

A HOME CALLED THE LIBRARY: INTERVIEW WITH K.K. SURESH KUMAR



A portrait of K.K. Suresh Kumar K.K. SURESH KUMAR

K. K. SURESH KUMAR is the Librarian at Harish-Chandra Research Institute (HRI), Prayagraj. Born into the Kodava community of Karnataka, he discovered a love for books at an early age, a passion that led him to pursue Library and Information Science at Kuvempu University, Karnataka. Before joining HRI in December 2017, he served at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B), ESSAE–TAPMI Academy, Bangalore, and the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University Bangalore campus, where he contributed to the development of modern academic library services.

In this interview with *Anveshanā*, Dr. Suresh Kumar reflects on his childhood in Chikkamagalore District, the mentors and family who shaped his journey, his philosophy of service, the evolving role of libraries in the digital age, and his enduring commitment to open access and making knowledge accessible to all.

Let us begin with your background. Could you tell us about your family?

Suresh Kumar: I am from Kodagu District (Coorg) in the state of Karnataka. We are the Kodava community—the native inhabitants. Our parents had three children: my elder sister,

my elder brother, and me. My father worked as a division head at one of the well-known coffee and tea estates (Kelagur Coffee and Tea Estate) in the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka, while my mother was a homemaker. I belong to the Kodava community, and my family name is Karthura.

Please introduce our readers to the Kodava community and its distinctive cultural traditions.

SK: We belong to the Kodava community of Kodagu (Coorg).¹ The district lies in the Western Ghats of Karnataka. The first mention of the Kodavas was in the Palpare inscription from Nallur village in South Kodagu, published in the Imperial Gazetteer of India in 1908. We are also known as *Coorgis*, and Coorgi families can range anywhere from 100 to around 500 members. Traditionally, we are a warrior-heritage society, known for ancestor and nature worship and strong martial traditions.

We organize ourselves into okkas (clans). There are over 1,000 to 2,000 distinct Kodava family names (okkas), each traditionally associated with an ancestral home called an *ainmane*, which serves as the centre for family gatherings. These patrilineal clans are the primary identity of Kodava individuals.

Our culture is a tribal one. We do not marry within the same clan, and Kodava marriage ceremonies are completely different from marriages anywhere else in India. Our traditional jewelry, music, and wedding dances are also unique. The Kodava community does not practice the dowry system.



Suresh Kumar's marriage in the tradition of Kodava culture. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

Actually, the Kaveri Purana [or Cauveri Purana], the oldest literature pertaining to the family deity of the Kodavas, viz., Kaveri, and the origin of the river Kaveri (also known as South India's Ganga), narrates that the Kodavas are descendants of King Chandraverma of the Kadamba dynasty, who ruled over Kodagu from the fourth century to the middle of the sixth century. It further narrates that when their family deity, Kaveri, transformed herself into the holy river, the Kodavas of the land were already in good number, and she blessed and assured them of her protective grace. Thus, according to the Kaveri Purana, the Kodavas predate the mythological manifestation of the river Kaveri.

¹The name "Kodagu" comes from the native Kodava language word Koda, meaning "hills" or "dense forest". During the colonial era, the British found the rolled consonants of the original name difficult to pronounce, leading to the Anglicized version, "Coorg". A more complete description of the Kodava community can be found at <https://www.kodavasamajabangalore.org>.

Is there any specific music or sport that the Kodava community enjoys?

SK: Yes, there is a specific music followed by the Kodava community. The key types of Kodava folk songs are Mangala Paat (weddings and joyful celebrations), Baalo Paat (narrative songs), Polachi Paat (harvest songs), and Chaavu Paat (mourning or memorial songs). Traditional music is accompanied by Valaga and dance rhythms.

This passion for hockey continues through the annual Kodava Family Hockey Tournament. In 2025, a record 451 Kodava families participated. The tournament is regarded as one of the largest field hockey tournaments in the world and has been recognised by both the Limca Book of Records and the Guinness World Records. Besides hockey, the Kodava community has also produced star players such as Rohan Bopanna (tennis) and Ashwini Ponnappa (badminton).

