

Professor Errol D'Souza, Director, IIMA

With profound sorrow, I inform the IIMA Community that our colleague Dr. H. Anil Kumar, Librarian, passed away yesterday evening. He was 53 years of age.

Dr. H. Anil Kumar joined the Institute on August 01, 2007. Before joining IIMA he worked with Institutions of National Repute like National Law School of India University, British Library, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Nirma Institute of Management. During his tenure of 13 years at IIMA, beside contributing to IIMA Library, he worked as Chairperson - Welfare Committee, Chairperson - Staff Grievances Redressal Committee, Chairperson – Staff Evaluation and Development Committee, Member of Library Committee and Member of IIMA Archives Committee. His contribution towards the library sciences was immense.

He is survived by his wife Ms. Nishtha, daughter Prerna and son Kunal.

On behalf of the IIMA community, I hereby convey our heartfelt condolences to his family members. We pray to God to rest his soul in peace and give strength to his family to bear the loss.

Professor Errol D'Souza, Director, IIMA

It pains me to announce the very untimely demise of our beloved Librarian Anil Kumar a short while ago. He went gently into the night. He will be remembered for his humanity and deep sense of service. I wish the family peace and the strength to continue living life the way that he would want them to live.

Deb Wallace

**Executive Director, Knowledge & Library Services
Harvard Business School**

I met Prof. Anil Kumar nearly 10 years ago when the Asia Pacific, European and North American academic business library directors' groups met at Stanford. While I recall that moment of introduction so clearly now, I had no idea the doors it would open to learn, to grow in so many dimensions. Anil approached his work with unbridled enthusiasm, a passion matched with the energy for innovating, for bringing the ever-evolving world of information to a diverse community of scholars and students. Intellectually curious with an ability to organize, sequence, and test the most complex ideas, Anil has been an inspiration to countless people across academia. His many contributions to the profession of librarianship and to the advancement of library services in business schools has been significant. Personally, my work has been enriched, especially after I had the privilege of visiting IIM Ahmedabad during the first Emerging Trends in Business Librarianship conference, which Anil and his magnificent team hosted. It remains a highlight of my career at Harvard Business School. My life has been blessed with many opportunities, gifts actually that have enriched, challenged, and delighted me on multiple levels. Dr. Anil Kumar stands as one of my most treasured gifts. He provided me with opportunities to experience higher education in India, work with his stellar staff, and be enchanted by the country he loved so much. I'm sure you are all at a loss thinking of how you will fill Anil's shoes – his legacy is enormous. But knowing the collaborative community in which he thrived, you will continue to nurture leaders who will extend the impressive foundation of Anil's ambitions to make us all better contributors to solving the many challenges our world presents.

Prof. N Ravichandran, Faculty, IIMA

It is with great sorrow that I learnt of the sudden unexpected departure of Dr. Anil Kumar, Librarian at Vikram Sarabhai Library in IIM Ahmedabad. I had the privilege of knowing him closely.

Dr. Anil Kumar was appointed as a librarian by the then Director of the Institute. Before coming to IIM Ahmedabad to head the Vikram Sarabhai Library, he had worked with EDI and NIRMA Institute of Management and therefore, he brought with him a rich and varied experience in managing library and information services.

I had known him somewhat casually when I was at IIM Ahmedabad before I left for IIM Indore in 2009. My first eventful meeting with him happened when he visited IIM Indore to attend a conference of librarians. From then onwards, our friendship became deeper. We had several long conversations on a regular basis in his office at IIM Ahmedabad. He was a gentle and considerate human being.

He built an excellent infrastructure within the IIM system in Vikram Sarabhai Library. He made VSL an extremely consumer friendly place by his professional attitude. He was instrumental in making Vikram Sarabhai Library as a public intellectual space within the IIM system. He was an able administrator and not pliable. He built an outstanding team in Vikram Sarabhai Library to deliver the best of the library services. Anil provided outstanding leadership in his community. He provided advisory support to many public libraries in Ahmedabad to improve their quality and standard.

He was welcoming any user who came to the library and made sure that every attempt was made to fulfil that person's unique needs. He provided outstanding secondary research support for any research by the faculty members of the Institute.

He was committed to his profession and extended all possible help in his responsibilities and related areas. Very often, he will extend his courtesy as a librarian in meeting some of the very personal requirements of the members of the IIM A community. For example, he made sure that my father received Tamil newspaper every morning at 7:00 am for three years by making appropriate arrangements by using internet technology. Similarly, when my elder son visited us from the U.S., he made sure that he (my son) could get a good working space within the library so that his productivity is not impacted.

He was sensitive to the needs of the students and provided adequate space and comforts for them whenever they visited the library. He implemented several innovative ideas by which the library services can be improved. He routinely organised special displays of books on important occasions to enthuse readers of the community to understand more about the event and the personality involved.

He handled effortlessly the logistics related to shifting the library from its current location to the MDC and back for the purpose of VSL renovation. He was extremely sensitive to the fact that one batch of IIM A students will graduate from the Institute without experiencing the Vikram Sarabhai Library.

