

Editorial

'Oriental Literature and Librarianship' is a neglected area in *'Library Schools'* which are either overstrained with *'Traditional'* and *'New and Emerging'* modules or smell such courses less aromatic. On the other side, the heritage of the East is diverse in scholarship, formats, languages and modes of appearance-a multitude of scripts (extinct to ancient), florescence of formats (palm leaves to Birch , papyrus to Kashmiri paper , microforms to digital) - a spacious turf to understand, decipher, calendar, catalogue, preserve and conserve with a blend of old, new and dynamic technology. Government agencies, NGO's and individuals are doing their bit but less concern of university schools and a fading line of Oriental scholars , for varied reasons , seem mysterious to be looked into in order to review, motivate and promote programmes. The initiatives of the West are blossoming with an incremental trend of research and innovations but in India, we are not yet gearing up to the extent required. It needs stake-holders to join in order to preserve, disseminate and decode our indigenous knowledge and literature. The researchers, scholars and institutions have a major role to play.

Understanding the disquiet and motivated by international efforts, we made a tiny beginning to fetch out a bunch of papers under a theme of "***Oriental Literature and Librarianship***". We tried to catch hold of many experts but to our dismay, failed to receive an apt attention. However, few scholars responded to our call, the result of which is being presented here after editing and polishing to have it in tune with our scheme of standards.

The seven papers, in this issue, are of varied interest. The two papers are from the pen of founder director of Arabic and Persian Research Institute (Tonk, Rajasthan), ***Mr. Shahibzada Shaukat Ali Khan***, a renowned orientalist. One paper puts across experiences of cataloguing, classification and calendaring. The second paper portrays prestigious institute of 'Tonk' highlighting its development and collection. A paper by ***Professor Kanwal Amin*** of Punjab University (Lahore) along with a research scholar, ***Ms Farzana Shafique*** is a survey of world famous Oriental collection of the Subcontinent. Two young scholars, ***Mrs. Rosy Jan and Ms. Ishrat Bakshi***, have done subject analysis of the prestigious collection available in Oriental Research Library, Srinagar J&K (India) which demands further analysis at deeper and intellectual level. We have included it in the issue to encourage them and instigate others. One theoretical paper by a working Librarian from Aligarh, ***Dr. Mohammad Yousuf*** is about designing of a model curriculum for '*Oriental Librarianship*' for India. This document can be developed as a working paper for further deliberation to form a ground for introducing a course on '*Oriental Librarianship*' in select institutions of the country. An article by Switzerland based librarians, ***John Paul Anbu K and Marion L. N. Chibambo*** draw our attention to

preservation challenges of the digital literature in modern era. This discourse has already set in for consolidation and research. *Dr. Saulat Ali Khan's* description of a manuscript of Persian literature- an intellectual area allied to Oriental Literature- helps one to bring information readily available about lesser known documents. Hence, it should be our endeavour to include description of such manuscripts for the scholars and lovers of Oriental Studies. Lastly, we hope that scholars and authors will come forward to inscribe more case studies, profiles, theoretical or opinion papers about concerns of *Oriental Literature and Librarianship*. It will ultimately help to disseminate culture, rich heritage and indigenous knowledge from anywhere. We have given a call. After all, the choice lies with contributors. We could have included more papers in this issue but due to some constraints, we can not do so. However, hope to have another issue on the theme in future. Let me thank all contributors for their contributions, patience and my team for their efforts in making the issue.

(*S. M. Shafi*)