



*The Department of Library & Information Science
cordially invites you to the*

One-day International Conference

On

**Indigenous Knowledge Systems:
Transformative Role of Libraries**

On

24th of March, 2026

HYBRID MODE

(11a.m. – 5:30p.m.)



Inauguration By

Professor Dr Sonali Chakravarti Bandyopadhyay
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RBU

Guest of Honour

Hon'ble Dean, Faculty of Arts

Venue

**Kabi Janani Sarada Sabha Kaksha
Emerald Bower Campus**

Hosted By

**Department of Library & Information Science
Rabindra Bharati University**

With warm regards

Professor Sudip Ranjan Hatua

Professor & Head

Department of Library & Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University

Dear Compeers,

The Department of Library & Information Science is pleased to invite you to its one-day international conference on “*Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Transformative Role of Libraries*”, to be hosted at Kabi Janani Sarada Sabha Kaksha at the Emerald Bower Campus of the university on 24.03.2026 on hybrid mode between 11a.m. and 5:30p.m.

With warm regards,

Professor Sudip Ranjan Hatua
Head
Department of Library & Information
Science
Rabindra Bharati University

Call for Papers

Interested participants are requested to send an abstract within 500 words with 4-5 keywords to rbuseminardlis@gmail.com latest by 20.03.2026. Clearly mention your name, contact number, subject, designation and institutional affiliation at the end of your abstract. Intimation regarding acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants on or before 21.03.2026. The abstract and a short bio-note (within 50 words) of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing.

Full papers must be sent to the same email id (rbuseminardlis@gmail.com) latest by 30.04.2026. However, adequate time shall be given to the contributors for revising and re-submitting their full papers for publication after the conference. After peer-review process is over, only ‘Selected’ papers will be published in the edited volume with ISBN in “*Trends in LIS Education, Research & Practice*” series (Publisher Registrar, Rabindra Bharati University).

Working lunch and light refreshments will be provided to the participants.

- No TA/DA & other allowances will be paid to the participants.
- Accommodation cannot be provided to the participants.
- In case of joint authors, each of the authors should get registered separately.

Registration

Kindly fill up the Registration Form as instructed. After completing the registration a WhatsApp group link will be appeared on the screen. Please join the link for further conference related updates.

- Each participant shall be given a maximum of 15 minutes for making their presentation.
- **Registration Fees** –Rs. 1000/- (With paper), Rs. 500/- (Without paper), Rs. 500/- (Subsequent authors)
- The Registration fees include publication charge.

Last Date of Registration: 22.03.2026 (up to 5pm)

For Registration: Click on this link: <https://forms.gle/xaKt7Nvt58UR7Tv16>

Amount to be submitted online to the following Bank Account of Rabindra Bharati University:

Name of the Bank: State Bank of India

Branch: RBU Campus Branch

Branch Address: 56A, B.T.Road, Kolkata - 700050

Account No: 10774579047

IFSC: SBIN0010417

Guidelines for Submission of Full Papers

Full paper should be written between 1000 and 3500 words, including bibliography. No paper shall be accepted after the deadline is over. Please follow the APA style format (latest version) for referencing. Paper must be typed using the MS Word format in Times New Roman, with font size of 12 and double-spaced lining. Ensure that your paper is original and not submitted elsewhere for publication. The medium of language of full papers (considered for publication) shall be English only. The Editorial Board shall have the right to suggest modifications in your paper at any point of time before publication. All official communications are to be made on rbuseminardlis@gmail.com only.

