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Association for Information Science and Technology

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SALAM NAMASTE AYUBOWAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASIS&T SOUTH ASIA CHAPTER



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Association for Information Science and Technology

south asia chapter

Message from the Chair

Dear Members and
Colleagues,

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter. As we present the first newsletter of my tenure, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our members, executive committee, and Chapter Advisors whose dedication and commitment continue to strengthen our vibrant professional community. The South Asia Chapter represents a dynamic and intellectually diverse network of scholars, researchers, practitioners, and students committed to advancing the field of information science. Our strength lies in our diversity, our collaborative spirit, and our shared commitment to learning and professional growth. We are fortunate to have an energetic and dedicated team of officers who are working diligently to make the Chapter a vibrant hub of learning, networking, and collaboration throughout the year.

I am pleased to share that this year the Chapter will organize a series of webinars and several events, both online and offline, for the South Asian community and the broader membership of the Association for Information Science and Technology. I cordially invite you all to attend and enjoy our activities.

This newsletter reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of our community. It highlights recent activities, member achievements, research initiatives, and upcoming opportunities for engagement. Notably, for the first time, we are inviting our general members to contribute directly to the newsletter. I warmly encourage you to participate in chapter events, share your ideas and research, and collaborate across institutions and borders. Your participation, feedback, and initiatives are essential to sustaining our momentum and enhancing the chapter's impact and visibility.

I look forward to working together to build a stronger, more connected, and forward-looking ASIS&T South Asia community.

With best regards,
Md. Atikuzzaman, Chair
ASIS&T South Asia Chapter

What's Inside

1. **Message from the Chair**
2. **Get to Know Our 2025–26 Team**
3. **Opinion Corner- Building Bridges: Perspectives on the ASIS&T–SLA Integration.**
4. **Voices of the Region: Language Initiatives in South Asia**
5. **Research Spotlight**
6. **Publication Spotlight**
7. **Recognition of Excellence**
8. **Event News**
9. **My Journey with South ASIS&T Asian Chapter**
10. **Webinar on AI and Cultural Heritage Data**
11. **ASIS&T 2026 Comes to Asia**



Get to Know Our 2025–26 Team



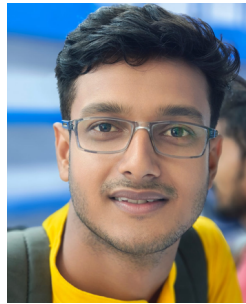
Md. Atikuzzaman
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Chapter Advisor

Opinion Corner

Building Bridges: Perspectives on the ASIS&T– SLA Integration.

In this issue of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Newsletter, we are pleased to introduce a new Opinion Corner, where we begin a conversation on the evolving discussions around the proposed ASIS&T–SLA integration. Titled “Building Bridges: Perspectives on the ASIS&T–SLA Integration,” this section features three opinion pieces.

By presenting diverse viewpoints, this section aims to foster dialogue, encourage critical engagement, and highlight the opportunities and challenges that such a development may bring.



An SLAer’s Journey: Leadership, Legacy, and a New Beginning in ASIS&T

Dr. Nabi Hasan
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Past President, SLA Asia Chapter

When an institution that has shaped generations of professionals begins to transform, it is never just an organisational change; it is a deeply personal moment for those who have grown up with it. The recent merger of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) with the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) marks one such moment, filled with reflection, emotion, and renewed possibilities.

This transition is especially profound for me. Over more than a decade, SLA has been central to my professional journey. I have had the privilege of serving in multiple leadership roles, including President of SLA Asia, the Academic & Education Community, and the Engineering Community. Most recently, I was elected President-Elect (2025) of the Leadership & Management Division (LMD). These roles were not just positions; they were platforms for learning, collaboration, and lifelong friendships.

SLA also recognised my contributions through several honours, including the Chair of the Education Committee, the Engineering Librarian of the Year Award, the Rose L. Vormelker Award, the Presidential Citation, and the distinction of being named an SLA Fellow. I also had the opportunity to serve twice as Co-Chair of the SLA Annual Conference, experiences that remain among the most enriching of my career.

When the decision to dissolve SLA was first announced, I felt compelled to share my thoughts in an open letter to the SLA community. As reflected in that letter, I urged careful reconsideration and emphasised the emotional and professional value SLA held for many of us. The association had been a pillar of the information profession for over a century, shaping careers and advancing practice globally.

Nevertheless, as transitions unfold, so must perspectives. What reassures me today is the thoughtful integration of SLA members within ASIS&T. I see genuine efforts to preserve identity and continuity. The presence of domain-specific groups such as the Engineering community, the continuation of select awards (in some cases with SLA legacy recognition), and the inclusion of former SLA leaders in governance and jury roles, myself included, signal a respectful and inclusive transition. Equally important is the alignment of professional values. ASIS&T offers a broader interdisciplinary platform where practising librarians, researchers, and information professionals can collaborate, innovate, and grow together. For many former SLA members, this transition presents not a loss, but an expansion of horizons.

My message to fellow “SLAers” is simple: while organisational structures may evolve, our professional identity, networks, and shared values endure. The spirit of SLA, its commitment to practice, leadership, and community, should continue to thrive within ASIS&T, provided we actively carry it forward.

For many of us, SLA was where we grew; ASIS&T is where we continue that journey with the same spirit, renewed purpose, and shared commitment. As someone who now proudly wishes to engage with ASIS&T, I see this not as an end but as a new beginning, one that builds on the strengths of both the communities.

Let us move ahead together, honoring the past while shaping the future.

Building Bridges: Perspectives on the ASIS&T- SLA Integration.



Prof. Dr. Debal C. Kar
Director, SLA Board of Directors, 2022
Past President of SLA Asian Chapter
2007, 2017 and 2021

The SLA Asia Community was founded in 1999 and includes over 150 members from across Asia and beyond, including India, Indonesia, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, as well as Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In addition to organizing seminars and lectures—both physical and online—across various Asian countries, SLA Asia has been hosting the International Conference of Asian Special Libraries (ICoASL) since 2008. The inaugural conference was held in New Delhi, India, as a joint initiative led by myself and Dr. P. K. Jain. Since then, ICoASL has been successfully organized in different member countries of SLA Asia, providing a vibrant platform for professional exchange.

Now, with SLA merging with the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), there lies a unique opportunity for library and information professionals to collaborate more closely, share expertise, and build stronger global networks that will benefit both associations and their members.

I would be delighted to take on any responsibilities and volunteer my services in support of the profession, as well as to collaborate on joint initiatives aimed at advancing professional development and activities.

Library and Information Science associations across the globe are at a critical juncture, navigating the twin challenges of shrinking budgets and escalating operational costs. Traditional avenues of support—such as memberships and sponsorships—have become increasingly difficult to sustain. The post-COVID landscape has further compounded these challenges, with in-person events struggling to regain pre-pandemic levels of participation.