How was your childhood, and how did your early and higher education shape your interest in books and, eventually, librarianship?

SK: My childhood began at the beautiful Kelagur Coffee and Tea Estate in the Chikmagalur district. It is a massive, 800-plus-acre estate split into three divisions, and my father was the divisional head of one of them. Those early years were wonderful; they were truly interesting



Suresh Kumar [far left] and the family at Kelagur Coffee and Tea Estate in his childhood (1975).

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about 3 kilometers from the Kelagur estate. We used to walk there every day, and in those days, the teaching standards were genuinely good, even in government schools.

and full of adventure. I vividly remember my parents keeping the Ramayana and Mahabharata for us. This was roughly between 1977 and 1982. My father would also bring home the Vikrama weekly and the Udayavani newspaper.

As a child, I had no idea about librarianship, but I was very interested in reading from a young age, especially comics, newspapers, and storybooks. I was a good student with natural leadership qualities, and I studied at GHPS (Government Higher Primary School), Javali, a government school

In my 6th standard, to support my elder sister's and brother's education, my father shifted our family to Chikmagalur city. I spent only a year there, but reading had a profound influence on me. That was another turning point in my life. I studied at Vishwavidya Nilaya Primary School in Kote, Chikmagalur. Near the school, on the way, was the District Central Library in Kote, and I was naturally drawn to it. During that time, I started reading newspapers, biographies, novels—especially adventure and detective novels—and visited the library even on Sundays. I vividly remember my parents sometimes scolding me for coming home late in the evenings. Comic books were also very popular then, and my neighbours and I would exchange and read them together.

Due to my father's illness, we returned to the estate, and I continued my education at GHPS, Javali. But after my father's sudden demise, everything was turned upside down. In October 1983, we moved to the small village of Gonibeedu in the Shimoga district (near Chikmagalur), where my father's brother was employed at the Bhadra Reservoir Project [B.R. Project] on the Bhadra River.



Suresh Kumar's father (in front-left without cap) with estate owner. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

In Gonibeedu, we lived like an ordinary poor family. In 8th grade, I joined National High School at the B.R. Project. The place was a hub for sports and cultural activities, and I became one of the student leaders in my school.

One more thing I need to mention. In Gonibeedu village, two Kodava community families and one Kodagu Gowda family have settled. P. M. Ravi Anna, a member of the Gowda family, had a significant influence on my reading habits. At the time, in 1984, he subscribed to various Kannada weeklies, including Sudha, Prajamatha, Tushara, Karmaveera, Mayura, Taranga, Kasthuri, and Mangala, and I had the opportunity to read them, which improved my reading habits.

"Near the school, on the way, was the District Central Library in Kote, and I was naturally drawn to it."

There was an office clerk, G. Panduramgappa (G.P.), who handled the library period. He would quickly bring books to our tables, and we had to read in pin-drop silence for 45 minutes. Since I was a good student, he would also take me to the cupboards, and I would

help bring books to the class along with one or two other students. Those three years greatly influenced me.

Later, I joined the 11th and 12th standards at Sahyadri Science College in Shimoga. After that, I enrolled in a diploma course and later completed my B.A. at a degree college affiliated with Kuvempu University near my village. Eventually, I completed my Master of Library and Information Science from the same university.

Do you wish to mention any mentor or support who encouraged you at this stage of your journey?

SK: I would not be where I am today without my brother, Mr. Karthura K. Harish Kumar. When we lost our father, while I was in the 7th standard, he stepped up and took on the



With brother [in middle] and his friend at a coconut farm. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

financial responsibility so that I could continue my education. Because of his constant encouragement and guidance, I was able to move to Bangalore and join the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) Library as a Graduate Apprenticeship Trainee. That was where my career truly began. Watching his generosity taught me that life is far more meaningful when we look after one another.

One of my brother's close friends, Mr. Mustak Ali Khan (Ramegowda), was also a wonderful mentor. I will always be grateful for the financial support and

encouragement he gave me when I was just starting out.

How did you decide to pursue Library and Information Science?