Concept Note

International Conference on “Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Transformative Role of Libraries”

Organised by: Department of Library and Information Science, Rabindra Bharati University

Date: 24 March 2026

Mode: Hybrid

Venue: Kabi Janani Sarada Sabhakaksha, Rabindra Bharati University

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Background and Rationale

Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) have increasingly entered academic and policy discourse as sites of recovery, resistance, and epistemic plurality. Yet the category itself requires careful scrutiny. What is identified as indigenous knowledge, who defines it, and under what institutional frameworks does it become visible? These questions are not merely semantic. They involve complex negotiations of power, authorship, ownership, translation, and representation. Libraries, archives, and documentation centres occupy a crucial yet contested position in this terrain. Historically aligned with state, colonial, and disciplinary structures, libraries have also functioned as custodians of suppressed or marginalised knowledges. The contemporary challenge is to interrogate whether libraries merely curate indigenous knowledge as static heritage, or whether they can participate in reshaping epistemic hierarchies and facilitating critical dialogue. This conference proposes a sustained and interdisciplinary engagement with Indigenous Knowledge Systems, situating libraries not as neutral repositories but as active sites of mediation, translation, preservation, and contestation. The event will foreground critical inquiry rather than celebratory narratives, examining tensions between oral and written traditions, community knowledge and institutional validation, sacred knowledge and public access, and intellectual property and commons-based frameworks.

Objectives

1. To critically examine the conceptual foundations of Indigenous Knowledge Systems across disciplines.
2. To analyse the role of libraries and information institutions in documenting, classifying, translating, and disseminating indigenous knowledge.
3. To explore ethical questions surrounding access, representation, and ownership.
4. To foster dialogue between library science and allied disciplines including history, literature, political science, social sciences, fine arts, performing arts, visual arts, and Vedic studies.
5. To reflect on methodological innovations that respect community knowledge while maintaining academic rigor.

Conceptual Focus: The conference treats Indigenous Knowledge Systems not as a homogeneous body of wisdom but as diverse, historically situated, and often contested epistemologies. It recognises that institutional incorporation may risk domestication, commodification, or simplification.

Libraries, therefore, must confront several critical questions:

- Can cataloguing systems adequately represent non-linear and oral epistemologies?
- How do metadata frameworks encode linguistic or cultural hierarchies?
- What happens when sacred or community-bound knowledge enters digital platforms?
- How do translation and transcription alter meaning?
- In what ways do gender, caste, ethnicity, and region shape whose knowledge is archived?

These concerns demand interdisciplinary collaboration and reflexive scholarship.

Interdisciplinary Engagement

The Department of Library and Information Science at Rabindra Bharati University, with its distinctive strengths in fine arts, visual arts, performing arts, languages, and Vedic studies, provides an appropriate academic context for such engagement. Indigenous knowledge in music, dance, ritual performance, visual iconography, oral poetry, manuscript traditions, and women's narratives often exists beyond conventional academic documentation. Arab women's literature, for example, presents layered intersections of gender, memory, resistance, and translation. Similarly, Vedic studies raise questions about textual authority, oral transmission, and interpretive traditions. Historical and political analyses reveal how knowledge systems are shaped by colonial archives, state classifications, and contemporary identity politics. Social sciences examine community practices, lived traditions, and epistemic marginalisation. Fine arts and performing arts demonstrate how embodied knowledge challenges textual dominance. Library science must engage these disciplines to rethink preservation models, community archives, digital humanities tools, and participatory cataloguing.

Broad Themes and Sub-Themes

A. Theoretical and Epistemological Questions

- Defining Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Conceptual boundaries and critiques
- Oral, performative, and embodied knowledge versus textual authority
- Knowledge, power, and archival silences
- Decolonising classification and indexing systems

B. Libraries as Mediating Institutions

- Community archives and participatory documentation
- Ethical metadata and culturally sensitive cataloguing
- Digital preservation of oral and performative traditions
- Access, restriction, and sacred knowledge

C. Language, Literature, and Translation

- Indigenous languages and endangered scripts
- Women's literature and transnational indigenous narratives
- Translation, interpretation, and epistemic loss
- Oral poetry, folklore, and storytelling traditions

D. Historical and Political Dimensions

- Colonial archives and epistemic control
- Intellectual property, commons, and community rights
- Knowledge appropriation and commodification
- State policies and indigenous representation

E. Social Sciences and Community Knowledge

- Indigenous ecological knowledge and sustainability
- Gendered knowledge systems
- Marginalised communities and documentation practices
- Participatory research methodologies

F. Fine Arts, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts

- Embodied knowledge in dance and music traditions
- Visual iconography, craft, and material culture

- Documentation of ephemeral performances
- Archiving artistic processes and community memory

G. Vedic and Classical Knowledge Traditions

- Oral transmission and textual codification
- Manuscript cultures and preservation challenges
- Hermeneutics and interpretive traditions
- Dialogues between classical and local knowledge systems

Expected Outcomes

The conference aims to produce:

- A nuanced and critical understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems.
- A framework for ethical and participatory library practices.
- Collaborative networks across disciplines.
- Policy and practice recommendations for inclusive documentation.
- Proceedings or an edited volume reflecting interdisciplinary research.

