

indexing retrieval. Nowhere else has classification been portrayed in its varied and diverse forms as an efficient tool for information retrieval. In this collection, the emphasis is not on the nostalgic past but on the past as prelude to future developments. It shows the continuity of research from the manual methods to the availability of most powerful and versatile information processing machines. But classification still requires a lot of human intelligence and judgment.

Minor typos here and there do not mar an otherwise attractive and useful volume.

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Professor P.N. Kaula, a staunch proponent and an able and indefatigable apostle of Ranganathan, has had a long cherished desire to establish a journal exclusively devoted to Ranganathan studies. Professor Kaula has an abiding faith in the profundity and continuing relevance of Ranganathan theories in this information age and in the electronic environment. Indeed he is personally committed to Ranganathan, and remains his outstanding adherent today: nobody seems to have so enthusiastically worked to propagate Ranganathan's name and ideology as he.

The birth of the journal got delayed by Professor Kaula's quest to find a suitable person to whom the editorial responsibility could be delegated. At last, he himself had to assume the mantle! Publication of the maiden issue is certainly an event to be celebrated and for which Kaula with his intransigent will gets the entire credit. The *Ranganathan Research Bulletin* is the first journal entirely devoted to a school of thought in our profession.

The *Bulletin* is an offspring of the *Herald of Library Science* (1962-) which it closely resembles in format, nature and presentation.

In his introduction, editor-in-chief Kaula describes Ranganathan as a "super human" with unbound energy and single minded devotion to the profession. He laments that Ranganathan's thoughts and works have not been studied properly, nor comprehensively. Projecting Ranganathan's work as the Indian school of thought, Kaula makes a dig at Ranga-

than's (un)grateful disciples and beneficiaries for not coming forward to reinterpret and propagate the master's intellectual legacy. Professor Kaula has indeed proved true to his salt! Then he refers to Ranganathan's letters lying with him and in custody of numerous other colleagues; such letters will be published piecemeal in the *Bulletin*. In addition, there are numerous unpublished library plans and memoranda submitted by Ranganathan to various agencies. In the next issue, a list of such documents will be given as a first step towards publishing them one by one.

The *Bulletin's* main objectives are to encourage and publish research on Ranganathan, to re-publish Ranganathan's views on given topics in the form of short excerpts from his writings, and to answer questions on Ranganathan's methods and theories. In a nutshell, the *Bulletin* editor wants members of our profession to rediscover the greatness of Ranganathan by showing his continued relevance, and to impress it upon the Web-obsessed generation hooked to networks and surfing in cyberspace. It is a noble plan to keep alive the thoughts and work of Ranganathan, as it is clearly stated in the editorial policy of the journal.

Most of these features are available in the inaugural issue. Section B is on the importance of Ranganathan's work by one of his foremost admirers, Dr Ingetraut Dahlberg. This is followed by a strong plea to revise the Colon classification. Section D contains a piece by J.M. Perrault entitled "Citation order: assumptions". The previous texts are old, but still apt and relevant writings. Section E reproduces Ranganathan's letters to colleagues, as well as a more recent letter written by Edward Dudley to an Indian scholar. Section F is a description of a recent book of Ranganathan's quotations. Section G presents Ranganathan's views on "Topics of research". Lastly, Section H reports on some events on Ranganathan celebrations.

At the moment, the *RRB* is a digest of Ranganathan studies aimed at the common librarian and at the Ranganathan scholars alike. Judging by the contents of the first issue, and on the stature and experience of editor-in-chief Kaula, it is slated to be an important forum and an effective medium to propagate Ranganathan's ideology and school of thought. Professor Kaula imparts it his midas touch. As such, it is a welcome addition to the still growing family of traditional journals in our field.

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