



Short Article : Introduction to Library Professional

Dr. S. G. Mahajan : A Well-Known Indian Library Professional

Dr.N.B.Dahibhate

Retired Principal Technical Officer, CSIR,Pune

work as a Head of the Dept. of Library and Information



Dr. S.G.Mahajan

Dr Shantaram Gajan Mahajan (born 9th October 1932 at Junnar near Pune), is a versatile senior most personality in the field of Library and Information Science at the Indian National level. His versatile personality is defined basically by his worthy contribution of LIS

professorship and a stupendous science, a hard-core teacher of knowledge organization and academic librarianship and a dynamic University Librarian, Jaykar Library SavitribaiPhule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra India

His contribution is more than 71 years in this profession and still in the advisory role to youngsters. He is student of DRTC Bangalore, and also a disciple of Dr S R Ranganathan, father of Indian Library Science. He worked as Librarian, Professor and Head Department of LIS in prestigious well known university SavitribaiPhule Pune University (formerly Pune University), Jayakar Library. He is a great visionary and in 1990 he initiated ICT in LIS and using LIBSYS he started automation of libraries and conducted CDS/ISIS courses. He established a computer lab in the Library School at Jayakar Library. He also established Pu La Deshpande Microfilming Unit in Jayakar Library. He initiated conservation and preservation of manuscripts

program in the library to preserve valuable manuscript collection. He always transformed himself and adopted the new technologies and amended in the library during his tenure 1954-1992. He is honoured by “Lifetime Achievement Award” by IASLIC. The glimpses of the achievements are very difficult to express in words for such an all-round dedicated personality. After retirement he wrote 53 books and still busy in writing for another books.

Education:

He completed his secondary education from a very famous educational institutes, Nutan Marathi Vidhyalay (Popularly known as (numavi), NMV) Pune, graduated from S P College, Pune and did Post-graduation from Pune University (now SPPU). He is highly qualified and acquired qualifications MA, PhD, M LIB I Sc. from DRTC, Bangalore in first Rank. He is a student of Dr S R Ranganathan and gained expertise in colon classification and cataloguing. The doctorate was awarded for him for his research “History of the Public Library Movement in Western Maharashtra 1805 – 1921”. BA from Pune University (1957), Diploma in Librarianship (1959), MA (1972), Associateship in Documentation (MLIB) DRTC Bangalore (now M S in LIS) (1978-1979), Ph.D. (1979).

Noble Library and Information Professional:

He has a profound experience in the field of LIS and he worked in different positions from 1949 to 1992. He headed department of LIS as Professor and Librarian of Pune University (Now SPPU) from 1954-1992. Prior to this he was associated with Kesari-Maratha Library 1949-1954. He retired from the Pune University in 1992. After his retirement he established Pune Library Network 1992-1994.

LIS Education

During his tenure he was associated with YCMOU Nasik and he worked as an editor for the 34 course materials for LIS students (B Lib). The UGC major research projects completed by him are Bibliography of Pune City (Pune city Bibliography) and Encyclopaedia of Pune city (Pune shaharachaDynankosh) in Marathi which are very popular since based on local history of Pune city.

A Dedicated Professional

More than seven decades active in the profession, out of this four decades in the profession and nearing to three decades actively participating as an advisory senior most professionals to young professionals who visit to him for consultation. He is still busy in writing professional literature, recreational literature, historical literature and share views with others.

An Ideal and Hard-Core Teacher

He is a hard core teacher, started his teaching carrier in 1951 to certificate course. He is totally devoted person to LIS and always taking care of profession, for the first time he has started evening B Lib I Sc. and two years vocational batch for the M Lib I Sc. in Pune University for the working library professionals, many professionals were benefited due to this facility. He has also conducted number of courses on "Library Automation" as a co-ordinator and these were funded by different government agencies. He delivered spontaneous lectures to LIS students in all subjects but cataloguing, classification (His suggestions were even accepted by Dr Ranganathan and incorporated in the Classified Catalogue Code), documentation, library movement in India, public library system, academic Library system are the most popular among them. Mrs Dr Neeta Patil also completed her research study on the life work of Dr S G Mahajan and her topic of research was "Dr. S G Mahajan yanche granthalay ani mahiti shastra sahiyatil yogdan" in 2015, and also published in book form later by student. He was a Ph.D. Guide to research scholars.

