

Book Review on

Silver Linings: Shaping Minds and Institutions

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Reviewed by
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Silver Linings: Shaping Minds and Institutions is a Festschrift published in honour of Professor K P Singh to commemorate his twenty-five years of distinguished academic, research, and administrative service (2001-2026) in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). More than a tribute volume, the book serves as a significant document of academic leadership, professional excellence and institutional development, reflecting the enduring impact of Professor Singh on LIS institutions, education and practice in India.

The volume is organized into two complementary sections. The first section (pp. 3-166), "*Reminiscences – The Singh Spectrum: Excellence in essays* contributed by an eminent spectrum of academicians across many departments, vice-chancellors, librarians, researchers and professional associates - it is a measure of his wide network across academia. These contributions collectively portray Professor K P Singh as an accomplished scholar, a visionary and dynamic administrator, a dedicated teacher, and an inspiring mentor. Through personal narratives and professional reflections, the contributors illuminate his values of integrity, dynamism, inclusiveness,

academic commitment and leadership that have characterized his persona and career. A notable feature of this section is its qualitative richness in words and pictures. The contributors present diverse perspectives that converge around common themes of mentorship, institution-building and professional service. Consequently, the section functions not merely as a collection of tributes but as an insightful exploration of academic leadership in contemporary higher education in India. It demonstrates how scholarly influence is often exercised through guidance, collaboration and intellectual engagement rather than through formal authority alone.

The second section (pp. 169-339), "*Modern Science of Library Science: Scholarly Contributions*," contains nineteen research papers addressing contemporary developments in Library and Information Science. The contributions encompass a broad range of contemporary themes, including scientometrics, bibliometrics, artificial intelligence, text mining, knowledge management, digital information systems and emerging technologies in libraries. Collectively, these papers highlight the

dynamic transformation of the discipline in response to technological advancements and changing information environments. From an analytical perspective, the volume successfully connects Prof. Singh's professional journey with the broader evolution of Library and Information Science in India. The themes addressed in the scholarly contributions mirror significant developments in the profession, including digital transformation, data-driven research and the growing integration of artificial intelligence in library and information services. In this regard, the book transcends the conventional boundaries of a felicitation volume and emerges as a valuable resource for understanding trends in cutting-edge LIS research and practice.

The volume underscores the critical role of mentorship in academic life. Across numerous narratives, Professor Singh emerges not only as a prolific scholar and administrator but also as a catalyst for the professional growth of students, colleagues, and institutions. This recurring theme reinforces the broader understanding that academic leadership is measured not solely by scholarly output but also by the ability to nurture future generations of professionals and researchers. One of the major strengths of the volume lies in its successful balance between personal tribute and scholarly substance. Festschrift publications occasionally risk becoming predominantly celebratory and hagiographic; however, the editors have ensured the book maintains academic relevance by including substantive research contributions. This integration of personal narratives and scholarly discourse enhances both its intellectual value

and documentary significance. The publication's editorial quality deserves high commendation. The arrangement of chapters is logical and coherent, enabling readers to move seamlessly from personal reflections to scholarly discussions. The production standards maintained by Excel India Publishers, including paper quality, layout, typography and overall presentation, further contribute to the readability and attractiveness of this treasure trove.

A minor limitation of the book is the absence of a comprehensive chronology of Professor Singh's professional milestones and a consolidated bibliography of his publications. The inclusion of these elements would have enhanced the volume's utility as a reference source for future researchers interested in the history and development of Library and Information Science in India. Finally, *Silver Linings: Shaping Minds and Institutions* represents a noteworthy contribution to LIS literature. It effectively documents the interplay between scholarship, leadership, mentorship and institution-building while providing valuable insights into the evolution of the profession. It is a tribute to an eminent, multifaceted library leader and a reflection on the values that sustain academic excellence in the contemporary world. The volume will be of considerable interest to LIS professionals, educators, researchers, students, academic administrators and library historians.

Citation

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