Given that these associations are deeply intertwined with the future of libraries and information centres—which themselves are undergoing similar transitions—the proposed merger of ASIS&T and SLA is both timely and strategic. It presents a promising opportunity to consolidate strengths, streamline efforts, and reimagine a more resilient and impactful professional future.

This integration is not just a response to present challenges—it is a visionary step towards a unified, global voice for the information profession.



Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Chandra Gaur
Director, National School of Drama, India
Member, Invitee of SLA

Voices of the Region: Language Initiatives in South Asia

Research resources availability in Maithili & Hindi languages: An interview with Prof. Kamlanand Jha



Prof. Kamlanand Jha is a scholar of Hindi and Maithili literature and is associated with the Department of Hindi at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh, India. Along with teaching and research, he has contributed to literary discourse through his writings and books. Some of his notable books include *Tulsidas ka Kavya-Vivek aur Maryadabodh* (2017), *Pathyapustak Ki Rajneeti* (2011), *Masti Ki Pathashala* (2010), and *Hoti Bas Aankhen Hi Aankhen* (2011). Through his academic work, he continues to contribute to the development of Hindi and Maithili literary studies.

Satyam Kumar, the interviewer, is the Membership Officer of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter.



प्रश्न 1: शोध में स्रोत (Sources) की क्या भूमिका है?

उत्तर: किसी भी शोध (रिसर्च) को सुव्यवस्थित और प्रमाणिक रूप से प्रस्तुत करने के लिए उचित स्रोतों की उपलब्धता तथा उनका सही ढंग से उपयोग करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है। शोधकर्ता विभिन्न विधाओं में कार्य करते हैं—जैसे कहानी, कविता, नाटक तथा विभिन्न साहित्यिक कालखंडों पर—किन्तु इन सभी जानकारियों का जो मूल आधार होता है, अर्थात् प्राथमिक स्रोत (Primary Resources), उनका समुचित उपयोग एक अच्छे शोध के लिए अनिवार्य है। वास्तव में शोध का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष स्रोतों की खोज है, अर्थात् यह प्रयास कि हम मूल स्रोत तक पहुँच सकें। किन्तु आजकल यह देखा जाता है कि केवल शोधार्थी ही नहीं, बल्कि कई बार शोध निर्देशक भी कुछ हड़बड़ी में रहते हैं और प्राथमिक स्रोतों तक पहुँचने का गंभीर प्रयास नहीं करते। आज के कई शोध कार्यों में तो प्राथमिक स्रोतों को छोड़ ही दीजिए, कई बार द्वितीयक स्रोतों को भी नज़रअंदाज़ कर दिया जाता है। शोधकर्ता एक संदर्भ से दूसरे संदर्भ का सहारा लेते हुए उसी को आधार बनाकर अपने शोध को प्रस्तुत कर देते हैं। इसका मुख्य कारण यह है कि मूल स्रोत तक पहुँचना वास्तव में अत्यंत कठिन और श्रमसाध्य कार्य होता है। वास्तव में, मूल स्रोतों की खोज और उनका उपयोग करना एक प्रकार से गंभीर परिश्रम और समर्पण की माँग करने वाला कार्य है।

Question 1: What is the role of sources in research?

Answer: To present any research in a systematic and authentic manner, the availability of appropriate sources and their proper use are essential. Researchers work in different fields—such as stories, poetry, drama, and various literary periods—but the fundamental basis of all this information lies in the proper use of primary sources. The use of these primary resources is indispensable for conducting good research. In fact, the most important aspect of research is the search for sources, that is, the effort to reach the original source. However, nowadays it is often observed that not only research scholars but even research supervisors are in a hurry and do not make serious efforts to access primary sources. In many research works today, not only are primary sources ignored, but sometimes even secondary sources are overlooked.

Researchers often rely on one reference and then use another reference based on it, ultimately presenting their research on that basis. The main reason for this is that reaching the original source is actually a very difficult and labor-intensive task. In reality, the search for original sources and their proper use requires serious effort, dedication, and commitment.

प्रश्न 2: मैथिली साहित्य में शोध किन-किन विधाओं पर हो रहा है?

उत्तर: मैथिली में जो मूल रूप से शोध कार्य हो रहे हैं, उनमें भी वही प्रवृत्ति दिखाई देती है जिसका मैंने पहले उल्लेख किया। साहित्य की विभिन्न विधाओं पर काम होने की संभावना तो है, लेकिन व्यवहार में देखा जाए तो शोध मुख्यतः कुछ सीमित विधाओं तक ही सिमट कर रह गया है। आपको आश्चर्य होगा कि इनमें भी सबसे अधिक काम कहानी और उपन्यास पर ही किया जा रहा है। यदि हम आलोचना या कथेतर गद्य की ओर ध्यान दें, अर्थात् कथा और कहानी के अतिरिक्त अन्य विधाओं की बात करें—जैसे जीवनी, डायरी, संस्मरण, रिपोर्टाज, रेखाचित्र और इंटरव्यू आदि—तो ये सभी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण साहित्यिक रूप हैं। किन्तु

दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि इन पर लगभग कोई शोध कार्य नहीं हो रहा है।

परिणाम यह है कि शोध का दायरा बहुत सीमित हो जाता है और बार-बार उन्हीं कहानियों और उपन्यासों पर कार्य होने लगता है। इससे शोध में आवृत्ति और पुनरावृत्ति की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो जाती है। वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि जिन अन्य महत्वपूर्ण विधाओं की ओर मैं संकेत कर रहा हूँ, उन पर शोध क्यों नहीं हो रहा। इसका प्रमुख कारण यह है कि उन विषयों से संबंधित पर्याप्त स्रोत और संसाधन उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, जिससे शोधकर्ताओं के लिए उन क्षेत्रों में कार्य करना कठिन हो जाता है।

Question 2: On which genres is research being conducted in Maithili literature?

Answer: In Maithili literature, the research work that is being carried out also reflects the same tendency that I mentioned earlier. Although there is a possibility of working on various literary genres, in practice, it is observed that research has largely remained confined to only a few limited genres. You may be surprised to know that even among these, the maximum amount of research is being done mainly on short stories and novels.

If we look towards criticism or non-fiction prose—meaning literary forms other than stories and novels—such as biography, diary, memoir, reportage, sketches, and interviews, all of these are very important literary forms. However, unfortunately, almost no research work is being conducted on them.

As a result, the scope of research becomes very limited, and the same stories and novels are repeatedly studied. This leads to repetition and redundancy in research. The real question is why research is not being conducted on the other important genres that I have mentioned. The main reason is that adequate sources and

resources related to those subjects are not available, which makes it difficult for researchers to work in those areas.

प्रश्न 3: जब स्रोत उपलब्ध नहीं होते तो शोधकर्ता क्या कर सकते हैं?

