the alumni of DU *Prof. Jagdish Saran Sharma* and *Prof. GC Bansal*. Interestingly, *Prof. Sewa Singh* and *Prof. MP Satija* who served many years at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab also studied and conducted research under Prof. JS Sharma and Prof. K Navlani, alumni of DU.

The alumni of DU have also been directly or indirectly connected with most of the other prominent LIS schools in the northern region including Kashmir University, Agra University, BBAU (Lucknow). The chart below shows the association between alumni of DU and these LIS schools.

42 THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN STATES

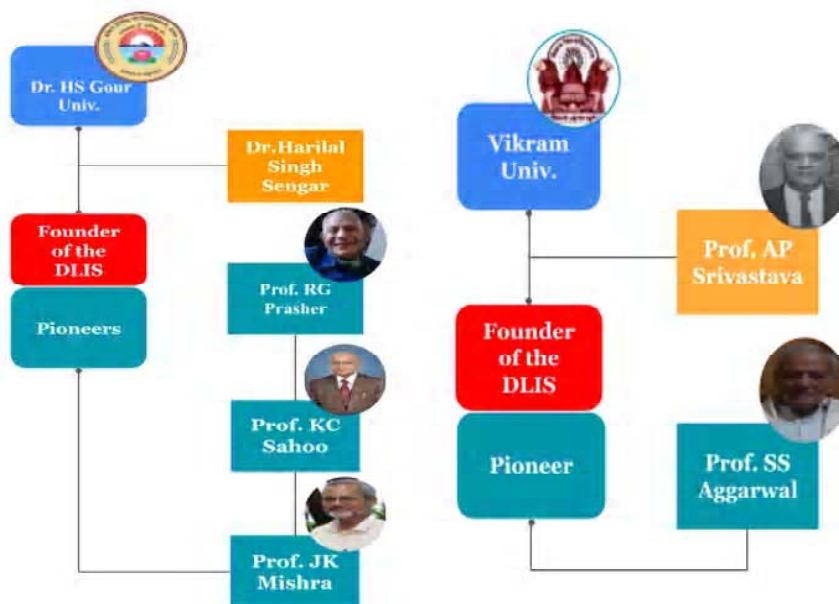
The states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa broadly constitute the central and western part of the India.

421 MADHYA PRADESH

Late Prof. AP Srivastava (1933-2004), an alumnus of DU, after a brief stint as Reference Librarian at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, became the first University Librarian of the Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh in 1957. His mission at the Vikram University involved both setting up the new university library and setting up a new teaching department of Library Science focusing on the training of librarians in the state of Madhya Pradesh. He was the youngest university librarian in the country at the age of 24 years³.

Two other well-known alumni of DU who deserve mention here are Prof. *Shyam Sunder Aggarwal* (born in 1933, 1954-55 batch), and the late Prof. *Shalini Riwadekar*, the first woman PhD from DU in 1982 under the supervision of Prof. PB Mangla, also served in the department at Vikram University. Prof. *Shalini Riwadekar* also served M.L.B. Government College of Excellence, Gwalior as teacher and then served as Professor and Head at Department of Library and Information Science of APS University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. Harilal Singh Sengar (born in 1932), an alumnus of DU (1960-63 batch), was the founder Head of Department of Library and Information Science of Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar (MP) in 1970. The department was later nurtured and developed by Prof. *RG Prasher* (DU alumnus 1962-63 batch) and Late Prof. *KC Sahoo* (1947-2015), another student of DU (1974-75 batch). Further, the current Head of the Department, Prof. *JK Mishra* is also an alumnus of the department (1985-87 batch).



43 SOUTHERN STATES

The states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka and Kerala are the Southern states of India.

