A Comprehensive Analysis of Lib -Vahini: Initiative for LIS Professional Visibility and Collaboration

Sangram Keshari Rout[1*] ⓘ**, Ranjit Das[2]** ⓘ**, Sumit Karmahapatra[3]** ⓘ**, Hemananda Das[4]** ⓘ **and Kapil Kumar Gupta[5]** ⓘ

[1*,2,3,4,5]Central Library, National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
E-mail: ranjitdasofficial12@gmail.com, sumitkarmahapatra10@gmail.com,
hadas7873@gmail.com, kkgupta@niser.ac.in
*Corresponding Author: Sangramkesharirout001@gmail.com
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Abstract - **The digital era demands that library and information science (LIS) employees adapt to new technologies and demonstrate their relevance in an information-dense world. The LIB-Vahini portal was introduced on National Librarian Day (August 12, 2025) by INFLIBNET, allowing Indian LIS professionals to post their profiles, accomplishments, and contributions. The study aimed to acquire knowledge about the purpose of the LIB-Vahini portal, discuss information about the portal, define the types of available data, assess the benefits of the portal to professionals, and highlight the most significant aspects important to LIS practitioners. The research employed a descriptive design, whereby data were gathered via the LIB-Vahini portal. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in the analysis, which included examining professionals, collaborations, types of publications, and visibility scores using MS Excel. The portal provides details of LIS professionals in India. It is hierarchically arranged according to state, institution, and designation, which facilitates easier networking and cooperation. The portal includes professional profiles, information on outstanding professionals, associations, and conferences. LIB-Vahini is an effective tool for motivating LIS workers to collaborate, increase their visibility, continuously evolve, and positively influence the research process and academic development. However, it could be more useful to the LIS community with superior search filters, direct subject-specific publication listings, and more comprehensive classification.**
Keywords: **LIS Community, Professional, Librarians, INFLIBNET, Portals**

I. INTRODUCTION

We are living in an era where the world is changing at the speed of light. New innovations and technologies ring the alarm at our doorstep every day. The development of AI is transforming the world, often in unexpected ways. Developments in the field of ICT impact every aspect of our lives. It is high time for all fields in which individuals must demonstrate their utility and corresponding skills to survive and thrive.

The field of library and information science is evolving constantly; its usefulness must meet the needs of the time and adapt to all new developments and technologies. The transition from library science to library and information science, and then from information science to information studies, represents a long process of adaptation. Libraries are changing their roles in this era; once mere storage houses of information, they now need to be modern, vibrant, and creative to provide users with a fresh perspective on information. They must modify and present information creatively according to user needs.

Libraries should no longer operate in the old, traditional ways. They must meet modern competencies and AI skill requirements to remain relevant. In this digital age, there is an explosion of information on the Internet. In this context, library professionals play a vital role in identifying, managing, and disseminating the right information to users at the right time. They must manage e-resources, e-journals, repositories, and other content innovatively to maximize their usage. Professionals must be competitive and eager to embrace new technologies. They must be familiar with emerging technologies and willing to innovate so that libraries uphold their traditional principles while adopting a modern outlook and integrating contemporary technologies.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The library is one of the most vital components of an academic system. Libraries have become the focal point of resource-based education, and the librarian's role is changing significantly with shifts in the educational blueprint. Nowadays, users' needs go far beyond traditional resources, and librarians must be skillful and adaptive to fulfill them. Librarians have to identify appropriate digital resources for library users. LIS professionals play a significant role in promoting online and digital e-resources in academic libraries.

In this era of information explosion, there is an excessive flow of information everywhere, and libraries may face challenges in organizing and collecting it. To address this, INFLIBNET provides activities to help libraries and universities in all aspects (Bhowmick, 2022). Libraries are much more than mere storehouses; with changes in trends, they must enhance their capabilities, credibility, and motivation toward change. This process highlights the importance of digitalization and automation.