A Perfect Administrator and Organiser

He is very prompt, disciplined and systematic in his work. He is the best leader and manager and deploy professional tasks to proper person. He has routine procedures and daily he takes round in the complete library premises and solve the issues of staff working with him. He developed Degree and Post Graduate courses in Library and Information Science in

Pune University, also started evening and vocational courses for BLIB and MLIB. First to develop computer and internet lab in LIS school at national level Pune University. Organised seminars, conferences, special training courses, workshops etc., in collaboration of different professional organisations, associations like IATLIS, "Maharashtra Rajya Granthalay Sangh", PULISAA etc.

A Prolific Writer

He is a prolific writer and contributed almost more than 89 books (form English and Marathi Languages) on different areas including LIS. He wrote 21 books for certificate course, 10 books for B Lib I Sc and 3 books for M L I Sc. The bibliography of his publications is presented at the end. Dr A P J Kalam himself appreciated Dr Mahajan for the book written by him on his biography "Rameshwaram to Rashtrapati Bhavan".

- An excellent Planner and forecaster
- Local Historian
- Education reformer in LIS

Initially he started his writing form 1951 and published his contributions in "Kesari" and "Sahitya Sahakar" and till date he is busy in writing professional experiences which act as a guiding pole to younger generation.

Foreign Educational Visits:

He was awarded prestigious fellowship from British Library UK, British Council (1988) to visit England and Wells to study local history and review library profession and implement concepts in India. He presented his study on Local history at Paris International conference focusing on Pune city historical tools.

Research Contribution

He has guided many research students in Library Science and as an external referee also conducted viva for the Ph. D. students from the different universities of India. He has also guided M Lib and MPhil students for their research projects.

Research Projects:

He has initiated many research projects and sanctioned different projects from UGC, DST, NISSAT, CSIR, INFLIBNET and completed research projects by appointing fresh library science students as project assistants, these project assistants received early professional experience and now few of them are

heading in different organisations as librarians.

Committees and Commissions

During his tenure he worked on many committees and commissions in different capacities from chairperson and secretary, few notables are: UGC committee, DST committees, INFLIBNET, NISSAT, INSDOC (Now NISCAIR), CSIR, PUNENET, All India Librarians Associations etc. During his tenure he also organised national and international level conferences in Pune University Jayakar Library. He was member of notable UGC-CDC Syllabus Revision Committee. Member of Library Science Dictionary (Paribhasha Cosh) appointed by Maharashtra State Govt. (Maharashtra State Council). Nominated by VC as an expert for selection of Professor. He was Member of Senate, Pune University, Academic Council Member of PU, Chairman and member of Board of Studies of different universities. Active participation in Indian Library movement at different levels. Worked as Secretary of Maharashtra Library Association.

Professional Awards and Honours:

He is recipient of many prestigious awards for his notable contribution in the profession, few among them are:

- IATLIS Best Teacher Award (1992)
- Ranganathan – Kaula Award (2003) (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- Shreepad Joshi Award (2004) from Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune
- IASLIC Life Time Achievement Award (2010) and Certificate of Honour (2006)
- Jayantrao Tilak Memorial Award (2006)
- “Gaurav Padak” from Pune Municipal Corporation (1993)
- “Dyankoshkar Ketkar” Award (1999) from Pune Ngar Vachan Mandir
- Award for Best writing in Marathi Books (1975 and 1981)
- Award from CALIBER (2004) Through the habds of Prof. Yashpal, Ex Chairman UGC
- Prof. Mukherjee Life Time Achievement Award (2010) IASLIC

A Local Historian:

He has compiled a bibliography and encyclopaedia of city and published 2 books on Pune city. He was author of biography of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam entitled “Rameshwaram to Rashtrapati Bhavan”. He established in Pune University “ Pune City History

Dalan”. Organised All India Local History Conference and written books on Local history of Pune City.

