



SISCOM

SIS COM JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2017

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The landscape in which science communication takes place is changing. Information spreads faster. It's easier for a finding to become distorted. If a finding proves controversial, opposition can spring up in a flash. Scientists may get questions or criticisms via social media. They may discover bloggers they've never spoken with are writing about their work with varying levels of accuracy.

The alternative may be just as dire. Imagine unveiling your findings to utter silence. No citations. No media coverage. No reactions. Now imagine watching a colleague achieve all of those things, due to their ability to engage an audience and articulate the value of their work.

Communication is at the heart of many of the biggest challenges facing scientists today. Being able to articulate your work to a broad audience can have a tremendous impact on the discoverability of your research and the trajectory of your career. "Can you explain this topic to your mom? Your senator? If so, you have an automatic boost to your research," says Cynthia Burrows, Editor-in-Chief of Accounts of Chemical Research.

But science communication isn't just about you. It's about the future of science.

Researchers' ability to explain their work and its importance will influence what kinds of projects are funded. Researchers' testimony can affect the kinds of laws and regulations put in place. Most importantly, being able to explain the impact of your research can help shape the public perception of science and even change people's lives. "We, as scientists, need to address this issue and become better at framing the importance of scientific research in the modern world," says Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling Editor-in-Chief Kenneth Merz.

The best practices around science communication have evolved. It's not just about sharing information and correcting erroneous beliefs. The

psychology of skepticism is complex. Exposing a person to new information may do little to weaken their resolve and can even strengthen their opposition.

Instead, scientists need to demonstrate their competency, but also show warmth. Scientists are often ranked highly for the first trait, but not the second, which can limit their ability to influence others. Whether talking to reporters or to the general public, scientists must be aware of their audience's perspective. Scientists tend to have specialized knowledge and a rigorous focus on research details that their audience most likely does not share. They must find ways to bridge the gap between those worldviews.

This requires finding a balance between explaining research in an accessible way and running the risk of sensationalizing or otherwise distorting research. It also requires not resorting to a paternalistic attitude. Many of the best practices of science communication are easy to understand. Avoid jargon. Talk about why a finding matters, rather than the methodology used. Put research in context. But the application of these ideas is nuanced and can only be mastered with practice. Which terms count as jargon? The answer may well depend on the audience.

By engaging a variety of different audiences on a regular basis, scientists can learn to calibrate their explanations. Not only should scientists seek out venues for informal science communication, they should evaluate their performance so that they can refine their approaches. Science communication, much like scientific research, may require much trial and error before a breakthrough is made.

When scientists are able to communicate effectively beyond their peers to broader, non-scientist audiences, it builds support for science, promotes understanding of its wider relevance to society, and encourages more informed decision-making at all levels, from government to communities to individuals.

With this backdrop SIS is organizing its 34th Annual Convention in collaboration with IIMC & ISWA. I wish the convention full success in achieving the objectives of its organizing institutions.

Dr Manoj Kumar Patairiya

SIS-2017 : 34TH CONVENTION & CONFERENCE OF SIS ON “COMMUNICATING INDIA’S SCIENTIFIC WISDOM : CHANGING PARADIGMS.

SIS-2017 and 32nd Convention and conference of SIS will be held on Communicating India's Scientific Wisdom: Changing Paradigms. At Indian Institute of Mass Communications, New Delhi During 21-22 DECEMBER, 2017

The discipline of science communication is closely aligned to objectives of the Society for Information Science. Keeping in view the mandate, the Society has joined hands with CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication (NISCAIR), Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Indian Science Writers' Association (ISWA), Vigyan Bharati (ViBha) and Indian Science Communication Society (ISCOS) to organize the 17th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017) on the theme “Communicating India's Scientific Wisdom: Changing Paradigms” during 21-22 December 2017 at Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi.

The scientific sessions will have presentation of contributory research papers, review papers, survey analyses, case studies, posters, and invited talks. Deliberations will be in English and/ or in Hindi. The prescribed time for paper presentation will be around 10 minutes (7 minute for presentation + 3 minute for discussion). Power Point presentation facility will be available.

There will also be a display of science communication products, software materials.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Researchers and practitioners of science communication, i.e. scientists, technologists, academicians, writers, journalists, editors, scholars and faculty members, public relations and information officers of scientific organizations, representatives of media, science activists from NGOs, and senior government officials/ public representatives, policymakers, decision makers from India and abroad can participate.

