

# LIBRARY AND LEARNING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**Edited by :**

**Dr. Swapan Khan  
Dr. Ranjan Samanta**



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**PROVA PRAKASHANI**

Publisher & Book Sellers Nationwide  
1K, Radhanath Mullick Lane, Kolkata-700012

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Edited by : Dr. Swapan Khan., Dr. Ranjan Samanta

Published by: Prova Prakashani

*in collaboration with Universal Briefing*

Rs. 500/-

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ISBN: 978-93-83658-98-5

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Chief Advisor : Prof. Udayan Bhattacharya

Published by :

Ashim Kumar Mondal

**Prova Prakashani**

1K, Radhanath Mullick Lane, Kolkata-12

Mobile : 9433194218

in collaboration with



**Universal Briefing**

*A platform for information exchange*

First Edition: 2021

Cover Design: Tanmoy Pal

Laser Type Setting :

Tanusree Printers

21B, Radhanath Bose Lane, Kolkata-700006

Printed by:

Laxminarayan Press

T/31/K, Biplabi Barin Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata-69



Price: Five Hundred Only.

## Preface

Corona virus outbreak has disrupted educational system in every corner of the world. Covid-19 protocol has forced schools, colleges, and Universities to take a rather sudden shift towards online teaching learning activities. Since this outbreak, online classes have become the cornerstone to all educational institutions. Library professionals have taken many initiatives and provided distinguished opportunities to deliver library services for their users to leverage online teaching learning process. In this context, we had a plan to publish an edited book which will cover role of the libraries in this crisis and different aspect of online teaching learning process.

It is a matter of immense pleasure and opportunity for us to publish these valuable research papers in this edited book '**Library and Learning in Times of Crisis**'. Most of the papers highlight the role of libraries especially academic libraries and online teaching learning during the period of the Global Pandemic of Covid-19. Some papers focus on government initiatives for the learners during this crisis period. Overall papers appeared in this book are very informative and insightful for learners, teachers, administrators, policy makers and the government. The papers will help the librarians to take various steps for every aspect of library activities in any crisis period. There is no doubt that the book will be of extreme help to those who wish to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of librarians and are also for the professionals who are associated in other capacities with the library services.

In publication of this book we are extremely grateful to Professor (Dr.) Udayan Bhattacharya for his active cooperation, encouragement and suggestions in all stages of this publication. We are very grateful to eminent teachers and library professionals of different national and international institutions. We are also thankful to Dr. Biswajit Das, Dr. Madhusree Ghosh Upadhyay, Dr. Atanu Das, Dr. Avik Roy, Dr. Pronobi Porel, Arijit Das, Tirtha Chatterjee for their encouragements and cooperation. We are also thankful to Dr. Ashoke Kumar Paul for his primary help of publication process. We also owe gratitude to our publisher 'Prova Prakashani' and collaborative partner 'Universal

Briefing' for giving us the opportunity to publish this volume. Mr. Ashim Kumar Mondal and Tanmoy Pal deserve special thanks for their cooperation at every step of this publication. We are also thankful to the members of the Publication Sub-Committee of the Universal Briefing. At the last, we would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all the contributors of the papers who anyway associated with us throughout the span of this publication. We are responsible for anything that goes wrong and we are always waiting for your valuable suggestions.

**Dr. Swapan Khan**  
**Dr. Ranjan Samanta**

## **Introduction**

The world has faced very difficult consequences due to the transmission of infectious novel corona virus which caused educational institutions to close their campuses and forced them to initiate online teaching. In these circumstances, the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools has been increased significantly. The educational institutions and the governments have taken many online initiatives based on ICTs for learners to continue their education. Most of the libraries specially, academic libraries have introduced bunches of innovative ideas into their libraries during the Covid-19 pandemic for their users.

A research study to identify the use of social media in floriculture and the process of online marketing has been carried out in the districts of Kalimpong and Darjeeling, West Bengal. Another research focuses on the present use of print media as well as information and communication technology infrastructure and the contemporary use of electronic information resources in college libraries under West Bengal State University. During Covid-19 Pandemic most of the educational institutions have shifted to online mode for teaching learning activities. A successful step has been taken by the Gokhale Memorial Girls' College Library by initiating their library website during this pandemic period. Many libraries have taken initiatives for organising of e-resources during this pandemic. These initiatives have been carried out by taking various open/free e-resources available in the internet.