SK: Getting into Library Science was actually quite unexpected. After my degree, I initially applied for History, Economics, and Political Science. However, during a general discussion at our college, a couple of our lecturers mentioned a new Library Science course at Kuvempu University, which was just a kilometer away. They told us that the program had started only two years earlier, that it was an excellent subject, and encouraged us to apply. Since I had always been interested in reading, I decided to apply to the Library Science program as well.

So, I applied for all four courses at Kuvempu University in 1995. When the first list was announced, my name was not on it, which was quite disappointing. But about 15 days later, an offer letter from the Library Science department arrived at our house in the village. My mother and I were absolutely overjoyed. Without a second thought, I decided to accept it.

"Watching his generosity taught me that life is far more meaningful when we look after one another."

Eventually, the offer letters for History, Economics, and Political Science also arrived, but by then my mind was already made up. I joined the Library Science program, and once again, my brother provided the financial support I needed.

I was also an active NSS member at the university and was chosen for the North India NSS programme at Kuvempu University. I had the opportunity to visit Uttar Pradesh twice, in 1995 and 1996, and it was a wonderful experience.

If you had not pursued Library and Information Science, what other career do you think you would have chosen?

SK: I have always had a deep passion for the Kannada language, literature, and journalism. I am quite proud of my Kannada writing, and even today, I feel that, given the opportunity, I would have loved to pursue it professionally. I have been profoundly influenced by Navodaya Kannada poets and writers such as Kuvempu, D.V. Gundappa (D.V.G.), Bendre (Ambikatanayadatta), G.S. Shivarudrappa, Masti Venkatesh Iyengar, K.S. Narasimhaswamy, Shivarama Karantha, V.K. Gokak, Chandrashekhara Kambara, Poornachandra Tejaswi, Lankesh, and Ravi Belagere.



With renowned Kannada Journalist and writer Ravi Belagere. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

My love for writing naturally drew me to journalism as well. In fact, in 1999, I completed a diploma in journalism and ranked third. During that time, I also had the opportunity to interact with the late journalist Ravi Belagere. However, as it happens in life, my path eventually took a different direction.

Could you tell us about your doctoral research—your advisor, your thesis topic, and the questions you set out to investigate?

SK: In 2007, I enrolled in the PhD programme at Mangalore University under the supervision of Dr. M. K. Bhandi, University Librarian. Shri V. Savanur of the M. S. Ramaiah Library also encouraged me during this process. However, due to a personal issue, I was unable to continue my research. Later, in 2011, I enrolled in Kuvempu University's PhD programme.

Alright! My research topic was *Library Resources and Services in Secondary Schools of Bangalore Districts: A Comparative User Study*. I completed this work at Kuvempu University in the



Dr. K.C. Ramakrishnegowda, Kuvempu University
K.K. SURESH KUMAR

Shimoga district of Karnataka under the guidance of Dr. K.C. Ramakrishnegowda, the former University Librarian. My research aimed to investigate the status of library resources and services in school libraries across the rural and urban districts of Bangalore. At the same time, I wanted to explore how effectively teachers and students were utilizing these facilities.

Urban district. To gather the necessary data, I designed two separate questionnaires—one for students and another for teachers. I collected data on the physical and operational status of

For the study, I selected 60 schools from the Bangalore Rural district and 93 from the

these libraries, including library space, operating hours, budgets, furniture, and the overall organization of their collections. Beyond the infrastructure, I also gathered information on user patterns. I wanted to understand why students and teachers visited the library, the challenges they faced, and their opinions about the services provided. I also evaluated their use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Despite several drawbacks and bottlenecks, the study found that school libraries were useful for both teachers and students in improving their general knowledge, competence, and teaching skills. However, many teachers and students also reported that their reliance on school libraries for academic needs had not increased significantly.

What led you to choose this particular research topic, and what was the Ph.D. journey like for you?

SK: Many people wonder why, while working at a private university like Amrita University, I chose to focus on secondary school libraries. I am asked this question quite often. In my opinion, secondary education forms the foundation for higher education and for acquiring the skills needed for lifelong learning. Therefore, library culture, reading habits, and information literacy should be cultivated at an early stage of a student's life so that the habit of learning continues throughout life.

