

Annual Issue, 2012

# lisforum\_orissa

( a web based forum of LIS professionals)

Estd-25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

[http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum\\_orissa/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum_orissa/)

**ANNUAL ISSUE**  
**2012**

(On the occasion of 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

Edited by

**Dr Sunil Kumar Satpathy**

Moderator, [lisforum\\_orissa](http://lisforum_orissa)

# **l i sforum\_ori ssa**

**(The name does not restrict its scope to Odisha state only; rather it is just a name indicating its place of origin)**



**(Dr. S.R.Ranganathan)**

**This forum is a common platform for LIS professionals, teachers, researchers, students to share ideas, knowledge, messages, information etc with each other for the development of LIS profession and professionals. It will help to address issues on Library and Information Science, to solve day today problems of libraries, resource sharing among libraries and generation of new ideas on LIS.**

**Dr. S.K.Satpathy  
Moderator**



## **Dr Sunil Ku. Satpathy**

Dy.Librarian ,N.I.T,Raipur(C.G)

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### **FROM THE DESK OF MODERATOR**

On the eve of 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the lisforum\_orissa, I congratulate all members for their consistent support and cooperation over the years.

The "lisforum\_orissa" started in 2006 has grown over the years in terms of members and messages with the support and cooperation of LIS professionals, friends and well wishers. Although this forum is comparatively smaller in size ,this forum has been able to create its own identity among the LIS professionals of India. I have the pleasure to mention that "lisforum\_orissa" is special of its kind due to following reasons.

- Messages are informative and in abstract form, which saves the time of viewers
- All queries/requests of members are attended
- Posting of message is not moderator centric, which gives privilege to members to post messages with utmost freedom
- Numbers of irrelevant messages posted by members are negligible
- Discussion on various current topics of LIS profession
- Sharing of current information by members which helps professionals to keep up to date and thereby helps in professional development.
- Regular posting on recruitment, forth coming events etc

## Annual Issue, 2012

Still, this is the nascent phase of the forum. Hence on this occasion I request all members to actively participate in forum activities such as inviting professional friends to join the forum, sharing professional knowledge, posting messages relevant to LIS profession and finding ways to improve lisforum\_orissa , so that the basic purpose of formation of the forum will be fulfilled and it will contribute to the development of LIS professionals and profession.

On the occasion of successful completion of its 6<sup>th</sup> year, it was decided to bring an Online Annual issue and theme for this issue was kept as "LIS profession: Theory vs Practice". It is matter of pleasure that this time we have received a good number of responses from professionals of all parts of India in contributing short communications on the theme and comments on forum. Also two feature articles were submitted by D.R. Meher and Mr R.K.Maharana, which are quite innovative. Also we got messages form eminent teachers and professionals for the annual issue. On behalf of lisforum\_orissa, I am highly grateful to our teachers, senior professionals and members who have sent messages, short communications and comments to the forum, which will definitely motivate us to work for the development of LIS profession.

I am highly thankful to the members, friends, LIS teachers and well wishers for their direct and indirect support towards the forum.

I wish them good health and professional prosperity.

**(Dr Sunil Kumar Satpathy)**

# Messages

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## **Prof.R.K.Rout**

**Ph.D,D.Litt**

Retd. Prof. in LIS & Head,DLIS,  
Dean, Faculty of Arts,  
Chariman, P.G. Council,  
Member- senate & syndicate,  
Warden, P.G. Hostels,  
Prof I/C, Central Library,  
Coordinator, UGC-DRS-SAP program,  
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### Message from the desk of Prof. R.K. Rout

I am extremely happy to know about the Annual Online issue of the lisforum\_orissa. This is a praiseworthy effort being the first time of its kind in India and Odisha state. I congratulate all members of the forum on successful completion of its 6<sup>th</sup> year.

ICT has brought a revolutionary change in the world. Internet has emerged as the largest library. Published reading materials are now replaced by electronic information resources.

This is a big challenge for the library professionals in 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are to keep up with the turbulent changes in the information world or else they will be replaced by other exports. LIS discipline has been changed to Information Technology and Information management. The library schools teachings are mostly more theoretical and less practical. LIS being a professional discipline has to convert its theoretical aspects to real practice. Hundreds of mission and discipline oriented databases created worldwide are now controlling and channelizing the swelling sea of latest information emerging as research output. Hence library professionals have to be very much acquainted and develop expertise over ICT to rule over the information world. The online e-resources only are required by the library users. Instead of coming to library they depend upon computer centres to acquire the latest literatures on a subject. Even the school students are collecting their class-room projects generated through net.

Because of mass media the users' preference and attitude have been drastically changed that of traditional book reading in the library. The library professionals have to fully considerate on library automation, network searching, digital library management etc. They have to reach out the required information of the users and send it directly to their home computers. Keeping in mind the turbulent changes in the library profession, the professional are to seek for regular orientation to satisfy the researchers and serious readers. Library schools have to change their curriculum very frequently to suit to the present world

With these words I convey my best wishes to Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy, my student and moderator, lisforum\_orissa for taking such lead to connect all the LIS professionals and keeping them abreast of the recent development in the areas of LIS Education and Research and changes brought out by the ICT which is changing very fast.

I wish the lisforum\_orissa and the venture all success.

(R K Rout)



## **Prof.K.C.Panda**

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### **Message from the Desk of Prof. K. C. Panda**

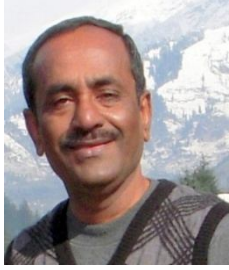
I am glad to know that lisforum\_orissa, a web based professional forum ([http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum\\_orissa](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum_orissa)) has successfully completed six years of its existence. The forum has successfully utilised ICT in providing a viable platform to the target audience in sharing their candid views and opinions of professional interest besides disseminating career- based information to hundreds of job seekers in the LIS domain. The profession is currently at its peak in terms of its requirement, reputation and inter-disciplinary approach at par with any other profession of the globe. I have, therefore, the strong conviction that, theoretical knowledge alone cannot sustain without having an equitable and in-built practical knowledge in managing information overload. Librarians and Information managers need to demonstrate an equitable professional talent and competence in organising and managing huge information resources efficiently to challenge both management and computer professionals in the long run.