He was deeply committed to his family. Often, our conversation will drift towards children related matters. I am sure his staff will miss him very badly. For me, VSL without him would not be the same. In his untimely departure, I lost a good friend, the community an eminent professional and VSL a dedicated leader.

He will be remembered for his professionalism, competency as an administrator and as a wonderful human being. I only hope his family will be able to manage this unexpected turbulence and I pray that his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Sukhpal Singh, Faculty, IIMA

"This is really shocking and unbelievable. It is an irreparable loss for the community and personally to me as I had known him for more than 30 years. We were in touch with his family during his first hospitalisation and were very happy to see him back home before he had to go to hospital again. He was a superb human being and a kind hearted person.

I had seen him grow from a carefree campus boy (ISEC, Bangalore) to a top class librarian within a short span of time. We all know how our library progressed under him and his team, and is today one of the best libraries in the country.

He had made a unique place in the profession and won many awards and was source of inspiration and guidance for many other librarians.

I hope the family gains the strength to bear with his untimely departure and absence. May his soul rest in peace.

with deep sadness

Pranav Garg**Son of Prof. Amit Garg (Faculty, IIMA)**

I am Pranav Garg, son of Prof. Amit Garg. I came to IIMA in 2007, and began frequenting the library regularly from 2011 onward. I must've first met Anil Sir around that time, briefly introduced by Papa.

During my high school, I spent considerable time in the vestibule or in one of the study-desks of the library. During my undergraduate studies, I spent an entire summer break working in the library. During my graduate studies, in every break I was afforded back home, I spent countless hours buried in a select few books and databases out of the near infinite that the IIMA library had to boast. I was awed by the transformation of KLMD into an ad-hoc library: the diligent cataloguing and order of the three-story Vikram Sarabhai Library intact. And then, when the campus shifted back to the library we have today, with its state-of-the-art technology, I fell in love with the library once again, as I had done more than a decade ago.

Throughout the years, Anil Sir was a ubiquitous presence, synonymous with the spirit of Vikram Sarabhai library itself. For me, as I am certain holds for countless cohorts of students before and during my time, and for each and every faculty and staff member on campus, Anil Sir embodied the knowledge of the university. Every request, question or passing conversation about books, journals or databases with him was a constant reminder of the depth and breadth that Sir commanded in so many domains! It was an absolute pleasure to have made my acquaintance with him, for his passion for the library motivated my image of the library as one of the finest powerhouses of knowledge in the world.

The last conversation I had with Sir was in the elevator in the library, when I informed him of my joining date at the University of Chicago. He instantly described the Regenstein library to me and how wonderfully constructed it was, and how I would be reminded of IIMA during my time there. He was correct on all fronts, and so lucid was his memory and its description that I had déjà-vu upon my first visit to Regenstein in flesh. I guess that isn't a surprise given the mind that he was! I remember his discussion with me fondly: he was always very kind, very succinct, and up-to-date with any curve ball request for an article or database I may pose to him.

Most of all, I remember his warmth. Throughout the years, whenever I happened to pass by his office (back in the set-up of old library, it was a lot more as he was near the entrance), he would wave and extend his regards to me. I imagine I was always a nuisance to him with my requests, but he never made me feel anything except welcome to approach him. I will forever cherish his kindness.

Today evening I received the untimely and saturnine word of his passing away. I write to you with an extremely heavy heart, which surely pales in comparison to your loss. I would like to thank you for all the wonderful memories I have with Sir, and to share with you my experiences.

Rhoda Bharucha, Hon. Director, ADINET

With profound grief and sorrow, I am sharing formally the sad demise of Dr H Anil Kumar, Librarian, Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in the late evening of 17th July 2020 (Friday). We have lost an outstanding professional, an inspiring mentor and a great friend.

Dr Anil has contributed immensely to all the libraries that he has worked in, specially Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Nirma University Libraries and Vikram Sarabhai Library at IIMA and set a benchmark for all the professionals. With his vision and commitment to excellence, he shaped the library at IIMA to a level, which can be compared with the finest libraries in the world. He was one of the very few librarians who always strived to innovate and promote entrepreneurship in the librarianship domain. As a passionate and committed professional, he added great value to the professional associations by introducing scholarly activities. He was not only loved and appreciated by the institution heads, professionals, user community but also the information industry at large. As we all know, Dr Anil was actively contributing to the profession through webinars and discussions even during the lockdown period.

He has contributed greatly to the growth of ADINET, & has always been a source of inspiration & guidance.

Apart from being an eminent professional, Dr Anil was a wonderful human being. He was a philosopher, friend and guide to many of us. As an avid reader, he loved to indulge in discussions, and debates. Dr Anil held his teachers and senior professionals in high esteem and at the same time supported, encouraged and motivated the young professionals.