उत्तर: मेरा मानना है कि यदि संसाधन उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, तो यह प्रश्न भी उठता है कि संसाधन उत्पन्न कौन करेगा और स्रोतों की खोज कौन करेगा। वास्तव में, स्रोतों को खोजने और उन्हें सामने लाने का कार्य शोधार्थियों का ही होता है। लेकिन प्रायः देखा जाता है कि कई शोधार्थी इस प्रकार की मेहनत से बचना चाहते हैं, या फिर उनमें वह उचित शोध दृष्टि (Research vision) नहीं विकसित हो पाती जो एक अच्छे शोध के लिए आवश्यक होती है।

कई बार ऐसा होता है कि शोधार्थी केवल औपचारिक रूप से कोर्स वर्क कर लेते हैं। शोध से संबंधित कोर्स वर्क भी प्रायः इतना तकनीकी होता है कि उससे वास्तविक शोध दृष्टि (Research vision) विकसित नहीं हो पाती। मेरे विचार से उस तकनीकी ज्ञान से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि शोधार्थी को यह समझाया जाए कि शोध दृष्टि क्या होती है और वह कैसे विकसित की जाती है। दरअसल, जिस कार्य को आप कर रहे हैं और जिस भावना तथा उद्देश्य के साथ आप उस पर कार्य कर रहे हैं, वही प्रक्रिया आपके भीतर एक सशक्त शोध दृष्टि विकसित करने वाली होनी चाहिए।

Question 3: What can researchers do when sources are not available?

Answer: In my view, if resources are not available, then the question also arises as to who will create these resources and who will search for the sources. In reality, the task of discovering and bringing sources to light belongs to the researchers themselves. However, it is often observed that many research scholars try to avoid this kind of hard work, or they are unable to develop the proper research vision that is necessary for good research.

Sometimes it happens that research scholars complete their coursework only as a formality. Even the coursework related to

research study is often so technical that it does not help in developing a genuine research vision. In my opinion, more important than technical knowledge is to make researchers understand what research vision is and how it can be developed.

In fact, the work you are doing and the spirit and purpose with which you are working on it should itself become the process that helps develop a strong research vision within you.

प्रश्न 4: हिन्दी एवं मैथिली भाषा स्रोतों की खोज और संग्रह पर आपके क्या विचार हैं?

उत्तर: जहां तक हिन्दी एवं मैथिली का प्रश्न है, यह विचार करना आवश्यक है कि स्रोत कहाँ से प्राप्त किए जाएँ और उन्हें किस प्रकार एकत्र किया जाए। सामान्यतः स्रोतों की खोज का विषय इतिहास के अनुशासन से जुड़ा माना जाता है, क्योंकि इतिहास में स्रोतों की तलाश और उनका विश्लेषण एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रक्रिया है। हालाँकि मेरी रुचि साहित्य के साथ-साथ इतिहास में भी रही है, इसलिए इस विषय में कुछ बातें मैं आप से साझा कर सकता हूँ। कई बार ऐसा होता है कि इतिहास के लिए भी साहित्य ही एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत बन जाता है। इतिहास मूलतः समाज, उसकी संस्कृति और उसकी राजनीतिक पृष्ठभूमि को समझने का प्रयास करता है। उदाहरण के लिए, इतिहास में स्रोतों की खोज के लिए खुदाई (पुरातात्विक उत्खनन) एक महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम होता है। इसी प्रकार धातुओं या अन्य प्राचीन वस्तुओं का रासायनिक परीक्षण करके भी इतिहास से संबंधित अनेक तथ्य ज्ञात किए जाते हैं। ठीक इसी तरह साहित्य भी इतिहास के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत के रूप में कार्य करता है, क्योंकि उसमें अपने समय के समाज, संस्कृति और परिस्थितियों का प्रतिबिंब मिलता है।

Question 4: What are your views on the search and collection of sources in Hindi and Maithili languages?

Answer: As far as Hindi and Maithili are concerned, it is

necessary to consider where the sources can be obtained from and how they can be collected. Generally, the search for sources is considered to be related to the discipline of history, because in history the discovery and analysis of sources is an important process. However, since I have had an interest not only in literature but also in history, I can share a few thoughts on this subject.

Sometimes it happens that literature itself becomes an important source for history. History essentially tries to understand society, its culture, and its political background. For example, excavation (archaeological digging) is an important method used in history to discover sources. Similarly, by conducting chemical tests on metals or other ancient objects, many facts related to history can also be discovered.

In the same way, literature also functions as an important source for history, because it reflects the society, culture, and circumstances of its time.

प्रश्न 5: मिथिला क्षेत्र के इतिहास को समझने के लिए साहित्यिक स्रोत कैसे मदद करते हैं?

उत्तर: मिथिला के इतिहास को समझने के लिए साहित्यिक स्रोत अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। मैथिली साहित्य के प्राचीन कवियों की रचनाएँ उस समय के समाज, संस्कृति और राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों को समझने में सहायक होती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, विद्यापति से पहले ज्योतिरेश्वर ठाकुर हुए, जिनकी प्रसिद्ध कृति 'वर्णरत्नाकर' है। यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण रचना मानी जाती है और संपूर्ण उत्तर भारत में गद्य साहित्य की आरंभिक कृतियों में इसका विशेष स्थान है।

प्राचीन समय में अधिकांश रचनाएँ काव्य रूप में ही लिखी जाती थीं। उस समय मौखिक परंपरा प्रबल होने के कारण साहित्य छंद, ताल और लय में रचा जाता था, जिससे उसे याद रखना और सुनाना आसान होता था। जैसे-जैसे चेतना का विस्तार हुआ और विचारों को अधिक

विस्तार से व्यक्त करने की आवश्यकता महसूस हुई, जैसे-जैसे गद्य का विकास और प्रसार भी हुआ।

ज्योतिरेश्वर ठाकुर के बाद विद्यापति जैसे महान कवि हुए। इन लेखकों की रचनाओं में उस समय के समाज, संस्कृति और राजनीति की झलक मिलती है। इसलिए इतिहासकार और शोधकर्ता इन साहित्यिक कृतियों को स्रोत के रूप में ग्रहण करते हैं और इनके आधार पर उस समय की परिस्थितियों को समझने और उनका विश्लेषण करने का प्रयास करते हैं।

Question 5: How do literary sources help in understanding the history of the Mithila region?

Answer: Literary sources play a very important role in understanding the history of Mithila. The works of ancient poets of Maithili literature help in understanding the society, culture, and political conditions of that time. For example, before Vidyapati there was Jyotireeshwar Thakur, whose famous work Varnaratnakar is considered very important. It holds a special place among the early prose works in the whole of North India.

In ancient times, most literary works were written in poetic form. Because the oral tradition was strong during that period, literature was composed in meter, rhythm, and melody, which made it easier to remember and recite. As awareness expanded and the need to express ideas in greater detail was felt, prose gradually developed and spread.

After Jyotireeshwar Thakur, great poets such as Vidyapati emerged. In the works of these writers, glimpses of the society, culture, and politics of that time can be found. Therefore, historians and researchers accept these literary works as sources and, on the basis of them, try to understand and analyze the conditions of that period.

