



Knowledge Commons: Libraries as Catalysts for Viksit Bharat 2047



Editors

Dr. Rajkumar Bhakar | Dr. Shraddha Kalla | Dr. Qumar Abbas



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PREFACE

It is a great pleasure that Rajasthan Technical Library Association is organising its 11th Conference “International Conference on Knowledge Commons: Libraries as Catalysts for Viksit Bharat 2047. These two days event will witness deliberations, discussions from Librarians, Educators and Information Professionals from across the World. The blueprint for Viksit Bharat—a developed India by 2047—is built upon the pillars of economic self-reliance, social evolution, and, most importantly, a robust knowledge economy. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the library has moved far beyond its traditional identity as a quiet room of books. It has emerged as the Knowledge Commons: a shared, democratic space where information is converted into opportunity. This book, Knowledge Commons: Library as Catalyst for Viksit Bharat serves as a comprehensive exploration of how our information institutions are driving this national metamorphosis. By fostering an environment of lifelong learning and equitable access, libraries are acting as the quiet engines of India’s progress.

The Ten Pillars of Transformation

The chapters within this volume are meticulously organized to address the multi-faceted role of modern libraries through ten strategic subthemes:

Libraries as Knowledge Hubs: Positioning libraries as the central nervous system of community intellectual life.

- * **Digital Inclusion and Access:** Bridging the digital divide to ensure every citizen has a seat at the global table.

- * **Knowledge Creation and Dissemination:** Transitioning from passive storage to active centers of research and publishing.

- * **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Building social capital by making the library a welcoming space for all demographics.

- * **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Providing the tools, from high-speed internet to maker spaces, that spark the next generation of Indian startups.

- * **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Modernizing the way we protect India’s vast linguistic and historical legacy for future generations.

- * **Library Policy and Governance:** Advocating for the legislative frameworks required to sustain 21st-century libraries.

- * **Capacity Building and Professional Development:** Equipping librarians with the skills to be information architects and digital navigators.

- * **Technology and Emerging Trends:** Integrating AI, Blockchain, and Big Data into the fabric of information management.

- * **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Encouraging synergy between government, academia, and the private sector.

Towards 2047

A Developed India is not just defined by its infrastructure of steel and silicon, but by the intellectual infrastructure of its people. The Knowledge Commons is where this infrastructure is built. This book is an invitation to librarians, educators, and policymakers to rethink the potential of our libraries as the ultimate catalysts for a smarter, more inclusive, and empowered nation. The board of editors extend their gratitude for the hard borne efforts of members of International National Advisory Committee, Patron members and members of organizing committee of Conference and authors, reviewers, and editors who contributed to the development of this edited book.

Editors

Dr. Rajkumar Bhakar
Dr. Shraddha Kalla
Dr. Qumar Abbas



Foreword

It is a moment of immense pride to host the 11th Rajasthan Technical Library Conference—an International Conference on “Knowledge Commons: Libraries as Catalysts for Viksit Bharat 2047” on February 21–22, 2026, at IIHMR University, Jaipur. As India advances with clarity and conviction toward the aspiration of Viksit Bharat 2047, we are reminded that the strength of a nation is ultimately measured by the depth of its knowledge systems and the inclusivity of its intellectual growth. In a century defined by technological acceleration and the democratisation of information, knowledge is no longer merely a resource—it is the very currency of national progress.

Libraries, once regarded as quiet repositories, are now being redefined as vibrant Knowledge Commons—spaces where access meets opportunity, and learning transforms into leadership. They represent the intellectual conscience of a nation and serve as bridges between tradition and transformation. For India to claim its place as a global knowledge leader, our libraries must evolve beyond their conventional roles to become catalysts of innovation, equity, and societal advancement. This volume arrives at a pivotal juncture, offering both direction and inspiration for this necessary evolution.

A Vision for an Empowered Knowledge Society

What distinguishes this work is its expansive and future-oriented perspective. It invites us to view libraries not simply as institutions, but as ecosystems that nurture human potential. By foregrounding digital inclusion and emerging technologies, the contributors affirm that the library of the future must seamlessly integrate technological capability with intellectual stewardship—ensuring that no citizen is left behind in the knowledge revolution.

The emphasis on innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement signals a transformative shift. Libraries are no longer spaces where history is archived alone; they are arenas where the future is imagined, designed, and realised. As custodians of cultural heritage and champions of progressive policy and governance, libraries possess the power to strengthen democratic participation, stimulate creativity, and foster resilient communities. This volume presents a compelling blueprint for institutional renewal aligned with the aspirations of a confident and forward-looking India.