As we regret the untimely demise, let us remember Anil in our prayers and keep his family in our thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Prof. Ajeet N. Mathur, Faculty, IIMA

This finality is deeply saddening and has shocked me to the point that I find it painfully difficult to accept that I would not see Anil again.

Chitra's poem says it all.

"Na rahaa koi kaboo hamara khud pe
Ke ho gaye hein juda hami ab hamse" (Poet Shikhar)

I grieve and mourn his passing away. Anil and I had been in regular contact during his illness from the time he was first admitted and discharged and then re-admitted. In the last three days we didn't communicate when he was on ventilator.

My wife, Sari and I join all of Anil's family, friends, and colleagues in the shared grief that is immeasurable and in the mourning over this irreparable loss.

Prof. Sunil Maheshwari, Faculty, IIMA

"It is hugely shocking and sad news. Anil was one of the best librarians. When he joined as librarian, I was the library committee chairman. I had long meetings with him on many occasions. He served the Institute with the highest level of passion and dedication since the day of his joining. His untimely

demise is a great loss for the Institute and the profession. I have lost a very dear personal friend. I pray to God to give strength to his family members to bear this irreparable loss. May his soul rest in peace. Om shanti!!

Dhiman Bhadra, Faculty, IIMA

"Mr. Kumar's untimely departure reminded me of Francis Thomson's famous lines:

""The fairest things have fleetest end

Their scent survives their close""

The very realisation that from today onwards, Mr. Kumar's heart-warming smile and noble demeanour will be a memory that can only be cherished, but not a reality that can be lived, is painful enough to accept. Whatever little interactions I have had with him in the last eight years were sweet enough to be etched in my memory for years to come. I have no qualms in saying that his name will shine and shine almost alone like a star in the galaxy of all those, to whom, serving this institute was a passion, not a profession.

Hence, as Tennyson wrote, ""may there be no sadness of farewell"" and let us all cherish his memory that abides with us, more potent, more present, than the living man, that was Anil.

May his near and dear ones and all of us at the institute receive the inner strength to tide over this loss.

Condolences to his family,

Vishal Gupta, Faculty, IIMA

This is extremely sad and shocking news. Having worked with him in the Welfare committee, I saw first-hand how minutely he supervised issues related to welfare of the IIMA community. I was always impressed with his clarity of thought and the way he led his team (be it the library or the welfare committee). His passing is a great loss to the IIMA community. I pray to God to give strength to his family members to bear this loss. I also pray for speedy recovery of his wife, Ms. Nishtha.

I hope that all of us at the institute will work together so that we may carry forward the great work he has done for our library over the years, and keep his legacy alive. May God bless his soul!"

Prof. Kandaswamy Bharathan, Faculty, IIMA

"I am deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news of Dr. Anil Kumar's untimely passing away yesterday evening. He was a wonderful person at heart and a very dear friend. He was instrumental in helping me understand the vast resources of our Vikram Sarabhai Library in the early days of my teaching in 2009/10 and helping me access international journals as I was conceptualizing my course content. He did such a wonderful job of transforming our library into one of the best in Asia! I will miss him dearly.... I pray to God to give strength to his family to bear this loss and rest the departed soul."

Prof. Chitra Singla, Faculty, IIMA

"A kind and nice person like him didn't deserve this end :(:(Feeling like loss of a family member. Rest in peace, Anil ji."

Prof. Swanand Deodhar, Faculty, IIMA

"This is so unreal. I believe it was at the start of this month that Anil had sent out the email of his recovery and discharge.

Utterly saddening. May his soul rest in peace. May the Divine give the family strength.

Premilla D'Cruz, Faculty, IIMA

"Very sad news, hard to believe.

Yes, it was his birthday yesterday 17th.

We were in touch with his family all these days and their birthday wish for him was to come home soon. Our thoughts are with them.
An irreparable loss."

Prof. Anil K. Gupta, Faculty, IIMA

"how thoughtful and evocative tribute to our most admired librarian, Anilkumar i share your feelings fully and hope that students will make the student library committee as he had wished to strengthen the bond between library and the young readers.
God bless you, may his memory last
RIP

Prof. Karthik Sriram, Faculty, IIMA

"Very sad to lose such a highly spirited person. I still remember my first meeting with Anil Kumar when I joined IIMA. He was so approachable and nice as he walked me through the library. In a few minutes we discovered that we went to the same high school in Bangalore, although many years apart. It is still hard to believe that he is no more."

Akshaya Vijayalakshmi, Faculty, IIMA

"This is a very sad and tragic news. I hope Anil left with the knowledge that he had a deep impact on many people's lives. he has left behind a distinguished legacy. May his family gain strength and courage from knowing that he is respected and loved."

Prof. Biju Varkkey, Faculty, IIMA

"Anil was a great colleague, helpful professional and friend. He was instrumental in taking IIMA library to greater heights and mentored many library professionals. Will be missed and remembered. Praying for comfort to family and all dear and near to him."