प्रश्न 6: मिथिला क्षेत्र के इतिहास से संबंधित प्रमुख पुस्तकें और स्रोत कौन से हैं?

उत्तर: मिथिला क्षेत्र के इतिहास को समझने के लिए कुछ महत्वपूर्ण पुस्तकें और स्रोत उपलब्ध हैं। उदाहरण के लिए "Mithila in the Age of Vidyapati" एक महत्वपूर्ण पुस्तक है, जिसमें विद्यापति कालीन मिथिला के इतिहास और उस समय की सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक परिस्थितियों का विस्तार से वर्णन मिलता है।

इसके अतिरिक्त इतिहासकार उपेंद्र ठाकुर की पुस्तक "History of Mithila" भी मिथिला के इतिहास पर एक अत्यंत प्रसिद्ध और महत्वपूर्ण कृति मानी जाती है। इसके साथ ही कामेश्वर सिंह संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा भी मिथिला के इतिहास से संबंधित कई महत्वपूर्ण पुस्तकें प्रकाशित की गई हैं। इन सभी पुस्तकों में जो प्रमुख स्रोत उपयोग किए गए हैं, वे मुख्यतः विद्यापति तथा उनसे एक-दो पीढ़ी पहले के कवियों की रचनाएँ हैं। इन्हीं साहित्यिक कृतियों के आधार पर शोधकर्ता उस समय के इतिहास, समाज और संस्कृति से संबंधित तथ्यों को एकत्र करते हैं और मिथिला के अतीत को समझने का प्रयास करते हैं।

Question 6: What are the major books and sources related to the history of the Mithila region?

Answer: To understand the history of Mithila region, several important books and sources are available. For example, Mithila in the Age of Vidyapati is an important book in which the history of Mithila during the period of Vidyapati and the social and cultural conditions of that time are described in detail.

In addition to this, the historian Upendra Thakur's book History of Mithila is also considered a very well-known and significant work on the history of Mithila. Along with this, Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University has also published several important books related to the history of Mithila.

In all these books, the major

Sources used are mainly the works of Vidyapati and the poets who belonged to one or two generations before him. On the basis of these literary works, researchers collect information related to the history, society, and culture of that time and attempt to understand the past of Mithila.

प्रश्न 7: वर्तमान समय में मैथिली शोध की स्थिति कैसी है? और शोधकर्ता अपने शोध कार्य हेतु कहाँ अपने स्रोत की तलाश कर सकते हैं?

उत्तर: वर्तमान समय में यह प्रश्न अक्सर उठता है कि शोधकर्ता अपने लिए आवश्यक स्रोत कहाँ से प्राप्त करें और उन्हें किस प्रकार खोजें। इस संदर्भ में यह कहना पड़ता है कि मैथिली शोध की स्थिति कुछ हद तक दयनीय प्रतीत होती है। मैथिली से संबंधित पुराने और महत्वपूर्ण स्रोतों की तलाश के लिए गिनी-चुनी चार-पाँच ही ऐसी पुस्तकालयें हैं, जहाँ शोधकर्ता कुछ सामग्री प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। लेकिन वहाँ भी व्यवस्थित व्यवस्था या सुसंगठित प्रणाली का अभाव दिखाई देता है। परिणामस्वरूप शोधार्थियों के लिए आवश्यक स्रोतों की खोज और उनका समुचित उपयोग करना कठिन हो जाता है, जिससे मैथिली शोध के विकास में भी बाधाएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।

Question 7: What is the present condition of Maithili research? And where can researchers look for sources for their research work?

Answer: In the present time, the question is often raised as to where researchers can obtain the sources necessary for their work and how they can search for them. In this context, it must be said that the condition of Maithili research appears somewhat pitiable. For the search of old and important sources related to Maithili, there are only four or five libraries where researchers can find some relevant material. However, even in these places, there is often a lack of proper organization and systematic arrangement. As a

result, it becomes difficult for research scholars to locate and properly utilize the required sources. This situation creates obstacles in the development and progress of research in Maithili.

प्रश्न 8: पुस्तकालयों में स्रोतों के संरक्षण और उपलब्धता की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

उत्तर: वर्तमान समय में मिथिला क्षेत्र के कई पुराने विश्वविद्यालयों और पुस्तकालयों में महत्वपूर्ण पांडुलिपियाँ और दुर्लभ स्रोत तो उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन उनकी संरक्षण व्यवस्था और उपयोग की प्रणाली पर्याप्त रूप से विकसित नहीं है। आज के समय में पुस्तकालय और सूचना विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में अनेक नई तकनीकें विकसित हो चुकी हैं, जिनके माध्यम से पांडुलिपियों और दुर्लभ पुस्तकों को सुरक्षित रखा जा सकता है तथा शोधार्थियों को आसानी से उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है।

किन्तु बिहार के कई पुराने विश्वविद्यालयों और सरकारी पुस्तकालयों में इस प्रकार की आधुनिक व्यवस्था अभी भी बहुत सीमित है। उदाहरण के लिए, कामेश्वर सिंह संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय का पुस्तकालय अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। वहाँ संस्कृत, मैथिली, हिंदी तथा मिथिला की संस्कृति और इतिहास से संबंधित अनेक दुर्लभ स्रोत सुरक्षित हैं। यहाँ तक कि तालपत्रों पर लिखी हुई पांडुलिपियाँ और प्राचीन प्राकृतिक स्याही से लिखे हुए दस्तावेज भी वहाँ उपलब्ध हैं। कहा जाता है कि वहाँ हजारों पांडुलिपियाँ सुरक्षित हैं, लेकिन उनकी स्थिति और व्यवस्था अभी भी पूरी तरह व्यवस्थित नहीं है।

इसी प्रकार दरभंगा के कमराघाट में स्थित मिथिला रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट भी मिथिला की संस्कृति, इतिहास और राजनीति से जुड़े स्रोतों के संरक्षण के उद्देश्य से स्थापित किया गया था। यह संस्थान आज भी बिहार सरकार के अधीन कार्य कर रहा है, लेकिन समय के साथ इसकी स्थिति में अपेक्षित सुधार नहीं हो पाया है। इसके अतिरिक्त दरभंगा में ही राज दरभंगा न्यास द्वारा संचालित एक पुराना सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालय भी है, जहाँ अनेक दुर्लभ पुस्तकें और दस्तावेज सुरक्षित हैं, किन्तु वहाँ भी पर्याप्त स्टाफ और संसाधनों के अभाव के कारण शोधार्थियों को सामग्री प्राप्त करने में कठिनाई होती है।

इन परिस्थितियों के बावजूद कुछ सकारात्मक प्रयास भी हुए हैं। उदाहरण के लिए मैथिली की कुछ महत्वपूर्ण पत्रिकाएँ

और डिजिटल मंच आज शोध के लिए उपयोगी सामग्री उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं। इनमें “सदेह” नामक मुद्रित पत्रिका तथा “विदेह” उपयोगी सामग्री उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं। इनमें “सदेह” नामक मुद्रित पत्रिका तथा “विदेह” नामक ऑनलाइन पत्रिका विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय हैं। इन मंचों पर मैथिली साहित्य और संस्कृति से संबंधित अनेक महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है।

एक महत्वपूर्ण कार्य यह भी हुआ है कि मिथिलांचल की प्रसिद्ध पंजी प्रथा से संबंधित वंशावली अभिलेखों का डिजिटलीकरण किया गया है। यह पंजी प्रथा ब्राह्मण और कायस्थ समुदायों की कई पीढ़ियों की वंशावली को संरक्षित रखती है, जो इतिहास के दृष्टिकोण से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है। इस प्रकार के प्रयास यह संकेत देते हैं कि यदि उचित जागरूकता और प्रयास किए जाएँ तो मिथिला के ऐतिहासिक और साहित्यिक स्रोतों को सुरक्षित और उपयोगी बनाया जा सकता है।

Question 8: What is the present condition of preservation and availability of sources in libraries?