Publication

Selected papers presented at the conference, after rigorous peer review, will be published in an edited volume with ISBN. The book is expected to be released by June 2026.

This conference offers an opportunity to reflect seriously on the responsibilities and possibilities that libraries hold in relation to indigenous knowledge. We look forward to scholarly contributions that advance both theory and practice in this important area.

About the organising Department

The Department of Library and Information Science at Rabindra Bharati University was established in 1985 at the Jorasanko Campus. It began as an evening course under the leadership of the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ramaranjan Mukherjee, and the University Librarian, Dr. Sourendramohun Ganguly. The department introduced the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (B.Lib.I.Sc.) in 1986, marking the university's first professional postgraduate programme in the field and the Master of Library and Information Science (M.Lib.I.Sc.) followed in 2007. In 2023, the department adopted a two-year integrated M.Lib.I.Sc. programme under the Choice-Based Credit System, with provisions for lateral entry and exit. The department offers doctoral studies in Library and Information Science. By the close of 2025, it had awarded 22 Ph.D. degrees, with 12 scholars currently enrolled. It has maintained a consistent research output through the *RBU Journal of Library and Information Science*, a UGC-CARE listed, peer-reviewed publication issued annually since 1997 (ISSN 0972-2750).

The current faculty comprises Professor Dr Sudip Ranjan Hatua (Head of the Department), Associate Professor Dr Ziaur Rahman, and Assistant Professor Dr Snigdha Naskar. Their expertise spans ICT applications in libraries, digital libraries, knowledge organisation, bibliometrics, preservation and conservation, and LIS education. The department remains committed to preparing professionals for conventional and digital information environments, advancing research, and upholding standards in library and information services.

The Department has consistently engaged with questions of knowledge organisation, access, digital preservation, and cultural documentation. Situated within a university known for its emphasis on arts, languages, and classical studies, the department seeks to expand the scope of library science beyond technical practice toward critical knowledge studies.

The proposed international conference invites academicians, scholars, practitioners, artists, archivists, and community representatives to reconsider the place of Indigenous Knowledge Systems within contemporary academic and institutional frameworks. Rather than positioning indigenous knowledge as static heritage, the conference seeks to interrogate its transformations, contestations, and possibilities within libraries and beyond. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and methodological reflection, the event aspires to contribute to a more equitable and critically aware knowledge ecosystem

Conference Organising Committee

Patron-in-Chief: Professor Dr Sonali Chakravarti Bandyopadhyay

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RBU

Rabindra Bharati University

Conference Advisor: Dean of Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University

Conference Director: Dr Sudip Ranjan Hatua

Head & Professor

DLIS, RBU

Joint Organising Secretary: Dr Snigdha Naskar

Assistant Professor

DLIS, RBU

Members: All the Current Students and Scholars of the Department, Dr Madhushree Dutta, Dr Kalyan Sundar Samanta, Dr Satarupa Saha, Sk Sofik, & Ms. Arpita Roy Chowdhury.

Feel free to contact for any further assistance

at rbuseminardlis@gmail.com

or Mobile/WhatsApp- +91- 6289667426

N.B. Participation certificates shall be issued to those only who register themselves for the conference and attend (online/offline) all the sessions without fail.

With Love and Regards,

Dr Snigdha Naskar & Dr Ziaur Rahman

Joint Conveners of the international conference

&

Professor Sudip Ranjan Hatua

Conference Director

Professor & Head

Department of Library & Information Science

Rabindra Bharati University