**Special Feature**

Dr Anwarul Islam's TLT Interview

**Professional**

**Excellence**

# Special Feature

# Dr Anwarul Islam's interview

**The Librarian Times has a fantastic interview with Dr Anwarul Islam who is currently playing a significant role in developing a modern library management system in Bangladesh within the limited resources.   He talks about his current duties, projects, future plan and many other issues on the library sectors of Bangladesh:**

**Could you please describe your duties as the university librarian?**

As a librarian and as the head of the library I manage the library services. My working place is a specialized public university library. The library has about 50 thousand collections. More than 1900 students and teachers are enrolled in borrower database. It is ICT equipped RFID enhanced fully automated library. 25 personnel are serving in this library. Most recent e-capabilities enhanced facilities have been introduced under the funding of University Grants Commission- Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (UGC-HEQEP) (Under the World Bank's soft Loan). This library has a mini server room with 6 servers to serve the patrons. As a librarian I have to maintain the servers too.

As a librarian I am careful about the recent trends of the library services. The library has free WiFi for providing e-learning facilities. Recent years the e-access capacities to the reading materials have been increased significantly. Most of the library patrons are capable to get access to e-Materials from their smart phones, Tab, Laptop and PC.

Due to that I am trying to develop the trends patrons towards the digital diffusion. I also coordinate with academic staff, students and researchers to make sure they have available access to resources.

**Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you are considering to implement in your library in the near future.**

Afore mentioned sub-project titled "e-Capabilities Enhancement of the SBAU Library for Learning, Teaching and Research Development" has been completed in June 2016. Overall objectives of the sub-project have been achieved. OPAC, IR, PKP, Android App (SAUL Android) etc. tertiary services facilities have been developed under the subproject.

This library has applied for the supplementary fund under the titled "e-Capabilities Enhancement of the SBAU Library, Further Enhancement with Virtual Reality (VR) Cell to Enhance the Pre-practical Knowledge for the Students" has been submitted to the UGC-HEQEP. Hope the result will be published soon.

### Ahiduzzaman Liton has achieved 'Education Watch' Award 2017
Md. Ahasan Habib | April 13 | Dhaka

Joint Secretary General of Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB), Librarian, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh and Columnist Ahiduzzaman Liton has been awarded by the Education based Monthly Magazine 'Education Watch' for his outstanding contribution in the education sector. Awarding ceremony was held on 10 April 2017 at Kabi Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Head, Quality Assurance Unit, UGC, Professor Hosne Ara Begum, Director of Institute of Education & Research of University of Dhaka and Md. Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, Chairman Debate for Democracy were present in the event as Special Guest.

In the program, several numbers of institutions were also awarded for their outstanding contribution in the education sector and a large number of 'A' level passing out students was awarded for the brilliant results. Mrs. Zeba Ali, Founder Principal of Maple Leaf International School achieved life time Award for International Education since 1972.

### Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC) Launches with Early Success

by I4OC | info@i4oc.org | on April 06, 2017

Six organizations today announced the establishment of the Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC): OpenCitations, the Wikimedia Foundation, PLOS, eLife, DataCite, and the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University. The Association of Research Libraries is among 33 stakeholder projects and organizations—including the California Digital Library, the Center for Open Science, the Internet Archive, Mozilla, and the Wellcome Trust—that have formally put their names behind I4OC in support of openly accessible citations.

Source: https://i4oc.org/

### Get inspired for National Library Week with these five quick stories

OCLC 10 April 2017

April 9 through 15 is National Library Week in the United States, an annual observance that has been sponsored by the American Library Association since 1958. Because we're a global organization, we'd like to take an opportunity to celebrate libraries all around the world. Whether it's through access to technology, information literacy, diverse collections or opportunities for community engagement, libraries connect people to knowledge and make breakthroughs happen.

Source: http://www.oclc.org/blog/main/celebrating-libraries/

### Copyright: the immoveable barrier that open access advocates underestimated

Richard Poynder | 20 February 2017

In calling for research papers to be made freely available open access advocates promised that doing so would lead to a simpler, less costly, more democratic, and more effective scholarly communication system.

