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KLA/CC/2020/7

08.10.2020

The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Kerala
Secretariat North Block Room No 149.
Thiruvananthapuram-1

Sir,

Sub: Recruitment of Library Professionals in the Universities in Kerala through Kerala Public Service Commission- Anomalies in the Special Rules - reg.

Kerala Library Association (KLA), the premier State wide organisation of qualified Library and Information Science professionals, has been playing a significant role during the last five decades for the improvement of libraries and enhancement of the professional competence of librarians across the State. As a responsible professional body, KLA has been proactively involving/intervening through representations, discussions and other modes, with the Government and various agencies concerned for the betterment of libraries and information centres in various sectors including Govt. Departments, Universities, Research & Development Establishments, Schools, Colleges, etc. We are extremely proud to state that the Government on their part has always given due recognition to our representations.

It is a welcome move from the Government to recruit various posts in Universities in Kerala right from the entry level of Professional Assistant/Library Assistant to the top University Librarian. We would like to invite your kind attention regarding the recruitment of Professional Assistants and University Librarian by Kerala Public Service Commission. Recently we noticed a press release by KPSC that it has accepted the special rules for the recruitment of the above said posts. According to this press release, the proposed qualifications to the post of University Librarian is as follows:

- i. Master's Degree in Library and Information Science /Documentation Science with at least 55 % marks/equal grade.
- ii. 10 Years' Experience as Deputy Librarian or 10 Years' Experience as Assistant Professor/Associate Professor in Library Science or 10 years' experience as College Librarian.

The post of University Librarian is equivalent to University Professor with UGC Scale of Pay, but the proposed qualifications are not in consonance with those of UGC Regulation 2018. As per the UGC Regulation, the qualifications and experience for the post of University Librarian is as follows:

- i. 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.
- ii. At least ten years as a Librarian at any level in University Library or ten years of teaching as Assistant/Associate Professor in Library Science or ten years' experience as a College Librarian.
- iii. Evidence of innovative library services, including the integration of ICT in a library.
- iv. A Ph.D. Degree in library science/information science/documentation /archives and manuscript-keeping.

As per the proposed qualification, a Librarian working in the Universities cannot apply to the post of University Librarian since it normally takes three decades of service to reach the post of Deputy Librarian. Moreover, usually, there will be one post of Deputy Librarian in a University Library. At the same time, Ph. D. Degree in Library Science is excluded from the proposed qualification.

Also, we came to know that the qualification for the post of Professional Assistant (Library Assistant) is approved by the Kerala Public Service Commission as follows:

- (i) A Bachelor's degree in any subject, and
- (ii) A Bachelor's Degree (BLISc) or Diploma in Library and Information Science.

We like to make it clear that no university in India is offering Diploma in Library and Information Science. Also, most of the Universities in Kerala and India are offering two year integrated Master's Degree Course in Library and Information Science (MLISc) in the regular mode instead of one year BLISc. This has been accepted as a norm at the national level by the UGC. The proposed qualification of BLISc will deny the opportunities of MLISc holders who are eagerly awaiting the notification to apply to the post of Professional Assistants.

Hence, we request the Government to take necessary steps to:

1. Provide opportunity for two year MLISc Integrated Degree holders to apply to the entry level post of professional Assistants by modifying the qualification as Degree in any subject with Bachelor's Degree in Library & Information Science or Master's Degree in Library & Information Science.
2. Modify the qualifications strictly as per UGC Regulation 2018 for the recruitment of University Librarian.

With thanks,

Yours faithfully

Dr. P. K Suresh Kumar
General Secretary

Copy to:

- i. The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Kerala

- i. The Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, 4th Floor, Annex II, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram - 1
- ii. The Chairman, Kerala State Public Service Commission, KPSC Office, Pattom Palace P.O., Thiruvananthapuram 695 004
- iii. Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council, Trivandrum
- iv. The Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission, KPSC Office, Pattom Palace P. O., Thiruvananthapuram 695 004