Prof. Pradyumana Khokle, Faculty, IIMA

"I probably read the email almost the time it was sent yesterday and I still don't know what to say! Anil will be badly missed. May his soul rest in peace. He'll continue to inspire many who knew him."

Prof. M P Ram Mohan, Faculty, IIMA

"Indeed unbelievable.

In the last 3 years, Anil touched my life in many ways. Other than helping with frequent requests on legal books and articles, I had an opportunity to work with Anil on two committees. IIMA IP Drafting Committee, and Conference of law and legal institutions. It was remarkable to see Anil's patience, perseverance, and all-out help. Along the way, we also found a common connection with the founder of the National Law School, Bangalore. Anil joined as a library assistant at NLS when it was set up and I joined as a teaching assistant at NUJS during its formative years. Anil - we will dearly miss you"

Krishna Chidambi, PGP 1968-1970

Based on your earlier indication to me that he had like the Akshaya bookmarks, I had, as desired by him sent a couple marked "Vikram Sarabhai Library" and one personalised bookmark that bore his name. I knew that Akshaya (2nd edition) and the bookmarks + a letter were delivered to the library on the 29th June but I had no way of knowing if he had seen what I sent. I had never spoken to him, never met him/ Yet, when I heard that he was no more, I felt a sense of loss. He is the third librarian that the IIMA has lost after Dr Seth who had done a great deal of the initial planning and the Dr Dhawale who was there during our time at the Institute. I'm quite sure that Anil Kumar did enough to have left his mark but I'm sorry that he could not work in the new surroundings longer.

Aditya Kumar, PGP 2014-2016

Many years ago, we had collectively wished Mr. H Anilkumar on the National Librarians Day on this very mail thread. As I look at that thread today, I cannot help but add a closing note to it, as a poor eulogy for a person who loomed large over the entire spirit of IIM-A, and whom I am thankful to have been able to call a friend.

As a PGP, I was consciously aware that after my two years were up, I would not be able to walk through those rows and rows of books. So I took to spending multiple hours a day in the library, especially in my second year.

One day on his daily rounds of the library, Mr. Anil Kumar walked up to me, and so began a conversation that went on throughout the next year (and beyond, at lesser frequency), in which I got to hear about the history of IIM-A, the science and art of learning, the VSL (library) itself, the profession of being a librarian, Bangalore then and now, and many other topics on which the conversations are tucked away in the recesses of my mind for an entire lifetime.

He was the quintessential “silent guardian” of the Vikram Sarabhai Library and in some ways of the spirit of learning and research itself at the institute. He mentioned how he felt fulfilled to see generation after generation of professionals passing through IIM-A, all benefiting from the library’s resources. Under his leadership, the VSL was one of the most welcoming places perhaps in the entire city! The library staff used to go out of their way to help anyone find a resource matching their needs, be it faculty, staff, students...

Among many other accolades, he had won the Best Librarian 2014 Award (by Taylor & Francis) during my time on campus. Humble as ever, he never mentioned it in daily conversations, and in fact, so many people who used the library daily never knew of it or other similar accolades. He used to say that “we (library staff) exist to help you become stars.”

Everyone who knew him was deeply saddened on hearing of his passing away at an early age. The institute had benefited greatly from the VSL and his stewardship of it. One of my great regrets remains that we could not get the Students’ Library Committee up and functioning at the time, something he had encouraged us to do. I shall remember him as I last saw him, while donating a personal book to the VSL on my last day on campus: ever-welcoming and helpful.

I hope this great friend of the institute feels that we are taking good care of the VSL in future, as he looks down at it from where he has gone.

The light has gone out of our lives, but may it illuminate VSL forever. Om shanti.

PGPX Students election committee, (PGPX 2020-21 Batch)

There are no words to express how sorry we are to hear about the demise of Dr. H. Anil Kumar. It is a great loss to his family and the IIM Ahmedabad community. During these difficult moments, our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We hope and pray that God gives his family the strength to bear the loss.

Lt Col S S Jamwal (Retd.)

That's really sad and shocking. Prayers and Strength to the grieved family to bear the loss.

T. S. Kumbar, Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar

With profound grief and sorrow, I am sharing formally the sad demise of Dr H Anil Kumar, Librarian, Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in the late evening of 17th July 2020 (Friday). We have lost an outstanding professional, an inspiring mentor and a great friend.

Dr Anil has contributed immensely to all the libraries that he has worked in, specially Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Nirma University Libraries and Vikram Sarabhai Library at IIMA and set a benchmark for all the professionals. With his vision and commitment to excellence, he shaped the library at IIMA to a level, which can be compared with the finest libraries in the world. He was one of the very few librarians who always strived to innovate and promote entrepreneurship in the librarianship domain. As a passionate and committed professional, he added great value to the professional associations by introducing scholarly activities. He was not only loved and appreciated by the institution heads, professionals, user community but also the information industry at large. As we all know, Dr Anil was actively contributing to the profession through webinars and discussions even during the lockdown period.

