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Libraries and Librarians in India: Design and Development of a Login Based Management Information System

K P Singh¹

Abstract

The study is an outcome of a Major Research Project funded by University Grants Commission (UGC) under the investigation of author. The study has been conducted in two phases' first deals with the survey of libraries and librarians and second with the design and development of Login based Management Information System for Libraries and Librarians in India using the web technologies. Aillmis.net has been designed with sole objective to connect each and every libraries and librarians in India and serve as a national repository of libraries and librarians in Country.

Keyword: Libraries and Librarians in India, Libraries Management Information System, Librarians Management Information System, AILLMIS, LIS Gateway. Aillmis.Net

Introduction

Libraries are significantly recognized an integral part of learning, education, training and research. The role becomes even more critical in today's context, when the Government of India plan to invest a huge amount of money in order to improve the library collections, services, education and training. Report of the Working Group on Libraries, National Knowledge Commission (2005-2009) has strongly recommends there should have a 'Census of Libraries in India' for have a statistics on information infrastructure and services (IIS) available in Indian libraries in order to implement new initiatives and policies for strengthen the library and information services in country. Since many efforts has been undertaken by the LIS professional in the country to census the libraries, from time to time, but unfortunately, there is no single source today, where information on the Indian libraries can be sought. Through this ICT based-innovative initiative (ICT-II) an attempt has been made to develop a mechanism in participatory and collaborative model in order to create a national platform to find all sorts of information related to a particular library and LIS professionals by providing 'Login based' interface to manage their library/librarian profile from their work place.

Mission

To connect each and every libraries and LIS professionals of India through ICT driven innovative initiative in a participatory collaborative login based model.

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Vision

To act as a National Repository of Libraries and Librarians (NRLL) for providing quality information on all dimensions of Indian libraries and librarians.

Rationality of the Study

The AILLMIS- All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System is the India's first online gateway to Libraries and LIS professions in India. The AILLMIS is a byproduct of a research sponsored by University Grants Commission (UGC) as a Major Research Project under investigation of author.

The mission of the project is to interlink and integrate all the libraries and librarians from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to remote place of North East States and creating a vibrant virtual network of libraries and librarians in India in order to pool the information infrastructures available in the different stakeholders of each focus areas of libraries (i.e., public, colleges, universities, agriculture, law, media, medical and R&D organizations (CSIR, DRDO, ICAR, ICMR, ISRO, IITs, IIMs, NITs, IIITs, IISER, ICFRI, ICSSR, BSI, ASI, ZSI, FSI, DBT, DST, etc.).

The rationality of the study is fulfilling the following objectives:

- ❖ To collect, collate, organized and represent the facts and figures of libraries and librarians in order to linking them at one platform.
- ❖ To design and develop a framework using the web technologies to create and manage the profile by libraries and librarians themselves.
- ❖ To develop an online directory of Indian libraries and librarians.

Scope, Facilities and Technology Applied

The AILLMIS.NET consists of three basic components interlinked to one domain i.e., Libraries, which provides information on various segments of libraries (Address, affiliation, type of library, category of library, name of librarian, live web link, type of collection, statistics on library collections, library services, timings, availability ICT infrastructure, classification scheme used, software used for house keeping operations and digital library, etc.) and serve as the purpose of Directory of Libraries in India.

The second segment which in technical sense refer as 'online who's who of LIS Professionals in India' which provide biographical information of the LIS professionals working on different capacity in academic, special, public, government, ministries, publics undertakings and NGO libraries and information centers in permanent capacity. The third component is vendors, who are the business partners to our libraries and provide valuable information at one platform.

The entire content of the AILLMIS.NET is being developed and designed having the dynamic features and using the PHP technology and enable features such as-

- ❖ Login facility to Libraries/Librarians/Vendor to manage their profile from their work place;
- ❖ the ALLMIS.NET enable users to search a library by exercising various search options such as - category search (which includes, university, organization and type of library) in combination with its sub categories for university- central/ state/ deemed/ private, for organization-DRDO/ CSIR/ ICAR/ ICMR/ ISRO/ IITs/ IIMs/ IISER/ ICSSR, etc. and for type- public/ agriculture/ management/ media/ defence/ academic/ govt./ engineering and technology, etc.) State Search and District Search by selecting particular state and district from the drop down menu)

- ❖ Information pertaining to the LIS Professionals can be search by exercising various search options such as- Name search (any string of name surname or for name, except honorific words (Dr/Mr/Ms). Designation **Search**, **Gender Search** (by selecting particular state and district from the drop down menu) and **State Search** and (iv) Information pertaining to the vendors can be search by adopting the various search options such as name, category (selecting from drop the down menu) and state search.