I congratulate the organisers of lisforum\_orissa, who have taken pain and interest in retaining this forum visible to its wider audience in all these years. I hope, the forum will be more popular in the days ahead and their un-tired efforts deserves due recognition.

Sd/-

(Prof.K.C.Panda)





## **Dr. J. K. Sarkhel**

Professor of Library & Information Science  
&  
Director, Directorate of Open and Distance Learning  
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### **MESSAGE**

I am very much happy to learn that **lisforum\_orissa** will complete its glorious 6 years and to commemorate its 6 year completion, it will bring out an Online Annual Issue of the forum on the theme "LIS Profession: Theory vs. Practice". I sincerely hope, **lisforum\_orissa** will play very important role in disseminating the state-of-the-art of the LIS profession. I wish every success of the forum.

(Dr. J. K. Sarkhel)



## **Dr.N.Radhakrishnan**

Chief Librarian  
BITS-Pilani, Dubai Campus  
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Academic city, Dubai

### MESSAGE

I am happy to know about the **lisforum\_orissa** and its successful completion of six years. It is quite innovative and rare idea to bring such online annual issue of professional forum to consolidate views of LIS professionals on a debatable theme "LIS profession: Theory Vs Practice".

Learning is a continuous process and there is no ending point for this. Acquiring knowledge on basic concepts leads to gain familiarity and exposure. Practice is based on the experience which everyone obtains. Librarians are being recognized upon their work commitment and involvement. Sometimes conceptual clarity may not help to flourish in the career or life. Updation makes the professionals to be wise and that requires regular efforts by using IT/web technology services and techniques. In this competitive world, one has to strive for excellence not only in routines but also on emerging thrust fronts.

I congratulate my friend Dr S.K.Satpathy, moderator and all members of the forum on its 6th Anniversary and wish all success to **lisforum\_orissa**

(Dr.N.Radhakrishnan)



## **Dr. D.B.Ramesh**

Head, Library & Documentation  
Institute of Minerals & Materials Technology  
Bhubaneswar-751013.(Orissa)

### **MESSAGE FROM DR D.B.RAMESH**

The library and information profession is undergoing massive changes. In a changing world, we, Library and Information Science professionals must create the required environments to learn more and more about the information needs of our users and various skills necessary for providing need based information services to all our users. Changes in customer expectations, behavior and technological development make it even more important to form the library's identity and prioritize our activities. Hence, more emphasis should be given for propagating information literacy skills, study the information seeking patterns of users and on evaluating the vast information available on the web".

I extend my best wishes to all the members of lisforum\_orissa for supporting the forum and their contribution in this endeavors.

(Dr. D.B.Ramesh)



## **DR. RABINDRA K. MAHAPATRA**

Chief Librarian

Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology  
Bhubaneswar- 751003, Odisha

### **MESSAGE FROM DR. R.K.MAHAPATRA**

I am happy to know about the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of lisforum\_orissa and on this occasion I congratulate all members of the forum.

The "lisforum\_orissa" is a dynamic form of information communication system available online for the greater benefit of the Library and Information Science professionals not only in Odisha but also for the whole country. It has made striking changes in the very fabric of professional communication channels. Its provision of regular information to the library and information community has made vibrant so that it has created a sense of euphoria among the professionals. The channel has been made very effective to comprehensively depict relevant information for awareness of the users. I am sure the Forum will continue to serve the LIS community and provide useful information for the improvement of professionalism. I must thank the moderator Dr.S.K.Satpathy for doing excellent work .

I wish a grand success for the Forum.

(DR. RABINDRA K. MAHAPATRA)



## **Dr. K. C. Satpathy**

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### Message

I am very happy to learn that, **lisforum\_orissa**, a web based professional forum ([http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum\\_orissa/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum_orissa/)) is going to complete its 6 years of existence and bringing out Online Annual Issue on "LIS profession: Theory vs Practice". I convey my sincere congratulations to the moderator and the entire team of **lisforum\_orissa**. The enthusiasm showed by the moderator in providing the online platform to the library professionals of Odisha for professional interaction is commendable.

The advancement of ICT has posed new challenges before the Library and Information Professionals. To meet these challenges, the library information professionals have to redefine their roles in its present context. The LIS professionals will excel in the field if they put theory in to practice with a commitment for applying the principles of LIS towards the betterment of the individual, communities and society.

I wish the **lisforum\_orissa** to be more interactive in the coming days.

(Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy)

# *Editorial.....*



The theme of the annual issue " LIS profession: Theory vs Practice" has remained as a matter of debate over past years. This is due to the fact that:

- ✓ the amount of literature(theoretical) produced in LIS field are much higher than its actual application in libraries .
- ✓ the course curriculum of LIS schools of India seems to be only theoretically sound with limited exposure to practical application. As a result the passed out students feel themselves uncomfortable in their work places.
- ✓ the training provision of working LIS professionals are not encouraging, consequently libraries are not updated at par the development of theories.
- ✓ the seminars/conferences/workshops negligibly contribute to the improvement of knowledge LIS professionals.
- ✓ the poor harmony between LIS faculty members and professionals in class room teaching, research and development of libraries

Hence, there is dire need to develop LIS practice at par with the development of theories. Also we should not copy/ adopt the terminologies of other professions without any practical utilities in LIS fields. Otherwise the LIS profession will not be recognized by others and we will remain as self declared digital librarian, cybrarian, information resource manager etc in the so called automated/digital/virtual library environment.

The anniversary issue consists of two feature articles, eighteen short communications and four comments, contributed by LIS teachers, researchers and professionals. The views/opinions expressed by them are purely personal and "lisforum\_orissa" is no way responsible for the views expressed by them. The copy right of the same also retains with the respective contributors.