Apart from being an eminent professional, Dr Anil was a wonderful human being. He was a philosopher, friend and guide to many of us. As an avid reader, he loved to indulge in discussions, and debates. Dr Anil held his teachers and senior professionals in high esteem and at the same time supported, encouraged and motivated the young professionals.

As we regret the untimely demise, let us remember Anil in our prayers and keep his family in our thoughts as they go through this difficult time.

May His Soul Rest in Peace.

Ramesh C. Gaur
Dean & Director (Lib. & Inf.) & Head Kalanidhi Division,
IGNCA, Min. of Culture, Govt. of India.

so sad and shocking to know about sudden demise of Dr. H. Anil Kumar, Chief Librarian, IIM Ahmedabad. He was a dear friend. We have been known to each other last 25 years since when he used to work in Nirma University. Last two months we were together in two webinars. He was a straight forward person and always eager to raise the voice for professional cause. No words to express my deep sorrow and grief. Tears are sometimes an inappropriate response to death. When a life has been lived completely honestly, completely successfully, or just completely, the correct response to death's perfect punctuation mark is a smile.

His untimely death is a great loss to all family, friends as well as entire Profession specially for management libraries. He really transformed the IIM A library and was very well respected in management fraternity. Last few years due to his illness he restricted his movement. We used talk frequently on various matters. Recently we were discussing a common project on public libraries in state of Ahmedabad.

What a cruel fest of destiny earlier late Mr Ashok Jambekar and now Dr H Anil Kumar, both my friends lost their life while in services at IIM Ahmedabad.

God almighty give courage to his family to bear this unbearable loss. Anil you were a true fighter. What a cruel fest of destiny. Yesterday I wished you happy birthday and today praying that Your soul may rest in peace.

Dr. M.G. Sreekumar
Chief Librarian & Adjunct Professor, IIM Kozhikode;

**President, MANLIBNET;
(on behalf of MANLIBNET, IIM Libraries Consortium and APBSLG)**

I am deeply saddened and shocked at the sudden demise of our beloved Anil, on 17th July 2020 (Friday).

Anil was at the prime period of his professional career, and with his unfortunate, untimely and unexpected passing, we have lost an extraordinary library leader, and a great human being, who was loved by all in the profession as well as from outside.

I have had long association and friendship with Anil, spanning over two decades, and in multiple capacities. Anil was an ardent supporter and well-wisher of MANLIBNET. He was the past president of MANLIBNET. And he was always there for our help always forthcoming with wonderful ideas and suggestions. Anil was the strong pillar of the IIM Libraries Consortium, and during the years, we have been able to achieve many milestones in the consortium, with his active and robust support.

Anil was an active member of the Asia Pacific Business School Librarians Group (APBSLG - in which IIMA, IIMK and ISB are members) and immensely contributed by engaging in constructive discussions/suggestions, through his thought provoking/insightful articles, and by holding/participating in highly impactful conferences/workshops/webinars.

He was also serving in the advisory boards of several universities, institutions, professional associations and international publishing firms. Anil stood out in the professional circles because of his brilliant and intelligent discourses/debates, and was respected by all who have known him.

He was known for his upright, bold and relentless stands always - no matter what the consequences, be. Anil has contributed immensely to all the libraries that he had worked in, and especially the Vikram Sarabhai Library at IIMA, which he has re-engineered and transformed into a world class library/information/ innovation centre. And got it the UNESCO Heritage Award of Distinction.

Anil's versatile entrepreneurial acumen was yet another feather in his cap. He has quite successfully groomed a number of start-ups in the country, which has brought numerous laurels and respect to the profession too. (iCreate, Rapid Radio, RemoteX etc...)

He was a passionate, caring, compassionate, highly committed and a visionary and became a role model. At this moment of extreme grief, let us pray to God for His Soul to Rest in Peace and give courage and strength to his family (Nishtha, and kids) and colleagues to bear the irreparable loss.

**Vinod Kumar Mishra,
Assistant Librarian,
Biju Patnaik Central Library (BPCL),
NIT Rourkela**

Met twice/thrice, chat once/twice, email hardly remember but i can understand his efforts in modernization of IIM Ahmedabad Library specially implementation of Koha ILMS by Migrating Libsys data.

Some decisions require will power, Good leadership, and a good motto behind it. Workplace is a temple for employees and it is the duty of each employee to give 100% in large public interest at the same time it is also necessary to fulfil commitment towards LIS profession because of which we are getting hand to mouth.

My fingers stopped suddenly while updating knowledge on Koha ILMS at midnight when I heard the sudden demise news of Dr. Anil sir. Now after successful installation and execution of one of the

beautiful/effective features of Koha Coverflow I thought to Honour him and share the method of installation with the community.

