PJIM&L

CONFERENCE REPORT

International Conference on Information Management & Libraries (ICIML): An Overview

Syeda Hina Batool

Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore. Email: hina.im@pu.edu.pk

Ahsan Ullah

Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Waqar Ahmad Awan

Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The centennial celebrations under the theme "Looking Back, Moving Forward" took place under the leadership of the Chair, Professor Dr. Kanwal Ameen throughout the year 2015. A number of events were planned in this regard. However, the highlight of the centenary celebrations was the International Conference on Information Management and Libraries (ICIML), held from November 10-13th, 2015.

Professor Kanwal Ameen, served as the Conference Chair, Professor (Honorary) Mumtaz Ali Anwar, as the Honorary Chair and Dr. Muhammad Rafiq, Associate Professor, as the Secretary of the Conference. To organize this mega event, six committees were formulated, i.e. Program Advisory; Organizing; Promotion; Sponsorship; Finance and Registration convened by Dr. Nosheen Fatima, Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Syeda Hina Batool, Haseeb Ahmed Piracha, Alia Arshad and Amara Malik respectively. In addition to these committees, a number of volunteers did a lot of work for making this event successful.

More than 500 participants from Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe and USA attended the conference. Eighty authors contributed 57 presentations including 3 key note speeches, 13 invited papers, 15 full papers, 9 short papers, 7 best practices and 10 short presentations (PechaKuchas) during four days of conference. The contributors presented their papers on education, information seeking, information literacy, management, ICT, Big data, Scientometrics, Makerspaces in libraries, E-books, digital libraries, disaster management, library services and other areas. Each session included questions-answer by the audience after the papers' presentations, and concluding remarks by the Chairs. At the end of session, presenters, secretaries and chairs were presented souvenirs by the Conference Chair.

The conference was exemplary in time management from the very beginning to the last event and applauded for this aspect by all.

Day 1, November 10, 2015

Pre-Conference Workshops

Three pre-conference workshops were conducted on 10th November as follows: 1) Strategic planning; 2) Data mining; and 3) Communication skills. All three workshops were very well attended and appreciated. Pre-conference workshops were conducted in the Department as parallel sessions. Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Babar, Director General of Public Libraries Punjab, was the chief guest, and inaugurated the workshops. Dr. Munazza Jabeen, University of Baluchistan, Quetta, Ch. Muhammad Anwar, IBA, Karachi and Aurangzeb, US Consulate General, Lahore, were the resource persons. Dr. M. Rafiq was coordinator of the workshops. More than 100 people attended the workshops.

Day 2, November 11, 2015

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the conference started on November, 11 2015. Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan,

Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism was the Chief Guest of this inaugural ceremony. The Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab was the Special Guest. Dr. M. Rafiq, Associate Professor, Department of Information Management served as the Secretary of the session and started with his introductory remarks followed by recitation from the Holy Quran. In her address, Professor Dr. Kanwal Ameen warmly welcomed the guests and briefed about the history and the recent developments which took place at the Dept. (DoIM). Professor Sanda Erdelez Chair, SISLT, University of Missouri, USA, delivered the key note speech on *Information and Library Services in a Connected world*. She said that in ancient times, information was difficult to find and libraries and other information agencies were curators of information resources and gatekeepers of information access. Library collections were developed by considering local users while services were designed according to the specific organization and geographic environment. She stressed that advancement in information and communication technology changed the dynamics of traditional information production, organization, access and sharing. She added that in the globally connected environment, users' information behaviours have been transformed from resource hungry and dependent consumer to active creator and disseminator. She concluded that to address information needs of diverse global communities, we need to develop collaborative and shared models to ensure seamless information experience in this connected world.

Honourable Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan talked about the importance of information centers for the development of a nation. He said that different projects have been initiated by the Government of the Punjab to provide education facilities to students studying at different levels. The Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab also applauded the advancements occurred and the vibrant environment of the Department of Information Management (DoIM) . He urged that the Dept. will produce such professionals who will cater the need of the digital age users. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a note of thanks to all participants and guests by the Conference Chair. Two business sessions held after the inauguration session.