Regarding the significance of higher education, every nation's library and information center plays a crucial role. The education system and policies cannot be implemented, developed, or expanded without library and information resources. The INFLIBNET Centre was established in 1991 as part of a plan to strengthen the infrastructure for disseminating and accessing information (Gandhinagar, 2025). The INFLIBNET Centre has one primary function: establishing and promoting advanced communication facilities for higher education in academic activities, research, teaching, and knowledge production. INFLIBNET continues to pursue an extensive array of functions supporting India's higher education system, further strengthening, developing, and modernizing the entire sector. The infrastructure for access and dissemination of information is paramount to the development of higher education in India (Waghmode, 2014).

INFLIBNET has initiated various programs to benefit academic and library personnel from different sectors, such as IndCat, SOUL, Vidyamitra, and e-PG Pathshala. Additionally, VIDWAN, ShERNI, and IRINS promote research visibility, expert profiling, and faculty contributions. These initiatives enhance visibility, encourage the expertise of professionals, and facilitate faculty contributions.

The role of library professionals also changes over time. Librarians are responsible for locating, acquiring, disseminating, and tracing information resources of various types. This may include database searching, interlibrary loans, monitoring Internet newsgroups, or maintaining a computerized library information system. Librarians must identify and select appropriate digital resources for library users. LIS professionals play a significant role in promoting the use of online and digital e-resources in academic libraries. In this era of information explosion, the excessive flow of information can create challenges for libraries in organizing and collecting it. In this digital era, digital media has a huge influence across all disciplines. There are also growing concerns about unprofessional behaviors and the blurring of professional identities, which undermine digital professionalism. It is necessary to regulate the impact of social media on professionalism and find ways to maintain professional identities and values in the digital era. Educational strategies must be provided to reinforce professional virtues, behaviors, and identities among healthcare professionals and students (Bhowmick, 2022).
LIB-Vahini is an academic networking site that displays details of the scholarly community of library and information sciences. This site is strongly influenced by VIDWAN and IRINS websites.

A. About Lib-Vahini

The full acronym of LIB-VAHINI **is** Library and Information Bridge – Virtual Access Hub for Innovation, Networking, and Integration**.** It is a dedicated space for professionals to showcase their profiles, achievements, and contributions. It was introduced on August 12, 2025, which is National Librarian's Day. The portal serves as a national repository for LIS professionals, illustrating their expertise, career development, and personal milestones. Its purpose is to create a community where experts can communicate, exchange ideas, and inspire the next generation. The portal honors the commitment, creativity, and influence of LIS professionals, ensuring that their contributions continue to motivate connected and informed communities. This portal is likely modeled on the combined concepts of the VIDWAN and IRINS portals, facilitating a comprehensive profile of LIS professionals that reflects substantial data.

III. OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the LIB-Vahini portal and its purpose.
2. To examine the information reflected and displayed on the portal.
3. To determine the types of data available through the portal.
4. To examine the benefits provided by the portal.
5. To highlight significant features and functionalities that are important to LIS practitioners.

IV. LIMITATIONS

The study states that data from the LIB-Vahini portal were collected between 12 August 2025 and 28 August 2025. It is limited to the portal's data, which include professionals, collaborations, publication types, and visibility. This study is purely based on the data displayed by the portal, and no other sources were used to evaluate the research. The data in this report cover the period from 12 August 2025 to 28 August 2025.

V. METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive research method. Its goal is to describe the specifics, benefits, and other information about the LIB-Vahini portal. The primary data source is the portal itself. Both qualitative data and factual statistical information are provided. The data reflect the analysis conducted between August 12 and August 28, 2025. Data were collected directly from the portal. By thoroughly examining the portal, descriptive methods of analysis were applied. First, the portal's data were observed. Then, based on the study objectives, brief information was extracted and both theoretical and statistical data were presented. Microsoft Office tools were used for analysis and to visualize the study.

