

# Changing Landscape of Scholarly Writing and Publications

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Seminar Newsletter

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## Special points of interest:

- \* New Publishing Patterns
- \* Peer-Review Process
- \* Research Methods
- \* Impact Factor
- \* Open Access
- \* Institutional Repository
- \* Plagiarism
- \* Copyright and Royalties

## NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI

Seminar Organized under the aegis of IQAC, NLU

## About the Seminar and Inaugural Session

National Law University Delhi was established in 2008 with a vision to evolve and impart comprehensive knowledge towards dissemination of legal knowledge and its role in national development, so that the ability to analyze and present contemporary issues of public concern and their legal implications for the benefit of public is improved. The university has a state-of-the-art library to support teaching and research endeavors of faculty, students and legal researchers by providing the access to high-tech electronic as well as traditional form of information. The seminar is brainchild of the library, to improve academic writing skills and understand the process behind publication of scholarship for aspirant scholars. It is realized that nowadays methods of writings have been changed and it has created a lot of opportunities as well as threats. There is lack of training in our academic curriculum for developing writing and publication skills. The seminar was designed with these insights. It was inaugurated with welcome address of Prof. (Dr.) K.P.S. Mahalwar, Chair Professor in Professional Ethics, NLU Delhi on behalf of Prof. Ranbir Singh,



Inaugural session of the seminar

V.C. NLU Delhi. After welcome remarks Dr. Priya Rai, Deputy Librarian, NLU Delhi introduced about the conference. Inaugural address was delivered by Prof. M.P. Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, NUJS Kolkata and Former Chairperson, Delhi Judicial Academy. Index to Indian and Foreign Legal Articles was inaugurated. Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. NJP Shilohu Rao, General Manager, National eGovernance Division, Digital India. At the end of inaugural session Dr. Akash Singh narrated the vote of thanks.

## Session 1 - Publishing Pattern in Academia

The shift in publishing pattern in academic world has resulted in making it more easy as well as complicated. It is extremely valuable to take the step in turning your doctoral thesis into journal articles and also publishing it into the form of a book. With this agenda, the session was started. It was chaired by Prof. S. Sachidanandan, Former Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Law University, Tamil Nadu, Visiting Prof, NLU Delhi. The invited talk was delivered by Prof. M.P. Singh, Visiting Professor, NLU Delhi and the discussants were Dr. Mrinal Satish, Associate Professor and Director, CCLPG, NLU Delhi and Ms. Sharmila Abraham,

Vice President, Commissioning, Sage India. Prof. Sachidanandan emphasized upon digitization of information, logic and importance of



language in law. Prof. M.P. Singh stressed upon how research and quality teaching go hand in hand. He pointed out that any legal writing should be coherent and should mirror the clarity of thought. Dr Mrinal Satish inspired the academicians to take up normative positions before subjecting legal matter to critical analysis. Ms. Sharmila Abraham laid down the importance of reading

voraciously and to acquaint oneself with the nuances of how to research and laying emphasis upon quality rather than quantity.

## Session 2- Mapping the Publishing Landscape: Publishers

Academic publishing occurs in an environment of powerful intellectual, financial, and sometimes political interests that may collide or compete. Good decisions and strong editorial processes designed to manage these interests will foster a sustainable and efficient publishing system, which will benefit all stake holders like academic societies, journal editors, authors, research funders, readers, and publishers. With this agenda, the session was chaired by Dr. R.K. Verma, Chief Scientist (Retd.), CSIR. It was co-chaired by Dr. Chetan Sharma, Deputy Librarian, Kurukshetra University and the discussants were Prof. M.P. Singh, former Professor, Delhi University & Editor Journal of IIPA, Ms Sharmila Abraham, Sage India and Prof. Sudhir Kumar, Former Professor, Vikram University, Ujjain. Dr. Verma outlined the importance of open-access and the ready accessibility of materials for research. Dr. Chetan Sharma argued that how the varying rates of discount given for e-books and databases to various organisations have unfair impact. Ms. Sharmila Abraham shared the concept of backstage cost involved in publication of electronic material like e-books and databases and it is also accompanied by royalty. She laid guidelines so as to choose only those topics for

writing in which one has keen interest accompanied with specialization, while Prof. Kumar emphasized how United States have fairly produced research and grown prosperous. However, he agreed that academic publishing occurs in an environment of powerful intellectuals, financial and sometimes political interest that



may collide or compete. The session was concluded by presenting memento to all the esteemed speakers.