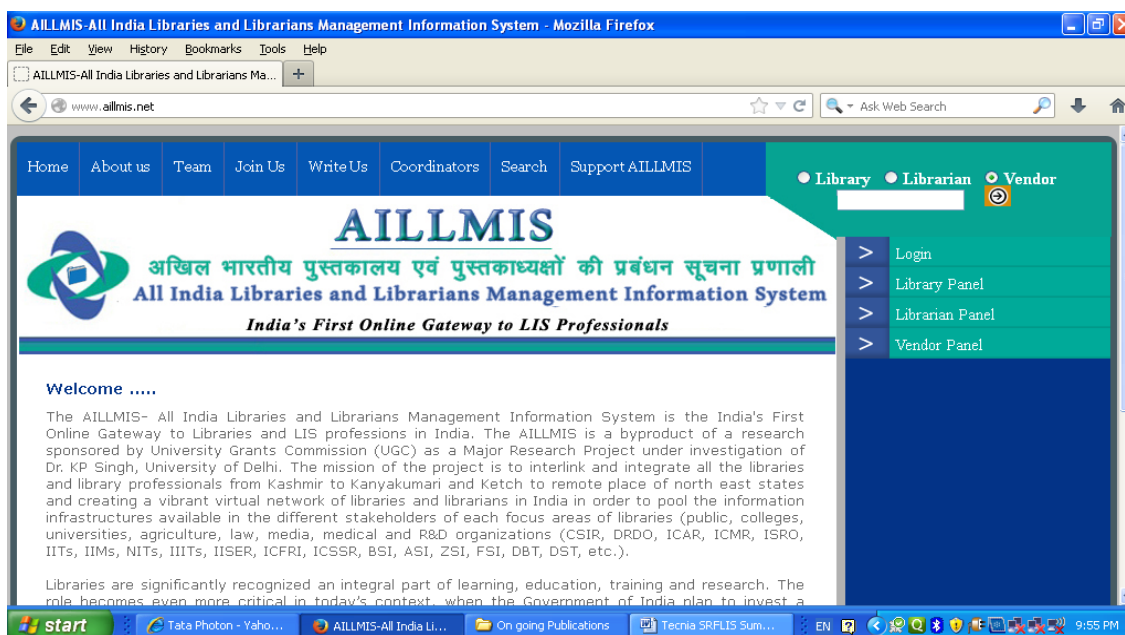
Further, the Aillmis.Net enable users to save print and e-mail the search results directly from the system in DOC, PDF and HTML.

Demonstration of the AILLMIS.Net

The following snapshots of the Management Information System portrait the anecdote of this project.