Answer: At present, many old universities and libraries in the Mithila region possess important manuscripts and rare sources. However, their systems of preservation and accessibility are not adequately developed. Today, many new technologies have emerged in the field of Library and Information Science through which manuscripts and rare books can be preserved and made easily accessible to researchers.

However, in many old universities and government libraries in Bihar, such modern arrangements are still very limited. For example, the library of Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University is extremely important. It contains many rare sources related to Sanskrit, Maithili, Hindi, and the culture and history of Mithila. There are even

manuscripts written on palm leaves and documents written with ancient natural ink. It is said that thousands of manuscripts are preserved there, but their condition and arrangement are still not fully organized.

Similarly, the Mithila Research Institute located at Kamaraghat in Darbhanga was established with the objective of preserving sources related to the culture, history, and politics of Mithila. This institution is still functioning under the Government of Bihar, but over time its condition has not improved as expected. In addition, there is also an old public library in Darbhanga operated by the Raj Darbhanga Trust, where many rare books and documents are preserved. However, due to the lack of sufficient staff and resources, researchers often face difficulties in obtaining materials.

Despite these circumstances, some positive efforts have also been made. For example, some important Maithili journals and digital platforms are now providing useful materials for research. Among them, the printed journal *Sadeh* and the online journal *Videh* are particularly noteworthy. These platforms are making a large amount of important material related to Maithili literature and culture available.

Another significant development is the digitization of genealogical records related to the famous Panji tradition of Mithilanchal. This Panji system preserves the genealogies of several generations of the Brahmin and Kayastha communities, which is an extremely important source from a historical perspective. Such efforts indicate that with proper awareness and initiatives, the historical and literary sources of Mithila can be preserved and made more useful.

प्रश्न 9: पुस्तकालयों और शोध के संदर्भ में डिजिटलाइजेशन की भूमिका क्या है?

उत्तर: समय के साथ ज्ञान के संरक्षण की पद्धतियाँ भी बदलती रही हैं। पहले महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री को तालपत्रों पर सुरक्षित रखा जाता था, बाद में पुस्तकों के रूप में उन्हें पुस्तकालयों में संरक्षित किया जाने लगा। आज के समय में ज्ञान के संरक्षण का सबसे प्रभावी माध्यम डिजिटलाइजेशन बनता जा रहा है।

डिजिटलाइजेशन के माध्यम से दुर्लभ पांडुलिपियों, पुस्तकों और दस्तावेजों को सुरक्षित किया जा सकता है तथा उन्हें व्यापक स्तर पर उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है। हालांकि इसकी अपनी कुछ सीमाएँ भी हैं। एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि डिजिटल डेटा का नियंत्रण किसके पास है और उसकी पहुँच किन लोगों तक है। इसके अतिरिक्त भारत जैसे देश में अभी भी बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जिनके पास डिजिटल संसाधनों तक सहज पहुँच नहीं है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अनेक विद्यार्थियों के पास व्यक्तिगत मोबाइल या इंटरनेट की सुविधा भी नहीं होती।

ऐसी स्थिति में पारंपरिक पुस्तकालयों की भूमिका अभी भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बनी हुई है। पुस्तकालयों में जाकर सीधे पुस्तक पढ़ने की व्यवस्था कई लोगों के लिए अधिक उपयोगी और सुलभ होती है। इसलिए ज्ञान के संरक्षण और प्रसार के लिए डिजिटल माध्यम और पारंपरिक पुस्तकालय दोनों का संतुलित उपयोग आवश्यक है।

Question 9: What is the role of digitization in the context of libraries and research?

Answer: Over time, the methods of preserving knowledge have also changed. Earlier, important materials were preserved on palm leaves, and later they began to be preserved in libraries in the form of books. In the present era, digitization is gradually becoming the most effective medium for the preservation of knowledge.

Through digitization, rare manuscripts, books, and documents can be preserved and made accessible on a wider scale. However, it also has certain limitations. One important question is who controls the digital data and who has access

to it. Moreover, in a country like India, there are still many people who do not have easy access to digital resources. In rural areas, many students do not even have personal mobile phones or internet facilities.

In such a situation, the role of traditional libraries still remains extremely important. The facility of visiting libraries and reading books directly is often more useful and accessible for many people. Therefore, for the preservation and dissemination of knowledge, a balanced use of both digital media and traditional libraries is necessary.

प्रश्न 10: पुस्तकालय कर्मियों के लिए क्या महत्वपूर्ण गुण होने चाहिए?

उत्तर: पुस्तकालय में कार्य करना केवल एक साधारण नौकरी नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक ऐसा कार्य है जिसमें ज्ञान और पाठकों के प्रति विशेष लगाव होना आवश्यक है। यदि कोई व्यक्ति केवल नौकरी की भावना से पुस्तकालय में काम करता है और उसे पुस्तकों या पाठकों से कोई विशेष रुचि नहीं है, तो वह एक अच्छा पुस्तकालय कर्मी नहीं बन सकता।

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि पुस्तकालय कर्मी का व्यवहार पाठक और विद्यार्थियों के प्रति सहयोगपूर्ण और मित्रवत होना चाहिए। जब कोई विद्यार्थी किसी पुस्तक की खोज में पुस्तकालय आता है, तो पुस्तकालय कर्मी को पूरी ईमानदारी से उसकी सहायता करनी चाहिए। कई अच्छे पुस्तकालयों में यह देखा गया है कि कर्मचारी लंबे समय तक खोज कर भी पाठक को आवश्यक पुस्तक उपलब्ध कराने का प्रयास करते हैं। दूसरी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि पुस्तकालय कर्मी स्वयं भी एक अच्छा पाठक होना चाहिए। यदि उसे पढ़ने और सीखने की संस्कृति से लगाव होगा, तभी वह पुस्तकालय के महत्व को सही रूप में समझ पाएगा। इसके साथ ही उसे समय-समय पर नई तकनीकों और आधुनिक प्रणालियों को भी सीखते रहना चाहिए, ताकि पुस्तकालय की सेवाओं को और बेहतर बनाया जा सके।

Question 10: What important qualities should a library

professionals possess?