## Session 3- Publishing Ethics: A Fair Play Game

Academic publishing depends, to a great extent, on trust. Editors trust peer reviewers to provide fair assessments, authors trust editors to select appropriate peer reviewers, and readers put their trust in the peer-review process. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behaviour for all parties involved in the act of publishing. Following ethical guidelines also means that when an article is published in a journal, readers can trust that the paper was evaluated thoroughly by editors and independent peer reviewers. This session was chaired by Prof. Sudhir Kumar and Invited talk was delivered by Dr. Ramesh Gaur, University Librarian, JNU. Special talk was delivered by Dr. Anup Surendernath, Assistant Professor and Director, CDP, NLU Delhi. The discussants were Dr. Priya Rai and Mr. Vaibhav Goel from Turnitin India. Prof. Kumar once again highlighted the important role that publisher plays as a middleman while Dr. Surendranath emphasized the deficiencies of regulatory mechanism to deal with publication ethics and plagiarism. He advocated providing special stress on developing legal writing skills and even consulting legal documents like an act or statute. He suggested integrating legal databases to turnitin, to catch the copied content. Dr. Gaur pointed that India is lacking in academics and

research work which can be catered through the intervention of library. He has given brief introduction of plagiarism and Commission on Publication Ethics. Dr. Rai has defined plagiarism as a



dire problem that has plugged academic institutions throughout the world and stated that as the use of advance technology has made easy to plagiarize, but it has also made it even easier to detect. Mr. Goel introduced functioning of turnitin and its features.

## Session 4- Discernment the Process of Peer-Review: Resubmission, Revision to Rejection

Scholarly publication is the means by which nascent work is communicated and peer review is an important part of this process. In academic publishing, the goal of peer review is to assess the quality of articles submitted for publication in a scholarly journal. Peer review is an important part of the quality control mechanism that is used to determine what should be published. The peer review process acts as a filter for interest and relevance to the field being targeted by a journal. The session was chaired by Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Registrar and Professor of Law, NLU Delhi and co-chaired by Dr. Neeraj Chaurasia, Deputy Librarian, IIT Delhi. Invited talk was delivered by Prof. M.P. Singh and special talk was by Dr Shantanu Ganguly, Fellow, TERI. The discussants were Dr. Arul George Scaria, Assistant Professor, NLU Delhi, Mr. Sumit Malik, Eastern Book Company and Mr V. Senthil, Head Publications, DRDO. Prof. G.S. Bajpai pointed out uncertainty and gray area in peer review process and reviewing whereas Prof. M.P. Singh suggested that external blind evaluation system should be introduced. Dr. Ganguly emphasized that review process is a Herculean process and in the present scenario finding a good reviewer is not an easy task, Dr. Chaurasia laid his views upon how to

minimize the peer review process. Arul George Scaria talked about peer review system followed by prestigious publishers like open or closed peer review, blind or not While Mr. V. Senthil rightly pointed



out that rejection rate is so high because there is a cap on number of articles that can be published in good journals, so the problem is not always with the quality.

## Session 5- Measuring Impact Factor and Citation Analysis: What and How

The session was chaired by Dr. Aparna Chandra, Assistant Professor of Law and Research Director of the CCLP, NLU, Delhi and co-chaired by Dr. Samar Iqbal Bakshi, Assistant Librarian, NLU Delhi. Invited talk was delivered by Mr. Yatish Panwar, Senior Technical Officer, NISCAIR-CSIR. The discussants in this seminar were Mr. Alok Jha, Web of Science, Thomson Reuter and Mr. Vishal Gupta, Scopus, Reed and Elsevier. The agenda of this session was to discuss about the criteria for evaluation of research output, specially journal articles. Dr. Aparna Chandra highlighted that in legal writing, these are the areas which must be discussed and taken care of. Mr. Yatish in his invited talk explained about impact factor and citation analysis. He informed that in the line of Scopus and Web of Science, NISCAIR has also a citation index as Indian Science Citation Index. Mr. Jha talked about other criteria of research evaluation like H-index. Mr. Eugene Garfield, who has given the concept of Impact Factor was given credit. Mr Gupta informed about bibliographic coupling, co-

citation and other tools. Impact factor is not the only criteria for evaluation of journals. The authors must know about the best journals in their particular field. It was also criticised that H-Index never decreases. Further, Dr. Samar interrogated about the concerns of librarians in developing the institutional ranking.



## Session 6- Effective Research Methods: Tools and Techniques

The session was chaired by Dr. Niraj Kumar, Assistant Professor of Law, NLU Delhi and co-chaired by Mr. Salek Chand, Senior Documentation Officer, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. The invited talk was delivered by Dr. R. K. Shrivastava, Additional Registrar (Library), Supreme Court of India, New Delhi. The discussants were Dr. Lata Suresh, Library-Director, IICA and Dr. Dharam Veer, President, AMLA. The agenda of this session was that research has many avenues, and for the truly creative and innovative researchers, these are very important. The reality is, however, that some methods of research are more reliable and effective than others. Choosing the right ones for the right projects can mean the difference between fact and fallacy, success and failure. Mr. Kumar emphasized upon the criteria of Reliability and Validity whereas Mr. Shrivastava

gave the overview of Legal Research. He explained about various tools and techniques provided to the Supreme Court Judges and facilities in the library.