There is no registration fee.

Last Date for Registration : December 20, 2017

CONTACT CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT:

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Dr. K.S. Krishnan Marg
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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT 33RD CONVENTION OF SIS AND CONFERENCE ON “OPEN ACCESS: ROAD TO FREEDOM”

CSIR - Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata
April 7-8, 2016
Dr Naresh Kumar, President, Society for Information Science

Good morning and a very warm welcome to all the participants to the 33rd SIS Annual Convention and Conference on “Open Access: Road to Freedom”. On my personal behalf and on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the Society for Information Science I convey my gratitude to Dr Samit Chattopadhyay, Director, IICB, Dr Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET, Dr Arun Chakraborty DG, National Library, Kolkata, Dr P Jaisankar for their esteemed presence and we look forward to hearing from them how would the future unfold for the ‘Open Access movement’ to which I believe they all are personally committed.

It is a matter of pride for the SIS that it is holding for the second time a Conference on this theme which is so very topical and of immense value for the students and researchers. My deep appreciation to Dr Narayana Chandra Ghosh, the Organising Secretary for expanding on the theme which was first taken up for the 2010 Conference held in these very premises.

The first Conference held in 2010 was a grand success. We could sense in participants a hunger, a keenness to know how to use the information, the data, inherent in research literature as a tool to advance their research planning and outcomes.

The second Conference beginning today is to further our understanding of the use of Open Access as a platform for research advancement. Towards this we have the support of some very eminent institutions, experts and researchers. I am grateful to each one of them. Like last time, IICB has given SIS a big support. I am personally beholden to its Director, Dr Samit Chattopadhyay for his keen interest and providing us every resource. The Society is indebted to you, Sir for your graciousness.

It would be befitting the occasion if I mention the objectives and vision of SIS, a learned Society formed during 1975 with the following aims:

1. To promote interchange of information in the discipline of information science and its sub-division amongst the specialists and between specialists and the public.
2. To encourage and assist the professionals to maintain the integrity and competence of the profession.
3. To foster a sense of partnership amongst the professionals engaged in these fields.

I am pleased to mention that the Society stands for and is committed to having a systematic approach in adapting new information technology tools. Our every Convention and Conference is a testimony to our commitment.

To meet its objectives the Society organises annual Conferences on different themes and short-term courses on various topics. The SIS awards Fellowships to members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the domain of information science. The Young Information Scientist Award, was instituted in the memory of late Sh A S Raizada, Founder Secretary of SIS. It is given to a researcher/scientist below the age of 35 years for his/her novel contributions to the information domain.

Beginning with the 29th Annual Convention and Conference held in November, 2012, the Society has instituted the "Nagarajan Memorial Oration" with a grant of an endowment established by his son Dr Karthik Nagesh. Sh Nagarajan was one of the founder members of the SIS and superannuated as Head, Library from the then Publication and Information Directorate, now known as NISCAIR. This Oration for this year is being delivered by Dr Manoj Kumar Patariya, Director, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi, a renowned science communicator. I am grateful to him for having accepted our invitation to deliver this Oration.

Since 1981 the Society has been regularly organising Annual Conventions and Conferences with a view to bring together professionals from various sub-disciplines of information science on a common platform so that they could share their views, experiences and achievements to enrich their knowledge and enhance their professional competence. First National Convention and Conference of the Society was held in 1981 at Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad (now known as CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology). Thereafter, these Conferences have been almost an annual feature and some of the Themes covered over the years, include:

- Design and Development of Distributed Data Banks
- Adopting Information Technology for Socio-economic development
- Need for National Information Policy
- User of Microprocessors in Information Analysis and Library applications

- On-line Information Processing through Mini- and Micro- computers
- Scientific Communication, Bibliometrics/Informetrics
- Information as an essential input for transformation of Society
- S&T Information Management in India
- Perspective of multimedia Information Services in India
- Consortia approach of Content Sharing among Libraries
- Recent trends in Patinformatics(URDIP, Pune- 9-12 December,2009)
- Open Access: Gateway to Open Innovation (IICB,Kolkata: 24-26 November,2010)
- Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning(URDIP,Pune: 19-21 March,2012)
- Information-Innovation-Technology: Creating seamless linkages (NIT,Silchar: 26-28 November,2012)
- Patinformatics for Corporate Planning and Business Development (URDIP,Pune: 9-11 December, 2013)
- Big Data Mining: The Concepts, Methods and Applications(IMTECH, Chandigarh: 27-29 November,2014)
- Patinformatics for Technological Competitive Intelligence and licensing(URDIP,Pune: 7-9 December,2015)
- Open Access: The Road to Freedom (IICB, Kolkata: 7-8 April, 2017)

I must say that one of the ambitions of the Society is to serve as a forum where the information handlers and the Information users could sit together and discuss the type, the quality, nature and extent of information services required in the present day nation building.