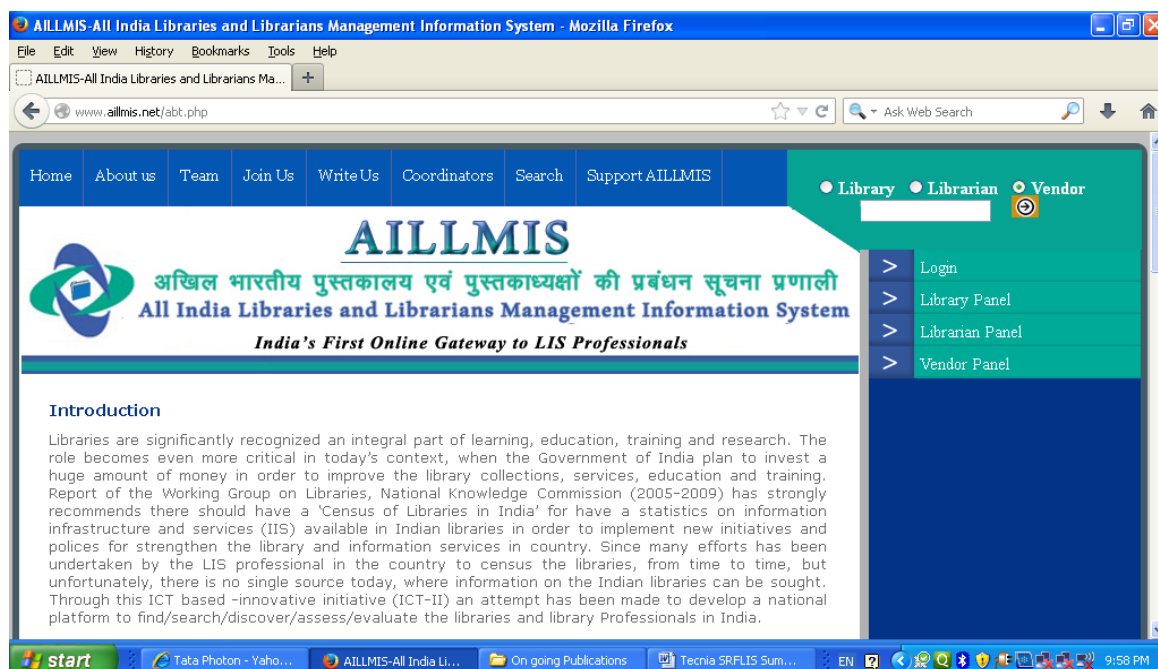
Homepage

Home of this AILLMIS.NET provide information about the project and available features and facilities and also Login option for libraries and librarians in order to update/add/modify their bio profile from their work place.