The Stewards of Transformation

At the heart of this evolution stand our librarians and information professionals—the stewards of knowledge and the architects of informed societies. Their continuous capacity building and professional development will determine how effectively we navigate the complexities of the information age. Equally vital is the spirit of partnership and collaboration that this work advocates, calling upon government, academia, industry, and civil society to collectively invest in these engines of intellectual capital. The journey toward Viksit Bharat demands nothing less than such shared commitment.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the editors and contributors for their vision and scholarly leadership. This book is not merely an academic contribution; it is a declaration of intent. It challenges us to reimagine the library as a lighthouse—guiding India toward a future that is knowledgeable, innovative, inclusive, and globally respected.

I am confident that this volume will inspire policymakers, academicians, and thought leaders alike, serving as a strategic guide in our collective endeavour to build an intellectually sovereign and developed nation. Let us move forward with the conviction that when knowledge is made accessible to all, progress becomes inevitable and the promise of Viksit Bharat draws ever closer.



Dr. P.R.Sodani
President, IIHMR University, Jaipur

About Editors



Dr. Rajkumar Bhakar

Dr. Rajkumar Bhakar is the founding member and Patron of Rajasthan Technical Library Association (RTLTA). He is constantly working for the development of libraries and the library profession in Rajasthan. He was elected as Vice President of the Indian Library Association (ILA) from 2019 to 2022 and served ILA Council 2016 to 2019. He also served in the Indian Army for 16 years before entering the Library and Information Profession.

Dr. Bhakar is currently employed as a Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at JJT University, Jhunjhunu. He has over 40 years of experience in the Library and Information Science profession, with a focus on library administration and resource management as well as in Indian army.

Dr Bhakar is a member of the advisory board of the Journal of Advanced Research in Library and Information Science. As a promising researcher, he co-edited three books and contributed chapters to several books published in India. He also published more than Sixty research papers in National and International journals and gave presentations at Conferences. Sixteen scholars have awarded PHD degrees under his supervision.

Dr Bhakar worked as a Chief Librarian in Ananta Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre in Rajsamand and Pacific Institute of Medical Sciences in Udaipur. He also served as a Chief Librarian in the Sri Balaji group of Institution, Jaipur. He has recipient of Best Technical Librarian Award and Shining Star Award from Rajasthan Technical Library Association.



Dr. Shraddha Kalla

Dr. Shraddha Kalla is the President of the Rajasthan Technical Library Association and an experienced, dedicated Library and Information Science professional with over 24 years of expertise in library administration, digital transformation, and academic research support. She has successfully trained more than 500 professionals and has made significant contributions to national and international academic conferences.

Currently, Dr. Kalla serves as Librarian at IIHMR University, where she leads library operations, implements advanced digital solutions, and supports teaching, learning, and research activities. She has published and presented several research papers and book chapters in reputed journals and conference proceedings.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the profession, Dr. Shraddha Kalla was conferred the **Best Technical Librarian Award** by the Rajasthan Technical Library Association in 2017 and the **Best Teacher Award** by Bansal School of Engineering & Technology, Jaipur.



Dr. Kumar Abbas

Dr. Kumar Abbas, M.A.(Geography), MLIS, M.Phil & PhD.(LIS) He is currently working in Government Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College, Ajmer as a Deputy Librarian. He has an experience of 22+ years in LIS. He has also completed CPDL, RSCIT & some Library Automation Courses from UGC, NISCAIR, DELNET etc. He participated in more than 50 seminars, workshops and conferences. He also presented /published 30 papers in National and International Conferences, Journals. He also contributed 4 Conference Proceedings & 2 Edited Books. He is also associated with various Universities LIS Department and has experienced to teach students of DLIS, BLIS. He is successfully Coordinated and served as webinar Technical coordinator & organizing Secretary for 11 webinars of medical Library Association of India , 3 webinars of ASLIP & 3 webinars of Rajasthan Technical Library Association (RTLA).

He was also an Organizing Secretary of many Conferences, Workshop including: 68th ILA International Conference- 2023, ASLIP CONCLAVE 2023 - International Conference on Library Technology Relationship, National Conference on Multidisciplinary Research, trends and approaches (held at SKDU, Hanumangarh) & Convenor of KOHA Workshop-2024 (held at SKIT, Jaipur). Presently he is Senior Advisor of RTLA, Technical adviser of ASLIP. He is also worked for the post of Council Member, Treasurer, Vice President & President of RTLA & Ex. Treasurer of FHSLA & Vice President RMLA. He is Open Council Member of Indian Library Association (2025-28). He has a recipient of many awards at State and National level including 1. Best Progressive Librarian Award from the Association of Senior Library & Information Professionals. 2. Best Technical Librarian Award from the Rajasthan Technical Library Association, 3. Best Young Librarian Award from the Medical Library Association of India, 4. Award for extraordinary Services from the Ajmer Muslim Welfare Organization, 5. Recipient of Appreciation Letter from Govt. J.L.N. Medical College, Ajmer, 6. Gibson Gold Medal from Govt. College, Ajmer, 7. Principal medal from Govt. College, Ajmer Etc. He is also a life member of ILA, ASLIP, RTLA, FHSLA, JASTS.

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