**(Dr Sunil Kumar Satpathy)**

# FEATURE ARTICLES

# LIS Profession: Theoretical Overdose

**D R Meher**

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‘A drop of practice is better than a gallon of theory’, they say. The LIS is a practical field. Due to fusion of LIS with many other subjects like management, public administration, computer applications, Information Technology, psychological principles, mathematics, statistical principles etc. a great deal of researches in theories and practices of LIS have been undertaken. Again, one can come across, almost every week, events like seminars and conferences, which are being organized on our discipline with such a repetitions (both in numbers and same subjects) that they would outpace all other fields of knowledge. The above two activities results in proliferation of writings in this field and us librarians have become suddenly writers instead of doers. For example, there is highest degree and hundreds of article to my credit but my won library is disheveled and unorganized. Some of us librarians (organize knowledge in book/print including electronic form) prefer to be called cybrarians because we are Internet savvy. Amongst us a new breed is just floating recently; here, we mainly stick to organize seminars throughout the year, brushing aside our own library-works, and some day would demand for calling ourselves ‘seminar-ian’ (though seminarian means *a student in a seminary*).



We researchers, cybrarians and seminarians are contributing a lot of literature to the field having theory galore and least practical implications, by putting new ideas of other disciplines and forgetting the basic ones of our own. This happens because we are to contribute for some other seminars before the approaching one. This compels us to browse the Internet, pick up an idea hurriedly and fit into any of the facets of LIS. We do not bother to have a look at the articles of other contributors appeared in the same proceedings volume along with ours. This is how we are running shortage of time to explore whether a simple Book Number we render on the labels has served its purpose in our own library. No doubt seminars and conferences give us opportunity for professional gathering, provide impetus to write, vent our ideas and media attention. But question is that how many of observations/recommendations of these seminars/conferences/research papers published in learned journals have been accepted by library funding agencies and Government Bodies? The output is only theoretical.

We studied this discipline as 'Library Science', then 'Library and Information Science' and now 'Library, Documentation and Information Studies'. This is because our discipline has always tried to change its nomenclature for the reason that its areas of operation got influenced and affected every time, its role was looked askance at, and needed to be redefined. People of this field (with the help of people of other fields like IT and publishing; or outsourcing having no other way) restructured the areas, be it buildings—from old magnificent to modular and functional; collections—from investors' choice to patrons/users' demand; manpower—from qualified to proficient; operations—from traditional to automated, RFID; use—from offline to online, library towards people and what not. All this is not phenomenon to us everybody. Somewhere it is, dream some other where. And wherever it is a happening, no doubt, practice prevails there.

Let us share the observations of A M Schrader. In his book "*Toward a theory of library and information science*", as mentioned, he studied about 700 definitions of 'Information Science' and its antecedents from 1900 to 1981 and found that: "The literature of information science is characterized by conceptual chaos. This conceptual chaos issues from a variety of problems in the definitional literature of information science: uncritical citing of previous definitions; conflating of study

and practice; obsessive claims to scientific status; a narrow view of technology; disregard for literature without the science or technology label; inappropriate analogies; circular definition; and the multiplicity of vague, contradictory, and sometimes bizarre notions of the nature of the term "information".

An avid researcher like Schrader finds himself amidst the definitional imbroglio. A novice professional of this field, who nurtures a dream to do something, may easily be led to disorientation by the mounting literature around him.

Things could be better if we can share our own experiences of success and failure with fellow professionals so that it could be examples for others. Visiting a performing library and learn or suggest the practical things yielding good result there, and then write on the aspect would hold well. Literature produced would be of real life situation, not of theoretically ideal.

Our job has been intruded by the e-database people, if this present trend continues our profession will certainly be hijacked and substituted sooner by other professionals. And people will recognize library services if only they sense and are satisfied through our practice; they are not going to ask which theory do we follow or contribute to.

We have started our first day of LIS education from theory and cannot deny its significance and growth. But its overdose, sans applications, may invite side effects. For theory, "Philosophical studies cannot substitute empirical research, but can serve as better 'looking glasses' through which researchers investigate the problems" says Birger Hiorland. Let the looking glass not blur us.

**(D R Meher)**

## **lisforum\_orissa : An Analytical study**



### **Rabindra K. Maharana**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

In the age of ICT, many professional forums have been developed in various field of knowledge to share information and LIS is not an exception to this. In this direction, "IISForum\_Orissa" was created on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006 by Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy, to provide a common online platform for LIS professionals, teachers, researchers, students to share ideas, knowledge, messages, information etc with each other for the development of LIS profession and professionals. In 2012, it has completed its sixth years successfully. The present study is an attempt to make a study on the forum to highlight its various aspects.

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

- To study the year/ month-wise distribution of message postings;
- Study the annual growth rate of message postings;
- Examine the annual and total joining rate of professionals;
- Explore the professional activity among the group etc.

#### **METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED FOR THE STUDY**

For the purpose of present study , relevant data have been collected from the web site of lisforum\_orissa, and the URL of the forum is ([http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum\\_orissa/](http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lisforum_orissa/)).

The six years data were entered into a Microsoft Excel spread sheet with identified variables such as year/ month-wise distribution of message postings,

annual growth rate of postings etc. Finally, all relevant data were sorted, tabulated and assimilated in a logical order for analytical purpose.

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### Year/ month- wise distribution of message posting

Table-1 represents message post statistics by the members during 2006 October to September 2012 (six years) and a total of 2996 messages posted by the members with an average of 499 messages per year. Further, in 2011 maximum 603 (20.13%) number of messages have posted followed by 2008 with 520 (17.36%), 2009 with 481 (16.05%) messages respectively.

