

# SEMINAR REPORT

A one-day seminar titled "**Beyond the Shelf: Re-engineering Academic Libraries for Excellence**" was successfully organized for librarians. The event focused on modernizing library infrastructures, handling contemporary data repositories, establishing research support mechanisms, and meeting benchmarks for institutional accreditation.

Al-Azhar College of Arts & Science successfully conducted its scheduled official programme. The programme commenced with a solemn **Prayer**, setting a peaceful and auspicious tone for the rest of the proceedings

- **Welcome Address: Mr. Shammash Basheer** (Vice Principal & IQAC Coordinator, Al-Azhar College of Arts & Science) officially welcomed the dignitaries, resource persons and all the participants. He highlighted the significance of the event in alignment with the college's quality assurance goals.
- **Presidential Address:** The Presidential Address was delivered by **Dr. Somasekharan B Pillai** (Academic Dean, Al-Azhar Group of Institutions). He spoke on the academic vision of the group and emphasized the importance of fostering a holistic learning environment.
- **Inauguration:** The event was formally inaugurated by **Dr. K M Paijas** (Executive Director, Al-Azhar Group of Institutions). In his Inaugural Address, he commended the college's initiatives and reiterated the management's commitment to providing top-tier educational infrastructure and opportunities.
- **Felicitation: Mr. Arun Gopal** (Academic Dean, Al-Azhar College of Arts & Science) offered words of felicitation, praising the organizers and encouraging the student community to make the most of such institutional gatherings.
- **Vote of Thanks:** The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by **Mrs. Renju A R** (Library Coordinator, Al-Azhar Library Connect), who expressed gratitude to the management, guests, organizing committee, and the audience for making the event a grand success.

A one-day state-level seminar titled "**Beyond the Shelf: Re-engineering Academic Libraries for Excellence**" was successfully organized for librarians.

**Theme:** Beyond the Shelf: Re-engineering Academic Libraries for Excellence

**Target Audience:** Librarians

**Date:** 27 June 2026

**Time:** 9:30 AM – 3:45 PM

**Venue:** Smart Classroom, Al-Azhar College of Arts & Science

**Organizers:** Al-Azhar IQAC in association with Al-Azhar Library Network

**Collaborating Partner:** Kerala Library Association (KLA) – Ernakulum Region

The seminar featured two highly experienced professionals from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT):

- **Mr. Joe Joseph (Retired Assistant Librarian) CUSAT**
  - **Dr. Shibu Ray S (Retired Deputy Librarian (Academic Level 14) CUSAT**
- Certificates of participation were officially distributed to all registered attendees to recognize their professional development engagement.

#### **Valedictory Session.**

The seminar concluded with a valedictory session featuring participant feedback collection and an official vote of thanks to the organizing committee, collaborating associations, and the resource persons.

#### **Conclusion**

The seminar successfully addressed the urgent need for academic libraries to evolve "beyond the shelf". By equipping participants with knowledge regarding modern repositories, research support, and NAAC benchmarks, the event fulfilled its objective to foster institutional and academic excellence across libraries in the region.