

## **MyLISA OPENS - Secretary Speech**

Most revered and honourable President of the function Prof. R. Vasudeva Murthy, respected professor and Registrar (Evaluation) of University of Mysore Dr. Shrijay Devaraj Urs, the honourable Secretary of Mahajana's Institute and Guest of Honour for the day's function Sri. Naga Srinivasa, the principal of Mahajana's College Prof. K.V. Prabhakar, my friend and the President of MyLISA Sri Nagaraj, my student and the librarian of Mahajana's college Smt. Veena, and participants, media persons and other invitees:

Mysore Librarians and Information Scientists Association (MyLISA) is a professional association established in 2001 to provide a platform to share and exchange information among LIS Professionals working in and around Mysore. The idea of starting a professional association was conceived during the first quarter of 2001 and finally it was formally inaugurated on 26th May 2001 in the form of MyLISA by in the presence of stalwarts like Sri. N.V. Sathyanarayana, Chairman and MD of Informatics India Ltd, Bangalore and Sri. R. Vasudeva Murthy, President, Mahajana Education Society, and the then the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S. N. Hegde. It has been since then very much active in professional development. MyLISA over the years has carved a niche for itself as one of the unique regional association in the field of library and information profession. MyLISA is active in organizing lectures, conducting workshops, conferences and demos. Very recently, we celebrated 12th annual day function with the honourable vice-chancellor K.S. Rangappa and our beloved professor Shalini R. Urs.

With more than 190 members, MyLISA has been a catalyst for greater cooperation between the libraries in Mysore region. It has been striving hard to promote academic and professional interests among its members. The challenges of learning the new technologies required by the librarians are met by various MyLISA programmes. MyLISA works with other Regional and National Associations for connecting with professionals from the other parts of the country. This type of collaboration has helped MyLISA in bringing some of the good practices elsewhere to the local libraries. It has also attracted a few international speakers in the past. The details of the activities of MyLISA can be got from <http://mylisamysore.weebly.com>.

MyLISA is in its middle of the childhood now. On 26th May it completed 12 years. It has almost completed its play age and entering into its teen age. This is the time for its physical and mental growth. We believe that the growth that MyLISA achieves during this period will define the adolescent life it will have in future. It is with this sense of responsibility, the new executive committee has to work. We are sure under the stewardship and guidance of people like Prof. Shalini R. Urs, Prof. Mallinath Kumbar and others our growth will be purposeful.

I vividly remember the days when a few of us wanted to start this association with a lot of enthusiasm. There were discussions whether we want an association in Mysore at the first place. A few senior professionals mentioned about earlier attempts of starting such an association of librarians. They cautioned us that starting an association is easier but sustaining it for a long period is a difficult proposition. In spite of these warnings, we thought we should go ahead with the idea of starting an association. Librarians in Mysore hardly used to meet. In fact, for years, if not decades, a librarian wouldn't have met or seen his/her fellow librarians working in other institutions. In those days Conferences/Seminars in LIS field were happening once in blue moon. Conferences and other

academic events were perceived more as elites' paradise. There was no platform for the local librarians to discuss and exchange views among themselves about the professional problems that they face, the best practices that they follow, transfer their skills and knowledge to fellow professional and so on. Moreover, Mysore is having many educational and research institutions, unlike other small cities in India. Mysore was also seen as the next city for the starting industrial establishments after Bangalore. All these organizations were having libraries and information centers. We thought by assembling together information workers from all the sectors of libraries – like academic libraries, industrial libraries, special libraries, research libraries, public libraries we would be able to further the development of libraries in this Mysore region. When we started assembling, the size of the group bulged beyond our expectation. 36 library professionals became the founder members of this association which was started way back in 2001.

The association was given an attractive acronym – MyLISA. Officially, its expansion stands for Mysore Librarians and Information Scientists Association. However, the 'My' component of the name also indicates that every member of the association would feel that the association is their own association working for them, by them and of them. We have now 135 life members and 50 annual members. When the present executive committee took charge two-months ago, there were 76 life members. Within a span of two months or so, more than 100 library professionals from in and around Mysore have become members of MyLISA. This number has a story to tell. The professionals are looking at MyLISA with great ambition. It is now the MyLISA's responsibility to take up the challenge and work for the common academic cause of the professionals. I, as the new incumbent Secretary of MyLISA, assure that we would work for the overall development of the Association and its members. The present MyLISA OPENS is one such event in that direction.

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysore, has been the most collaborating institute with MyLISA. We had a number of activities at MyDLIS, Mysore. MyLISA, being an association of librarians from many institutions, we have also collaborated other institutions as well. We have had various kinds of activities in collaboration with Mysore University Library, Saradavilas College, JSS Institutions, Somani College, SDM/IMD, and Karnataka State Libraries Association (KALA).

MyLISA members provide consultancy services under the banner of MyLISA. In particular MyLISA is being looked for the consultancy services related to library automation, setting up of digital libraries, establishing institutional repositories and developing the websites for libraries. The services in this context have been received by CAVA, Rangayana, Sarada Vilas Educational Institute, VILD, Shantaveri Gopalagowda Nursing Institute and other institutions.

MyLISA news published annually lists various kinds of activities conducted during that year. All the previous years' newsletters are available at the MyLISA's website.

Coming to the present activity, we had received overwhelming requests from MyLISA members and students to organize an orientation program for NET/SLET Programme. Hence, this series called "MyLISA OPENS" has been thought of. The OPENS means for two things; firstly as an acronym it stands for 'Orientation Program for Enthusiasts in NET/SLET exam' and secondly, with the word 'OPENS' MyLISA would like to throw open its intentions and readiness to help the younger or student community in MyLISA.

In short, the features of the programme are:

- The subject area for the Programme is Library and Information Science.
- The classes will be held at Mahajana's College, Mysore.
- The classes will be held only on every Saturday afternoons (2 pm to 6 pm) and Sunday mornings (9 am to 1 pm). If required the classes will be held on public holiday's too.
- The classes will start on last week of September and continue last week of November (closes before SLET exam). We expect at least 9 to 10 week end sessions before the examinations.
- Experience teachers, librarians with required qualifications and/or experience, and others will engage the classes from Mysore, Bangalore and other nearby cities. Today we will have an expert from Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur soon after this inauguration function.
- The classes will strictly adhere to the latest syllabus of NET/SLET. The classes will enable the students to prepare for the NET/SLET examination.
- All efforts will be made to give comprehensive orientation required to the aspirants of NET/SLET to face the exam confidently in Library and Information Science. However, MyLISA can't guarantee the success of all the participants in the examination.
- The orientation programme will give training only for the papers related to Library and Information Science. The programme does not intend to cover the syllabus of the General Paper. The participants have to prepare on their own for General paper.

With this I conclude. Thanks for your patient listening.