

Book Review

SINGH (KP). (2020). PLAYING FROM THE FRONT: A Story of Unfolded Acts of a Library & Information Science Teacher. AKS Publishing House: New Delhi. P.355. ISBN-978-81-946468-4-6.

The book '**Playing From The Front**' by Prof. KP Singh is a seminal work on tracing the history of establishment of the Department of Library and Information Science in Delhi University and its subsequent growth over decades. Though the chosen locale is Delhi University the book outlines the trajectories through which the discipline of library and information science expanded and evolved in the country and abroad. The book also delineates stages through which a library transformed from merely being a place from where books are issued and returned to a huge storehouse of big data which can be used for research, innovation, interdisciplinary academic cooperation, outreach and, of course, for teaching and learning.

It is a matter of pride that in 1946 DU was the very first university in India to establish the Department of Library Science. Also, in 1956 it was the second department in the world to offer a PG Course in Library Science and in 1957 the first department in Commonwealth to confer a PhD. The Department was lucky to have pioneers like Padmashree Dr. SR Ranganathan, Prof. S Das Gupta, Padmashrees Prof. BS Kesavan, Prof. S. Bashiruddin & Prof PN Kaula as its faculty. There is a large number of world-renowned academics who had adorned the department. KP Singh brings forth all these salient and inspiring features. This monumental work fulfils another most necessary requirement of our times. It is a great work in meticulous documentation. It details students admitted in various years in UG/PG/PhD courses, seminars held, achievements of faculty and students, awards and rewards obtained, distinguished visitors, books and manuals produced, etc. All this with beautiful photos and explanatory comments. Even social media comments are included.

I sincerely hope the University utilises this documentation talent of Prof KP Singh to compile an archive of growth of Delhi University as it celebrates its centenary in 2022. I conclude with a comment to laud the warrior in my dear friend KP. He conceived this book, he planned it and started work on it, when he was recuperating from a serious Covid attack. Instead of lamenting and brooding over his ill luck for having been struck by the dreaded virus he started work on this book. He is a Corona warrior in the true sense. My salute to his grit and courage

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