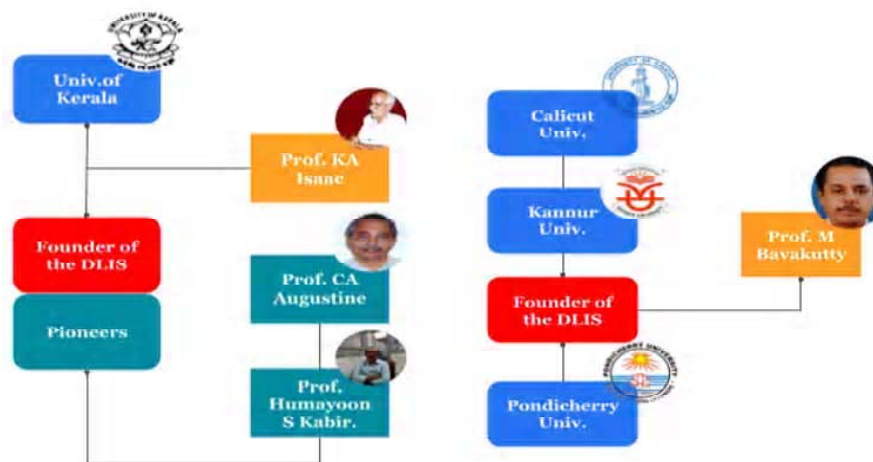
431 KERALA

Prof. Kadapuram Abraham Isaac (1925-2004), popularly known as Prof. KA Isaac was a third batch student of Dr. SR Ranganathan and Prof. S Das Gupta at DU during 1950-51. He was the University Librarian of Kerala University and the founder of LIS Department at University of Kerala, in 1961. Prof. Isaac had served as a member of the Senate of the University and as Dean of its Arts Faculty. He retired as University Librarian and Head in 1985. He is regarded as one of the pioneers of library science education in the Kerala⁴.

Another alumnus of DU, *Prof. M Bavakutty* (born in 1946) (batch 1969-70), has the rare distinction as the founder of three LIS departments namely Calicut University and Kannur University in Kerala, and Pondicherry University, Puducherry. He also served as University Librarian and Registrar

of the University of Calicut. Prof. Bavakutty was also the first LIS Teacher in Kerala to obtain a PhD degree.

The other prominent alumni from Kerala include: (1) *Prof. CA Augustine* (born in 1935, 1963-64 batch), who served as Head, Department of LIS of University of Kerala. He is well known for the establishment of a wide network of charitable activities in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, mainly for health care and education of the poor and the needy, under the name “Good Samaritan Project India”; and (2) *Prof. Humayoon S Kabir* (born in 1957, did M.Phil. from the department in 1988-89). Prof Kabir served as a Professor & Head of Department of Library & Information Science, University of Kerala.

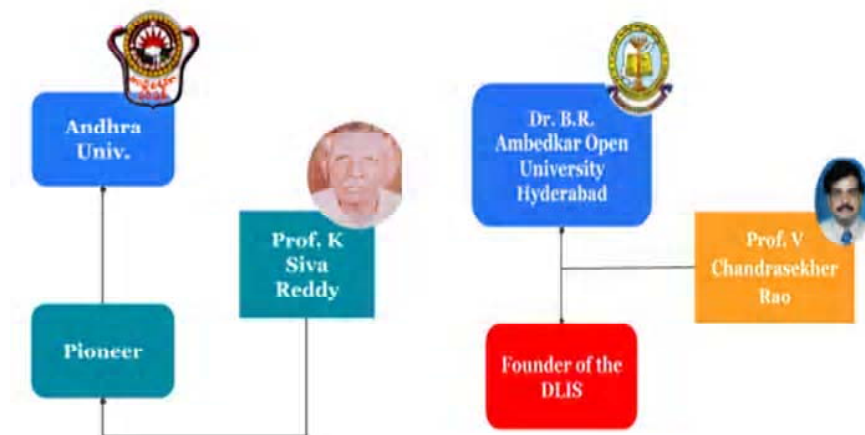


432 ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA

Late Prof. K Siva Reddy (1942-2012) studied at DU during 1958-59. He was the first full time lecturer of library science department at Andhra University

Another two well-known teachers who also enormously contributed in enhancing education and research in AP & Telangana, the first is *Prof. V. Chandrasekhar Rao*. Primarily he served at Dr. BR Ambedkar Open

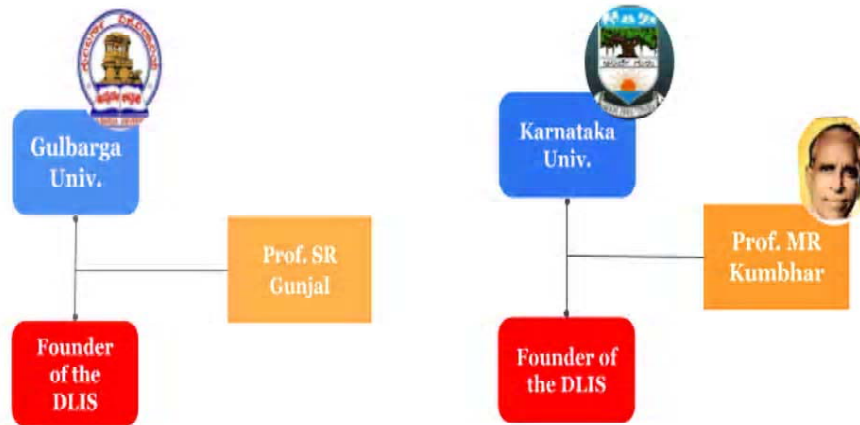
University, Hyderabad as Professor & Head of LIS department, In-charge University Librarian, Controller of Examinations, Director, Staff Training and Development and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences.



