

Shalini Urs: Profile

Dr. Shalini R. Urs

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Professor Shalini Urs is an information scientist having interest in all matters of the mind—from creativity to cognitive to cultural. Taking a 360 degree view of information, she has researched on issues ranging from the theoretical foundations of information science to technological aspects of information systems. Her areas of research include—Relevance and Information Retrieval, Information Systems, Ontology Development, and Social Media and Network Analysis, Data Analytics, and Information Security.

Shalini has been a faculty of the University of Mysore for the last 35 years and specializing in the areas of Information Systems and Management. She was a Fulbright scholar and visiting professor at the Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech, USA during 2000- 2001. She has also been a visiting professor at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore during 2008, and 2009. She has been researching into various aspects of Informatics, and published more than 100 papers in peer reviewed journals and prestigious academic conferences.

Her major accomplishments include—the Vidyanidhi Digital Library project (www.vidyanidhi.org.in), an internationally known Indian open access repository. She is on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Tech based global initiative—NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations). She has served on the Governing Board of INFLIBNET—the Inter University Centre of University Grants Commission from 2001 to 2004. She has served as an UNESCO expert on several occasions and commissioned many studies including a innovative training programme on information management called the UN4IM.

Widely travelled, invited to speak at various international and national conferences, Shalini is a sought after speaker on wide ranging topics. Shalini has won many awards. They include the Best Paper Award at Infotex 1995, NDLTD - Adobe Leadership award in 2004; Emerald Research Fund Award 2007-08. Recently she has been awarded the

Mortenson Distinguished Lecturer 2010 and delivered their annual lecture series at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, USA.

Having conceptualized and founded the International School of Information Management (ISiM), in 2005 to offer an interdisciplinary Masters Programme in Information Management, Shalini has established ISiM—the first and only Information School in India at the University of Mysore with seed funding from the Ford Foundation and Informatics India Limited in collaboration with leading Information Schools in the US such as the University of Michigan, Pittsburgh and Syracuse (www.isim.ac.in). An institution builder, Shalini Urs as the executive director of ISiM in Mysore has initiated many academic activities, projects and initiatives such as the Mysore Knowledge City Project, Internet Safari, and Wikigyan.

Well appreciated for her leadership and organising abilities, Shalini has built a vast network of linkages with industries such as Microsoft, Google, Infosys and many others. She has been organising a well known Academia-Industry Summit series called the InfoVision-Knowledge Summit in collaboration with industries such as Rediff.com, Microsoft Research, and industry bodies such as CII and BCIC since 2005 and has brought speakers from across the globe including star speakers such as Jimmy Wales (founder of Wikipedia) and Prof. Lief Edwinsson of Intellectual Capital fame. The Infovision 2011 was organised in collaboration with TDWI India Chapter, CSI, and others and hosted by Infosys and supported by many industries including Wipro, Iron Mountain and others.