Plenary Session

The plenary session was chaired by Dr. Shaheen Majid, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Dr. Trishanjit Kaur, Punjabi University, Patiala-India. Three papers titled "To information,

management and beyond", "Developing information and knowledge competencies: A challenge for educators" and "Need for re-conceptualization of core knowledge in the field of information studies: A case of information organization" were presented by Dr. Mumtaz Ali Anwar, Dr. Sajjad ur Rehman and Dr. Abdus Sattar respectively on education and training. The presenters deliberated that 'Library science' has remained in use, with some variations, for almost a century but there is a slow shift to 'Information Management' which began in the 1980s. Augmented professional expanse of information management will create professional job market that is hard to identify and measure at present, but in future its graduates will serve more and more diverse populations due to interdisciplinary nature of this subject. Dr Abdus Sattar argued that the re-conceptualization of contents has become necessary to respond to the changes taking place in the information field under the digital environment. The discussion ended with the need to building strategies for curriculum redesigning and meeting challenges of transition.

The next two papers presented a comparison of Library and Information Science curriculum in Nigeria and Pakistan with IFLA guidelines. Mr. *Bappah Magaji Abubakar* from Nigeria presented that the curricula have shown high compliance with the National University Commission and some compliance with the IFLA core courses provided in the guidelines. Though it is still largely traditional in nature because of the inadequacy of ICT based courses. Similarly Ms. Amara Malik, DoIM established that largely LIS courses are outdated and traditional in nature and not properly adding ICT components. LIS curriculum is more inclined to management and less to the ICTs courses.

Session 2

The second session focused on the best practices in libraries and information centres. The session chairs were Dr. Sajjad ur Rehman from Kuwait University, and Bushra Almas Jaswal from Forman Christian College, Lahore. Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, British Council, Manchester, asserted that Big Data enables business leaders to make real-time forecasting and more informed decision-making. Tapping into information such as cookies and information-rich social media through big data unlocks the ability for intelligent targeting of customers. Ashraf Sharif, Aga Khan University, Karachi talked about Institutional Repository (IR) launched at the Aga Khan University (AKU) libraries network, apart from publishing research output of the institution, also provides a professional-grade editorial management functionality for publishing journals that helps in managing

manuscript submission, editorial functions, peer review workflow, and finally hosting of journals.

Ch. Muhammad Anwar from Institute of Business Administration, Karachi presented emerging trends in library space designing taking Institute of Business Administration Karachi (IBA) as a reference. IBA initiated in 2012 a project to remodel its library facilities in line with contemporary and present-day concepts of information commons. The renovated ultramodern library with brand new interiors, furniture and fixtures, lay-outs, and variety of learning spaces has been designed to augment the learning experiences of the academic community of the institute. Mehreen Tahir, Forman Christian College, Lahore shared with the audience that Information Commons at Forman Christian College is Pakistan's first purpose built learning and collaborative space conducive of eLearning, referencing and research.

Pervaiz Ahmad, Allama Iqbal Open University (paper was presented by his colleague Mr. Jawad), Islamabad compared AACR2 and RDA, the two cataloguing tools. He was of the view that RDA supports linked data structures and focuses on recording attributes and relationships among manifestations, items, works, and expressions. Syed Adnan Adil, University of West London, UK said that recent quality improvement paradigm such as total quality management, lean thinking and six-sigma have influenced on strategy-making policies, operational delivery and performance measurement. Libraries being responsive, institutionally-aligned and open-to-change service units, cannot ignore such well-tested and effective paradigms.

At the end of this day, a welcome dinner for keynote speakers, foreign delegates, sponsors and selected professionals was arranged at X2 Café, Gulberg, Lahore, Pakistan. Rana Mashood, Dr. Nizam Din, Director, Punjab HED, Professor Mujahid Kamran also graced the dinner sponsored by Burgad.

Day 3, November 12, 2015

Keynote Session

The second day held six sessions with three parallel sessions. Dr. Amjad Saqib, Akhuwat Foundation, Pakistan was the Chief Guest and Professor Yasar Tonta, Hacettepe University, Department of Information Management, Ankara, Turkey was key note speaker for the second day. Dr. Nosheen Fatima Warraich was the Secretary of the first session. It started with the introduction and followed by the keynote speech by Professor Yasar Tonta on

"Development in education for information: Will "Data" trigger the next wave of curriculum change in LIS schools". He also addressed the need to change curriculum according to the developments taking place in the society. The Chief Guest, Dr. Amjad Saqib briefly narrated in his speech the purpose of Akhuwat Foundation and its focus on education.