VI. ANALYSIS OF DATA

This portal provides users with a variety of information. It presents the facts in a structured format. All information is initially categorized by state, then by key institutions, followed by the institutions' names, and finally, their designations. This hierarchical structure allows the information to be studied and categorized more effectively. The portal offers profiles of experts along with information

about their publications, experiences, and education. This representation helps to clarify each expert's scholarly contributions, practical competence, and areas of interest in the field of information studies. The portal also facilitates networking and collaboration by allowing users to find mentors or partners based on common interests. This feature significantly enhances scholarly communication and fosters interdisciplinary research by connecting individuals with complementary expertise (Nguyen & Tuamsuk, 2021).

This kind of grouping improves the discipline's capacity for knowledge discovery and search. Here, bibliometric analyses are strengthened by the available statistics, which allow researchers to assess production and impact using metrics like the H-index. This portal covers 2,862 professionals across India, including faculty, librarians, and scientists. It also provides details of over 30,000 publications by these experts, including citation data for 22,582 publications from Scopus, 12,487 from other sources, and information on 117 patents. This data helps professionals, faculty, and others enhance their research activity.

The platform has mapped institutions across India, covering a wide range of organizations, including private, central, and state public institutions, IITs, NITs, and some deemed universities, as well as a few institutions outside India. Table I shows the detailed number of institutions covered by the portal.

TABLE I NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS COVERED BY THE PORTAL

Main Category	Sub-Category	Number
Universities	Central Universities	612
	State Universities	236
	Private Universities	263
	Deemed-to-be Universities	156
CFIs (Centrally Funded Institutions)	IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) & IISc	42
	NITs (National Institutes of Technology)	35
	INIs	35
	IIMs	8
	IISERs	5
	R&D Institutions	42
Colleges	Affiliated/Constituent Colleges	1270
Others	Others (Outside India)	1

This portal effectively shows interstate data of professionals, faculty, research scholars, and other dignitaries from various states. Figure 1 reflects the number of professionals in the states of India. According to the data, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of professionals, while Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have the fewest.

The study shows considerable disparity in professional numbers between the states. Eight states have more than 100 professionals, indicating a concentration of skilled personnel in certain areas. On the other hand, six states have fewer than 10 professionals, highlighting areas with very few experts.

This portal also provides details of professionals of Indian origin currently working in different countries across the globe. Their presence helps to understand the extent and areas in which Indian professionals have influenced the world. It also reflects the international reach and high standard of India's skilled labor. This portal also gives some details of professionals outside of India, as shown in Table II.

TABLE II LIST OF NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS OUTSIDE INDIA

| S. No.	Place	No. of professionals
1	Dubai	2
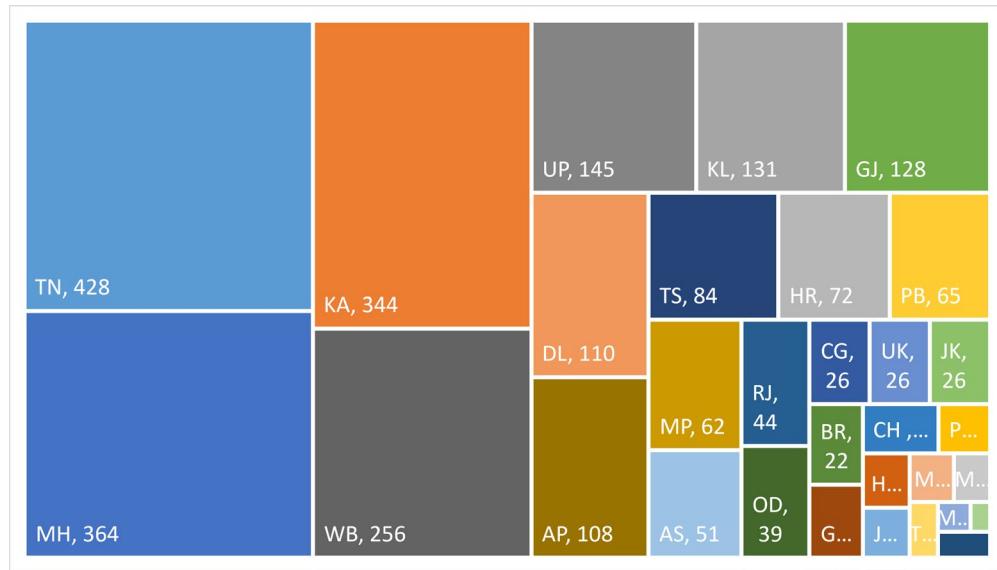
Fig.1 List of Numbers Professionals with State Wise Distribution