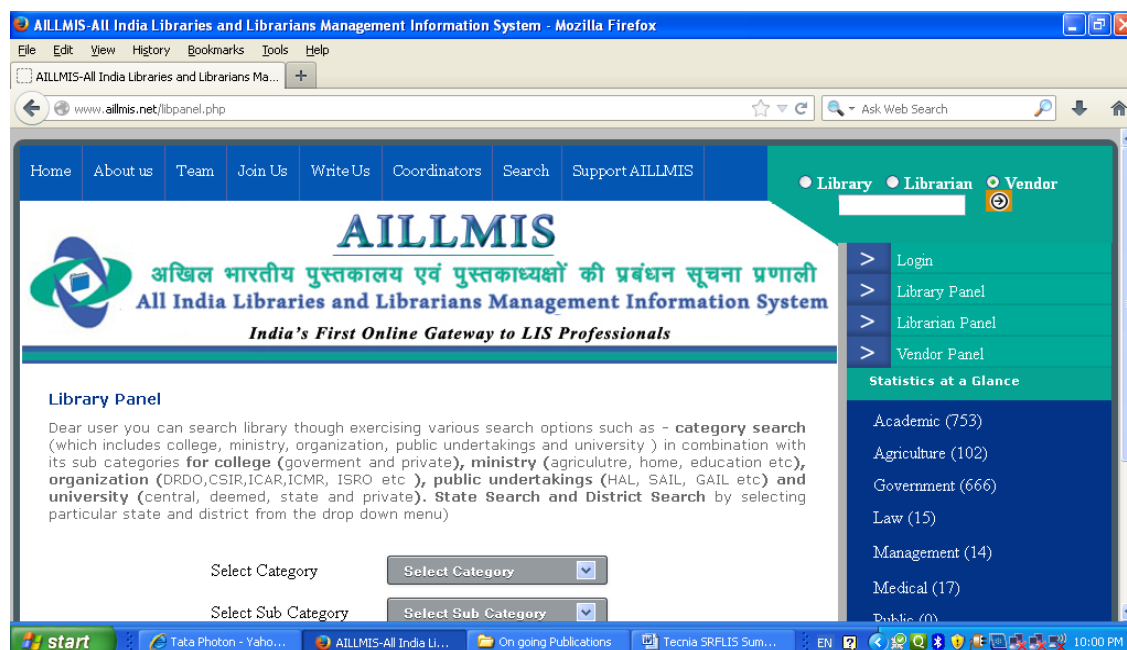
About Us

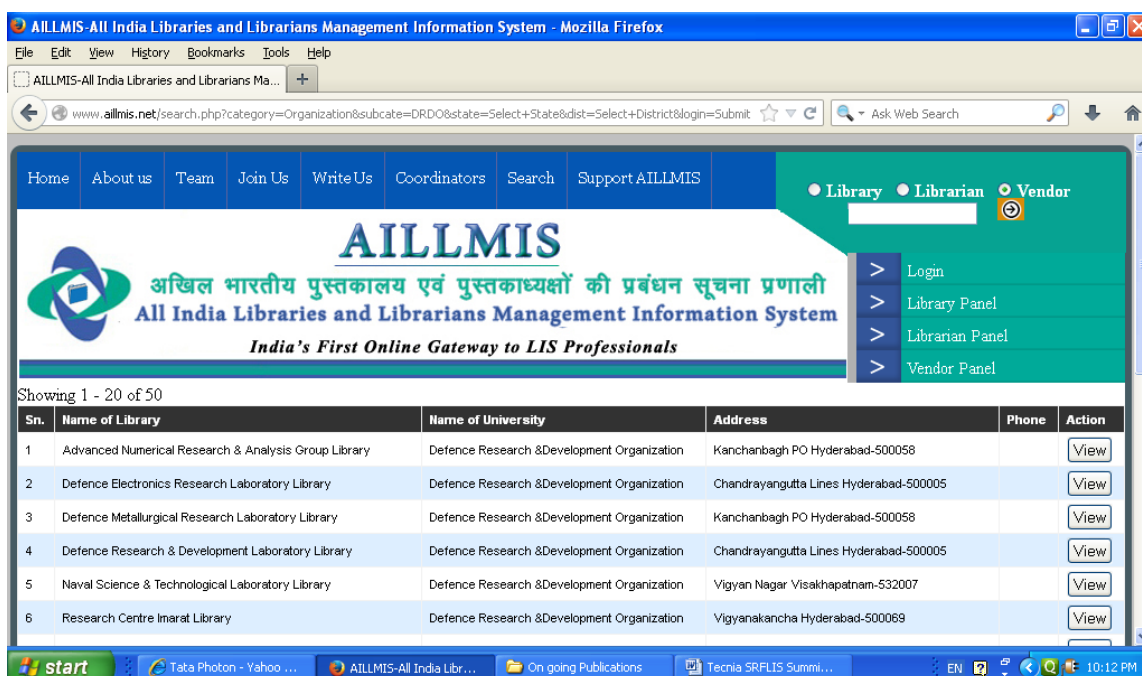
This link just serve as 'Documentaion to the AILLMIS.Net, and provides information how and why this Management Information System has been developed, discuss mission and vision, scope, facility and technology applied, acknowledgements.



Library Panel

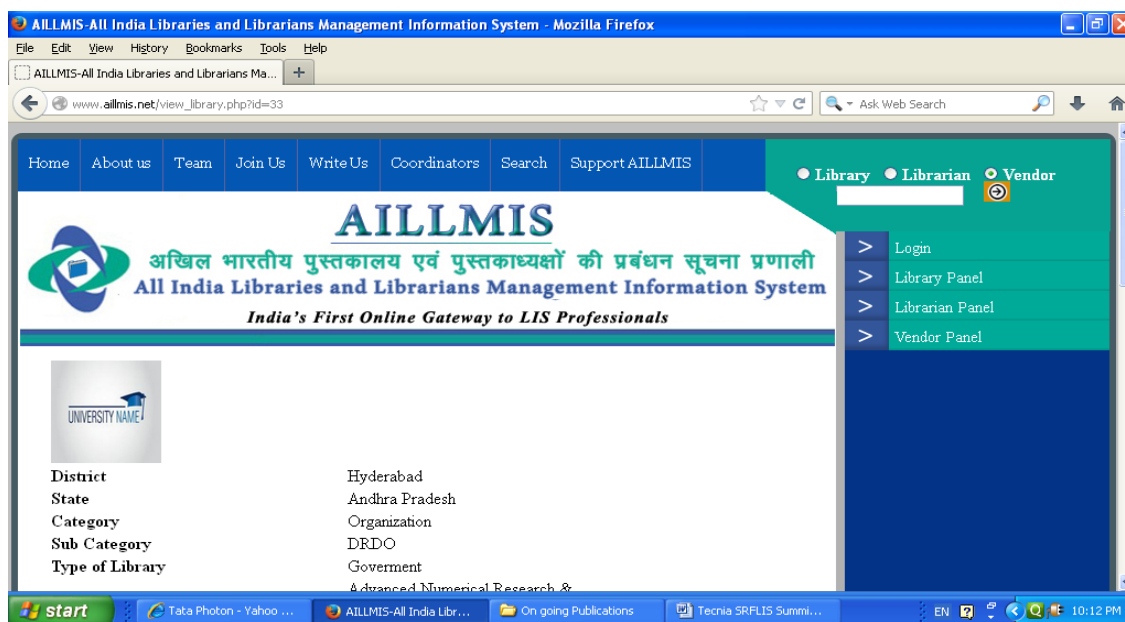
This link provides various search options to search libraries. Further link also educate to the users to find information about the libraries and various segments. The panel also highlights the online statistics of libraries at a glance.