Session 3

The main session on *Information Literacy* had 5 papers. It was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ramzan ,Lahore University of Management Sciences, and Professor Zahed Bigdeli Shahid Chamran University, Iran. The secretary was Ms. Alia Arshad, Department of Information Management, University of the Punjab. First paper by Fatima Baji, University of Medical Science, Iran titled "Adopting and modifying the 6th Grade version of the tools for real-time assessment of information literacy skills (Trials) among the Iranian 6th Grade Students" highlighted the importance of information literacy (IL) instructions' inclusion in school curriculum and need for assessment tool development for k-12 students in Iran.

Syeda Hina Batool presented on "Provisions for information literacy practice across primary curriculum". She was of view that Pakistani primary school curriculum has basic IL provisions but implementation in schools is a real barrier. Another paper on providing IL instruction in Pakistani medical institutions titled "Barriers when advocating or providing information literacy instruction in medical institutions of Pakistan" was presented by Midrar Ullah, Army Medical College, NUST, Islamabad. He used mixed method approach to identify the factors hindering implementation of IL instruction programs or preventing their systematic development in Pakistani medical institutions. Next paper was "Reading trends of youth in Pakistan: A pilot study" presented by Saira Hanif Soroya, University of the Punjab, Lahore. The presenter highlighted the reading trends of Pakistani youth in digital era. The research revealed that the behavior of new generation has been significantly changed during the last five years in Pakistan regarding the use of digital reading material. The last paper of the session on "Internet usage frequency and its perceived benefits amongst research scholars of public sector university of Southern Punjab" was presented by Salman Bin Naeem, Islamia University Bahawalpur. The researcher presented results of information literacy and digital literacy of research scholars in southern Punjab's public sector universities.

Session 4

The parallel session on *Library Management Practices* was chaired by Mr. Haseeb Ahmad Paracha, University of the Punjab and Muhammad Arif from Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. The secretary was Mr. Muhammad Tariq Najmi (COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore).

Yahya Ibrahim Harande presented the first paper, "Library security: Use of RFID technology for collection security in Negerian university libraries: Qua Vadis" in absence of Mr. Abbas Atiku Maidabino, Bayero University. The researcher examined the use of Radio Frequency Identification technology for collection security in university libraries. Second paper was presented by Jawad Ahmd Khan, National University of Science and Technology Risalpur, on "Perception and attitude of university librarians about total quality management practices in Khyber Pakhtunkhaw". He examined the perception and attitudes of university librarians about total quality management in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Seven constructs of total quality management were identified and measured in this study. Muhammad Tufail Khan from Government College University, Lahore presented on "Journey from Library Management Software (LMS) to KOHA by Government College university Libraries, Lahore". He discussed the process and aspects of KOHA implementation and technical problems encountered during implementation of KOHA in GC University, Lahore. The last paper, "The Interplay of strategic management and information technology" was presented by Humaira Mah Jabeen, Govt. Postgraduate College for Women, Rawalpindi. This study investigated the relationship between strategic management and information technology development in libraries.

Session 5

This main session of the conference was on *Bibliometrics and Citation Analysis*, chaired by Professor Dr. Mumtaz Ali Anwar and Farhat Hussain, University of Karachi. The session secretary was Dr. Ijaz Miraj, University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore.

The first paper titled "Gauging the quality and trustworthiness in the citation practices of Malaysian academic researchers", was presented by A. Abrizah from University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It focused on Malaysian academic researchers and how they deal with the quality and trust consequences of the digital transition especially with the impact of social media and open access publishing on their

scholarly communication. The second paper was, "Scientometrics analysis for research performance evaluation: Methodological issues at Meso and Micro Levels" by Muzammil Tahira, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She described the methodological issues faced and lessons learnt from the investigations carried out on engineering research data in Malaysia using the scientometric approach at meso and micro levels.

The next paper by Munazza Jabeen from University of Baluchistan, Quetta on "Capitalizing knowledge and scientific collaboration analysis of LIS research: A Chinese's Perspective". In her study, the researcher reviewed the 564 articles indexed in Social Science Citation Index from 2012-2013 to identify English research contributions by Chinese LIS scholars.

The last paper in this session was by Yahya Ibrahim Harande from Bayero University, Kano, PMB, Nigeria entitled as "Journals' productivity in the literature on Malaria in Africa". The researcher identified the journals that published articles on malaria disease in Africa and determined the core of productive journals from the identified journals.