Since secondary schools provide basic education for all students, it is important to know whether they actually possess functioning libraries. Well-equipped, open-access school libraries not only encourage students to use resources but also help them learn through self-observation, self-study, and peer discussions. Having noticed the issues highlighted in newspapers and magazines, along with my own observations, I felt that research in this area would have the greatest impact. That is why I chose this topic.

"...library culture, reading habits, and information literacy should be cultivated at an early stage of a student's life so that the habit of learning continues throughout life."

My thesis was a significant milestone in my academic career. I learned theories and concepts that I could not have understood without undertaking such extensive research, and I remain grateful to everyone who guided and supported me throughout the process.

My advisor constantly encouraged me, and his guidance greatly inspired my work. Whenever I faced challenges, his reassurance and practical feedback kept me moving forward from the beginning to the very end. I could not have completed the research or learned nearly as much without him. Working under him and learning from his expertise remains one of the greatest opportunities of my academic career.

You were accepted into the Graduate Apprenticeship Training program at the IIM Bangalore Library. What was that experience like, and what did you learn from your training?

SK: After my postgraduate studies, my teachers encouraged me to apply to the IIM Bangalore library apprentice program.



At IIM Bangalore during training program in 1997. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

It was a completely new world to me. I had seen the library at Kuvempu University, but the IIM Bangalore Library in 1997 operated 24 hours a day, which was quite a wonder to me. That is where I truly realized the immense importance of a library. I still vividly remember seeing students deeply engaged in reading throughout the day and even at night.

Once a month, for a few days, the male trainees had the opportunity to work the night shift from 10 PM to 6 AM alongside a permanent staff member. All three floors of the library remained active under minimal lighting. We worked in the ground-floor circulation section and, whenever required, assisted users in other sections as well. It was truly a wonderful and formative experience for me.

out my library career. He has been one of the best mentors in my life. He is now almost 80 years old, and I continue to visit him at his home and seek his blessings.

I will never forget Shri Chikkamalliah, Librarian at IIM Bangalore, for his support and guidance through-

What was your employment experience like at Essae–TAPMI, and what lessons did you carry forward from your time there?

SK: That period of my career was quite memorable. After completing my library training at IIM Bangalore, I joined the Essae–T. A. Pai Management Institute (TAPMI) Academy in Bangalore, where I worked as a librarian for four years. The academy was a joint venture between the Essae Group and the TAPMI in Manipal, which provided the academic expertise.

Because the chairman of the Essae Group, S. A. Chandran, had his office at the academy, I had the opportunity to interact closely with him. He was an excellent management trainer and a yoga guru. It was from him that I learned the core principle of Kaizen², or continuous improvement, a mindset that has stayed with me ever since.

You seem to have learned a lot from him.

SK: Yes! I still remember what an avid reader he was. He frequently borrowed management

²[Kaizen (Japanese: 改善, "change for the better") is a philosophy that emphasizes continuous improvement through small, consistent steps. More at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaizen>]

books from our library. What truly amazed me was that such a prominent industrialist would not even use the lift just to get a book. Instead, he would walk up the stairs, personally visit the library, search for the books himself, sign the book card, and take the books. Seeing a person of his stature, amidst a busy schedule, demonstrate such genuine love for libraries and books, along with a simple, humble attitude, is something I will always remember. I also noticed that whenever he stood up, he always pushed his chair back into its place. On one occasion, he gently pointed out that I had forgotten to do the same. I will never forget that moment. From that day forward, I have always made it a rule to push my chair back in, and I have maintained that habit throughout my life. A habit that, I think, everyone should care about.

What was your employment after ESSAE-TAPMI?

SK: I joined Amrita and worked there for almost fifteen years. Initially, it was an engineering college affiliated with Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi. I had the privilege of being the first librarian at the Amrita Bangalore campus. Three years later, the engineering colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, together with the science and medical colleges, became part of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, a private university. The institution is led by Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, affectionately known as Amma.

And what was it to build and develop the library there?