The screenshot shows the AILLMIS website in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The page title is "AILLMIS-All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System - Mozilla Firefox". The URL is "www.aillmis.net/search.php?category=Organization&subcate=DRDO&state=Select+State&dist=Select+District&login=Submit". The page features a navigation menu with links: Home, About us, Team, Join Us, Write Us, Coordinators, Search, Support AILLMIS. There are also buttons for Library, Librarian, and Vendor. The main content area displays the AILLMIS logo and the text "अखिल भारतीय पुस्तकालय एवं पुस्तकाध्यक्षों की प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली" and "All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System". Below this, it says "India's First Online Gateway to LIS Professionals". A table lists libraries, showing 1 to 20 of 50 results. The table has columns: Sn., Name of Library, Name of University, Address, Phone, and Action. The table contains 6 rows of data.

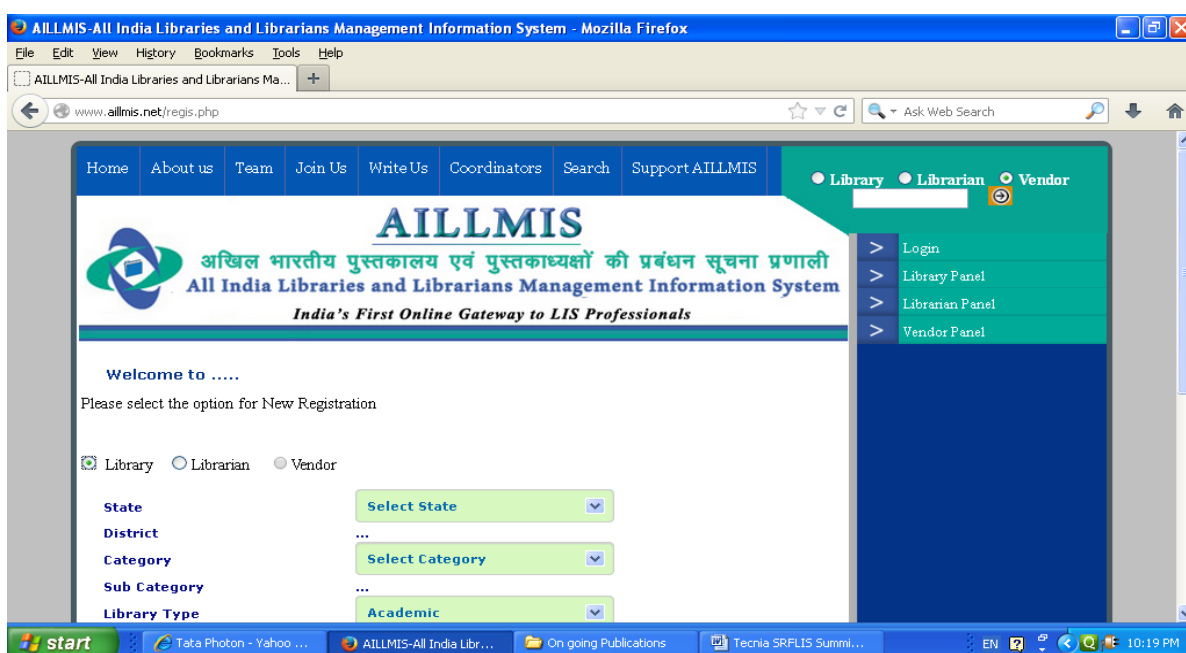
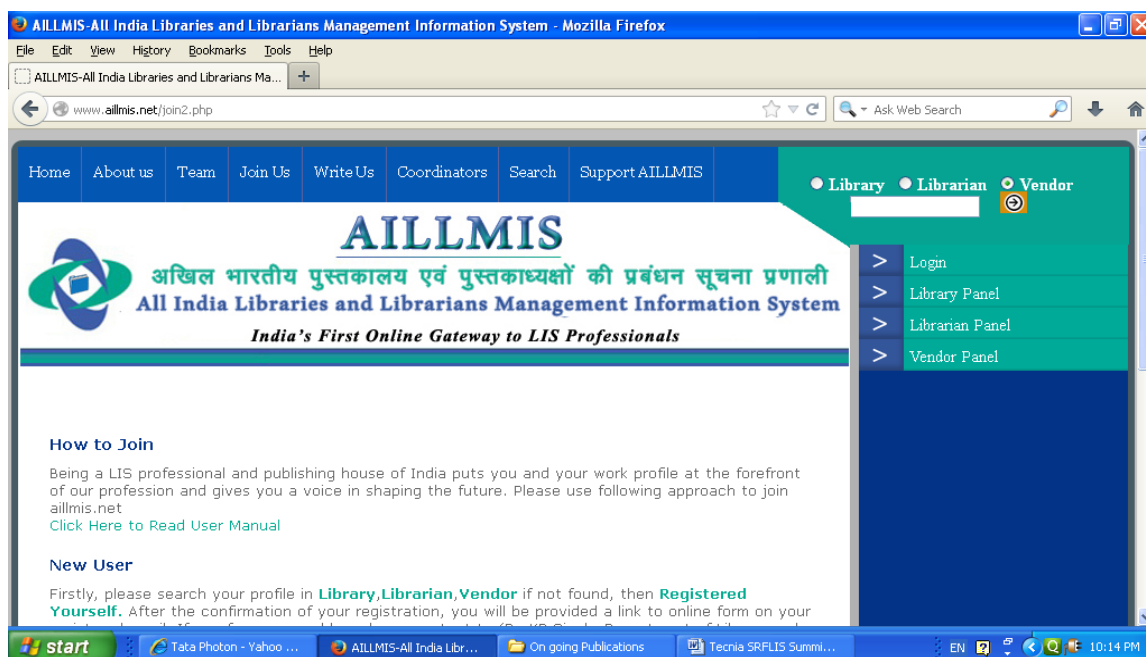
Sn.	Name of Library	Name of University	Address	Phone	Action
1	Advanced Numerical Research & Analysis Group Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Kanchanbagh PO Hyderabad-500058		View
2	Defence Electronics Research Laboratory Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Chandrayangutta Lines Hyderabad-500005		View
3	Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Kanchanbagh PO Hyderabad-500058		View
4	Defence Research & Development Laboratory Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Chandrayangutta Lines Hyderabad-500005		View
5	Naval Science & Technological Laboratory Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Vigyan Nagar Visakhapatnam-532007		View
6	Research Centre Inmarat Library	Defence Research & Development Organization	Vigyanakancha Hyderabad-500069		View