In-depth blog post on open access and the effect of copyright.

Full Reading: http://www.richardpoynder.co.uk/Copyright.pdf

## Internet Librarian 2017

OCTOBER 23-25

Monterey Marriott | 350 Calle Principal | Monterey, CA 93940

Internet Librarian will be held in beautiful Monterey, California. All official event activities will take place at the Monterey Marriott.

Source: http://internet-librarian.infotoday.com/2017/

## 2017 the 3rd International Conference on Communication and Information Processing

Tokyo, Japan during Nov 24-26, 2017

ICCIP is an annual conference of Communication and Information Processing for all researchers home and abroad. This conference focus on Communication and Information Processing. It provides a valuable opportunity for researchers ,scholars and scientists to exchange their ideas face to face We have the strong organization team, dependable reputation and wide sponsors all around the world. More details:
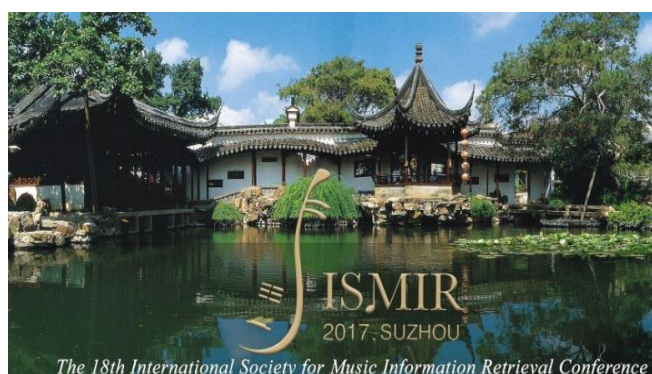
**http://www.iccip.org/**

## CIKM 2017 : The 26th 2017 ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management

Nov 6, 2017 - Nov 10, 2017 |SINGAPORE

CIKM is a top-tier ACM conference in the areas of information retrieval, knowledge management and databases. Since 1992.

Submission Deadline: 16th May, 2017 |  More details:

http://www.cikm2017.org/index.html#firstPage

## The 18th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference

 Suzhou, China, October **23-28, 2017**

Paper Submissions, Registration Deadlines and others can be found:

https://ismir2017.smcnus.org/

## The LSN and working group on Guidelines for Library Services to People Experiencing Homelessness invites you to review the draft of the guidelines.

10 April 2017

The draft text and more complete information will be found at the IFLA LSN webpage.

https://www.ifla.org/node/9764

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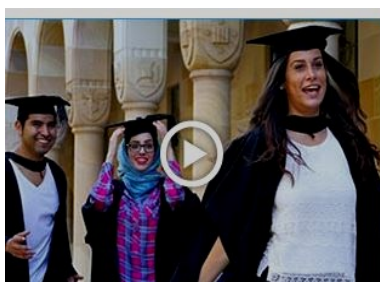
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6 April 2017

## Job opportunity at IFLA Headquarters: Communications Officer

There is a vacancy at IFLA Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands for the position of: Communications Officer (deadline: 30 April 2017)

Details : https://www.ifla.org/node/11326

## Admission in Master of Library Management & Information Science

Master in Library Management & Information Science program of the Royal University of Dhaka is a one of the best Master's program in the country which was approved by the Govt. and UGC for the first time among private universities in Bangladesh in 2006. Around 180 students are studying in this department now. The admission of Summer 2017 semester of this program is going on and the class will be started on May 5, 2017.
More information:
Dr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman
Cell: 0714085060
Head and Associate Professor
Dept. of Library Management & Information Science

Interview continuing page

The main objectives of the sub-projects are-Establishment of a Virtual Reality (VR) cell in Library; To provide learners with a virtual environment where they can develop their skills without the real-world consequences of failing. Enhancement the practical knowledge of the students through the 3D digital and Virtual environment with Virtual Tools;  Introducing next generation learning tools in VR & 3D digital environment in Education; Animated 3D & VR Videos will be visualized for supporting pre-practical knowledge in 3D & VR environment. Introducing education 2.0 in Library 2.0 environment.