Answer: Working in a library is not merely an ordinary job; it is a profession that requires a special interest in knowledge and a genuine concern for readers. If a person works in a library only with the mindset of doing a job and has no real interest in books or readers, then it becomes difficult for that person to become a good library professional.

The most important quality is that the behavior of library staff should be cooperative and friendly toward readers and students. When a student comes to the library in search of a book, the library professional should sincerely try to assist them. In many well-functioning libraries, it is observed that the staff make continuous efforts and search extensively to provide the required book to the reader.

Another important aspect is that a library professional should also be a good reader. If they have an attachment to reading and learning, only then can they truly understand the importance of a library. Along with this, they should also keep learning new technologies and modern systems from time to time so that library services can be improved and made more effective.

प्रश्न 11: भाषा और साहित्य पर शोध का क्या महत्व है?

उत्तर: भाषा पर शोध का महत्व अत्यंत व्यापक है, क्योंकि भाषा केवल संप्रेषण का माध्यम नहीं है, बल्कि वह किसी समाज की संस्कृति, इतिहास और परंपरा की वाहक भी होती है। यदि किसी भाषा का अध्ययन और शोध बंद हो जाए, तो धीरे-धीरे उस भाषा से जुड़ी सांस्कृतिक परंपराएँ भी समाप्त होने लगती हैं।

किसी भी साहित्यिक कृति को देखें तो उसमें केवल भाषा ही नहीं होती, बल्कि उस समय का पूरा सामाजिक और ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ भी समाहित होता है। उदाहरण के लिए यदि हम किसी प्रसिद्ध उपन्यास का अध्ययन करते हैं, तो उसमें उस समय की सामाजिक स्थिति, आर्थिक व्यवस्था,

राजनीतिक परिस्थितियाँ और मानवीय संबंधों की झलक भी मिलती है। इस प्रकार भाषा और साहित्य पर किया गया शोध वास्तव में उस पूरे समय और समाज को समझने का माध्यम बन जाता है। इसलिए यदि हमें अपनी सांस्कृतिक परंपरा, इतिहास और सामाजिक विकास को निरंतरता में समझना है, तो भाषा और साहित्य पर शोध करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

Question 11: What is the importance of research on language and literature?

Answer: Research on language has a very broad significance because language is not only a medium of communication but also a carrier of a society's culture, history, and traditions. If the study and research of a language stop, then gradually the cultural traditions associated with that language also begin to disappear.

If we look at any literary work, it does not contain only language; it also includes the entire social and historical context of that time. For example, when we study a famous novel, we also find reflections of the social conditions, economic system, political circumstances, and human relationships of that period.

Thus, research conducted on language and literature actually becomes a means of understanding the entire period and society. Therefore, if we want to understand our cultural traditions, history, and social development in continuity, research on language and literature becomes extremely essential.

प्रश्न 12: मिथिला में शोध के लिए प्रमुख स्रोत कहाँ उपलब्ध हैं?

उत्तर: यदि कोई शोधार्थी मिथिला के इतिहास, साहित्य और संस्कृति पर गंभीरता से कार्य करना चाहता है, तो उसके लिए कुछ प्रमुख संस्थान अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

इनमें सबसे प्रमुख स्थान कामेश्वर सिंह संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय का पुस्तकालय है, जहाँ मिथिला से संबंधित अनेक प्राचीन और दुर्लभ स्रोत सुरक्षित हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त दरभंगा के कमराघाट स्थित मिथिला रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट भी मिथिला के इतिहास और संस्कृति से संबंधित सामग्री का एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र है। इन दोनों स्थानों पर शोधार्थियों को मिथिला से जुड़े अनेक मूल स्रोत और दस्तावेज मिल सकते हैं, जो गंभीर शोध कार्य के लिए अत्यंत उपयोगी सिद्ध हो सकते हैं।

इन संस्थानों के माध्यम से शोधार्थी मिथिला के साहित्य, इतिहास और सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री प्राप्त कर सकते हैं और अपने शोध कार्य को अधिक प्रमाणिक और समृद्ध बना सकते हैं।

Question 12: Where are the major sources available for research in Mithila?

Answer: If a researcher wants to work seriously on the history, literature, and culture of Mithila, there are some important institutions that are extremely significant. Among them, the most prominent is the library of Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University, where many ancient and rare sources related to Mithila are preserved.

In addition, the Mithila Research Institute located at Kamaraghat in Darbhanga is also an important center for materials related to the history and culture of Mithila. At both of these places, researchers can find many original sources and documents connected with Mithila, which can be very useful for serious research work.

Through these institutions, researchers can obtain important materials related to the literature, history, and cultural traditions of Mithila and make their research work more authentic and enriched.

Project AI-Driven LIS – Advancing Library Education in South Asia through AI Integration in Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment

We are pleased to announce the launch of the project “AI-Driven LIS”, funded under the Chapter Development Fund by ASIS&T (2025–2027). This initiative aims to transform Library and Information Science (LIS) education across South Asia through the meaningful integration of Artificial Intelligence in pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment practices.

As the information landscape evolves rapidly with technological advancements, the need to equip LIS professionals with AI-driven competencies has become crucial. This project seeks to bridge that gap by introducing innovative teaching approaches, developing AI-integrated curriculum models, and fostering practical engagement with emerging tools and technologies.

Objectives:

1. How can AI be integrated into LIS pedagogy to enhance student engagement, learning experiences, and teaching efficiency?
2. What are the current gaps in AI content within South Asian LIS curricula, and how can they be addressed to build an AI-ready workforce?
3. What impact do AI-driven assessment tools have on the efficiency, fairness, and transparency of evaluating LIS students?
4. What ethical and practical challenges arise from the use of AI in teaching, learning, and assessment in LIS schools?

Looking Ahead

Through collaborative efforts, workshops, and knowledge-sharing activities, the project aspires to create a strong foundation for AI-enabled LIS education in the region. It also aims to build a network of educators, researchers, and practitioners committed to innovation and excellence in the field.

We look forward to engaging with the academic and professional community as we embark on this transformative journey.



