A Pioneer of Librarianship in Pakistan passes away

University of Karachi has the honor of starting postgraduate library science diploma for the first time in independent Pakistan. It was 1956 and Dr. Anis Khurshid has the honor of being the student of first batch of the diploma course. He topped the examination and thereafter joined the department as a faculty member. After contributing a lot towards librarianship in Pakistan, he breathed his last on 4th January 2008. His death was largely consoled by the library community of the world in general and of Pakistan in particular. Besides library profession, he was also equally popular among the literary circles as he had contributed his work as a short story and fiction writer, so scholarly and learned guilds also expressed their heartfelt grief over the demise of Dr. Sahib. Dr. Anis was a personality who forgot himself for the sake of nation, country and library profession. For more than a half century, he served the country and the profession with dedication and sincerity. He was born on 2nd December 1924 in Kamal, Nagpur (India), got early education from his native town and completed schooling there. After matriculation, started different chores including a job in Post & Telegraph Office to meet the financial needs of self and family but continued struggle for further education. After partition, came to Karachi and did his graduation from Islamia College in 1952. To do something for the profession, he attended the first batch and passed out with distinction. In 1959, he was awarded with Fulbright Scholarship and got admission in USA’s Rutgers University for MLS. After successfully completing his degree, he came back to Karachi University.

National Seminar on, Dr. Abdul Moid, Dr. Anis Khurshid and Dr. Muhammad Ali Kazi

PLA(Sindh) organized a national seminar to commemorate the remarkable services of three pioneers of library profession in Pakistan on 12th April 2008 at Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi. Although these three personalities are the world fame figures of the profession but it is an honour for Sindh in particular and for Pakistan in general that they belonged to the province of Sindh. The seminar was presided by Mr. Raees Ahmed Samdani while the chief guest was Chaudhary Muhammad Nazir, Director General of National Library of Pakistan Islamabad, who had come from the federal capital on special request of PLA (Sindh). The programme was started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Hafiz Muhammad Naeem. President PLA}

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Editor
World Book Day Organised by AERC and PLA

Applied Economics Research Center (AERC) and Pakistan Library Association (PLA) - Sindh, organized a one-day seminar on the eve of World Book Day on 23rd April. The theme of the program was to present suggestions for the development of reading culture and for the promotion of reading habits in the country in an electronic and digital era. Well-known scholars and library professionals from inside and outside the varsity presented and delivered their speeches and papers. The event was presided over by the Dean Faculty of Arts and advisor to Vice Chancellor Karachi University, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahzad, whereas papers and speeches were presented by former and current chairpersons of Department of Library & Information Science University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Jalaluddin Haider, Prof. Malallah Kaleem Sherwani, Prof. AHC, Sindh PLA, Sindh Raees Ahmed Samdani, Scholar Syed Jamal Naqvi, Dr. Punjab University AHC, and other prominent persons. In his address, the chief guest, Aga Noor It, Mr. Naqvi was working in Aga Khan University, organized a walk in the name of the Day Dr. Jalal also threw light on the importance of books, and book industry of the world and especially of Pakistan. He presented the statistics of book production in Pakistan and other developed countries of the world. He said that just reading books is not enough but one should know how the book is read technically. He stated that the opinion that by reading, writing and publishing books, world can be ruled. The guests presented their speeches and papers.

Book Inauguration Ceremony

PLA’s Sind organized a book inauguration ceremony on 1st April at PLA Central Library Karachi. The book "Karachi kay kabah khane" is compiled by Muhammad Yousuf Naeem, a school teacher in Karachi. It carries some basic but not the professional information about the public libraries of Karachi. The program was attended by a number of eminent library professionals of the metropolis, the students of Pakistan Bibliographical Working Group (PBWG) School of Librarianship and others. The speakers of the occasion were Dr. Mahmood Ansari and Prof. Muhammad Raheem Ravalani whereas Mr. Aga Noor Muhammad Pathan, Director Pakistan Academy of Letters, Sindh was the chief guest. Expressing his views on the book, Prof. Ravalani appreciated the compiler and termed it an informative reference source for those who want to find out the location and other information about a particular library in Karachi. Dr. Mahmood Ansari, giving her professional overview in the book, mentioned that the book is not based on the principles of library and information science and are a general overview of the libraries. She also welcomed the efforts of the compiler who gave details of all libraries of Karachi. In his address, the chief guest, Aga Noor Muhammad Pathan, cherished the task carried out by the compiler/author. In the end, Mr. Raees Ahmed Samdani, President PLA Sind thanked the chief guest, author, speakers and the participants.

PLA Sind congratulates one of the alumni of the Department of Library & Information Science, University of Karachi, Prof. Hamid Rehman on assuming the charge of Chairperson Library School, University of Peshawar. It is hoped that the Department would march towards advancement under his chairmanship.