Session 6

This parallel session was conducted on *Professional Development* and chaired by Dr. Muhammad Haroon Idrees (University of Sargodha, Sargodha). The secretary of this session was Syed Adnan Adil, University of West London, UK.

Muhammad Tariq Najmi of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore presented the first paper titled, "Is English language a barrier in research productivity among Information professionals? A descriptive study". He highlighted the issue of English language as a barrier with specific reference to information professionals. Sidra Shan, International Islamic University, Islamabad presented on "Thriving at workplace: contributing to self-development, career development, and better performance in information organizations". She was of the view that thriving has been considered a most recent concept in the positive organizational research and behavior movements. She empirically investigated the relationship of thriving with self-development, career development initiatives and individual performance in the setting of information industry.

Third paper was on "Challenges in information technology adoption in Pakistani university libraries" by Muhammad Sajid Mirza, International Islamic University, Islamabad. The researcher used a mixed methods approach to explore the challenges in the

adoption of information technology by university libraries.

Tauseef Hussain, University of the Punjab, Lahore presented on the "Status of prison libraries in Lahore: A case study". The researcher examined the role of libraries, their impact upon the rehabilitation programs and religious education offered to prisoners in these libraries. Salman bin Naeem presented on "Library anxiety among the university students of the Southern Punjab, Pakistan". The study carried out a survey about the library anxiety of the postgraduate students of Islamia University Bahawalpur and Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan using Bostik's Library Anxiety Scale.

Session 7

The session was based on miscellaneous papers and chaired by Dr. Abdus Sattar from Kuwait University and Dr. Abrizah Abdullah from University of Malaya, Malaysia. The session secretary was Mr. Ashraf Sharif from Agha Khan University, Karachi.

The first presentation was on "Makerspaces in libraries and American spaces" by Mercy Carol from Pakistan US Embassy, Islamabad. Ms. Carol introduced the concept of makerspaces and its utilization in libraries. Second paper by Shaheen Majid from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore was on "Give them what they want: Patron-Driven acquisition (PDA of Electronic Books)". He discussed the trends in e-book publishing and e-book procurement models and talked on Patron-Driven acquisitions.

Trishanjit Kaur from Punjabi University Patiala, India presented on "Disaster management in university libraries of India and Pakistan". She spoke on the different aspects of disaster management that needs attention of university libraries and museums to save intellectual heritage for the future generations.

Alia Arshad's presentation was on "Academics' perceptions of usefulness of Higher Education Commission consortium of E-Journals: A case of University of the Punjab". She investigated academics perceived usefulness of Higher Education Commission consortium of E-Journals.

The fifth paper on "Measuring information seeking anxiety in Pakistani postgraduate students" was by Muhammad Asif Naveed, Research Scholar, DoIM. He measured the information seeking anxiety among postgraduate students of the University of the Punjab. Salman Bin Naeem spoke on "Barriers faced by rural and non-rural primary care physician while seeking health information from their practice settings". He concluded that primary care physicians faced the

barriers in obtaining health information content, availability, cost, efficiency and skills.

Session 8

The theme of this parallel session was *Digital Libraries and E-Resources.* Mr. Hamid Rehman and from University of Peshawar, Peshawar chaired the session and Ms. Muzammil Tahira was secretary.

Bushra Almas Jaswal from Forman Christian College, Lahore presented the first paper on "Digitization of archival collections by libraries in Pakistan: Issues, strategies, challenges and opportunities". The presenter comprehensively discussed the digitization process, its issues, challenges and constraints by highlighting that how in Pakistan, libraries and documentary heritage is facing threat.

Then Amjid Khan from University of Peshawar, presented on "The impact of digital library resources usage on research productivity: A study among engineering students in Pakistan". The researcher empirically investigated digital library resources and its impact on engineering research in Pakistan. Memoona Iqbal, Government Fatima Jinnah College for Women, Lahore, presented on "Factors affecting the students' selection and use of web sites". She presented the quantitative investigation of factors affecting the students' decisions of selection and use of information from various websites. The results were found to be independent of gender differences but found highly affected by age groups.