SK: At the Amrita Bangalore campus, I served as the founding librarian from 2002 to 2017. Starting from scratch, I was actively involved in every aspect of developing the library. With a team of fifteen library staff, we served over 2,600 undergraduate and postgraduate students, more than 160 faculty members, and over 350 non-teaching staff. The library housed more than 50,000 resources, engineering and MBA databases, and around 150 journal subscriptions.



During inauguration of book exhibition at Amrita University. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

“From that day forward, I have always made it a rule to push my chair back in, and I have maintained that habit throughout my life.”

We developed dedicated sections for circulation, periodicals, reference, digital resources, theses and project reports, publications, a reading hall, and photocopying services. We also implemented library management software and main-

tained library hours from 8 AM to 10 PM. Around 500 users regularly visited the library. I met Amma [Guru Mata Amritanandamayi] several times, both at the university and during ashram programs in Kerala and Bangalore, and received her blessings. My journey at Amrita

was very memorable, and I remain in touch with the management and many faculty members.

How did you come to join HRI, and what were your first initiatives at the library?

SK: My joining HRI in December 2017 was accidental. I never expected to move to North India, particularly to Prayagraj.

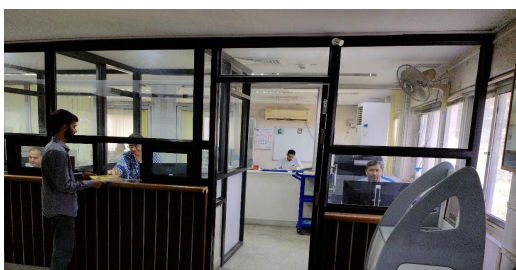
One of our first priorities was to modernize the library. We shifted many of our services from manual to electronic systems, increased the seating capacity, and gave the library a new look. We also adopted RFID technology-KIOSK along with the Koha open-source library management software, which greatly improved our services. Slowly, users began to recognize the library as an active and important department within the institute.

Since HRI is primarily devoted to frontier research in physics and mathematics, how does this influence the library's collection policy and the services it provides?

SK: Yes. Regarding the collection policy, our focus is 99% on mathematics and physics. Service-wise, there is not much difference. In librarianship, it does not matter what type of library we work in. Whether it is an academic, research, or public library, the specific work may vary, but the core services are largely the same. At HRI, we strive to provide high-quality services and a user-friendly experience.

To what extent are you involved in supporting the research activities on campus?

SK: I support the entire research lifecycle of our researchers. This includes providing Open Access and publishing support, as well as supporting author workshops and webinars. I also regularly share scientific information with the research community. In addition, we provide access to a wide range of e-resources, bibliographic databases, and specialized tools for citation management and research data management.



K.K. Suresh Kumar (near the whiteboard) with the staff of the HRI Library. **K.K. SURESH KUMAR**

How large is the HRI Library team, and how do you ensure that the staff remains up to date with evolving technologies and research needs?

SK: Currently, the library has nine staff members and remains open from 8 AM to 2 AM, past midnight. We regularly attend software training programmes, author workshops, and similar professional development events. Traveling to conferences,

seminars, workshops, and training programmes also helps us stay up to date with the latest technologies. In addition, the DAE Consortium and the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative under INFLIBNET conduct regular training programmes on their resources and services, all of which we attend.

What, in your opinion, is the true role of a library in an academic institution? What do you think people often misunderstand about using a library?

SK: Facilitating learning is one of the most important roles of a library. If users are not actively engaged with it, they miss much of its value. Simply visiting the library is not enough; making proper use of its resources is what brings people closer to success. The knowledge contained in libraries is like an ocean, and there is a tremendous amount to discover. We could write an entire book on this subject.

What role does the physical library play in today's digital age of information and online resources?

SK: Physical libraries are metamorphosing to include both physical and virtual resources. Instead of only collecting print materials, they now serve as collaborative workspaces, technology labs, and much more. Researchers may visit less frequently to issue and return books or browse the shelves, but they spend more time accessing e-resources and engaging in discussions with their peer groups within the library.