Chapter Development Fund by ASIS&T (2025-2027)

Project "AI-Driven LIS"

TRANSFORMING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE EDUCATION IN SOUTH ASIA THROUGH AI INTEGRATION IN PEDAGOGY, CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Meet our team

 <p>DR. SYAMILI C. (PI) Assistant Professor, Dept. of Library and Information Science, University of Calicut, India.</p>	 <p>DR. MD. ANWARUL ISLAM Professor, Dept. of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.</p>	 <p>MD. ATIKUZZAMAN Assistant Professor, Institute of Information Sciences, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh.</p>
 <p>MRS. SAKEENA ALIKHAN Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.</p>	 <p>MS. AYSHA ZAKHIYA A. Research Scholar, Dept. of Library and Information Science, University of Calicut, India.</p>	 <p>MS. AHALYA Library and Information Assistant, NIT Calicut, India.</p>

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UPDATES, EVENTS, AND
OPPORTUNITIES UNDER
THE "AI-DRIVEN LIS"
PROJECT.**

Comparison of female university students' experience of hate speech in social media and real life in Bangladesh



Hate speech is a prevalent issue, particularly within the social media environment. Young adults, especially female students, are the most targeted victims of hate speech, identified in several studies. Taking this issue into consideration, Fowzia Rahman Ankita, an undergraduate student of the Information Science discipline, under the supervision of Md. Atikuzzaman explored how female students in a public university in Bangladesh experienced hate speech in both offline and online contexts. Their study primarily examined the kinds and reasons of hate speech that female students encountered in both settings, as well as their attitudes toward hate speech. However, this study conceptualized sexual harassment as one of several indicators of gender-based hate speech, alongside other antagonistic behaviors such as bullying, trolling, body shaming and verbal abuse.

The study used a quantitative method to collect data from female undergraduate and graduate students at a public university in Bangladesh. Google Forms was used to develop the survey questionnaire, which was distributed to the students using different social media platforms. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, many students were unwilling to respond, though they were assured that no identifiable information would be collected through the questionnaire. Eventually, 260 students provided their honest feedback.

The study revealed some significant findings. Firstly, female students experienced similar types of hate speech, including bad comments, harassment, trolling and body shaming equally in both environments more than one time. Secondly, they became victims of hate speech for nearly similar reasons, including their gender, physical appearance and skin color.

Read the full Paper:

Ankita FR, Atikuzzaman M (2026), "Navigating hate: comparison of female university students' experience of hate speech in social media and real life in Bangladesh". Global Knowledge, Memory and Communication, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC-12-2024-0859>

Statistical tests also found substantial similarities in the types and reasons of hate speech in both offline and online contexts. Thirdly, most of the students urged that hate speech must be punished both on social media and in real life, as it has a great emotional and psychological influence on them, which results in a negative impact on their studies. Finally, students of various ages, academic levels, religious affiliations, and socioeconomic backgrounds had similar and widespread sentiments toward hate speech.

The report suggests a comprehensive strategy for minimizing hate speech against female students in both online and offline settings. It emphasizes culturally grounded awareness campaigns that challenge patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes, as well as active participation from universities, families, and community groups. Institutions should implement explicit anti-hate speech rules, accessible reporting systems, and confidential support services, while government officials should tighten cyber safety laws and enforcement measures.

Recognition of Professional Achievement

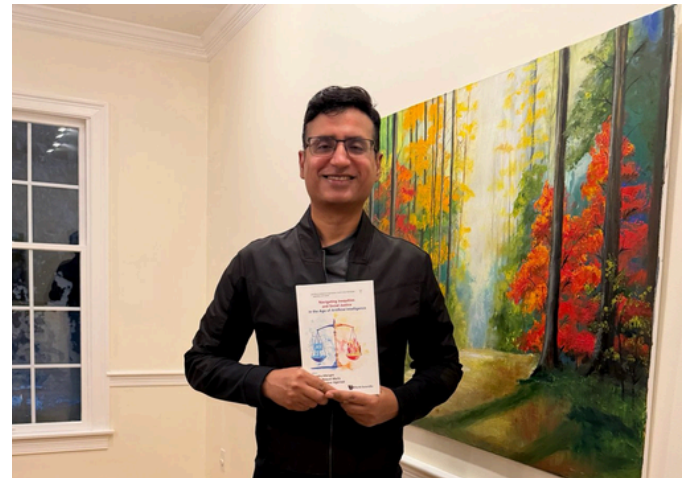


Bhakti Gala, PhD
Assistant Professor
Central University of Gujarat, India

We are pleased to share that Dr. Bhakti Gala, Advisor of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter, has been selected as Director-at-Large of ASIS&T (2023-26), in recognition of her active engagement and contributions to the professional community.

We also take pride in noting that she is currently serving on the Education Committee of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI).

Her achievements are a matter of great pride for the Chapter and continue to inspire our community.



Naresh Agarwal, Ph.D.
Professor and Director, Information Science
& Tech Concentration
Simmons University School of Library and
Information Science

We are pleased to share that Naresh Agarwal, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Information Science & Tech Concentration at Simmons University School of Library and Information Science and Advisor of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter, has been awarded the **Bob Williams History Fund Research Grant** by the Association for Information Science and Technology. The grant recognizes an outstanding research proposal exploring the history of information science and technology. We also congratulate him on the publication of the edited volume *Navigating Inequities and Social Justice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, co-edited with Kendra Albright, Ph.D., and Tereza Raquel Merlo, Ph.D. The book brings together contributions from 36 scholars and practitioners across 18 chapters, based on works presented at the International Conference on Knowledge Management (ICKM 2024). It examines critical themes such as bias in AI algorithms, ethical frameworks for governance, equitable access to technology, inclusive decision-making through knowledge management, and the role of AI in education. This achievement highlights significant scholarly contributions to advancing discussions on AI, ethics, and social justice.



Jannatul Islam Muna
Secretary
BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Event News

ASIS&T SA & IIKM-4, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Building Bridges in Information Science: ASIS&T South Asia Chapter's Impact through IIKM-4

In Bangladesh, the 4th International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (IIKM-4) had taken place from 16-18 September 2025 which was hosted by department of Information Studies, East West University in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference theme was "From Access to Action: Rethinking Information Practices in an AI-driven Society" and was a place of regional information professionals, faculties and researcher of information science field where many national and international professionals contributed and presented their paper through active participation. It was a three-day long conference where inaugural ceremony held on 16th September 2025 and rest of the days for parallel sessions where 70 papers were presented by researchers. The conference advisor was Professor Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin and Jean-Charles Lamirel and Dr Bernd Markscheffel were the keynote speakers of this conference. Professor Dr. Dilara Begum and Dr. Md. Saiful Alam was the chair of this conference.

The ASIS&T SA Chapter played a prominent and impactful role as a sponsor. Beyond financial sponsorship, the Chapter's contribution was also strongly visible through active professional engagement. One of the Advisors of the ASIS&T South Asia Chapter Professor Dr. Anwarul Islam served as a session chair, guiding scholarly discussions and facilitating academic exchange during the conference. This leadership role highlighted the Chapter's intellectual involvement and its commitment to shaping dialogue on critical issues within information and knowledge management. Additionally, the current chair Md. Atikuzzaman and secretary Jannatul Islam Muna of the ASIS&T South Asia chapter played key roles as members of the Organizing Committee, contributing to the planning, coordination, and successful execution of the conference.

Their hands-on participation reflected the chapter's dedication not only to supporting events in name but also to ensuring their academic quality and organizational excellence. One of the central contributions of the SA chapter was its role in encouraging regional participation and visibility in an international academic forum. Conferences like IIKM-4 serve as gateways for scholars to present their work, build networks, and engage with interdisciplinary perspectives.