433 KARNATAKA

Karnataka state has a good number of LIS departments. Two renowned library teachers and researchers who graduated from Delhi University in the early 1960s, have played a pivotal role in the growth and development of LIS education in Karnataka.

The first was late *Prof. MR Kumbhar (1925-1933)*, the founder member of the Department of Library and Information Science, Karnataka University, Dharwad in 1962; and the second, a librarian and teacher, *Prof. SR Gunjal* (born in 1932). He was the former University Librarian of Gulbarga University, Kalburgi, and founder of the Library Science department in 1979. Prof. Gunjal also started M. Phil program in the department in 1988, the second department in the country after Delhi University to introduce M.Phil. programme,



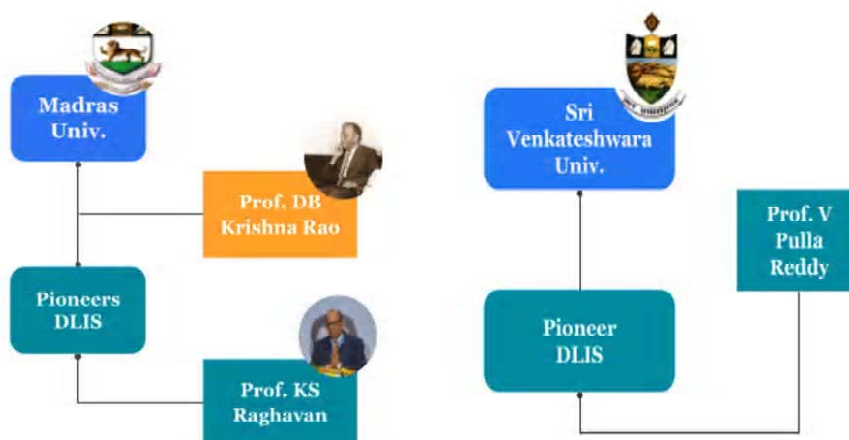
434 TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu is the birthplace of the *Father of Library Science*, *Padma Shree Prof. SR Ranganathan*. It has the third oldest University of India, i.e., Madras University which came into existence in the same year as Calcutta and Bombay on 5th September 1857. The University of Madras has a great significance in the growth and development of librarianship and LIS education in India. It was in the University of Madras that Dr. Ranganathan did much of his seminal work in library science, while he worked here as Librarian of Madras University from 1924 to 1944. The LIS Department of Madras University is one of the most prominent and oldest department in Tamil Nadu.

The Department of Library Science at Madras University was started in 1960 thanks to a generous donation by Dr. Ranganathan to create a chair in Library Science, the first University professorship in Library Science in India and probably in the entire British Commonwealth. Late Prof. DB Krishna Rao, the first to obtain a PhD. From DU under the supervision of Dr. Ranganathan was appointed as Professor in the full-fledged LIS Department of Madras University in 1960. (It is pertinent to mention here that Dr. Ranganathan started the library school in the University of Madras in late 1920s to run a certificate programme. The University introduced a Post-Graduate Diploma programme in Library Science under the leadership of Dr. SRR in 1937. SRR voluntarily retired from the University of Madras in 1944-1945. In 1956 Dr. SRR donated a sum of Rs. 1 Lakh to

Madras University (that was celebrating its Centenary in 1957) to create a Chair in Library Science and establish a full-fledged Dept. of Library Science⁵.) Hence, the Department was established in 1960 with Dr. DB Krishna Rao as Professor.

Afterwards, the Department was developed by Prof. KS Raghavan (born in 1948), an alumnus of DU (batch 1969-70). Prof. Raghavan started his career as a Lecturer in Mysore University and moved to Madras University as Reader in 1977 and rose to the position of Professor & Head, and Dean (Academic) of the University. Under his headship, the Department of LIS got recognition under UGC's DSA programme (Departments for Special Assistance), the first LIS Department in the country to get such a recognition. Later he joined the DRTC, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru as Professor and retired in 2013. Prof. Raghavan's work in the area of Knowledge Organization is well-known and he has served on the editorial board of *Libri* and continues to be on the editorial board of *Knowledge Organization* (of ISKO). Prof. Raghavan was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California during 1987 and has served as a visiting professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte, Brazil) in 1983 and at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in 2015.