World Book Day 23rd April 2008

Applied Economics Research Center University of Karachi

With the collaboration of Pakistan Library Association (Sindh)

congratulations on Appointments/Promotions

We congratulate our following professional colleagues on getting a new job or a promotion:

- Mr. Bashir Ahmed Zia promoted to Senior Joint Director of Libraries State Bank of Pakistan, Karachi.
- Ms. Amtul Wadood, Senior Librarian, Applied Economic Research Center, University of Karachi promoted to next grade.
- Ms. Shaheen Ahmed, Librarian, Applied Economic Research Center, University of Karachi promoted to next grade.
- Mr. Salman Abid joined SPB after resigning from JHEI Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi.
- Mr. Md. Muhammad Ashid joined SPB after resigning from National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- Mr. Ahmed Naqvi joined Ziauddin Medical University Karachi as Chief Librarian, Prior to it, Mr. Naqvi was working in AHC, University of Health Sciences, Karachi.

sections, institutes of the varsity. The Walk passed from in front of the University Botanical Garden, University’s Post Office, UBL, Arts Lobby, Administration Block, Mass Communication Department and terminated at the Department where the students hoisted flags, banners and placards designed especially to commemorate the Day. Such healthy activities are the part of one’s literary and scholastic life. UNESCO’s contribution in this regard is praiseworthy. In observing such days in our beloved country Pakistan where more than half of the population is illiterate, can bring positive results towards eliminating illiteracy.
A Pioneer of Librarianship (Contd. from pg 1)

Honour
It is a matter of great honour for PLA Sindhi that Dr. Syed Jalaluddin Haider Gold Medal has been announced for the first position holder in MLIS of the Department of Library and Information Science, University of the Punjab. This has been approved by the Academic Council of the varsity. Ref. Pakistan Journal of Library & Info. Science (Issue 2008).

Restoration of PLA Computer Training Centre
In the light of PLA Executive Council meeting held in February 2008 for the restoration of PLA Computer Training Centre, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Mr. Waseem Zia, Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Karachi. The other members of the Committee are Ghulam Abbas Memon, Arshad Mehmoon and Khurram Pervez. The Committee has finalized the curriculum and very soon the training would be started.

PLA (Sindh) attend International Conference at Lahore
On the eve of Golden Jubilee celebrations of PLA, its Punjab Branch organized an International Conference from 28th to 29th November 2007 at Aiwan-e-Iqbal Lahore. A large number of PLA (Sindh) office bearers and general members of the PLA (Sindh) attended. On this occasion Prof Dr. Rafia Shahid and Dr. Syed Jalaluddin Haider presided over two different sessions whereas Ms Azra Qureshi presented her research paper.

National Seminar on, (Contd. from pg 1)

and served as assistant librarian from 1960-62. Then in 1962, he joined University's Library Science Department as a lecturer and started Masters programme in Library Science. In 1969, he was awarded with Ph.D. from Pittsburgh University after submitting his dissertation on 'Standards for Library Education in Burma, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan.' Due to untiring efforts which Dr. Khurshid made for the completion of his Ph.D., he fell sick just after returning from United States but he did not abandon hope and labor and continued struggling for the betterment of profession. In 1970, he was promoted as assistant professor and in 1979 as a professor. This was due to his great efforts that most of the libraries in Pakistan are pacing towards modernization. He remained the chairman of the Department of Library & Information Science, University of Karachi for two terms; first during 1979-82 and second from 1984 to 1986 when he retired on attaining the age of superannuation. After retirement, his services were again hired by the varsity as a cooperative teacher and he performed in the same capacity for almost two years. The career of Dr. Sahib in the field and Library Science is spread over almost half a century during which he augmented the profession with his teaching, writings and other contributions. One of his big deeds is the compilation of biography on Quaid-e-Azam which was completed as a result of two-year determined and indefatigable efforts. In 1996, recognition of contribution services in the field of librarianship in Pakistan, Dr. Khurshid was bestowed with the "President's Pride of Performance Award" by the Government of Pakistan. Till today, he is the only figure in the profession who has been conferred on this prestigious award.

With his endeavors and efforts, Government constituted Technical Working Group (TWG) in 1983 and he was made the chairman of this group. Due to his untiring efforts, the public libraries of Pakistan could achieve the status which the public libraries of US are enjoying today.

Very few people might be aware that the literary asset left by Dr. Anis Khurshid is being collected and preserved in Pakistan National Monument, the largest national museum of Pakistan, being set up in Islamabad. This museum was inaugurated by the former President Feroz Musharraf on 3rd March 2007 with one of the aims that the literary and cultural heritage of highly prestigious figures would be preserved in it. Dr. Sahib was not only a library scientist but was also a short story writer and literary sitting with renowned intellectuals and academics of his time.

Due to untiring efforts which Dr. Khurshid made for the development of libraries and librarianship in Pakistan - may some government take courage to implement the plans prepared by him? Ms Amnul Waddood, librarian of Applied Economic Research Center (AERC), University of Karachi, who is also a poet, presented her poem on Dr. Khurshid as a teacher.

Dr. Syed Ahmed Naqvi, chief librarian of Ziauddin platform, he conducted survey of all the public libraries of the country and framed suggestions and regulations for the improvement of libraries. Although the recommendations and rules had been structured by the TWG but for implementation these have still been victim to bureaucratic red tape. If the report of TWG had been put into practice, the public libraries of Pakistan would have achieved the status which the public libraries of US are enjoying today.

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