DR. SHIYALI RAMAMRITA RANGANATHAN
(1892-1972)
CD ON HIS LIFE AND WORKS

0 INTRODUCTION

Dr. Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (9th Aug. 1892 - 27th Sep. 1972) is recognized by the library and information profession world over as the one who gave the fundamental laws of library and information service, and the theoretical foundations of information organization, more particularly of its tools – classification, cataloguing and indexing. His contributions cover almost the whole spectrum of library and information work and service, including book production, physical bibliography, management of and services in different types of libraries and information centres, design of library buildings, furniture and fittings, standards for library and documentation processes, library legislation and policy at state, national and international levels.

With the view to ensuring the continuance of research and high level of teaching in Library and Information Science, he formed Library Research Groups/Circles, initiated and nurtured the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC), Bangalore, as a division of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, and with the consent of his family members established the Sarada Ranganathan Chair in Library Science in the Madras University, Chennai. For the dissemination of results of research, he started periodicals, such as, the Annals of Library Science and Documentation (1954), Library Science with a slant to Documentation (1954) (now SRELS Journal of Information Management) and produced a large a large volume of writings – books, reports, articles in periodicals and conference papers. As a means of supporting to the research, and dissemination of research findings, he established the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, with a small contribution from his former students, augmented by the royalty from the sale of his books. The Endowment is registered (1963) as a charitable trust with the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments Government of India.

The main objectives of the Endowment are:

- Furthering the cause of library and information service.
- Organising Seminars and Workshops on recent developments in library and information science and related fields.
- Organising periodically courses of lectures on recent developments in library and information science and related fields by national and international experts.
- Supporting the publication of these lectures and of other nascent ideas in the field of library and information science.

The Endowment organizes three lecture series:

- Sarada Ranganathan Endowment Lectures (1965-);
- Dr. S.R. Ranganathan Memorial Lectures (1973-); and
- Curzon Co. Seshachalam Lectures (2001-).

Over the past forty years, the Endowment has published 35 books, 40 volumes of the SRELS Journal of Information Management and organized 10 Workshops, 8 Seminars and 37 Lectures.

For his outstanding contributions, Dr. Ranganathan received many honours, awards and appreciations from institutions and organizations in India and abroad. His birthday is celebrated as "Library Science Day" by many libraries and library and information associations in India. The Alumni Association of the DRTC, Bangalore, has instituted an annual Five Law Lectures delivered by an alumni of DRTC on 27 September.

It was thoughtful of the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India, to have selected Dr. Ranganathan as the first biographee in its series of biographies of great scientists of India.

1 CONTENTS OF CD

The databases and files relate to the following: Selected papers on knowledge organization; Extracts from letters, Quotations, Bibliography, Life sketch and chronology of events, Photo gallery, Video, and Credits.

1.1 Papers on Knowledge Organization

Six papers dealing with basic ideas on classification, indexing and information organization. The papers on Dr. SRR's Fifty years' experience in the development of Colon Classification, and Library classification through a century, have not been published before.

1.2 Extracts from Letters

These extracts from about 500 letters (out of a collection of over 4000 letters) present Dr. SRR's views, comments, and suggestions relating to professional and technical matters in the library and information field, responding to the letters he received from students and library and information professionals in India and abroad. The letters and extracts were selected and edited by Prof. S. Parthasarathy, a student, colleague and close associate of Dr. SRR.

1.3 Memorabilia – Quotations

This is a selection of some 330 quotations from the works of Dr. SRR. A book of the same title, edited by Dr. M.A.Gopinath, was published by the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science in 1994.

1.4 Bibliography

This select list consists of 3405 citations to works by Dr. SRR and the rest to writings by others citing Dr. SRR. The bibliography includes references to several short biographies of scientists by Dr. SRR.

1.5 Life Sketch and Chronology of Events

These are edited and updated versions of contributions by Dr. M.A.Gopinath to the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, ed by Allen Kent and others, Vol. 25, 1978, published by Marcel Dekkar Inc., New York.

1.6 Photo Gallery

The gallery consisting of over 160 photographs were provided by Shri R.Yogeshwar, son of Dr. SRR. The photos present a range of subjects relating to Dr. SRR: places of birth and childhood, school and college, family, friends and colleagues, libraries – buildings, furniture and other objects, activities, associations, meetings and conferences at the national and international levels, etc.

1.7 Video

The original videocassette was prepared by Shri Randor Guy on the occasion of Dr. SRR's birth centenary celebrations in 1992. The video presents vignettes from Dr.SRR's life and times, and comments on and appreciation of his genius by his students, colleagues and others.

1.8 Credits

Acknowledgement of the contributions of a number of persons to the making of the CD.

1   GUIDELINE TO SRRCD

The databases have been designed and developed using Unesco's WINISIS 1.4. The procedure to use the CD is in the **GUIDELINE TO SRRCD** on opening database (SRCD1.MST) for further details.