Corey Seeman

University of Michigan (USA)

Through my affiliation with International Business Librarian organizations, I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Anil Kumar for the last ten years. I have always found him to be an excellent professional colleague. My respect and admiration for Dr. Anil Kumar grew when I attended the 3rd Global Conference on Emerging Trends in Business Librarianship at IIMA and sponsored by the Vikram Sarabhai Library. It was there where I saw first-hand the fantastic operation that he leads for the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. While the library was in temporary quarters, it was very clear to see that he had built an exceptional team of librarians to serve that community. Working with his colleagues at the library was one of the highlights of the conference. Not a week goes by when I do not remember that visit to Gujarat back in November 2017. I am honoured to have met Dr. Anil Kumar and hope that I may honour his legacy through professional engagement and service that was so very important to him. Rest in Peace Anil.

Vasantha Raju N.

Librarian

Mysore

Very sad to hear the sudden and untimely demise of Dr. H. Anil Kumar, Librarian IIM-A. He was very passionate about the profession and very sane voice in LIS. I was fortune to witness his lectures in few occasions in scholarly meetings. He had keen observations of the field and unlike others in the profession he was very much aware of the importance of physical space and print documents. He was trying to bridge the path of coexistence of both print and digital materials. This was very much evident through his lectures and presentations. Very recently I had attended one of the webinars where he was a panellist. He shared very interesting information and facts on library automation and Koha ILMS implementations in Indian context. Dr. Anil Kumar has also published a lot of good research papers in LIS. Interesting fact is that he was exploring the law/legal librarianship which is not much discussed or researched in India. His untimely demise is a great loss to LIS profession. My heartfelt condolences.

Dr M G Sreekumar

**Chief Librarian & Information Officer,
IIMK**

I am deeply saddened and shocked to hear about the sudden demise of Dr. H Anil Kumar, Librarian, Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad on 17th July 2020 (Friday).

Anil was at the prime period of his professional career, and with his unfortunate, untimely and unexpected passing, we have lost an extraordinary library leader, and a great human being, who was loved by all in the profession as well as from outside.

Anil was one of the founding members of MANLIBNET, a strong pillar of the IIM Libraries Consortium, and an active member of the Asia Pacific Business School Librarians Group (APBSLG - in which IIMA, IIMK and ISB are members) and immensely contributed by engaging in constructive discussions/suggestions, through his thought provoking/insightful articles, and by holding/participating in highly impactful conferences/workshops/webinars. He was also serving in the advisory boards of several universities, institutions, professional associations and international publishing firms.

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Anil has contributed immensely to all the libraries that he has worked in, and especially the Vikram Sarabhai Library at IIMA, which he has re-engineered and transformed into a world class library/information/innovation centre.

Anil has quite successfully groomed a number of start-ups in the country, which has brought numerous laurels and respect to the profession too. He was a passionate, compassionate and committed professional and became a role model.

At this moment of extreme grief, let us pray to God for His Soul to Rest in Peace and give courage and strength to his family and colleagues to bear the irreparable loss.

Dhaval H Kotecha
RapidRadio

He was much more than a Librarian; he was also...an Entrepreneur...a Mentor...an Innovator. a Perfectionist...an Administrator...an Academician. a Leader. An Advisor. a Great Networker. an out of the box Thinker. a Founding team member of iCreate...an extremely affectionate and humble human being ...

It is a personal and permanent loss for me and the whole family of Rapid Radio. Everything that we know in the library market other than the word library has been taught by him. He picked up Rapid Radio from Nirma Labs (which is now iCreate) and said why don't you guys develop RFID hardware for libraries and he helped us transform from a young technical team to a professional company in the library market competing with global giants today.

Today Rapid Radio has lost a father/mentor and I have lost a Guru/Friend. Personally i have known him from 2004 the day when i had joined Nirma Labs and since then it has never been more than a week when we have not interacted which continued until lately when he was not keeping well. He is one of the biggest reasons for Rapid Radio's success & why Rapid Radio is what it is today.

Unfortunately, he never gave an opportunity to thank him publicly for his contribution to Rapid Radio due to conflict of interest. Sir...we will miss you from the bottom of our hearts in every success that we achieve in future. Today when I see his Facebook wall, I can see maximum posts from various library trainees who had an opportunity to work under him at various libraries. It is the biggest proof that he loved to be with young minds and nurture them to a growth path.

A Step into any library in future is going to remind us about you and your learnings which has shaped us as a team...We are indebted to all your contributions and would try to repay by working for the library fraternity.

Om Shanti.

Prof. A.Y. Asundi
Rtd. Professor, Bangalore University,
Bangalore

All LIS Professionals,

With utmost agony I convey the sad demise of Dr. H. Anilkumar, Librarian, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmadabad. I have loss to words to express my personal grief in losing him and I feel it is a personal loss to me, as he was one of the most adorned student of Bangalore University, DLISc., and feel proud to say he was my one of the most gifted student. Very humble down to earth, never considered any work related to the profession dwarfing his image or position and accepted them with professional approach. I was his family friend and more than that his father Dr. G. Hanumappa, Professor at ISEC was also a scholar to reckon with, we knew him personally well.