**Table-1 Year/ month- wise distribution of message posting**

Message details	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
January	0	14	24	39	40	60	42	219
February	0	12	41	33	54	39	63	242
March	0	29	39	44	28	46	56	242
April	0	51	61	53	25	42	40	272
May	0	48	48	30	16	30	56	228
June	0	60	42	29	19	23	45	218
July	0	39	41	35	23	32	47	217
August	0	34	39	43	29	63	58	266
September	0	14	44	39	57	63	47	264
October	7	66	32	28	29	59	0	221
November	48	41	46	62	49	88	0	334
December	40	26	63	46	40	58	0	273
Grand Total	95 (3.17)	434 (14.49)	520 (17.36)	481 (16.05)	409 (13.65)	603 (20.13)	454 (15.15)	2996 (100)

### Annual distribution of messages

The annual distribution of messages indicated that the 6 years of LISForum\_Orissa contained 2996 messages in 72 months which means that every month have 42.88 message postings. Table-2 gives a detailed over view of annual distribution

of messages during October 2006- September 2012, which shows that maximum number of messages have been posted in 2011, but its average message per month is quite low as compared to 2012. Hence, year 2012 stood with the 1<sup>st</sup> position with having more average number of message per month i.e. 50.44, followed by 2011 with 50.25, 2008 with 520, 2009 with 40.08 messages respectively. Further, it shows annual average growth rate percent of messages, which shows an average of 65.33 messages per year. Again it shows a positive growth in the year 2007, 2008 and 2011, and a negative growth in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

**Table-2 Annual distribution of messages**

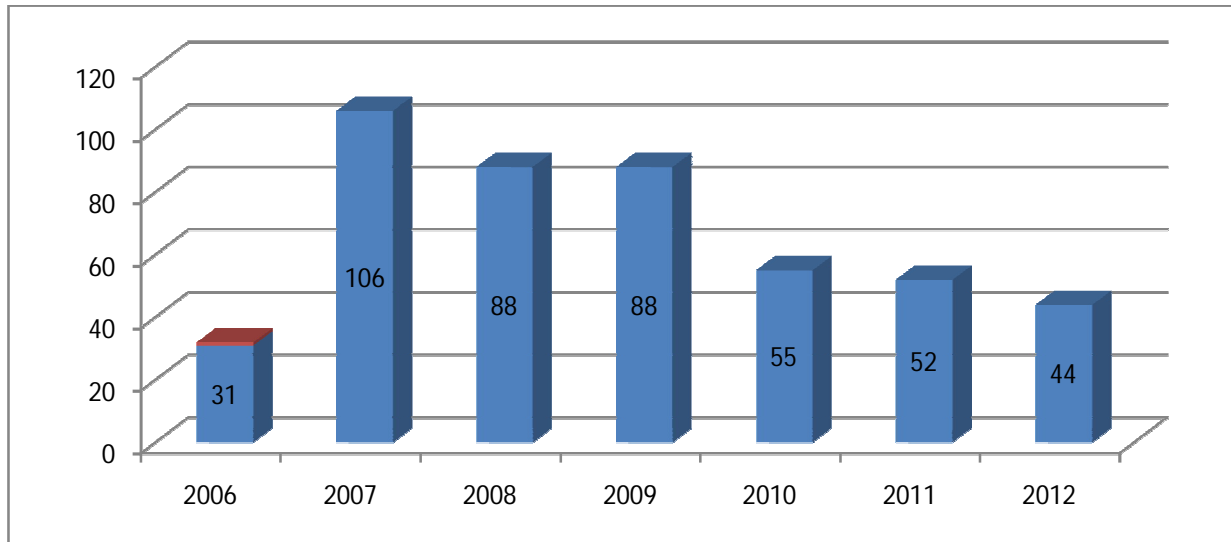
Rank * (B/A)	Year	Month	No. of Messages	Average message per month	Annual average growth rate (%)
7	2006	3	95	31.67	--
5	2007	12	434	36.17	356.85
3	2008	12	520	43.33	19.82
4	2009	12	481	40.08	-7.5
6	2010	12	409	34.08	-14.97
2	2011	12	603	50.25	47.44
1	2012	9	454	50.44	-9.62
Grand Total		72	2996	42.88	Ave 65.33

*\*Note: A= Number of messages and B= Number of months.*

### **Year wise distribution of Members**

As on 15/10/2012, there were total 464 members. The year wise distribution of members, joined in forum can be graphically represented as follows.

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### Findings/ Conclusions

- The range of message posting per year during the period under study is 95-603 with an average of 499 messages per year.
- Annual growth rate percent of message shows a healthy growth of lisforum\_orissa.
- A total of 460 members have joined the group as on the date of study, which means 77 members per year which is quite slow.
- Despite of several lucrative facilities & most up-to-date information, it has not widely spread all over India

### Conclusion

The efficiency of any forum cannot be judged by numbers of members and messages, rather by quality of messages and involvement of members. In this context “lisforum\_orissa” has remained successful in dissemination and sharing information among the LIS professionals of India. At the same time is fact that the numbers of LIS professional are growing day by day and the LIS professionals need to be updated with the latest developments in library environment. This will be possible if more and more numbers of professionals will join the forum. Hence it is suggested that each and every member of lisforum\_orissa need to take initiative to inform/invite their professional friends to join lisforum\_orissa and actively participated in the forum activities.

(Rabindra K. Maharana)

# SHORT COMMUNICATIONS



## Dr. Bulu Maharana

Sr. Lecturer & Coordinator, PGDLAN (DE)  
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### Library Profession: Theory Vs Practice

Library Profession has come up a long way and sustained because of its societal relevance. The modus operandi of the libraries has gone through radical changes especially because of the emergence of ICT. However, the basic principles of librarianship such as Ranganathan's Five Laws remained unchanged and guiding the practices of libraries over the years. A theory in librarianship involves procedures, systems, framework and principles. The theory and principles underlying in librarianship are not often coherently articulated. The gap between theory and practice is clearly observed from the fact that the students are taught principles of book selection of which not even a single principle is observed in libraries. They are taught CAS, SDI and other user services without any practical implications in a majority of libraries. The widening gap between the theory and practice of librarianship has been caused by many reasons, a few of them are:

- The LIS schools/Departments are separated from libraries
- The syllabus of LIS courses are designed with emphasis on theoretical sessions in classrooms
- The teachers in library schools hardly visit any library and the professionals hardly teach in classrooms.
- Many of the LIS schools have no component of practical library projects in their syllabus.
- The agencies of higher education are critically differentiating the practicing librarians from the teachers in library schools.
- The two communities: theoreticians (LIS teachers) and professionals have always been critical of each other but never mind to create a linkage.

As a result of the above features, librarianship as profession is suffering a lot. Much more value addition in library services could be possible if we can create a functional linkage between the LIS schools imparting theoretical knowledge and the Libraries where we are practicing the theoretical ideas. Teaching and Research in LIS should primarily be oriented towards our libraries. There should be free flow of professionals to the LIS schools and the academics in LIS schools to the libraries. The outcome of such a linkage will be remarkably great for the profession of librarianship.