44 EAST INDIA

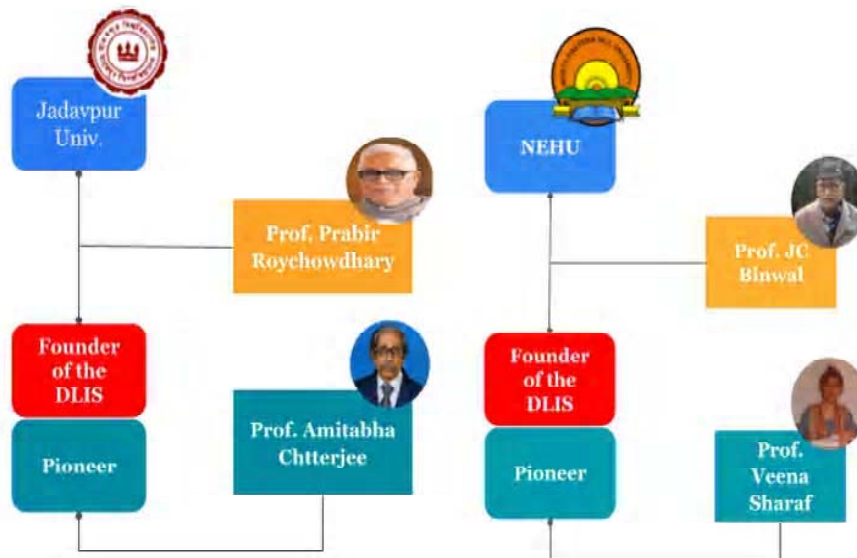
The states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and the union territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands constitute East India. The well-known LIS departments of this region are Patna University, Bhagalpur University and Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari in Bihar,
Vol 59 No 2 June 2021

Calcutta University, Jadavpur University, Kalyani University, Burdwan University and Rabindra Bharti University in West Bengal, Utkal University, Berhampur University, Sambalpur University and Cuttack University in Odisha.

441 WEST BENGAL

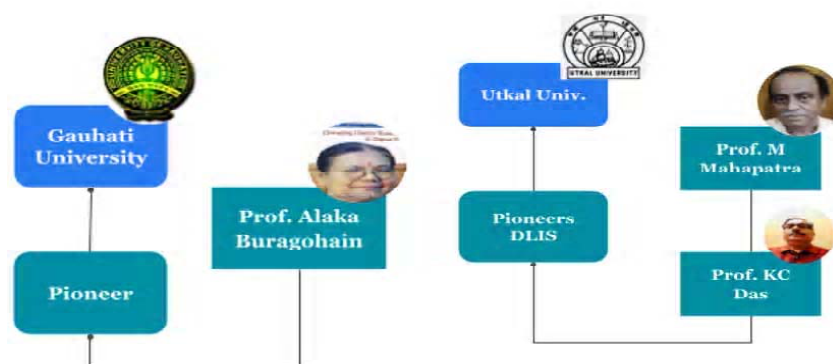
A prominent teacher and promoter of librarianship in West Bengal was the late Prof. Parbir Roychowdhary (1934-2007). He was the founder member of Department of Library and Information Science (along with Prof. AK Mukherjee) of Jadavpur University, Kolkata in 1964. Prof. Chowdhary was an eminent leader of Library Movement in West Bengal. He played a decisive role in Library Act and its enactment in 1979. It was his sincere efforts that led to the formation of the Directorate of Library Services, State Library Council, and Local Library Authorities for districts level in West Bengal. A prominent person in the political circles of West Bengal, Prof. Roychowdhary had the rare distinction of being close to and respected by senior political leaders of the state and on his passing away the political class of West Bengal including the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharyya, Mr. Tapan Ray, Minister of Library Services, Govt of West Bengal, and many other leaders such as Mr. Joyti Basu, Mr. Nimai Mal, Mr. Biman Basu and Mr. Deb Kumar Basu not only paid their tribute but also joined the funeral of Prof. Roychowdhary⁶. He is the only LIS teacher in the country to have Professor's Chair named after him at the Jadavpur University.

Another veteran teacher, writer and researcher is Prof. Amitabha Chatterjee (born in 1943) (Batch 1963-64). He served many years at Jadavpur University in various capacities. He also played a very important role in the growth and development of the department. He retired from Jadavpur University, Kolkata in 2008 as Professor & Head.



442 ODISHA

While the alumni of Delhi University have not been directly responsible for establishing LIS departments in Odisha, they have played an important role in the progress and advancement of library education and research in the state.