The ASIS&T South Asia Chapter's sponsorship and active involvement in IIKM-4 were not merely ceremonial but represented a strategic contribution to advancing research, professional development, and regional collaboration in information and knowledge management. Through leadership roles, organizational participation, and scholarly engagement, the chapter reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the LIS community in South Asia and positioning the region as an active contributor to the global information science landscape.



My Journey with ASIS&T South Asia Chapter



QAZI IMRAN AHMAD

Treasurer, ASIS&T South Asia Chapter
Librarian, District & Session Court Kasur,
Punjab, Pakistan

My journey with ASIS&T began last year when I joined the association to connect more deeply with the global information science community. As a practicing librarian, my professional work is rooted in improving access to information and supporting diverse user communities.

I currently serve as a Librarian at the District & Session Court, Kasur, Punjab, Pakistan. In this role, I work closely with legal information resources and users, gaining first-hand insight into how structured information systems support access to justice and institutional effectiveness. This practical engagement continually shapes my perspective as both a professional and researcher.

Alongside my professional responsibilities, I have been actively involved in research focusing on marginalized communities. My work on the information seeking behaviour of transgender individuals examined the structural and social barriers affecting equitable access to information. I was honoured to receive a Best Research Award from ASIS&T for this work, which further strengthened my commitment to inclusive and socially responsive information practice.

Becoming part of ASIS&T has enabled me to connect my professional experience with global scholarly dialogue. Through its publications, webinars, and professional networks, ASIS&T provides a valuable platform for learning, collaboration, and leadership development.

I am currently privileged to serve as Treasurer within ASIS&T. In this role, I contribute to the financial stewardship and sustainability of the association while developing my governance and leadership skills. Serving in this capacity has deepened my appreciation for the collaborative effort required to sustain a vibrant and inclusive professional community.

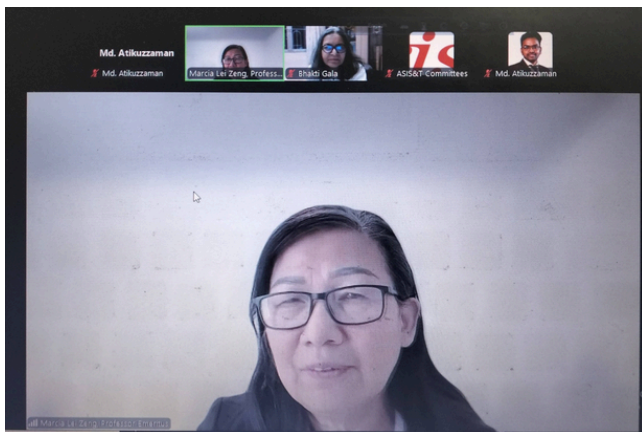
As an information professional from Pakistan, I value ASIS&T as a space that welcomes diverse perspectives and supports members in growing, leading, and contributing meaningfully to the field of information science and technology.

Event News
 ASIS&T SA Chapter
 in Collaboration with
 DCMI Education
 Committee

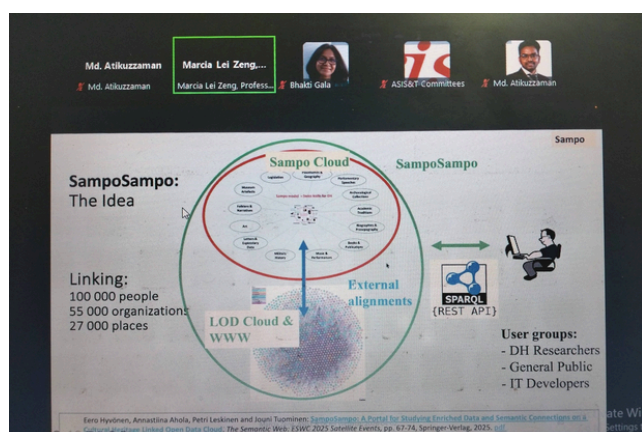
**Webinar
 on
 Generating Smart Data for Diverse
 Cultural Heritage Resources in the
 New Era of AI - Exploring the
 Opportunities and Challenges**



2ND APRIL 2026



The webinar focused on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in developing smart, interoperable, and meaningful data for diverse cultural heritage resources. It addressed key issues such as data quality, ethical considerations, and challenges in integrating AI into existing information systems. The session highlighted the concept of “smart data” and discussed the complexities of processing non-textual and non-machine-readable cultural heritage materials. It also emphasized the potential of AI-assisted approaches and the importance of Knowledge Organization Systems (KOS) in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of AI applications in this domain.



The session was delivered by Marcia Lei Zeng, Professor at the School of Information, Kent State University, USA, and Chair of the DCMI Education Committee, who provided valuable global perspectives drawn from her expertise in metadata, knowledge organization, and digital libraries. The webinar was moderated by Bhakti Gala, who facilitated the discussion and ensured active engagement throughout the session.

The webinar offered participants important insights into the application of AI in cultural heritage contexts, while emphasizing the need for ethical and quality-driven approaches in data development and management.



Event News

ASIS&T SA & ISLM
Career Counseling Club,
University of Dhaka,
Bangladesh

WORKSHOP ON DIGITAL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION FOR YOUTH



The ISLM Career Counseling Club, University of Dhaka, in collaboration with ASIS&T South Asia Chapter and Activate Rights, organized a workshop on “Digital Rights and Democratic Participation for Youth” on 9 February 2026. Held at the ISLM Department, the workshop engaged 15 selected students and focused on building awareness of ethical, legal, and technical aspects of the digital environment.

The programme featured inaugural remarks by faculty members and included three key sessions on digital rights, information integrity, and digital safety. Experts from Activate Rights led interactive discussions on the role of digital rights, the impact of information ecosystems on democracy, and practical strategies for maintaining online safety and managing digital footprints.

The workshop emphasized individual responsibility in navigating today’s complex information landscape and successfully empowered students to become informed and responsible digital citizens.

ASIS&T 2026 COMES TO ASIA: OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH ASIA ENGAGEMENT



The 89th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) will be held from 6–10 November 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. This year's theme, ***“Crossing Boundaries: Advancing Global Dialogue and Well-being through Information Research and Practice,”*** highlights the importance of international collaboration and inclusive knowledge exchange.

Notably, this is a significant moment as the ASIS&T Annual Meeting comes to Asia, offering increased accessibility and participation opportunities for scholars and professionals from the region.

Paper Submission & Registration Deadlines

Paper Submission

Paper Proposal Submission Deadline:

9 April 2026, 11:59 PM (EDT)

Notification of Acceptance:

19 May 2026*

Camera-ready Abstract Submission:

18 June 2026, 11:59 PM (EDT)

Registration Deadlines

Early Bird Registration:

6 August 2026

Advance Registration:

19 October 2026



2026 ASIS&T Annual Meeting

89th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology 6-10 November | Bangkok, Thailand Crossing Boundaries: Advancing Global Dialogu...

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- Inside ASIS&T Newsletter
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