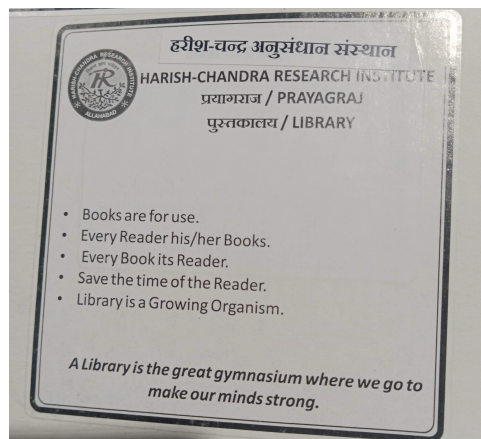
What does a typical day as the librarian at HRI look like, and what aspects of your work do you find most appealing?

SK: Each day is different and challenging. I am service-oriented, so I am happy to serve users in various ways. Some of my main responsibilities include sending official emails and letters, communicating with publishers, and gathering information from the internet. Handling routine library activities, communicating with colleagues, assigning work, and resolving issues are also part of my daily responsibilities. What distinguishes me is that I leave the library each evening with the same enthusiasm with which I arrived.

What are your hobbies and interests outside your professional life?

SK: Yes. During my childhood, I collected stamps and cricket photo clippings from newspapers. My other hobbies include reading, listening to lyrical songs, gardening, and watching adventure movies.

"The knowledge contained in libraries is like an ocean, and there is a tremendous amount to discover."



Bookplate used in HRI Library books, displaying S. R. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science.

ANVESHANĀ



Library space at HRI. K.K. SURESH KUMAR

what inspired you to take such an initiative?

SK: As I said earlier, I am a service-oriented person who flourishes in libraries. I find it incredibly rewarding to meet the challenge of serving our users in diverse ways. Yes, HRI encourages students from nearby villages to use the library for their academic development. We provide library access to students from the 10th standard up to the master's level. HRI is an institute dedicated to serving society.

What challenges arise when a research library opens its resources to external users, and why is this practice still not common at many institutions?

SK: In general, most research and academic libraries do not provide free access to their collections for external users. Balancing the needs of internal and external users is a major responsibility, and library staff often face many challenges in serving both groups.

Many libraries have adopted different models, and most charge external users for access. Decisions regarding library access depend on each library's policies and the norms of its institution. While providing access offers many benefits, it also presents significant challenges for the library and the institution.

Have you observed differences in the way high school students and HRI's graduate students, PhD scholars, and postdoctoral researchers seek knowledge?

SK: Yes, there are significant differences in information-seeking methods, and they are closely connected to academic maturity and study goals. School students generally depend on readily available and highly structured materials for their studies. In contrast, PhD scholars and postdoctoral researchers rely on independent and critical inquiry to build new knowledge, moving beyond acquiring existing information toward conducting original research and developing deep, specialized expertise.

Beyond its regular services, does the HRI Library take any special initiatives for students and the wider community?

SK: Yes. These initiatives include organizing library visits for high school and college students, delivering library lectures there. All of these programs are supported by our library facilities, which offer comfortable spaces, rich resources, and strong institutional support. Local students benefit greatly from these outreach efforts.

"HRI encourages students from nearby villages to use the library for their academic development."

Does the HRI Library collaborate with other libraries? If so, how do these collaborations benefit the library and its users?

SK: Yes, we maintain inter-library loan services in various ways. Within the DAE (Department of Atomic Energy) library network, we share journal articles and electronic resources without restrictions, except for physical copies of books. Additionally, HRI is a member of DELNET in New Delhi, which provides inter-library borrowing services to more than 9,900 institutions across India. Through this network, we can request printed books from other libraries as well as electronic copies of journal articles.

The HRI Library holds a wide range of materials in mathematics and physics and is regarded as one of the finest collections in the country. With 25,000+ textbooks reference books, 38,292 bound volumes, 2,452 e-books, 13,434+ ONOS journals, databases, life-time archives, print journals, magazines, newspapers, theses, etc., the library is a rich source of collection.

Apart from this, the HRI Library maintains close contacts with approximately 20–30 libraries across India to obtain journal articles. We also occasionally communicate directly with authors, publishers, and vendors to obtain articles that may not be available through other channels.

Let us talk about open-access initiatives. How does the HRI Library support and promote open access?