Prof. Manojaran Mahapatra (born in 1951;1976-77batch), after serving in different positions, joined the LIS Department of Utkal University,

Bhubaneswar and served for many years as Professor and Head at Utkal University. Another alumnus of DU, *Prof. Kailash Chand Das* (born in 1958; 1981-83 batch) taught at the College of Library & Information Science, Berhampur University and later served for many years at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. Both Dr. Mahapatra and Dr. Das played a prominent role in the growth and development of LIS education and research in Odisha.

45 NORTH-EASTERN STATES

The North-Eastern region comprises of seven states, popularly known as seven sisters and recently in 2001 the eighth State 'Sikkim' has been included. The states are viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

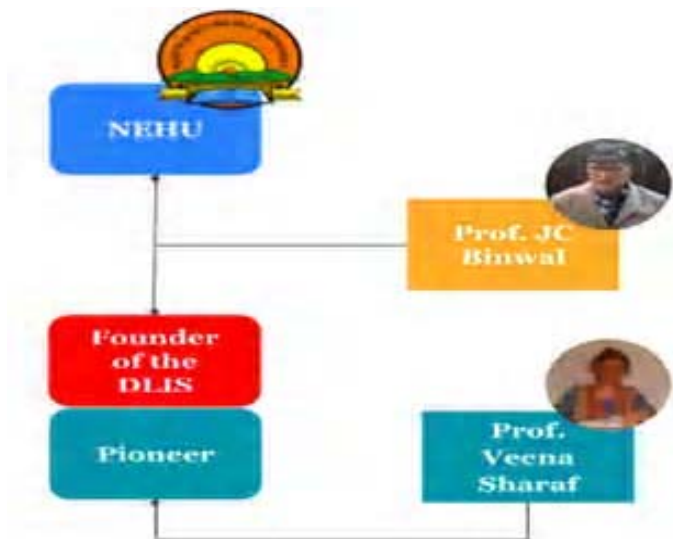
The notable LIS departments of the region are Gauhati University, Assam University, Mizoram University, Manipur University and NEHU.

451 ASSAM

The Gauhati University's LIS Department, the first university to have a LIS course in this region, came into existence in 1966, thanks to the efforts of *Dr. Jogeswar Sarma*, the founder of the department. Later, the department was nurtured and developed by some prominent LIS teachers of the region. *Prof. Alaka Buragohain*, an alumnus of DU during 1961-62, joined, Gauhati University as faculty and served two times as Head of the Department. In 2000, she retired as Professor from the Gauhati University.

452 MEGHALAYA

The LIS Department at the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, a central University established in 1973, was founded in 1985 by *Prof. JC Binwal*, (born in 1939, 1960-61 batch) an alumnus of DU and distinguished teacher and researcher (along with Prof. AS Chandel). The other prominent name associated with this University is late *Prof. Veena Saraf* (1955-2006), (1977-78 MPhil batch at DU), who joined as faculty. She was appointed as Head of the Department in 2006, but unfortunately, she passed away in the same year. Prof. Veena Saraf was wife of Prof. AS Chandel.



5 CONCLUSION

The study, the first of its kind in the country, is an attempt to map the influence of the Delhi University Department of Library & Information Science in LIS education in India. Clearly the alumni of DU have played a major role in LIS education in the country. The pioneering role played by the disciples of Padma Shree *Dr. SR Ranganathan and Prof. S Das Gupta* in the growth and development of LIS education in India in every region of the country is clearly visible.

The author acknowledges with gratitude the cooperation extending by Prof. PB Mangla, Shri IR Kumar, Prof. Pijushkanti Panigrahi, Prof. SM Shafi, Prof. AS Chandel, Prof. Kailash Chand Das and Prof. Uma Kanjilal. He is extremely grateful to the reviewer of the article for making the article more useful.

REFERENCES

1. SINGH (KP), SHASHTRI (D), GUPTA (D) and ANSARI (M). Incredible Journey of Library and Information Science Education in India (1911-2021). In PADRO (FERNANDO F), Ed, University Development and Administration, Developing and Administering the University Library. 2021. Springer; New York.

2. https://prabook.com/web/jagdish_saran.sharma/386691, Accessed on 15th April 2021.
3. SAINI (ML). Obituary-Prof. Anand Prakash Srivastava. Library Herald.42,2;2004;141-142.
4. <http://ncsi.iisc.ernet.in/pipermail/lis-forum/2007-August/006052.html> by Dr Pijushkanti Panigrahi Accessed on 30th April 2021.
5. Input received from Prof. KS Raghavan (On 5th June 2021).
6. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/15/stories/2006091502950200.htm>. Accessed on 1st may 2021