SIS has always been the first one to spot the emergence of a trend and provide a platform for the same. Many of our Conferences are a testimony to this futuristic outlook. It would be apt to mention "Patinformatics", "Bigdata and Data Analytics" and "Open Access" as some these futuristic topics which we have already covered as the themes of our past Conferences.

Dr Naresh Kumar

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE

The Annual General Body meeting(AGM) of the Society for Information of Science(SIS) was held on April 8th, 2016 at Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, CSIR Kolkata, during the 33rd National Convention-Cum-Conference of The Society for Information Science. The AGM was attended by the SIS Members/Fellows.

The AGM was presided over by the President Dr. Naresh Kumar.

At the very outset the President welcomed all the members present and thanked, Dr. Samit Chattopadhyay, the Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, CSIR Kolkata for joining with SIS in organizing the Convention and Conference on 'Open Access: Road to Freedom at IICB.

The AGM congratulated Dr Dr Manoj Kumar Patairiya for being honored with the Fellowship of the Society for their significant contributions to the cause of information science domain more particularly to the area of science communication. The AGM was also happy to know that for this Conference Dr Manoj Kumar Patairiya has been chosen to deliver the Nagarajan Memorial Oration. The members congratulated Dr Patairiya as well.

Thereafter, the President requested Dr. Divya Srivastava to present,- on behalf of Sh. N.K Wadhwa, the SIS Secretary, who could not attend the Annual Convention,- the Annual Report and Audit Report of the Society. The Annual Report and Audit Report were taken as approved.

The members present appreciated the activities carried out during the period between last AGM and the present one. However, several issues were raised and a number of suggestions were offered as below:

1. The members present appreciated the working of the SIS but wanted that the membership drive must be taken up so as to increase the enrollment of more members to the Society. Some of the members present complained that in spite of their having paid Life membership, they have received no acknowledgement. The President regretted such a lack of communication and assured the members that he will ask the Secretary Sh N K Wadhwa to respond to all such issues.
2. Many of the members felt that the constitution of the Society was framed almost 40 years ago and many of the its clauses/objectives/provisions now need to have a relook at. Every one present supported the suggestion.
3. Many of the members felt that the SIS Secretariat must be activated so as to bring in a proactive approach in fulfilling the objectives of the Society.

After these general suggestions the President informed that as per the resolutions of the last AGMs (31st session at IMTECH, Chandigarh and 32nd Session at URDIP, Pune) the Society invited nominations for the election of new EC. In spite of trying twice through appropriate notices on its website, no nominations were received. It was therefore thought prudent by the EC of the Society to constitute a new Executive Committee, which should then be put up for the approval of the Annual General Body of the SIS. In keeping with the expressed resolution of the outgoing EC a new EC was elected. The same was then put up for the consideration and suggestions, if any of the general body, as follows:

President: : Dr Manoj Kumar Patairiya, New Delhi

Vice Presidents(2) : Sh H C Jain, New cDelhi
: Dr R R Hirwani, Pune

General Secretary : Dr R K Sinha, New Delhi

Treasurer : Sh N K Wadhwa, New Delhi

Joint Secretary : Dr N C Ghosh, Kolkata
: Dr G Mahesh

Members EC (6) : Sh N V Satyanarayana, Bengaluru
:Dr Namita Gupta, DST, New Delhi
:Dr Varun, DSIR, New Delhi
: Dr Sujit Bhattacharyya, New Delhi
:Dr B C Sharma, New Delhi
: Sh R Soni, Chandigarh(Co-opted)
: Dr P Nishy, Trivandrum(Co-opted)
:Sh Suman K Malik,Lucknow(Co-opted)
:Sh Madhan Muthu, Bengaluru (Co-opted)

Ex-officio EC member: Outgoing President Dr Naresh Kumar , Chandigarh

Editor, SISCOM: Dr Divya Srivastava, New Delhi

All the members present overwhelmingly approved the new Executive Committee. It was suggested that as per the need some more members could be co-opted to the EC.