The presentation by Muhammad Farooq, Riphah International University, Islamabad, threw light on the practices adopted in Information Services Department, Riphah International University. Three core areas, infrastructure, resources and services were discussed in this presentation. Sadaf Rafiq, Government College University, Lahore, presentation was on "Utilization of E-books among undergraduate students of government medical colleges of Lahore". She reported academic users' perception, awareness and existing level of e-books use among medical students. By the end of the session, honorable session chair distributed the souvenirs among presenters.

At the end of the second day a grand cultural night and dinner was arranged at Lahore Art Council, Mall Road, Lahore, Pakistan for all registered participants.

Day 4, November 13, 2015

Keynote Speech

Dr. Ismat Tahira, Secretary, Archives and Libraries Wing, Govt. of the Punjab was the Chief Guest and the Professor Widad Mustafa El Hadi, University of

Lille 3, France presented key note speech. Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman was the secretary of this session. Professor Widad threw light on the relationship and interconnections between digital libraries and digital humanities with a special focus on global access to knowledge. Dr. Ismat Tahira pleaded the importance of the libraries and information services and extended the cooperation by her department in this regard. She also praised the organization of such a grand conference.

Session 9

Five papers were presented in this main session on *Web Technologies and Social Media.* Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, British Council, Manchester and Ch. Muhammad Nazir, National Library of Pakistan chaired the session. First presentation was by Anwar Ahmad, British Council, Manchester presented the overview of cloud computing in UK in public sector. He asserted that cloud computing was adopted as a delivery model for online public services to control the spiralling cost of expanding infrastructure, to improve efficiency and facilitate modernization. The G-Cloud initiative was developed to provide common management structure and market relationship as well as consistent assurance standards, leading to the development of centers of excellence.

Susmita Chakraborty, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, defined the scope and coverage of the concept of E-Governance as well as other associated terminologies. She explored adoption of E-Governance in India, its benefits, limitations, future plans and possible obstacles. Anil Kumar Dhiman, Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar, India asserted that social media provides the platform that goes beyond the traditional ways of service delivery by allowing patrons to interact in real time with librarians. He examined uses and applications of social media in the state central libraries of India. Shafiq Ur Rehman examined the research related training needs of social science students. He found that learning qualitative data analysis techniques (text analysis) and tools (Nvivo), statistical analysis (SPSS), reference management tools (Endnote, Mendeley), report writing and publishing research works are major training needs of research students.

The last paper of this session was presented by Shakeel Ahmad Khan of Government College University, Lahore on the "Challenges for developing and managing digital libraries: An investigation from LIS practitioners in Pakistan". He explored that recruitment of skillful librarians, trainings for library users, managing copyright issues and acquiring adequate funds are the challenges for managing digital libraries in Pakistan.

Closing Ceremony

The closing session had the Vice-Chancellor as Chief Guest and Syeda Hina Batool as Secretary. The Conference Chair and Honorary Chair were on the stage. Syeda Hina Batool presented the overview of the conference followed by screening a short video highlighting the previous two days of the Conference. Syeda Hina also directed a short historical video documentary exhibiting the beginning in 1915 to the growth of the Department up-till 2015. The aim was to refresh the participants about the 100 years journey highlighting the milestones. The images as "new face of the Dept." provoked tremendous sentimental energy among the hall and a standing ovation was given to the administration in a loud round of applause. This presentation was highly appreciated by the participants as a surprise. It was a surprise even for the Chair of the Conference.

Then the Chair and the Faculty members presented 'Certificates of Acknowledgments' to the most senior, retired faculty members, professionals and outstanding working alumnae of the DoIM in recognition of their valuable services and contributions in their domains. A lucky draw amongst the registered participants was made by the Vice Chancellor. It was to choose two delegates for giving free Facet Publishing's new books. Facet publications also announced 25% discount for the ICIML attendees on selected books. Professor Dr. Mumtaz Ali Anwar, gave the prizes. He also shared his views and historical facts about the Department and appreciated the quality of papers presented at the conference.

The Vice-Chancellor applauded the audience's interest and energy till the last session. He also declared the conference a tremendous success while appreciating the Chair, the convenors of the committees and others responsible for its success. He urged that the Dept. keep on doing such events in future.

At the end Professor Dr. Kanwal Ameen presented her gratitude to all the participants and the foreign and local delegates. She expressed her appreciation for the ICIML committee conveners, members, administrative staff and volunteers who worked hard to make this historical event memorable.

There were city tours arranged separately for foreign and national delegates. The conference ended with exploration of the food and history of Lahore.