**(Dr. Bulu Maharana)**





## **Dr. Sada Bihari Sahu**

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### **Library profession: Theory Vs Practice**

Library and Library profession has gone through many changes both in theory and practice from its ancient days to current days, specifically, during last few decades after the advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Currently, Library and Information Service (LIS) profession is one of the most challenging professions in the knowledge society which needs the expertise in the information management and management of ICT competencies. Whatever the changes made in theory and practice, profession's main focus is always on customer or user of the library. Because customer or user is the king of library and its interest/view may be protected or sincerely addressed. Further, existence and growth of library is mainly depending on the users. Therefore, whatever infrastructure, manpower, resources a library has, library professionals should try to fulfill the needs of the users. Library professionals with their knowledge, skills and experience can serve the users in a better way. Actually, it is seen that whatever knowledge we gained from the theory, we do not or hardly use the same in practice. Therefore, it is time to introspect ourselves and practice the same. Hope, we the library professionals, with our knowledge, skills and experience, try to fulfill the needs of our users in a better way with least possible time and update our knowledge, learn and relearn the process in the field of Library and Information Science to serve our users.

Further, on the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of listforum\_Orissa, I wish all the very best to each member of this forum, to this noble profession and specifically to Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy, moderator and one of my friends for his effort, hard work and interest to make it lively.

**(Dr. Sada Bihari Sahu)**

## Premaraj Mishra

Manager, Information Services (R&D),  
TATA STEEL Ltd. Jamshedpur



### Skill required by LIS professionals in ICT age

During the past few decades and after Internet made available to the common men, we have been cautious in the promotion of LIS services. Up to some extent we have succeeded also. But the LIS is toggling between R & D. Development (**D**) part is ok, as we are managing the traditional library services. But for Research (**R**) we are lagging behind, as the LIS professionals are more inclined towards the IT, rather improving the services. Increasingly, librarians are called upon to provide services such as web page development and knowledge management that are beyond traditional library services and we must work to define these services, develop expertise in their delivery and market these services to users. In many cases, the skills needed by LIS professionals are to provide traditional library services such as identifying, organizing, managing and training others to use information. But in the age of ICT, the skill required by the LIS professionals are both traditional and ICT based which includes skill on reference services, database searching, instruction, journal ordering and management, use of bibliographic database management/library management software, thesaurus development, design and construction of web pages, usability testing, and knowledge management etc.

In TATA STEEL, the library service offered not only to the employee but also to the children of employees by providing reading materials for their school projects. It can be sensed that many areas of libraries are still untouched to render traditional services. In addition, the competency of commitment to lifelong learning and professional career planning is highly essential to survive in the new arenas of LIS.

**(Premaraj Mishra )**

## Achala Munigal

Open LIBRARY Networker

Content Developer at Information Professional

### **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS) PROFESSION: THEORY AND PRACTICE**

Theoretically, in an ideal situation, once we complete our Library and Information Science (LIS) education, we should be able to get a job, but most of us are aware that this is not so in practice. Our universities are churning out LIS graduates every year, but most of them are not getting jobs in Libraries or LIS related fields so migrating to call centers and software jobs. Prospective students are losing interest due to the statistics generated of unemployed LIS students. We need to address this issue and modify our curriculum to address the growing number of unemployed LIS graduates who are not having the skill set to meet the demanding job market. Currently most LIS graduates learn required skills on the job.

Earlier just earning a library degree was sufficient but with changing times - knowing computers, searching internet and retrieving information, open source and priced - library management software, e-journals and e-books, smart phone apps, various operating systems like iOS from Apple, Android from Google, Blackberry OS from RIM, Symbian OS from Nokia, Bada from Samsung etc, social media tools like Facebook and Twitter, professional networking tools like LinkedIn, cloud computing and now big data are also needed. Universities abroad have tweaked their curriculum; but Indian universities still follow the set pattern of curriculum. LIS students spend two years working towards Masters in LIS and then spend another precious year signing up for other courses like Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking (PGDLAN) or Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Information Management (PGDDIM) to learn latest technologies.

I think LIS should have specialisations like medicine/engineering - where a student of Library Sciences should have the historical and theoretical foundation in the Bachelors for a year and in the next year get their Masters by specialising in their area of interest. For example an LIS student can specialise or major in school librarianships. In India there are various curriculums including Indian Certificate for Secondary Education (ICSE), Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE), Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), International Baccalaureate (IB) etc. If a LIS student desires to specialise in school librarianship, they should be taught all ways of handling a school library. One way, is the inexpensive way that is suitable to the library of institution with limited or no funds to procure library management system as well as using funds judiciously by

ordering the right library management software to maintain and manage a library. This includes how to use Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access which helps them keep their library collection in order in very low budget or utilise open source Library Management software like NewGenLib or Koha. But if LIS student wants to join international school where funds are available library management software like Destiny from Follett should be learned along with being aware of Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), Diploma Program (DP), Theory of Knowledge, Academic Honesty, Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), Extended essay, plagiarism etc which are the core concepts of IB curriculum.

LIS courses should have add-on courses during their regular year at college for LIS students to improve themselves along with soft-skills. They should have practical classes not only on DDC, CC, but also on books/journals/e-books/e-journals ordering and processing and management, handling consortia, popular Library Management Softwares - both paid and open source, Electronic Resource Management (ERM) Softwares etc. How to leverage various social media tools to not only update their knowledge but also to network and develop their career. Research in LIS should be given importance. Students should be encouraged to write books and articles for LIS journals with good impact factor, without plagiarising right from the start of their LIS education, train to become a member of editorial board and later editor of LIS magazine or how review articles, how to conduct seminars/conferences and publish proceedings, how to write project proposals, getting funding from government and private institutions, *philanthropy in libraries etc.*

These skills will *not* only empower them but also will give them an edge in the job market and bring our students on par with students from other universities abroad. We should also train them to become freelancers and entrepreneurs. There are already a wide variety of people who have used their library skills to become freelancers. There is a huge market for LIS students who can do Catalogue, Classify, Indexing, Abstracting, Content writing, Setting up libraries, Training existing personnel handling libraries, Data entry, etc are some of the ways which a librarian can branch out freelancing. Students need to learn the skills that empower them and also help them in the competitive market.