Major Contribution to Jayakar Library (SPPU)

- Conservation and Preservation of rare collection and Manuscripts (Prepared a bibliography also)
- Established PL Deshpande Microfilming Unit (From the donation of P L Deshpande Foundation)
- “Western Maharashtra Ghat Development” Project Submitted to Govt. of India Ministry of Environment
- Applications of ICT in Libraries, Subject added in Curriculum for both LIS courses.
- Established PUNNET, A library network
- Organised UGC Refresher Courses in LIS.
- Self-sufficiency in LIS, concept developed in Library profession
- UGC Fellow

Hobbies

His main hobby is reading and writing. Collection of Postal Stamps, Collection of newspaper cuttings on Pune city. Teaching and learning is his unique hobby, sharing of experiences among the young professionals.

Personal Life

Dr Mahajan has 4 brothers and one sister. He married with Sow. Prabha in 1958. His wife also contributed a lot and supported him in developing his carrier. He has two sons and one daughter, grandsons and granddaughters. He spends his time in his family members, all members support him for his activities.

Retired Life

He retired in 1992, but still very active in Profession. He is enjoying his life with his family members and also guides to youngsters in the profession. Still spending half, a day in reading and compiling data and intellectual writing. He spends some time in recreation also. He is presently residing in his bungalow “Saraswati Vihar” at 27, Swatishri Society, Ganesh Nagar, Behind COSMOS Bank, Near Alankar Police station, Pune 411052. Residence 020-25465206. He is available to everyone and spend time with visitors happily.

Publications

125 research articles are on his credit, which were published and presented in national and International conferences and workshops. 89 Books. Guided 6 PhD

and 4 M Phil Research scholars.

He Published his books on various areas including LIS viz. Maharashtra State Library Association (7), Pune VidhyathriGruha Pune (15), English Books (11), On The city of Pune (8), for YCMOU (7),MLIS (2), IGNOU (3), Research Guidance (6)Publications from Pune University Jayakar Library (13), Other publications (17). At present he is writing on “Habits of successful Librarians” (List of 83 Publications is Appended at the end)

There are many newspaper clippings written by other library professionals on Dr Mahajan sir.

Message to young Library Professionals

His views are totally different, whatever he has earned in terms of knowledge, as an experienced professional, hewants to return to society by way of sharing his ideas in writing. He advised the professionals to:

- Compile reference books useful to profession and society like compilation of bibliographies, biography of eminent personalities in localities,
- Preparation of subject dictionaries (ParibhashaKosh)
- Directories of professionals and experts with their biodata
- Compilation of charittrakosha in Marathi
- Prepare directories of librarians, booksellers, publishers,
- Compile who's who of librarians, medical professionals useful to society in general

Publish books which are useful to society and profession.

Member of LIS associations

He is a life member of many professional associations, few notables are:

- ILA (Indian Library Association, Delhi)
- IASLIC (India Association for Special Library and Information Centres)
- IATLIS
- PULISAA

Initiatives in Developing Library Networks:

He was active member of PUNENET, and guided it for some years. He was past president of PULISAA.

An All Rounder, Planner and Forecaster

He has proposed a plan to UGC for developing his LIS department at Pune University as an “advanced center in Library and Information Science”. His Plan of PUNENET for resource sharing was accepted by NISSAT (DSIR) Delhi and worked as its first Director from 1992-1994. He participated as member of committee on different organisations and put forth his plans and vision to UGC, INFLIBNET, DSIR, ICSSR, IGNOU, YCLMOU and UGC- CDC.

Very rare to find such a down to earth professional who served library profession efficiently and his contribution I valuable as a guiding pole to new entrants.



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