The screenshot shows the AILLMIS website in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The page title is "AILLMIS-All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System - Mozilla Firefox". The URL is "www.aillmis.net/view_library.php?id=33". The page features a navigation menu with links: Home, About us, Team, Join Us, Write Us, Coordinators, Search, Support AILLMIS. There are also buttons for Library, Librarian, and Vendor. The main content area displays the AILLMIS logo and the text "अखिल भारतीय पुस्तकालय एवं पुस्तकाध्यक्षों की प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली" and "All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System". Below this, it says "India's First Online Gateway to LIS Professionals". The page shows a form for joining the system, with fields for District, State, Category, Sub Category, and Type of Library. The form is currently empty, and the user is prompted to enter their university name.

Join Us

This link provides the information how to join the AILLMIS and enable the remote user to join libraries/librarians and vendors. In the join us panel, the registration will lead the user to initial registration formalities, once the user provide his/her basic information, the system automatically generate the user name and password for manage their profile.



AILLMIS Team

This link provides information about the team which was involved in research and designing and developing the Management information System



Conclusion

Many LIS professionals and organizations in our country have compiled many directories of libraries and librarians and for time being these sources were found very relevant and useful. But over a period of time due to the nature of dynamic content such of these sources soon became outdated and lost its relevancy. Therefore, to overcome this problem a dynamic approach has been adopted by developing a dynamic Management Information System of Libraries and Librarians, which can be manage by the respective libraries and librarians at any point of time (24x7). As developer, I try my level best to develop this Management Information System in best possible approach. This Management Information System is the first kind of endeavor by the developer in his personal capacity using the best possible web technologies and having all possible facilities and future expansion, hence there can be gaps in the System. I therefore, appeal all professionals willingly come forward and contribute regularly to this national project to portrahit the colours of libraries and librarians in India.

Acknowledgement

Author acknowledges for financial assistance provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi for designing and developing the All India Libraries and Librarians Management Information System- AILLMIS and SRFLISindi.org for their financial help to bear the expenditure of subscribing domain name and space.

References

www.aillmis.net