20. Contributors Profile

Prof R.K.Joshi

Visiting Design Specialist
C-DAC(Formerly NCST), Mumbai.

Prof R.K.Joshi, has witnessed and participated in the type design and text composing environment since 1952. From hot metal days through photo type setting era, he has been propagating the phonemic base and aesthetics of Indian letterforms, as part of Indian tradition, culture and wisdom.

He is involved in digital type design and text processing issues in Indian languages since mainframe computer days. At NCSDCT (TIFR), under the guidance of Prof. R.Narasimhan, he consolidated his R & D work on the 'Desha' coding scheme(1982) based on pure consonant approach; a digital typeface design software – PaLatino(in collaboration with Dr. P.K.Ghosh and others) and innovative computer graphics using Indian alphabets.

Further he collaborated with Laxmi Parida in developing 'Vinyas' : An interactive calligraphic type design system at NCST(1985). He designed dot matrix fonts, PS fonts for many Indian scripts to support consultancy projects in the area of multilingual text processors such as Aalekh (Hinditron), Vividha(CMC), Vidura(IGNCA). He taught type designing and typography at IDC, IIT, Mumbai. Most of the present type designers at various commercial/R & D houses are trained by him.

Prof Joshi has revived Indian calligraphy at academic, professional and research level as a life long mission. Many exhibitions (Aakar-Delhi, Prathama-Mumbai, Akshara-Germany etc.,), demo-workshops, seminars and many lecture tours at national/international levels, are at his credit. He has opened up new dimension in aesthetics of Indian letterforms through his R

& D work in Indian Paleography, Epigraphy and manuscriptology.

After his retirement in 1996, he was involved in designing a series of O/S fonts for Microsoft for their Windows 2000 as a part of enabling Indian language activity on Windows platform. He had received many awards and honours including International award(Bukva-raz) for his 'Raghu' font, Hall of fame (CAG) and life time achievement award (Ad Club, Mumbai). Recently he has completed another series of multilingual fonts for 12 Indian languages under project 'IndiX' at C-DAC Mumbai (Formerly NCST), where he works as Visiting Design Specialist.

He is keen to develop his 'Texta' models into a real innovative typographic output using digital technology as applied research project.