We should ensure that people become aware of Library professionals contribution to society and that Google or any other information retrieval tool can never replace librarians. Neil Gaiman aptly stated "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one." (GoodReads <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/427823-google-can-bring-you-back-100-000-answers-a-librarian-can> 10 Oct 2012 15:48 IST) which aptly sums up the librarian description. So let's update our education curriculum and ensure that well trained LIS professionals with proper skill-sets are made available for the demanding job market.

**(Achala Munigal)**



## **Mrs. Parul Zaveri**

Associate Professor  
S.H.P.T. School of Library Science  
S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai

### **LIS profession: Theory vs. Practice**

Library and information science education in India has completed its hundred years of existence. As it involves learning library and information science to practice in different types of libraries, a balance between theory and practice is required. Theory and practice in library and information science are both mutually dependent on each other and contributes to development of the field. Teaching should promote sharing of experiences that requires students to become active, and understand the application of theory into practice. The 'taught library and information science' to which future librarians are exposed in their classes differs in significant respects with the kind of practiced librarianship. Focus should be on teaching library and information science □ a set of theories, beliefs and values that will guide their practices. Different types of libraries should become "laboratories" for students by providing internship programmes to library science students, thus providing tremendous benefits for both.

I congratulate lisforum\_orissa , a web based professional forum for completing six years and wish that it will contribute more in future.

**(Mrs. Parul Zaveri)**

## Dr. Kamal Lochan Jena

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### LIS PROFESSION: THEORY VS PRACTICE

No doubt Library & Information Science (LIS) profession is a noble profession where the Librarian deals with only the literate persons who have eager to know something. So the Librarian can be called a virtual teacher. There was the day when there is no Internet and reprographic facilities and the only source of information was the library and the user has to visit library personally to collect the information manually. But with the advent of modern technology and growth in communication, the information explosion took place and the people are getting every piece of information in a single mouse click. But one question arises in this matter. Whether the information available in open source and in free of cost is authentic and valuable for everybody and has any potential for further research? This is a matter of debate. If these information are authentic then what is the necessity of preserving the information in the so called traditional manner?

However, today the librarianship is in a threshold. The users need direct interaction with the library for which the concept of library 2.0 and library 3.0 are coming. With the synchronization of library budget and manpower the problems in library are increasing. What the course curriculum taught to the students by the LIS schools, are not able to utilize the theories in their practical field. In practical service life they are facing many administrative problems regarding the management of library. Still the library professionals have to fight and should show their potential in spite of all odds and serve the literate community in a better and efficient way. Everybody should try their best to show their potential and keep up the face value of librarianship. One should think what I have given to the profession rather what I got from it. I hope the future of librarianship is bright in all India contexts.

**(Dr. Kamal Lochan Jena)**



## Dr Bibhu Prasad Panda

Sr.Librarian

KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

### **Library Profession : Theory vs Practice**

There is an ambivalent relationship between the academic field of information studies and its practical application. The philosophy of the Library and Information science makes certain comprehensible issues raised by considering the relationship between theory and practice. These issues include the description and definition of the discipline, its status, its issues or phenomena to be studied by that discipline.

There shall be a discussion about the above issues by exploring various matters common to the discipline. Using different examples as well as the resources to examine the nature of theorizing and exploit the connections listed above in the contexts of information of Library & Information Studies (LIS). In LIS, thus form issues that have produced a literature of self-examination as to the state and to the state-of-the-art of the discipline. Theorizing is a necessary activity for the acceptance and consolidation of a discipline. I also suggest that it is important to consider the form and status of theorizing.

Thus the discipline of Library & Information Science formulates a reflexive relationship between research and practice, between practitioners (librarians, information professionals, information workers) and scholars working within the field of LIS.

**(Dr Bibhu Prasad Panda)**

## Dr.S.A.N. Inamdar

Librarian  
Walchand College of Engineering , Sangli  
Maharashtra



### LIS profession: Theory vs Practice

Due to the advent of computers, ICT and new trends in LIS the total library science scenario has already been changed. The Expectations of users have also changed remarkably, accordingly the services of libraries have also been reasonably extended. However conventional library education has not changed to dealt with the new technologies and changing library services. The library teachers should provide serious thought to the course curriculum of respective LIS schools and must evaluate its feasibility and usefulness in the context of changing library environment. The conventional cataloguing subject is one example of most of the library science syllabus. One should seriously think that how much energy of the students are wasted in this subject in this age of ICT. More concentration be provided on the Modernization of library and on the need and development of digital library and use of electronic resources along with print resources.

(Dr.S.A.N. Inamdar)





## Mr. Jitendra Barik

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### LIS profession: Theory vs Practice

The need of the hour is to provide "*anytime any where*" *access to knowledge resources*. At present, the time is for trained web technology librarians, or contemporary librarians who work in a hybrid environment dealing with a variety of information sources ranging from print to online resources

The importance for the theoretical aspects of librarianship is obsolete, now the time for the practical applied librarian is essentiality felt in each corporate sector. Some top universities they emphasis on theoretical aspects, so for this they update their curriculum or syllabus of **MLISC / BLISC** but most of the universities do not equipped to face the new challenges posed by todays" *information revolution* ". The developers of course curriculum should take into consideration various technological changes , which are affecting the library & information services .

"Greater emphasis should be placed on topics in Computing & Content management & Development technologies ". Accordingly, LIS schools of universities are trying to give emphasis on *preparing students to be job- oriented*.

Practicability in librarianship education or library profession is very vital. If LIS professionals will be well trained, or will take the training on modern library techniques & technologies, it will help them to fill the gap between the theory and practice.

(Mr. Jitendra Barik)

## Shiba Bhue

Librarian, Kendriya Vidyalaya



### LIS PROFESSION: PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS

I would like to express few lines on Practical Problem in the field of Library and Information Science & Profession.