It was desired that this new EC must take up the mantle of the SIS at the earliest. Dr Naresh Kumar, the outgoing President warmly congratulated all the members of the new EC and wished them well and hoped that they would bring in more vigour and foresightedness in the working of the SIS. He felt that the unfinished agenda of revising the SIS Constitution, bye-laws, etc would be taken up earnestly and also the renewal of the SIS pending since long would be taken up with the Registrar Co-operative Societies as well. He further mentioned that he will hand over the charge of the new EC at the earliest as per the convenience of the incoming President.

On a nostalgic note , Dr Kumar thanked all his fellow EC members , the SIS members for their all out cooperation. Continuing he said that it was due to their support that during his tenure the SIS could regularly organize the Annual Conventions and Conferences and also conducted several Workshops and training sessions. SIS could also send a 3 member delegation to China to participate in COLLNET. The membership also increased substantially to the credit of all.

The AGM warmly appreciated the efforts of the previous EC and felt that its achievements must be documented for the future ECs and members to judge and appreciate.

As like last AGM, many of the members felt that the Society must fix terms for re-election of its office bearers. A generally agreed suggestion was to limit the same to a maximum of three terms for all the office bearers. Since there was no other matter for discussion the meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

DR NARESH KUMAR LAYS DOWN OFFICE AS PRESIDENT SIS

After leading the Society for Information Science (SIS) for a very significant period of 9 years in its life-journey (probably the longest period for any President), Dr Naresh Kumar has laid down the office of the President SIS at the 33rd Annual Convention and Conference of the Society held on 7-8 April 2017 at CSIR-IICB, Kolkata.

Throughout his tenure, Dr Naresh Kumar provided a dynamic leadership, amiably taking everybody along. He consistently maintained dialogue with members of the Society by contributing regularly through SIS website and SIS Newsletter apart from personal interactions, including those at various conferences of the society.

The SIS was formed in 1975 with the aims of promoting interchange of information in the discipline of information science and its sub-division amongst the specialists and between specialists and the public. In accordance with these aims, Dr Kumar tried to steer the Society towards focussing on cutting edge areas of information science and catalyzed choice of areas like patent informatics and data mining as subjects for deliberations at the Annual Conferences of the Society. Some of the Annual Conventions and Conferences held during his presidency include:

- Recent trends in Patinformatics (URDIP, Pune: 9-12 December, 2009)
- Open Access: Gateway to Open Innovation (IICB, Kolkata: 24-26 November, 2010)
- Patinformatics for Research and Business Planning (URDIP, Pune: 19-21 March, 2012)
- Information-Innovation-Technology: Creating seamless linkages (NIT, Silchar: 26-28 November, 2012)
- Patinformatics for Corporate Planning and Business Development (URDIP, Pune: 9-11 December, 2013)
- Big Data Mining: The Concepts, Methods and Applications (IMTECH, Chandigarh: 27-29 November, 2014)
- Patinformatics for Technological Competitive Intelligence and licensing (URDIP, Pune: 7-9 December, 2015)
- Open Access: The Road to Freedom (IICB, Kolkata: 7-8 April, 2017)

All these Conferences not only had participation of experts, researchers and students but also the presentations made were covered in Conferences brochures and other publications.

A significant development in his tenure was the development of Society's website through which it became much easier to communicate with members at large and place various news items related to the Society and its conferences at their disposal. The website also became a window of information about the Society and its activities at international level as evidenced by a report by the Secretary of the Society.

One of the aims of the Society is to encourage and assist the professionals to maintain the integrity and competence of the profession. In accordance with this aim, Dr Kumar personally organized Workshops on science communication, an important area for training of young information scientists, at Ghaziabad, Chandigarh and Jalandhar. Young information scientists got the benefit of interaction with senior professionals in this field and learn from their experiences.

