ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY

(Accredited with "A+" Grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.64) in the Third Cycle & Graded as Category-I University and Granted Autonomy by MHRD-UGC)

KARAIKUDI - 630 003

Under the aegis of the Central Library of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, a "Two-day National Workshop on Developing Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) using DSpace" was inaugurated on 12th October 2018. Fifty library professionals from South India are participating in this Workshop.

Prof. N. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor, in his presidential address, stressed the need for strengthening public libraries in India which could contribute to the creation of knowledge society; and in the present context serious efforts are needed to spread the reading culture among the students and general public. He recalled how Jawaharlal Nehru, an avid reader, could write many books while he was in prison and Karl Marx spent most of his time in British Library and there is a chair in his name. History shows that many great leaders were passionate readers. In India, public libraries like National Library, Calcutta, Connemara Library, Chennai are patronised by readers and in these libraries most of the cubicles are filled with enthusiastic users always. Their contribution merits attention.

He further said that many of the researchers in the earlier period spent much of their time for collecting research literature and data from various institutions, and today collection of research materials has become easier in this digital environment. He emphasized that library should not be a place for idling away time and it should not also simply be a place of storing books, whereas it must give provide space for learned interaction and discussion, and students must enjoy coming to the libraries. He asked the librarians to create conducive environment for discussion to the users and make them utilize all the available resources effectively. He said that Google and

Wiki may give much information, but the users should ensure the quality and authenticity of the information obtained. The world famous library like Library of Congress has digitized the print resources for preserving the information for longer periods, whereas the process in India, he added, is to be speeded up. He advised the faculty and the student community to upload their articles, reports etc into the central reservoir using DSpace without violating the copyright norms.

Dr. K. Elavazhagan, Librarian and Chief Knowledge Officer, IIM, Trichy in his inaugural speech stated that Indian Universities are producing 24000 Ph.D theses every year and they have to be digitized for serious research purposes. Librarians should update themselves continuously by learning latest technology. He also said that scholars from other countries visited the Indian Nalanda University in the past for their higher studies, whereas, today our students are moving to other countries for higher studies, which must be changed. He stressed that common man's tax must be converted into service. Hence, library professionals must develop "Institutional Repository" (IR) for all the materials such as books, journal articles, theses/dissertations, reports etc.

Dr. P. Ganesan, Organizing Secretary welcomed the participants and Dr. A. Thirunavukkarasu, Librarian, Central Library proposed a vote of thanks.

Prof.H.Gurumallesh Prabu
REGISTRAR