The information provided by this portal is accurate and systematically arranged. These data sets can be thoroughly analyzed to determine the number of professionals in each unit, divided according to divisions. If the data are compared by regions-north, south, east, and west of India-the concentration of professionals in each area can be determined. From an administrative perspective, this analysis reveals the government's interest and policy regarding this field. A large number of professionals in a specific sector usually signals high demand and effective government policies, indicating the administration's attention and support for the field. The analysis shows that the number of working professionals is higher in Tamil Nadu and lower in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. It also demonstrates that there are fewer professionals in northern India than in southern India. Moreover, the data indicate that library awareness has grown in southern India. There are also sufficient numbers of professionals in the eastern and western states.

In the northeastern states, however, the numbers are comparatively low, with Assam leading the region. This reflects the level of library awareness in different states. It is clear that greater awareness brings more advantages in terms of research activities and academic progress. Figure 2 shows a detailed chart of the region-wise number of professionals. In the category of Union Territories, Delhi has the highest number of professionals, while the number of working professionals in the other Union Territories is minimal compared to Delhi. The state of affairs in these territories is concerning. Some professionals from outside India also appear on this portal.

Figure 3 visually presents the details of the Union Territories. This portal also shows the publication data of professionals. It covers 2,862 professionals across India, including faculty, librarians, and scientists. The portal provides details of 36,154 publications by these experts, including citation data for 22,582 publications from Scopus, 12,487 from other sources, and information on 117 patents. This data helps professionals, faculty, and others enhance their research activities.
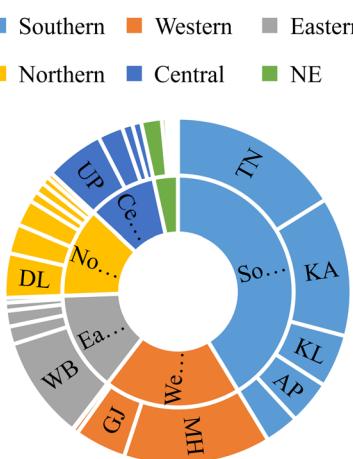

Fig.2 List of Professions Region Wise
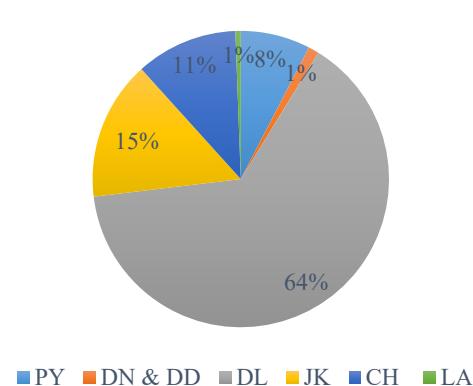
Fig.3 List of Numbers Professionals in Union Territory
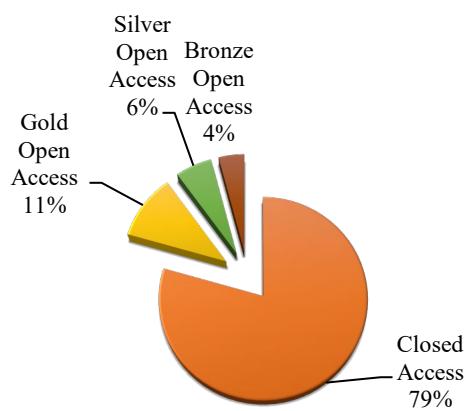
Fig.4 Publication Details

