



IIM Trichy Inaugurates International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Librarianship – Role of Libraries in Learning Environment"

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) inaugurated the 18th International Conference on "**Emerging Trends in Librarianship - Role of Libraries in Learning Environment**", on Monday, 10th December 2018. The conference aims to provide a platform for Library Information System (LIS) professionals, teachers, practitioners, researchers, students and users to share and discuss innovative practices to address current challenges of libraries in the digital era. The 18th MANLIBNET conference is a special as for the first time it has witnessed participation from more than 450 authors spanning 6 countries. The conference is hosting three unique workshops on User Experience (UX), Research Writing and Case Study pedagogy. During three days, more than 300 papers would be presented and 68 papers have been accepted for journal publication.

The event began with lamp lighting ceremony by the Chief Guest Dr. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Vice-Chancellor, UVA Wellassa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka, and the Guest of Honour, Dr. S. Murugan, IPS, Joint Director/ Inspector General of Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, Tamil Nadu along with the other dignitaries present. The dignitaries were welcomed by Dr K. Elavazhagan, Librarian & Chief Knowledge Officer IIM Trichy. The Conference overview was given by Dr Papri Nath, IIM Trichy. She highlighted how libraries are changing in current era and how they can address the new challenges using the 3C's: being Change leader, Community reading hub and Cultural-social help to disseminate information among the less privileged.

Professor Dr M.G. Sreekumar, President MANLIBNET (IIM Kozhikode) further stressed the theme of sharing resources of libraries across schools in order to foster change in them. Dr Akhtar Parvez, Secretary MANLIBNET gave an overview of various programs and workshops conducted by MANLIBNET. He mentioned that they had conducted more than 12 Librarian Development Programs(LDP) which has benefitted 850 library professionals. Dr A Hariharan, Founder President of Society for the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) commented that more than 400 programs have been conducted for training library professionals to adopt best practices and this has fostered an increase in literacy rate in the country.

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director IIM Trichy emphasized on the importance of libraries in modern era as effective knowledge resource centres in the disruptive and knowledge based economy. Dr. Metri also mentioned that IIM Trichy, being a young institute has seen immense growth in the recent years and the institute is focused on increasing its associations with different international universities to promote knowledge transfer between students and faculties along with national bodies like, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

The program was then followed by an inaugural address from the Chief Guest, Dr Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera who emphasized on the importance of 3Es for libraries to maintain relevance. 1) Engage – The libraries should engage students by providing them enough study space and training programme. 2) Educate – Individuals should be educated about the importance of libraries and 3) Empower – Libraries should empower more individuals with information. Dr S. Murugan, the Guest of Honour shared his experiences of cyber security issues proliferating due to activities in physical and digital libraries and how the educational Institutes need to be careful about the darknet thus emphasizing on importance of information security measures.

During the inaugural function, Dr Rama Patnaik, Librarian IIM Bangalore was awarded the MANLIBNET Best Librarian 2018 award. In her acceptance speech, Dr Patnaik thanked the executives of MANLIBNET and the support she received from the Director and staff of IIM-B. She further mentioned her journey and how the initiatives supported by IIMB have benefitted more than 6000 research scholars. Another highlight of the function was book release with the title "Emerging Trends in Librarianship - Role of Libraries in Learning Environment".

The program concluded with Mr M. F. Hibathul Careem, Registrar - UVA Wellassa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka delivering a Special Address on the concept of human libraries, its emergence and role in the coming future in India. In the end, Dr. Akhtar Parvez, Secretary, MANLIBNET proposed the vote of thanks.