1. **Reading habits** of people have been deteriorating day by day although libraries are trying to promote reading habits among them. This may be due to the **over whelmed use of ICT** in LIS and Libraries help people to derived knowledge in other ways but the reality is that LIS should reframe its theory and research to regain this core lost area, otherwise libraries as well as society will face the subsequent result.
2. The libraries of many institutions are forgetting the concept of Library and library services. The libraries are managed by non professionals or less numbers of professionals. Some organizations even forget basic **HR Policy and administration** regarding libraries, however they very much concern about library marketing thorough so called "**Well Equipped Library, Well Stocked AC Library**" Advertisement.
3. Research and teaching at university level became fashionable. Journal, research, Planning etc. Only **just ivory tower thinking and done only for career progression**. However some NGO and Philanthropic bodies are doing much more which is appreciable, even a concert effort have been made at school level in India to impart basic of library science and information literacy.
4. Library professionals may be floating in the social media, web 2.0 or like that but there is less such community to use it .Digital divide may be used as patch-up but still the lager section of users need a book to learn, access and relearn .**Knowledge elite** should not be there. **knowledge society** is the need of time and so called public library and library legislation should review to cope up the time.

Hence without any blame game, Self Underestimation & by Loving LIS profession, hope Libraries, LIS Professionals, Curriculum Designers, Educational Planners and Students of Library Information Science will understand their Social Responsibility.....

(Shiba Bhue )



## **Champeswar Mishra**

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### **Rethinking Leadership: Finding the Right Balance in Managing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library**

It's time for LIS professionals to take charge of the evolving information landscape and redefine what it means to be information professional. The librarian as a catalyst for change must strike an appropriate balance in providing innovative and quality service to the users. Library should stay focus on customers and their changing needs and should create library as service rather than library as place of collection. Professionals in libraries will have to learn to lead change and rethink their strategic role to find out the gap between patron demands and service, and should fill the gap by apply strategic ideas. A strong, dynamic, and visionary leadership is the need of the hour in order to preserve the past, convene the present and work to build a better future. If library wish to sustain, remain competitive and viable, transformational and evidence based librarianship must be developed among the library leaders to sustain and thrive in the changing landscape, and to build a successful libraries of the future. LIS professionals and educators can help address and respond to some of the future challenges by applying strategic needs such as essential capabilities; innovative models and tools, and dynamic partnerships

**(Champeswar Mishra)**



## **Mr Rabindra K. Maharana**

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## **LIS Education: Theory vs. Practice**

Since dawn of civilization human being has been striving to know the unknown. The tradition of librarianship or preserving manuscripts at places like temple, dargahs, madrasas, mosques and tols (schools) continued from middle ages. Thus, librarianship in the sense of collecting and preserving books and manuscripts has existed in India since time immemorial, but only in the early part of the twentieth century it began to be treated as a distinct field of specialization with its own principles, techniques, theories and practices. Since, the LIS education in the country has completed a century of its existence and a lot of progress has been made during this period and have strong roots, but the profession or education still suffers from many problems, which are affecting the status of LIS profession/ professionals. The most important is an urgent need for a national level accreditation body. Not much has been done even with the establishment of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), need to be abandoned all that organizations imparting LIS education without adequate facilities.

In the present scenario, LIS education and profession has attained a status of a full-fledged discipline in the country. However, it has low recognition and has not been regarded at par with other well-known professions. As a result, most of the students do not opt LIS as their first choice of education. National bodies such as ILA, IATLIS and IASLIC should take immediate and necessary steps to find out the timely solutions for the problems prevailing. There should be a National Accreditation Body to apply rigorous parameters before granting accreditation to a library schools. Attention should focus on the adoption of relevant and up-to-date curricula, high quality faculty, willing students and good infrastructure in needed in each and every LIS school. This is necessary to improve the quality of the LIS products, creating better job opportunities and raising the social status of LIS profession.

On behalf of completion of six successful years I convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Sunil K. Satpathy, Moderator, lisfourm\_orissa for his selfless and noble effort.

**(Mr Rabindra K. Maharana)**

## Amulya Prasad Dhal

Asst. Librari  
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### **LIS Education: Theory vs. Practice**

It is evident that LIS schools need to redesign their curricula to keep track of the latest developments in the information world and keep their teaching process up date with the changing library environment. New course curriculum need to be developed to provide opportunities for further specialization in modern library techniques. It is encouraging that LIS schools have taken the challenges of changing information environment very seriously, and have adapted their curricula, their names and their institutional alignments to reflect these changes. However there is urgent need to involve working professionals to involve in teaching and research activities, so that balance can be maintained between theory and practice of LIS and a balance growth of profession can be possible.

From the last decade we come across a lot of mailing list/ list serves, among them lisforum\_orissa is the most popular among the professionals of the state, to meet the day to day requirements as it be current vacancies, up-coming seminars/ workshops/ conferences, important discussions related to the profession etc. I heartily thanks to the Moderator of lisforum\_orissa, Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy for making a plat form for LIS professionals.

**(Amulya Prasad Dhal)**

## Sophia Johnson Thomas

Head, Department of Library  
Al Ghurair University  
Dubai, UAE



### LIS Profession: Theory and Practice

Librarianship is no longer confined to curating resources in shuttered libraries and disseminating information in traditional reference and public service but is now a regenerated profession titling 'cybrarians' or 'infomediaries' handling loads of resources immersed in an ocean of other materials. Library professionals need to move out into highways and byways of such cyberspace and embrace the opportunities of new technologies, trends and skills. Librarian must become 'bare-foot librarians' of the cyber streets. Librarians need to regenerate their professional identities, build great teams, inspire leadership and continually develop to strive for quality and excellence in profession. They must also transfer their skills and knowledge to their successors.

(Sophia Johnson Thomas)

## Dr. Banamber Sahoo

Library & Information Officer,  
Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR),  
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### My Autobiography in Library Profession

After completion of my graduation in Chemistry in 1985, I entered a professional course i.e B. Lib & Inf. Science and subsequently M. Lib & Inf. Science. During my study period in BLIS & MLIS, I enjoyed a lot by knowing Universe of Knowledge, classification, Indexing, Information Retrieval, Bibliometrics, citation analysis and finally Library administration and many more. Unfortunately, Computer Application in libraries was not covered in our syllabus at that time for which I was fully unaware of Computer knowledge while completing my MLIS study in 1988. I faced a little bit problems on computer knowledge when I started my professional career as Asst. Librarian in ICMR library at RMRC, Bhubaneswar which subsequently overcome while I undergone 5 weeks training program on Computer Application in Library & Information Activities at NISCAIR (formerly INSDOC), New Delhi. That INSDOC training become the Now I am heading the division of Library, Information & Publication of RMRC, Bhubaneswar. Though I have studied lot of things in library & Information science but practical application is very less. In a biomedical Research library like ICMR major application here is Online search, Scientometric Analysis, Institutional repository, LAN Administration, Publishing News Bulletin and other publication activities, HRD activities, Institutional Website design, giving apprentice training to MLIS students, online journal consortia and Library Automation for making E-Library.