SK: Our library has implemented open-access initiatives by self-archiving theses and actively assists users by sharing information on open-access publishing. We

also regularly provide updates to our users on open access and other relevant academic developments.

HRI is part of the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative. How has this benefited the institute's researchers and library users?

SK: This is an initiative of the Central Government. In earlier days, researchers often struggled to obtain even a single photocopied journal article for their studies. Today, more than 13,400+ journals are available to users, marking an extraordinary development for Indian research. Our members can easily access these resources through the institute's IP-based access.

Do you think there is sufficient awareness of open-access initiatives? If not, what more needs to be done?

SK: No. Greater awareness is needed among users. However, I feel that many readers are still not fully receptive to an open-access environment. Several changes are needed in government and UGC policies, the quality of open-access journals, authors' attitudes, user awareness, and publication fees.

More authors are coming forward to publish their work in open-access journals. At the same time, governments and regulatory bodies should formulate clear policies or mandates to support and standardize this matter.

How did the COVID-19 lockdown affect the library and its management?

SK: The COVID-19 lockdown had a dramatic and transformative impact on libraries and their management, serving as a catalyst for a rapid, forced transition to digital services. While physical library spaces were closed to users, library administrations had to adopt alternative approaches, moving away from traditional in-person service models toward digital-first, contactless, and hybrid models.

Could you briefly explain what journal binding is and why it is done?

SK: Based on the size of the journal, several separately published issues are usually sent together for binding into a single volume. Various types of bindings are available, including leather binding, half calico, full calico, and ordinary binding. Among these, full leather binding is the most durable. However, with the growing popularity of e-journals, journal binding is gradually declining, as it is also a highly space-intensive practice.



Apprentice in bookbinding at the Göteborg Book Fair 2023 BOBERGER
THROUGH WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Top-left: Suresh Kumar [far right] at Gonibeedu Village after his father's death. Bottom-left: With brother at his wedding. Right: With daughter and wife at a traditional wedding.

K.K. SURESH KUMAR

What advice would you give to those who are serving in the profession or aspiring to become librarians?

Knowledge is an ocean, and we are all lifelong learners. Only those with a spirit of service can truly provide quality services to everyone; otherwise, managing a library can easily become an overwhelming profession.

Anveshanā shares a similar origin story—we seek to respect knowledge and its many methods of inquiry, while remaining grateful for every hand that contributes to its pursuit.

Is there any message you would like to share with our readers? Who are the people you would especially like to acknowledge for their support throughout your journey?

SK: Reading the stories of scientists and information providers is truly fascinating. Such stories stimulate readers and illuminate the path of reality.

“Knowledge is an ocean, and we are all lifelong learners.”

Throughout my education, research journey, and professional development, I have deeply cherished the time I spent with my beloved father, the late Mr. Karthura A. Kushalappa, and my loving mother, the late Mrs. Karthura K. Susheela. They were a tremendous source of inspiration in my life, and I am profoundly grateful to God Almighty for the blessing of my parents.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the late K. A. Achappa and the late Smt. Seethamma (Uncle and Aunty), the late P. M. Ravi Anna, Mr. Mustaq Ali Khan (Ramegowda), Prof. B. S. Biradar, Prof. Mallinath Kumar, the late Dr. K. C. Ramakrishne Gowda, Mr. Chikkamalliah, Dr. M. K. Bhandi, and Mr. V. Savanoor for their support throughout my journey.

I also express my deepest appreciation to my graceful wife, Mrs. Karthura P.B. Leelavathi (Shabna), whose spiritual, moral, and physical support has been invaluable throughout my journey, and to my lovely daughter, Karthura S. Bhamini Changappa, for her patience and inspiration in both my personal and professional life.

Finally, my humble pranam to the lotus feet of goddess SARASVATI,

sarasvati mahābhāge vidye kamalalocane |
vidyārūpe viśālākṣi vidyāṃ dehi namostute ||

[Sarasvati, the glorious one, who is the embodiment of knowledge, lotus-eyed, whose form is the whole universe, and the one with the broadest perspective – please grant me knowledge. My salutations be unto you.]

This interview was conducted over email correspondence.