A study focuses the scenarios of education during Covid-19 pandemic which includes infrastructure, socio-economic background, child psychology and pedagogy. It discusses the reading habits and role of academic libraries especially school and college libraries. Another study finds the role of university libraries during this pandemic situation. A paper emphasizes the changed scenario of education system due to pandemic. It highlights various areas in teaching, teaching tools and also library services and states the struggling of librarians to combat the situation. A study measures Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) of present E-learning system.

The Indian education system is mainly based on the offline system but during this pandemic most of the institutes are opting online teachings. Many studies highlight the online learning initiatives taken by the Government of India to foster online education during this pandemic. These studies also analyzed the situation of the future in online learning system as many students are not fortunate enough to avail that new system as many of the students don't have minimum infrastructure at their home for online classes. Another study states the present status of educational system through the eyes of Digital India during this period. It also explores initiatives to help the digital India programme and explains the ways to decrease the digital divide label of urban as well as rural areas students. A study exclusively discusses the implementation of alternative measures to eliminate digital divide in this pandemic.

Visualization tools in online teaching can stimulate and motivate the interest of the students. Another study briefly discusses various mind mapping tools and their applications. Effectiveness of flipped classroom model has been discussed in a study. It also examines the general concept of flipped classroom, challenges and its application on a virtual learning environment. The papers appeared in this book are very informative and insightful to the people who require information on

**Dr. Swapan Khan**

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Dr. Swapan Khan is presently working as Librarian of Narasinha Dutt College, Howrah, West Bengal. He did his M.Com. from the University of Calcutta. He is the recipient of Gold Medals for the first rank in both BLIS and MLIS from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Dr. Khan did his Ph.D from Jadavpur University.

He has more than 14 years experience in the field of Library and Information Science. He has also teaching experience as guest teacher in Netaji Subhas Open University and Jadavpur University. He supervised many dissertations at Master level of

Library and Information Science. He reviewed many articles and book chapters for edited volumes. He was one of the reviewers of UGC Project at Department of Library & Information Science, Jadavpur University.

Dr. Khan has written many research articles and book chapters. He presented many papers in national and international seminars and conferences. He wrote study materials on Research Methodology for Netaji Subhas Open University. He is the members of many associations and institutions. His areas of interests are information management, development of web applications, information retrieval, citation analysis and information systems.



Dr. Ranjan Samanta is presently the Librarian of Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya (PG College), Kolkata affiliated to the University of Calcutta. He completed BLIS degree from Rabindra Bharati University and MLIS degree from Jadavpur University and he was awarded his Ph.D degree from Jadavpur University.

He has above 20 years experience in the field of Library and Information Science which cover from Public Libraries (Dantan Town Library, Paschim Medinipur; Shakti Mandir Pathagar, Kolkata; Shakti Sangha Town Library, Kolkata) to Academic

libraries (Central Library, Jadavpur University).

He extended his experience as guest teacher at Bengal Library Association (BLA), Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Rabindra Bharati University (RBU) and Jadavpur University (JU). He supervised many dissertations in Master and M.Phil levels of Library & Information Science in different Universities.

He contributed many research articles in different reputed journals & seminar-conference volumes. He is the author of many chapters and content developer of Netaji Subhas Open University for study material on Research Methodology. He was also a reviewer of some National Seminar Volume. He was appointed as one of the reviewer of the UGC Project under University with Potential for Excellence, Phase-II (UPE-II) at DLIS, Jadavpur University.

He is an Ex-member of Book Selection Committee, State Library Council, Department of Mass Education & Extension, Government of West Bengal. He was assigned as North Region Evaluator of West Bengal Central School Service Commission (WBCSSC) for Librarian. He is the life member of IASLIC, BLA and Jadavpur University Alumni Association.

He has a special interest on Public Library Service, Knowledge Organization, Library Automation & Networking, Digital Library, Reference Service, Science & Technology Information System.

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Publisher & Book Sellers Nationwide

1K, Radhanath Mullick Lane

Kolkata-700012

Mobile : 9433194218

provaprakashani@gmail.com

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ISBN: 978-93-83658-98-5



500.00