**(Dr. Banamber Sahoo)**

**P.K.Panigrahi**

Dy.Librarian,  
Sir Padampat Singhania University  
Udaipur [Rajasthan]

## **LIS Profession: Theory Vs Practice**

Library and Information Science is a multidisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspectives, and tools of management, information technology, and education to the libraries. The collection, organization, preservation and dissemination of information are the main activities of this profession. LIS professionals have to meet their needs with both theory and practices.

Many practicing librarians focus on daily operations within their libraries or their library systems. Sometimes it has been proposed that LIS is distinct from Librarianship. The Librarianship is the application of Library Science to the practices services in their day to day works to meet the needs of library patrons. Some individual professional librarians contribute to scholarly research and publication; many are involved with and contribute to the advancement of the profession and of library science and through local, state, regional, national and international library or information organizations .Professional Information" provides the thematic connection between theory and practice, and in between the field and the profession.

Theory and practices of any professions are two sides of a coin. The practices are the applications of theories. Sometimes practice proves the value of good theory.

**(P.K.Panigrahi)**





## **Nihar Patra**

In-charge Knowledge Centre  
NIFTEM, (Under Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MOFPI), Govt. of India)  
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### **LIS EDUCATION: THEORY VS PRACTICE**

The specialized knowledge and skills are required to execute the professional works. Right blend of theory and hands on practice is prerequisite for any profession and librarianship is not exception.

For librarianship education, some university give more weightage to theory and some universities thinks otherwise. The forms of information resources are also changing due to ICTs. The Universities imparting librarianship education needs to move along with changes and update its theory and practice accordingly.

Since librarianship is a service oriented profession, soft and interpersonal skills, communication etc play a very critical role and same may be incorporated in the course curricula.

**(Nihar Patra)**

## Smt Nilam Soni

Asst. Librarian, Central Library  
N.I.T, Raipur (C.G)



### LIS EDUCATION: THEORY VS PRACTICE

The present age is the age of ICT. Now libraries are not merely store house of books and documents, but are the essential components of Information society. It has been the prime duty of libraries to provide latest and up to date information to their users. Accordingly the LIS professionals need to work as an information providers and guide. To perform these new roles, the LIS professionals need to equip themselves with the latest knowledge on ICT along with traditional knowledge on library administration and management.

In 20<sup>th</sup> century, the impact of IT revolution has been felt in all sectors of life and hence it is highly essential to change in the educational system and programs., so also the traditional system of libraries. But regretfully, I can give emphasis on my statement that with the change in information technology and information need of societies ,the LIS schools of India have failed to produce LIS professionals with latest knowledge on modern library system and services. This can be well felt when we see the theory which we are taught by the LIS schools and the works we perform in our libraries. As a result the professionals of other fields such as Computer science/IT are interfering in our profession, which have created threat for our very existence of libraries and LIS profession.

The existence of libraries can be well recognized if we adhere to the five laws of Library & Information as formulated by Dr S.R.Ranganathan which have relevance in present ICT age also. The need of the time is to restructure the course curriculum of LIS schools by incorporating courses on modern library techniques such as digital library, institutional repositories, web based library services etc ,so that LIS professionals will feel comfortable in the new library environment, the gap between theory and practice will reduce and they will be able to perform their duties in providing library services satisfactorily to their users.

**(Smt Nilam Soni)**

**Comments**  
**on**  
**lisforum\_orissa**

## Mr. Ashok Kumar Satapathy

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I feel immense pleasure to share my thought on the eve of 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our LIS Forum. The forum is a best example of sharing culture and a source for dissemination of information among the LIS professionals. Theory and practice are the both side of a coin. Theory encrypts all the information where as practice is a mechanism to develop the theory.

Friends, we are at the cross road in the ICT era. We have to accept the challenge of our profession and adapt the techno-economical product to support our organization as well as our professional development. Always try to uphold the ethical values of our profession.

Lastly, but not the least, I pray to God for growth of our open forum and express my sincere thanks to the moderator of this *lisforum\_orissa*.



## Mikeswar Namdeo

Central Library  
N.I.T,Raipur(C.G)

The *lisforum\_orissa* is a excellent professional forum for dissemination of professional knowledge. The vacancies posted in the forum are very current and informative. Being a member and student of LIS , I am highly benefited by the forum. Hope more and more messages will be shared by the members in future.

I wish all success to the *lisforum\_orissa*



## Mr. Rudra Prasad Behera

Asst. Librarian  
HKM State Library  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

I share my happiness with all members of lisforum\_orissa on its 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the age of ICT, lisforum\_orissa is one kind of gift to us to update our professional knowledge. This forum is unique of its kind due to the quality of messages. I feel myself proud to be a member of the forum. I request all members to give their best for the development of lisforum\_orissa.

I wish you all the best for the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of lisforum\_orissa.

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## Mr S.R.Kashyap

Asst. Professor, DLIS  
Pt. R.S. Shukla University, Raipur (C.G)



I congratulate all members of the forum on the occasion of its 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The lisforum\_orissa is a professional forum in its true sense and have been servicing the LIS communities successfully. The messages posted on this forum are in a consolidated form which save the time and gives an overall ideas on the vacancies and forth coming events. It is immensely beneficial for the students and also the teachers and professionals who hardly get time to search related documents for these information in their busy schedule. I am highly thankful to Dr Satpathy, Moderator for his regular monthly bulletin, which gives some new information.

I wish all success to lisforum\_orissa.

**LONG LIVE LIBRARIES AND LIS PROFESSION.....**