**Description of the services:**

The VR cell aims to show the videos regarding the practical and theoretical knowledge in agriculture and allied sciences for the students with virtual reality tools and 3D videos.

The VR cell will collect the videos from the web sources on agricultural and allied sciences to make the understanding clearly to the students. The VR cell will be capable to produce videos or 3D pictures of the agricultural and allied sciences step by step.

Some examples. i.e. Photosynthesis process; Seed germination process; DNA and RNA replication; Metamorphosis of insects;

Animal body dissection; etc. The aforementioned practical scenarios are not very easy to visualize for the students. But VR videos or 3D videos are able enough to help the students for their better understanding with visualization.

**What volunteer or social activities have helped you develop professional skills?**

I was associated with BALID and LAB from the early hood of my professional life. I was elected as the Vice-President in BALID for the two terms. And I was elected in LAB as Vice-President for one term, and was elected again as Organizing Secretary for another 3 years term. But I failed the last election of LAB.

Among these organizations especially BALID helped me to expand my horizon. The seniors of the BALID executive committee acted as a pathfinder.

**As a successful library professional how do you motivate others?**

 If I see my early professional carrier and my present position, I will see my devotion for achieving the target. Prime Minister's Office's IT Cell helped me a lot to enhance my IT knowledge. I have completed my Post-Graduate Diploma in Computer Science and Applications from Bangladesh Open University in 1999. I attended several programming training from PMO, I have completed CISCO, trained on SQL Server, FoxPro, etc. I attended training on TCP/IP routing technique in Japan. All I have achieved for keeping good relation with IT Cell of PMO. I build LMS software in 2004 with PhP and MySql. This is still being used in PMO Library. My suggestion is that if you join in this profession, keep good relation with IT cell of your institute. Without the knowledge of IT, it is very hard to progress. The mission should be set for the long period. You should remember that the Rome was not build in a day.

**What is your philosophy towards your work?**

Serve to the patrons more than the usual and waiting for the favourable time. My philosophy is All Day I Dream About my Library (ADIDAL).

**If you have a say in the decision taken by management and (say) if you are quite against theirs, will you stick on with your decision?**

Without any protest, I will maintain slow pace, and will wait for the favourable time.

**Can you share with us your ideas about how you can attract young professionals in the library industry?**

They should own the profession by heart. I suggest them to join in any position which he gets first. Positive thinking should be carried regarding professional job. They should set a goal and try to reach the target. The future of the library is bright, newly implied creative study system will enhance the library using trends in near future.

**How do you define success and how do you measure up to your own definition?**

Defining success is very hard.  I feel that "Success means achieving the targets". Measuring the success depends on the targets; if the targets are unlimited or untouchable then it will be very hard to measure. Success is varied from man to man and different perspectives. A successful professional may not be successful in all aspect of life.

As a library professional our success may be measured in a particular scale. Suppose I have joined in Primary Teachers' Training Institute as an Assistant Librarian Cum Cataloguer in 1995 in 14th grade (pay scale). In the same year I got two appointment letters and joined in Prime Minister's Office Library as a librarian in grade 10th, later than the post has been upgraded to the 9th grade. After the completion of my PhD, I was appointed as the Chief Librarian in Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in 2009 in 4th grade. Later I have joined in Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University as Librarian in 3rd grade of the pay scale. I took a lot of risk of service length for the pension benefit or for the accidental death. Finally, my previous job has been counted for pension. May I tell "I am successful"? Although, the present job is the highest in our profession in public sector, but still I am confused regarding the success. Ha ha ha! I have changed my jobs and all the GPF funds I have consumed, so my balance is Zero. I could not achieve any assets for my family. So ...???

**Who has inspired you in your life and why?**

My inspiration is my father who has completed graduation before my birth, joined in a public service and passed his service life without any promotion. I joined as the same in a blocked post. Hence, I planned to switch over and prepared myself for competition.

**As a person what do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?**

The will-power and devotion are my greatest strengths. As a library professional and as a new stuff in a newly organized library (who starts journey with new dimension), I usually spend extra two hours without remuneration for its development. A little knowledge on ICT and patience helped me to develop my carrier.  My weakness is my "emotion".

The end.