## Session 7- Challenges in the Growth of IR and Open Access Publishing

The session was chaired by Dr. P.K. Jain, Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi and co-Chaired by Dr. Anil Kumar Jain, Associate Professor, Vikram University, Ujjain. Invited talk was delivered by Dr. Usha Manjoo Munshi, Librarian, IIPA, New Delhi. The discussants were Dr. Sanjay Kataria, Librarian, Bennett University, Greater Noida and Dr. Akash Singh, Assistant Librarian, NLU Delhi. The agenda for this session was open access and online publishing and its dissemination and distribution throughout the higher education sector. Within a decade, online publishing has moved the realm of publication from solely print copies to producing materials which remain almost exclusively in electronic forms. It is inevitable outcome of a digital age in which digital scholarship and digital research have become the norm. Dr. Jain questioned the very concept of Open Access which students have been practising and outlined the deficiencies in Google Scholar. Dr. Kumar discussed about the emergence of IR in academia these days. Dr. Munshi explained in details about open access publishing and its importance in creation of institutional repository, especially open access. Dr. Akash stressed over the

optimum utilization of OA resources to the researchers keeping in mind the authenticity and reliability of those sources. He further



stressed that every university should have OA repository of their published content. Dr. Kataria also advocated the need of repository and informed that there are several tools on which repositories are created nowadays.

## Session 8- Contract, Royalties and Copyright in Digital Repositories

The Chairperson for this session was Dr. D. V. Singh, University Librarian, University of Delhi, New Delhi and was co-chaired by Dr. Pardeep Rai, Librarian, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, New Delhi. The invited talk was delivered by Dr. Raman Mittal, Associate Professor, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, New Delhi and discussants were Dr. Vandana Mahalwar, Assistant Research Professor of Law, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. At the heart of the publishing industry lies the ability of a publisher to select or commission content that the reading public will be ready to purchase. Publishers produce this content in print and/or in other digital and use sales and marketing skills to sell this content to readers. Publishers are creators, acquirers, custodians, and managers – owners and users – of intellectual property rights. They possess certain rights in the work they produce and sell, and they hold other rights on behalf of third parties. Publishers therefore have a professional interest in exploiting these rights to the best advantage of their authors as well as themselves. They are thus obliged to treat the rights of others with respect. This is a moral obligation, which is equivalent to their legal responsibilities. There is also a responsibility to society, for

intellectual property rights are central to the promotion of cultural advancement and the flow of knowledge and information. This session specifically focussed upon the inter-relationship between copyright contract and the publishers. It drew upon the nitty-gritty of license, copyright, negotiations and royalties. The session also highlighted the author- publisher agreement and how in current scenario such standard contracts are unfavourable to the authors.



## Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was graced with the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ranbir Singh. Dr. Priya Rai presented the briefing of the conference. Valedictory address was narrated by Dr. Manoj Kumar Patairiya, Director, NISCAIR-CSIR. Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Thomas J Stipanowich, William H. Webster Chair in Dispute Resolution and Professor of Law, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA and Prof. G.S. Bajpai thanked everyone for being part of the seminar. Prof. Ranbir Singh raised very serious concern over the quality of writing and publication by students as well as faculty. He strongly advocated that awareness seminar of this kind should be conducted at regular intervals for the enhancement and promotion of legal research. Dr. Priya Rai briefed the recommendations of the conference that *firstly*, publishing houses play the most significant contribution in academic writing. *Secondly*, the new age authors need to chart their own path in the sense of freedom and control in terms of publishing their academic intellectual in new IP regime. *Thirdly*, this important relationship between author and publishers are thriving since long ago should be nurtured. And *fourthly*, as an aspirant writer, it is important to know what the publishing patterns are. CSIR director indicated that Science, Law and Journalism are correlated and gave view over upcoming stream in the field, especially the science diplomacy. He further elaborated that seminars like the present ones play a significant role in the promotion of

scholarly communication. Prof. Thomas emphasized upon the habit of writing where creativity meets the thinking. He emphasized that in this flood of information, we require management of information as well as time. One should have liberty to choose one's audience and further highlighted the challenges of co-



authorship. Lastly, Prof. Bajpai emphasized that writing is a creative process and a powerful medium which can change the course of civilization. He appreciated the idea and the concept on which the seminar was based and deliberated its further expansion in form of workshop.

### Changing Landscape of Scholarly Writing and Publications

Patron-in-chief: Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh  
Patron: Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai  
Seminar Director: Dr. Priya Rai  
Seminar Co-ordinator: Dr. Akash Singh

[www.nludelhi.ac.in/library.aspx](http://www.nludelhi.ac.in/library.aspx)



**National Law  
University, Delhi**

### Organizing Committee



**Thank You**