

JOB DESCRIPTION

University Librarian

About Us

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is an interdisciplinary knowledge institution and distinct university, committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of Indian settlements. It conducts an integrated programme of quality campus-based teaching and research, applied research/ practice-based work to deliver large-scale impact, training and lifelong learning for working professionals as well as blended learning. IIHS brings together theory and praxis around India-centric knowledge and applied research, while engaging with and drawing from knowledge across the globe.

For more information, please see <http://www.iihs.co.in>

About IIHS University

The IIHS (Institution Deemed to be) University is dedicated to the transformative opportunities of urbanisation, and is recognised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, as a unique and distinct Institution Deemed to be University.

We are a rare educational institution that brings together teaching, research and applied research to focus on the equitable, sustainable, and efficient transformation of India's cities, towns and villages.

For more information, please see <https://www.iihs.ac.in>

About the IIHS Library

The IIHS Library is an open knowledge, research, and teaching hub focused on India's urbanisation. It brings together interdisciplinary resources spanning more than 40 disciplines from around the world. One of the fastest-growing urban libraries in the Global South, it has steadily expanded its collection since 2012 and has been open to the public since 2014. The collection includes more than 42,000 resources: over 25,000 books, 3,000 journals, 11,000 e-books, 800 journal archives, 1,300 films, and 700 maps. The Library also houses special collections donated across a wide range of subjects, including urbanisation in the Global South and developing countries, urban governance, municipal finance, fiscal policy and reforms, architecture, city guides and engineering works, classical Indian literature and philosophy, Gazetteers, the Indian national movement, economics, and solid waste management. The IIHS Library was selected for the Parag Honour List in 2020, 2022, and 2023.

Located on a 54-acre site in Kengeri, Bengaluru, the Library sits at the heart of the IIHS Campus, which will bring together 2.5 lakh sq. m of integrated research, teaching, and residential facilities. It is being developed as one of the world's largest public reference libraries on urbanisation, with a planned collection of more than 200,000 books and e-books.

The IIHS Library is located at the centre of five academic blocks and will be flanked by a Convention centre. The four-storey building, spanning about 4,450 sq. m, will include stack areas, a special archive, reading areas, work rooms, meeting spaces of varying sizes and privacy levels, audio-visual research rooms, exhibition spaces, and a specialised bookshop. Designed as a high-performance building, it incorporates low-embodied-energy materials as well as energy- and water-conservation features.

The IIHS Library team, of eight members, actively contributes to knowledge creation in library science and information systems in India. The team engages in policy reviews, journal publications, and op-eds, and is part of several leading library consortia, public forums, and working groups. Collectively, this team has published 53 articles that have received more than

356 citations in information science. These include 'A Policy Review of Public Libraries in India' by Preedip Balaji, Vinay M. S., and Mohan Raju.

Library team members are affiliated with several professional associations, including the Milli Foundation, the British Council Library, the Indian Library Association, the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres, the Alumni Association of Library and Information Science, the Karnataka University Library & Information Association (KULISA), Dharwad, the Mysore University Library and Information Alumni Association, the Kerala Library Professionals' Organisation, and the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Madras Alumni Association (DLIS UNOM).

Job Description

The IIHS University is looking for an exceptional University Librarian who will lead and shape the library as a knowledge hub—supporting interdisciplinary research, applied research, teaching-learning, and public engagement across the institution, partner institutions, libraries, archives and museums in Bengaluru, India and abroad.

We are seeking a senior Librarian with a strong professional track record, to take on the responsibility of strategic planning and leadership, collection and archive development and resource management, as well as advancing technology, digital innovation and AI deployment within the library. The role involves building and sustaining a reading and user community; designing and delivering innovative, user-centred services for faculty, scholars, researchers, students, and partners; planning, budgeting and resource development to maintain these services.

The IIHS Library is envisioned as an inclusive space that facilitates knowledge production and is complementary to India's first metropolitan museum that is located next to it. The Librarian will support the development of specialized knowledge and information products and services, promote and enable research data management, strengthen scholarly communication services and develop capacity building potential.