Dr. Anilkumar for some time worked in NLSIU and then moved to Ahmedabad, British Library and later joined Nirma University where he made a name and showed his professional excellence. Once I happen to meet the former Vice Chancellor of that university, and mentioned to him that Dr. Anil was our student, his most remarkable gesture was that we have given a wonderful librarian to them. Later he moved to IIM-A the most coveted position every one desired to get.

Very recently Dr. Anil presented a Webinar session under KALA and it was one of the most enchanting lecture and he gave a new perspective for what is "Physical Library" and how to reorient it in the times of ICT boom. He also recalled his close association with KALA and thanked it for giving him required career guidance. It is very difficult here to present all his achievements in this short span. We happen to visit him at Ahmadabad at his home and it was coming together and pleasant time for all of us.

With deep sense of sorrow and horrid feeling that Corona has snatched away one of the gifted professional with several years of his services available, We on behalf of Karnataka State Library Association, President, Secretary and other members of the EC and Governing Council and all Members and also on behalf of the Department of Library and Information Science, Bangalore University, as its former Head, convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, in particular his beloved Wife, Dr. Nishtha Anil Kumar. Pray God His Soul Rest in Peace.

Prof. Sanjay Verma, Faculty, IIMA

"Very painful to hear this.
May he rest in peace.
Sanjay"

Shailesh Gandhi, Faculty, IIMA

Dean (Programmes)

"Very sad news. We lost a member of our community. May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Samrat Gupta, Faculty, IIMA

"Deeply saddened to hear this.
May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Rajat Sharma, Faculty, IIMA

Such sad news. Very painful. May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Arnab K. Laha, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad news! A wonderful librarian and a very nice person! May his soul Rest in Peace!

Amit K Nandkeolyar, Faculty, IIMA

"Extremely painful and sad news. Sincere condolences to his family. May his soul rest in peace.
Amit"

Prof. Kirti Sharda, Faculty, IIMA

"extremely shocking and painful ... it's difficult to accept.... Anil was always so kind and helpful. it's a huge loss for all of us and the institute. sending prayers to his family and near ones."

Prof. Ranjan Kumar Ghosh, Faculty, IIMA

Unbelievable! Shocked....Best prayers.

Prof. Anish Sugathan, Faculty, IIMA

"Shocked and saddened to hear this. Feeling numb with disbelief. Struggling to find words to express the grief. Heartfelt condolences."

Prof. Pranav Singh, Faculty, IIMA

"Such sad news.

It all happened in no time. About two weeks back he replied to my email wishing him a quick and comfortable recovery. To me, his commitment was inspiring. Just after I joined, he asked me about comparing different databases.

May he Rest in Peace.

Prof. Goutam Dutta, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad news. May his soul rest on peace Goutam Dutta

Prof. Sanket Mohapatra, Faculty, IIMA

"Really sad to lose such a nice and warm colleague. May Anil's soul rest in peace. May God give strength to his wife and children to bear this immense loss.

Prof. Rakesh Basant, Faculty, IIMA

"I don't know what to write. He was a gem!

Prof. Vidya Vemireddy, Faculty, IIMA

"I have no words. This is unbelievable. Prayers for his family and loved ones."

Soumya Mukhopadhyay, Faculty, IIMA

Can't believe it! This is mind numbing!! May his soul rest in peace!!!

Kavitha Ranganathan, Faculty, IIMA

"If the library was a place of refuge and source of inspiration for thousands of people who passed through IIMA, Anil played a mammoth role in enabling that.

Praying for his soul to rest in peace and strength for his family members to face these extremely challenging times.

Prof. Adrija Majumdar, Faculty, IIMA

"I am at a loss for words. Extremely sad and disturbing news. Always admired his dedication towards work. May his soul rest in peace and strength to his family."

Prof. Sobhesh Kumar Agarwalla, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad news. May his soul rest in peace and may God give strength to his family members to bear this untimely loss.

Debjit Roy, Faculty, IIMA

"Unbelievable loss, no words.

From what I hear, it was his birthday too!"

Ankur Sinha, Faculty, IIMA

"I am still unable to accept this news. I can't stop thinking about his recent email and the positivity with which he asked everyone to face everything. May God give strength to his family."

Jeevant Rampal, Faculty, IIMA

"This is deeply sorrowful. My thoughts are with his family. We have lost a wonderful colleague, one who was extremely kind and dedicated. I am at a loss of words too..."

Ernesto Noronha, Faculty, IIMA

Really sad. Lost one of my best friends on campus. He was always an optimist.

Prof. Arvind Sahay, Faculty, IIMA

Unbelievable!! Shocking and sad!!

Prof. Mohammad Fuad, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad and shocking news. May God provide strength to his family.

Prof. Asha Kaul, Faculty, IIMA

"This is shocking!

Absolutely bereft of words. May God rest his soul in peace.
my condolences to the family

Prof. Amit Garg, Faculty, IIMA

"Really shocking news. He was a very gentle soul and a very fine person. He would be missed very much. May his soul rest in peace and God provide strength to his family to bear this irreparable loss."

