Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS)

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(Founded in 1969)

IATLIS-Motiwale Best LIS Teacher Award -2012

Conferred on Prof. S. M. Shafi

Citation

Dr. S. Mohammad Shafi, Professor & Chairman of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kashmir, Srinagar (J & K), India since 2005, was born on 10 March, 1954. He obtained B.Sc. and later qualified J&K Civil Services Examination, but his keen interest to pursue further studies did not lure him to coveted administrative services. Hence, he has done MLISc from Delhi University and M.A. (Political Science) from Punjab University, Chandigarh. He obtained his doctorate in LIS from Kashmir University.

His keen interest in Computer Applications to Information Studies has led him to specialize in Open Access to Knowledge and Statistical Techniques and many other computer related projects. During 1987, he had the opportunity to work with late Prof. Ganesh Bhattacharya (DRTC, I.S.I, Bangalore) on a project related with Common Communication Format (CCF) for developing a common protocol/format for exchange of data between two or more computer based systems. This, later on, became pivotal in framing many allied proposals for presentation and deliberation at many international forums. He successfully concluded two national projects viz. (i) Database of Medieval Manuscripts sponsored by U.G.C, one of the distinctive endeavours to document precious resources available in different libraries and archives of Kashmir and (ii) Digital Library of Flora, with main aim to document the economic and medicinal potential of flora of J & K sponsored by DSIR, New Delhi, now available @ www.jkflora.org.in

His ability to carve out a niche in different situations makes him a respected person among the academic and professional circles. One of his latest ideas is of developing a digital repository (KNooR i.e. Knowledge Repository Open Access Network) for three prime academic and research institutes of Kashmir viz. University of Kashmir, SKUAST-K and SKIMS to harvest and disseminate the scholarly and intellectual contributions of these institutions, now available @ http:// dspaces.Uok.edu.in:8080/ dspace / and updated and reviewed on daily basis.
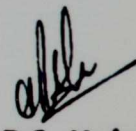
Under his leadership and guidance, the Department has taken many initiatives, like modernising LIS education in J & K State as a whole, two fully equipped ICT labs in the Department with many licensed and Open Source Softwares. He regularly organizes National level workshops, seminars and symposia. His belief that quality professionals offer excellent services made him to put every effort to prepare budding professionals with every trait of the profession. He has pushed the idea of a Preservation and Conservation lab in the Department that could help manage issues pertaining to preservation, conservation and maintenance of rare and precious documents with professional acumen. Recently, he earned (DRS_I)(2011-16) under UGC(New Delhi) SAP to upgrade teaching and research activities for the department which is becoming instrumental in establishing Digital Research Centre for the Department, etc.

Prof. Shafi is a prolific writer having more than 60 research papers in National and International journals to his credit. He has participated in 20 National, 6 International conferences and 12 workshops so far. Prof. Shafi is a widely traveled person in India and abroad. During the last few years, he has visited Turkey, Canada, and Iran for professional assignments. Prof. Shafi is quite a well known professional with his 25 years of teaching and research experience. He has successfully supervised 15 M.Phil and 12 Ph.D scholars. Prof. Shafi is the founder Editor of a peer reviewed and indexed biannual journal "Trends in Information Management" (TRIM) since 2005 which has gained overwhelming response in India and abroad in a short period. The Journal has now become available online in Open Access mode on many platforms like EBSCO, INFLIBNET, beside University of Kashmir Portal.

In recognition of his professional competency and dedication, the Council and Members of IATLIS are pleased to confer on Prof. S. M. Shafi the IATLIS- Motiwale Best LIS Teacher Award -2012

(Dr. Jagtar Singh)
President

(Dr. H.P.S. Kalra)
General Secretary