It also provides publishing data for these 2,862 professionals. Among these publications, 1,335 are published in closed access, 178 in gold open access, 99 in silver open access, and 69 in bronze open access. The data indicate that traditional publication strategies are still widely used, with a significant portion of publications appearing in closed-access journals. This practice affects the potential reach and accessibility of research outcomes. The portal encourages professionals to continue sharing their experiences and producing exceptional and productive research, serving as an example for all practitioners. It also inspires new LIS professionals to establish themselves among these distinguished individuals by contributing valuable work. Within the LIS community, this collaborative platform fosters a culture of ongoing professional development and knowledge exchange. In the Expert Search section of the portal, users can access comprehensive information about a wide range of professionals. It provides multiple filtering options, allowing

users to refine searches based on specific needs. The portal's filtering system is efficient and presents data in an organized, user-friendly format. It also offers a feature to view individual professional profiles. These profiles include the professional's name, relevant career information, tenure, and affiliated institutions. Additional information includes educational history, publication record, and professional experience. The portal also provides IDs such as VIDWAN ID, ORCID ID, Scopus ID, Researcher ID, and Google Scholar ID. Along with these IDs, citation numbers and H-index values are displayed. Further details include articles published by the professionals, books authored, and information on conference proceedings. Areas of specialization are also shown in each profile. The portal also has a dedicated section for Eminent Experts, highlighting notable individuals who have made significant contributions to Library and Information Science. This section is divided into three groups: Distinguished Experts, Vice Chancellors, and UGC Emeritus. The Distinguished Experts group includes well-known figures such as Shri Rabindranath Tagore, Shri Sayyajirao Gaikwar, Prof. A. Neelameghan, Prof. B.S. Keshavan, Shri K.M. Asadullah, Prof. P.N. Kaula, Dr. T.B. Rajeshkar, and Shri P.N. Pannikar. The Vice Chancellors group features Prof. B.D. Kumbhar, Prof. H.N. Prasad, Prof. Roshan Lal Raina, Prof. T.D. Kemparaju, Prof. Uma Kanjilal, and Prof. V.G. Talawar. The UGC Emeritus group includes Prof. A.S. Chandel, Prof. Ashwini Anand Vaishnav, Prof. C.R. Karisiddhappa, Prof. M.P. Sateja, and Prof. Laxman Rao Nagubandi. This section serves not only as an informative resource but also as a tribute to these distinguished personalities. It is hoped that their contributions will inspire the next generation of professionals in the field.

TABLE III LIST OF ASSOCIATIONS GIVEN IN THE PORTAL

S. No.	Associations Name
1	ILA-Indian Library Association
2	Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC)
3	Indian Association of teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS)
4	Central Government Library Association
5	Bengal Library Association
6	Maharashtra University and College Library Associations
7	Gujarat Granthalaya Seva Sangh
8	Kerala Library Association
9	Madras Library Association
10	Karnataka State library Association
11	Delhi Library Association
12	Assam Library Association
13	Academic Library Association
14	Punjab Library Association
15	Society of the Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS)

Along with publication details, the portal also provides information about various notable associations that actively contribute to the growth and progress of the Library and Information Science profession. Table 3 presents information about these associations. The portal also provides updated information on upcoming conferences, workshops, and professional events. By compiling these diverse sources, the portal not only facilitates academic and professional development but also promotes active involvement in the LIS profession. This centralized approach, using detailed and verified information, is a valuable tool for users to stay up-to-date and aware of ongoing developments in the field, all with ease from a single platform.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

According to the report, the portal showcases the details of Library and Information Science professionals across India. It collects all their publication details, citations, patents, and information on future conferences and workshops with just a few clicks. It also provides details of their qualifications, affiliated institutions, and areas of specialization. Additionally, it offers comprehensive state-wise information about professionals.