Pritha Dev, Faculty, IIMA

Extremely saddened to hear about Anil. Hope for peace for his family.

Prof. K V Gopakumar, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad news. Deepest condolences to his family.

Navdeep Mathur, Faculty, IIMA

"Devastating to hear this. Anil was a warm and kind soul, and made life so much better for everyone around him, an immense loss for our community"

Ankur Sarin, Faculty, IIMA

"May his soul rest in peace and his family have the strength to bear this immeasurable loss. Let's also celebrate his life, a life that touched so many people and created the wonderful place we cherish so much. May we have the ability to continue to nurture all he has left with us."

Prof. Vaibhavi Kulkarni, Faculty, IIMA

"This is extremely sad and tragic. Can't believe Anil is gone... it will take a while before the news sinks in. Thoughts and prayers with his family at this time."

Anindya S Chakrabarti, Faculty, IIMA

Very sad and tragic.

Prof. Anurag Agarwal, Faculty, IIMA

Extremely sad and shocking. He was a gem of a person. Heartfelt condolences to the family.

Prof. Neharika Vohra, Faculty, IIMA

"The passing on of Anil is very sad. He leaves a void in the Institute that will be difficult to fill. His wife Nishta who works at PRL is also Covid positive and home quarantined and his children Purna and Kunal are at home. I can't even get around what all of this would be like for them. Please continue to pray for the family.
In prayers for all of us as we grieve Anil's passing away

Prof. Rajesh Chandwani, Faculty, IIMA

"Extremely sad and shocking...
May the almighty provide sadgati to the departed eternal soul.
Om shanti."

Sandip Chakrabarti, Faculty, IIMA

"Deeply saddened by this news. My sincere condolences to Dr. Anil Kumar's family.

Prof Rajnish Rai, Faculty, IIMA

"Extremely sad and shocking ... May his soul rest in peace ...
My deepest condolences to his family.
Rajnish Rai"

Manoj Bhatt, Chief Administrative Officer

"In Anil I had a friend, philosopher, and guide. I will miss him. He was a great asset for IIMA. May his soul rest in peace.

Anand Kumar Jaiswal, Faculty, IIMA

Unbelievable and very sad news. Heartfelt condolences to his family.

Prof. Parvinder Gupta, Faculty, IIMA

"This is extremely painful and sad...
May his soul rest in peace.
Deepest condolences to his family"

Dr. Ramanathan S., Faculty, IIMA

This is indeed very sad. A very kind and understanding person who always helped with a smile. My sincere condolences to his family.

Devasmita Chakraverty, Faculty, IIMA

I stood in front of my office wing today, looking at the library for a long time and feeling such a deep sense of loss. When I joined the institute in 2018, Dr. Kumar had given me a great tour of the library, excitedly telling me everything about it. I feel so sad today!

Prof. Subhadip Roy, Faculty, IIMA

"I was at loss of words and really didn't know what to write. Even I recall my first interaction with him at the makeshift library at KLMD. Me and Sourav interacted with him. During his illness, I had sent a personal mail to wish him speedy recovery, to which he replied also promptly even then. Really very sad with the turn of events."

Prof. Chinmay Tumbe, Faculty, IIMA

Feel really sad about this. Anil was a dear colleague and friend and an absolute gem of a person, under whose leadership the library grew to become one of the best in the world. I will miss our long chats about books and so much else.

Strength and peace to his family and all of us in these trying times.

Prof. Promila Agarwal, Faculty, IIMA

I am feeling so worst, frustrated and sad, that don't know how to express condolences. Wonderful man, I am afraid if the library will be the same without him.

May his soul rest in peace and strength to his family

Prof. Meenakshi Sharma, Faculty, IIMA

This is very sad news indeed!

Deepest condolences to his family.

May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Pankaj Setia, Faculty, IIMA

Very sorry to hear the news and our deepest condolences to his family!

Prof. Sundaravalli Narayanaswami, Faculty, IIMA

Deeply saddened. Om Shanti.

NAMAN SHAH

(NAMAN, TEJAS, DARSHIN, NIRAV)

HIMANSHU BOOK CO.

Hearing about loss of Anil Kumar has deeply saddened us, losing someone we respect is not easy. We cannot even begin to understand what is going through right now, but we would like to offer our prayers and condolences to all the staff members of Dr VSL and Family Members of Dr. H. Anil Kumar Sir.

We have lost a great friend philosopher and guide in the field of Library science and knowledge management, but the universe has received a new beautiful star.

We cannot forget the days, from whom we have learned to serve the libraries and making them our valued clients.

We are praying to god for his soul rest in peace.

S Sriram Kumar

SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd.

It is sad to know the sudden demise of Dr H Anil Kumar. His demise is a great loss not just to IIMA, but to this entire knowledge industry. We have lost a forward thinker, dedicated worker and a great human being. He has left a vacuum which cannot be filled. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. I pray almighty to give strength to his family members, friends and for his soul to rest in peace. You will be deeply missed Sir.