The SIS awards Fellowships to members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the domain of information science. The Society also gives Young Information Scientist Award to encourage researchers/scientists below the age of 35 years for their novel contributions to the information domain. These awards were regularly presented every year during the tenure of Dr Naresh Kumar as President SIS to various scientists for their outstanding contributions. Apart from this, the Society decided to recognize the outstanding services to the Society in the form of a special SIS Silver Jubilee Award given to the Founding President of SIS, Shri YR Chadha, former Chief of PID, now known as CSIR-NISCAIR.

Another action taken during his tenure was the start of a new initiative in the form of Nagarajan memorial oration. Beginning with the 29th Annual Convention and Conference held in November, 2012, the Society has instituted the "Nagarajan Memorial Oration" with a grant of an endowment established by his son Dr Karthik Nagesh. Sh. S. Nagarajan was one of the founder members of the SIS.

To foster a sense of partnership amongst the information science professionals, the Society under the guidance of Dr Naresh Kumar sent a 3-member delegation to China to participate in an international conference of COLLNET in 2009.

There was a significant increase in the membership of the Society during the tenure of Dr Naresh Kumar and it continued to be a vibrant organization creating its own niche area in the arena of learned societies in India focusing on information science.

Dr Naresh Kumar's tenure would always be recognised for bringing an overall visibility and vigour to the mandate of the Society - be it regular organisation of Annual Conventions and Conferences on themes of topical relevance; training programmes and Workshops of pedagogic importance; maintaining close association with and involvement of SIS members through publication of its Newsletter, SISCOM; and emphasising on reaching out to existing members and enrolling new members.

The Society would like to place on record its appreciation for the services rendered by him.

SIS FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2017: NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR SIS FELLOWSHIP AND FOR YOUNG INFORMATION SCIENTIST AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2017.

The Society for Information Science (SIS) awards SIS Fellowship every year to honor and recognize outstanding contributions in the area of information science and technology, and Young Information Scientist Award (instituted in 1989 in the memory of Late Shri A.S. Raizada, eminent information scientist and founder Secretary of SIS).

Nominations are invited for the SIS Fellowship and the Young Information Scientist Awards for the year 2017. Nominations can be made by the Professors, Heads of the Departments, Institutional Heads, Heads of Libraries, SIS Fellows, and Members of SIS.

- **Self-nominations or nominations without bio-data will not be considered.**
- **In the case of Young Information Scientist Award, the age of the nominee should not be more than 35 years as on 31st Dec., 2017.**
- **Nominations should reach to the Secretary SIS by 31st Dec., 2017, along with signed hard copies with complete bio-data of the nominee, including his/her contributions to the field specifically to the area of Information Science.**

The Expert Committee has already been identified by the EC members who will make their recommendations. The Final results will be announced during the next activity of SIS, and the awardees will be honored during that time.

Dr G Mahesh
(Jt Secretary SIS) NISCARE
14 Satsang Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110016

AGM Notice:

Notice is given to all the members (individual and official representatives of the institutional members) that the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for Information Science will be held at IIMC, New Delhi on 22nd December, 2017. The agenda of meeting will be as follows:

- **Welcome by President SIS**
- **Confirmation of proceedings of the AGM held on April 8, 2016 at CSIR-IICB, Kolkata.**
- **To consider & Adopt the Secretaries Report of the activities of SIS**
- **To consider & Adopt Auditor's Report**
- **Any other matter with the permission of the chair.**

All the members are requested to attend the meeting.

Secretary, Society for Information Science, (SIS)

**SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE
(FOUNDED 1976)
Life Membership form***

Full Name :

Date of Birth : **Sex** : *Male / Female*

Mailing address :

Pin code :

Phone : **Fax** :

E-mail :

Academic qualifications :

Professional qualifications :

Post currently held (please mention designation, department and institute) :

Length and type of experience :

Honours/awards won, if any :

Publications during the last 2 years :

Date : **Signature of the applicant** :

*Life Membership Subscription: Rs. 2500.00/- (w.e.f. August 2011) Cheque/DD should be in favour of Secretary, SIS payable at Syndicate Bank, NPL (PUSA) Branch, A/C Number: 91002010009238, IFSC Code: SYNB0009100 ; Micr Code "110025087" New Delhi. Filled application with Cheque /DD have to be sent to Mr N. K. Wadhwa, Secretary-SIS, C/o National Physical Laboratory,(NPL)(CSIR), Dr K S Krishana Marg, New Delhi- 110012, India Contact : (Mobile) +91 9350090040

BOOK - POST

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