The portal includes effective filters to categorize professionals by area, institution, and position. The interface provides dynamic filtering options, so when a user filters by state or organization, the data in other tabs updates accordingly. For example, when selecting "University of Delhi," the "Designation Category" tab adjusts to show the number of professors, assistant professors, and other faculty related to that university.

This portal encourages professionals to engage in more effective research activities and facilitates collaboration and networking. It also provides details of some professionals working outside India. By collecting and presenting this information, the international range of experts in this field can be analyzed. This enables the investigation of global research and development trends and allows comparisons of research activities between countries. Through this, it is possible to map research behaviors by region and identify key topics in which other countries have invested. Such knowledge can help create large networks of collaborative partners and foster healthy competition, leading to more innovation and active participation in the field.

The portal gradually boosts professionals' willingness to engage in more research activities and contributes to producing high-quality research that can inspire new professionals. It adds value for collaboration, planning, and resource allocation by funding agencies, helping to direct resources to the right institutions and individuals while identifying gaps in regional expertise. This portal not only provides insights into what research is being conducted but also shows where it is being initiated and how it is developing.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS

The portal has many advantages, but along with its benefits, it also has some limitations. Firstly, the portal does not reflect the details of professionals with the highest impact factors and publications. Users must search manually, one by one, to find effective details, which causes a loss of time.

Library and Information Science is a vast field, and many faculty members and professionals have their own areas of interest and specialization. In this case, the portal should be more detailed and offer views by additional subject areas, similar to the SheRNI portal. In the professional profiles' expertise section, many profiles include vague details that do not accurately reflect their expertise, making it difficult to identify the professional's subject interests.

In some states, such as Tripura, certain profiles are repeated. Although these duplicates are not counted, they appear unprofessional. Additionally, the portal lists some city names under the state category, which can distort state-level data. The portal provides information about professionals' publications, including titles and publication details. However, it currently does not provide direct access to full texts through hyperlinks or Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). These features would make it easier to retrieve and verify the listed works.

Furthermore, the publication details are not arranged in any specific order, nor do they include search or filter options, which would help users retrieve data more efficiently. If details of professionals working outside India, beyond Dubai, could be collected, it would be possible to create an effective global network of Indian professionals. Research collaboration and knowledge sharing could generate more innovative ideas and research outputs. This would help build a strong ideological and knowledge base for future generations in the field.

IX. FURTHER RESEARCH

Through this entire analysis of the LIB-Vahini portal, we also gain a few ideas that are helpful for further research:

1. We can create a geographical map of interests, showcasing specific research concentrations region-wise across India, and also analyze comparisons with institutions outside India. This is similar to how epidemiologists track disease patterns across regions.
2. We can analyze regional contributions and identify the areas in which researchers have developed their strengths and specializations in this field. Additionally, we can examine how the expertise of professionals and researchers contributes to broader research trends.
3. From this, we can also monitor how research interests evolve over time across different regions, providing insights into emerging trends and priorities.

X. CONCLUSION

The study found that INFLIBNET created a separate portal for professionals in Library and Information Science. This portal provides detailed information about all the renowned institutions and their professionals. It serves as a comprehensive database where users can find information about library professionals, their publications, fields of interest, and other relevant details. This resource helps professionals engage in collaborative work and motivates young professionals to undertake more creative and effective research activities.

ORCID
Sangram Keshari Rout https://orcid.org/0009-0009-0390-309X
Ranjit Das https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0191-6861
Sumit Karmahapatra https://orcid.org/0009-0008-9694-6680
Hemananda Das https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9291-8272
Kapil Kumar Gupta https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1030-5751

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