



# KERALA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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KLA/2017-18/9

10.11.2017

The Chairman  
University Grants Commission  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi-110 002

Sir,

**Sub: Extending the Provision of Research  
Supervisor to regular librarians  
under UGC Scheme-Reg.  
Ref: UGC-Minimum Standards and procedures  
for award of MPhil /PhD  
Degree, Regulations-2009**

As the premier professional body in Library and Information Science (LIS) domain at the National level, Kerala Library Association (KLA) has always been in the forefront playing its role as a facilitator, to improve the quality and standard of education and research by enhancing the quality and standard of libraries and library professionals.

We are writing this to invite your kind attention to the matter pertaining to the problems faced by the research aspirants in Library and Information Science. The above cited reference states that "Universities shall allocate the supervisor from among the regular faculty members in a department or its affiliated PG colleges/ Institutes

depending on the number of students per faculty member." Because of this provision, universities in Kerala have been denied the opportunity of the working Librarians under UGC scheme to supervise research scholars in Library and Information Science (LIS). In the entire state of Kerala, there are only three regular faculty members who can supervise the students for the award of M. Phil. or Ph. D. in Library and Information Science. KLA rightly views an acute shortage of supervisors in LIS and the lack of supervisors is a denial of opportunity to UGC-NET/ JRF qualified students and professionals to carryout research that adversely affects the progress of the discipline as such.

At the same time, UGC (minimum qualification for the appointment of teachers and other academic staff in universities and colleges and measures for the maintenance of Standards in Higher Education - 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Regulation 2016, the Academic Performance Indicators (API) for promotion of Assistant Librarians in Universities/College Librarians under Career Advancement scheme (CAS) required the service of Librarians as supervisors for getting five and 15 points respectively for each MPhil and PhD degree awarded. KLA takes objection to the denial of the right of eligible librarians to guide M. Phil /PhD students, a privilege granted by UGC itself earlier.

KLA, in its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting held in Thiruvananthapuram on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 had observed that this is a glaring example of the anachronism in the



stipulations by UGC and contradictory to the attempts towards quality improvement in the academic sector. Hence, the meeting unanimously passed a Resolution, requesting the Hon'ble Minister Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt of India and UGC to do a rethinking on this matter.

**KLA, as a professional body upholding the dignity and academic status of librarians, urges the UGC for extending the provision of Research Supervisor to the regular University Librarians/ Deputy Librarians/Assistant Librarians in the Universities and College Librarians who come under the UGC Scheme, if they fulfil all other requirements.**

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

Dr. P. K. Suresh Kumar

General Secretary