Activities and Tasks

Responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Providing strategic leadership in growing and shaping the University Library to be a world class interdisciplinary hub for urbanisation scholarship and applied research;
- Conceptualising and leading resource development initiatives for the Library and its services, to ensure that the ambitious strategic plans for its growth are supported by adequate funding;
- Overseeing the full span of Library operations, including planning, budgeting and procurement; acquisition and management of print and digital collections; cataloguing and record keeping; virtual referencing and the maintenance of both physical and digital resources and institutional repositories; and other related activities;
- Creating a Library culture that's proactive in anticipating user requirements, quick to respond to queries, and consistent in providing high-quality user service; ensuring that effective and efficient support is provided to researchers and scholars through the life cycle of research and applied research processes;
- Building, mentoring and managing a team of high-calibre library staff;

- Building and maintaining leading-edge knowledge of evolving trends, strategies and practices in library management; actively advancing the use of technology, digital innovation and AI deployment within the library;
- Contributing to knowledge production and information literacy, including public outreach;
- Expanding IIHS's community and civic engagement through activities and initiatives spearheaded by the Library;
- Providing support to other IIHS activities including academics, research, training, practice, operations and others;
- Participating in all activities of Institution-Building at IIHS; carrying out tasks as assigned by IIHS; and travelling on IIHS work within or outside the country as and when needed.

Structure and Reporting

The Librarian will report to the Vice Chancellor of the IIHS University or to any other person designated by the Vice Chancellor and will be required to collaborate effectively with a diverse group of internal teams, external individuals/organizations, and students.

Person Specification

The ideal candidate should have:

- A Doctorate (PhD) in Library Science, Information Science, Documentation, or Archive and Manuscript-Keeping;
- A Master's Degree in Library Science, Information Science, Documentation Science, with at least 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point-scale, wherever the grading system is followed);
- Interdisciplinary scholarship with high-quality international publications and academic impact in relevant disciplines;
- 15+ years of relevant experience, including the following:
 - at least five years in a leadership role in academic or research libraries; and
 - at least ten years as a Librarian at any level in a University Library or ten years as a College Librarian.
- Demonstrated experience in strategic planning and leadership of library systems and services including evidence of innovative library services, such as the integration of ICT in a library;
- Experience in the collection, development, and management of print, digital and archival resources;
- Expertise in digital library systems, e-resource management, and knowledge management;
- Strong understanding of metadata standards and bibliometrics, information retrieval systems, and library technologies;
- Experience in managing budgets, teams, and institutional processes;

Desirable experience includes:

- Exposure to interdisciplinary knowledge domains across IIHS' key knowledge areas and related fields;
- Preservation and digitisation of rare books;
- Familiarity with open access publishing, institutional repositories, and research data management;
- Experience in knowledge management, ICT modernisation and developing innovative library services, including mobile applications;

Skills and Attributes:

- An eclectic view of knowledge and a passion for interdisciplinary knowledge-creation;
- Strong leadership, team management, mentoring and collaboration skills;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal abilities;

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- Analytical thinking, adaptability, and problem-solving skills;
- Strong numerical and/or mathematical aptitude (advantageous);
- Proficiency in English and multilingual skills;
- A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in education, research and knowledge creation;
- Energy and initiative to build the Library and cultivate strong relationships with students, faculty members, and teams.

This offer is on an exclusive basis, which implies that other professional assignments (whether compensated or not) that bear a potential conflict of interest with the IIHS University cannot be undertaken.

The search will remain open until the position is filled.

Location

This position is based in Bengaluru and may entail travel to other locations in India.

Review and Assessment

The role and performance of the incumbent shall be subject to normal review and assessment systems at the IIHS University.

Diversity Policy

The IIHS University is an equal opportunity employer that encourages women, people with disabilities and those from economically and socially excluded communities with the requisite skills and qualifications to apply for positions.

To Apply

If you are interested to explore this opportunity with us, please fill the online application form by clicking here. (You can also click on the “Apply Now” button at the end of the Job Description displayed on the website).

Contact

Please write to us at University.Recruitment@iihs.ac.in if you need any clarifications while filling the online application form.
