

Dr.S.R. Ranganathan-The Father of Library Science in India: his work and achievements.

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(Abstract: S.R. Ranganathan (S.R.S.) was basically a mathematician turned into the field of Library Science. He is a famous Library Information Management Scientist of our country. He had dedicated his whole life in the field of Library Science. He has contributed a lot towards the planning, programmes and policy for the growth and development of Library Science in India. In his honour India celebrates S.R.Ranganathan's birthday as the "National Library Day")

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Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan, (SRR) Father of Library and Information Science movement in India was born on August 12th 1892 at Shiyali in the Tanjur district in the state of Tamil Nadu. Ranganathans parents were Ramamrita Ayyar and Seethalakshmi. Ranganathans father Ramamrita Ayyar was died on 13 January 1898, when Ranganathan was only at six years old. Ranganathan's mother survived this loss for nearly 55 years and died at Delhi due to a fire accident at the home in January 1953. Ranganathan married in 1907 when he was fifteen years old. His wife's name was Rukmini. She was very devoted to Ranganathan and an able house hold manager. Unfortunately she was died in an accident on 13 November 1928 at the Parthasarathy Koil Tank, Triplicane, Madras where she had gone for a bath. The couple had no children. Ranganathan married again in December 1929 to Sarada; she was also devoted to Ranganathan and helped him to work the library profession. She even persuaded him to donate large sums of money for the Chair of Library Science in Madras University and to the Endowment. She died at the age of 78 years on 30 July 1985 in Bangalore.

Early life and education:

Ranganathan's early education was started on Vijayadasami day in the month of October, 1897 with *Aksharabyasam* at Ubhayavedanthapuram near Shiyali. Immediate after the *Aksharabyasams*, Ranganathan was joined to a school in Shiyali, and was handed over to the care of Subba Ayyar, a relative and a primary school teacher. In his school days, Ranganathan came under the influence of two great teachers who shaped his life are, R.Antharama Ayyar and Thiruvengkatachariar, the Sanskrit teacher. Ranganathan learnt from them about the life teachings of Nayanars (Shaivaite Bhaktas) and Alwars (Vaishnavaite Bhaktas)

Ranganathan passed his Matriculation examination in the year 1908/1909 from the S.M. Hindu High School at Shiyali. He passed the examination in First Class, in spite of sickness like anemia, piles, and stammering. When Ranganathan was studying in high school education he came under the influence of P.A. Subramanya Ayyar, a scholar on Sri Aurobindo. After that Ranganathan had joined the junior intermediate class at the Madras Christian College in March 1909. He took up his B.A. in 1913 at Madras Christian College and later M.A. (Mathematics) at Presidency College, Madras in 1916.

In the year 1917 he appointed as Lecturer at Government College, Mangalore. He subsequently taught at Government College, Coimbatore, in 1920 and at Presidency College, University of Madras, in 1921 to 23.

Ranganathan began his professional life as a Mathematician, and he was successively a member of the mathematics faculties at universities in Mangalore, Coimbatore and Madras. As a Mathematics Professor, he published a handful of papers, mostly on the history of mathematics. His career as an educator was somewhat hindered by a handicap of stammering.

In 1923, the University of Madras created the post of University Librarian to oversee their poorly organized collection. Among the 900 applicants for the position, none had any formal training in librarianship, and Ranganathan's handful of papers satisfied the search committee's requirement that the candidate should have a research background. His sole knowledge of librarianship came from an Encyclopedia Britannica article he read days before

the interview. In January 1924, Ranganathan left Presidency College and he was appointed as first University Librarian of the University of Madras. He left for England in September 1925, to study at University College, London, to get trained in librarianship and completed a six month certificate course in Library Science. During this time, he visited many libraries and he found that the system of classification, cataloguing etc., was not scientific and there was a tremendous scope for the improvement in Library Science.

Once again he took up the job at Madras University in the year 1925 and held it until 1944. From 1945 to 1947 he served as Librarian and as Professor of library science at Hindu University in Varanasi (Banaras), and from 1947 to 1954 he taught at the University of Delhi. During 1954–57 he was engaged in research and writing in Zurich.

Few years after he returned to India and served as visiting professor at Vikram University, Ujjain, till 1959. In 1962 he founded and became head of the Documentation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore, with which he remained, associated for the rest of his life, and in 1965 he was honored by the Indian government with the title of national research professor in Library science.

Ranganathan found the solitude of the position was intolerable. After a matter of weeks, complaining of total boredom, he went back to the university administration to beg for his teaching position back. A deal was struck that Ranganathan would travel to London to study contemporary Western practices in librarianship, and that, if he returned and still rejected librarianship as a career, the mathematics lectureship would be his again.

Major Contribution of Dr.Ranganathan

1. Five Laws of Library science

These were published in 1931. The five laws are:

- Books Are For Use,
- Every Reader His Book,
- Every Book Its Reader,
- Save the Time of the Reader,
- Library Is a Growing Organism

2. Colon Classification

Ranganathan published his first major work on his new classification system, the Colon Classification. Its basic principles, however, require the analysis of a subject to determine its various aspects, called facets, and the synthesis of a class number from the numbers assigned in published schedules to different facets. Thus, Colon Classification is known as an analytico-synthetic classification system. Ranganathan was the first to fully explicate facet theory and his work has had a major impact on modern classification schemes.

3. Classified Catalogue Code

Classified Catalogue Code is another important work by Dr.S R Ranganathan. It is published in the year 1934. In this book he maintained that, a catalogue should consist of two components.

One part should be classified by subject, reflecting the library's classification system, with class number entries. The other should be a dictionary catalogue, including author, title, series, and similar identifiers, as well as alphabetized subject entries. The function of a catalogue is to intimate works so they can be found by author, title, series, and so forth. It must also allow readers to review the selection of works on a given subject.

4. Chain Index

To determine subject entries for the dictionary catalogue, Ranganathan developed a simple method called chain indexing. This method simply uses each facet of a subject, together with its immediately preceding facets, as an index entry. Thus, all important aspects of the subject, from the most general to the most specific, are automatically covered. Chain indexing can be adapted to other classification systems as well.

Honors to Dr.Ranganathan's Credit:

Number of honours received by Dr.S.R.Ranganathan. They are,

- In 1935 and 1957, the Indian government honoured on him by the title Rao Sahib and the public service award Padmashri respectively.
- In 1948, he received an honorary Doctorate of literature from the University of Delhi.
- In 1964, he received the same degree from the University of Pittsburgh.
- In 1965, he was made a national research professor by the Indian government, and in 1970, he received the Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloguing and Classification of the American Library Association (ALA).
- After his death, the FID, in 1976, established the Ranganathan award in his memory. This certificate of merit is awarded biennially for a recent outstanding contribution in the field of classification.

Books Authored by S. R Ranganathan

1. Colon classification
2. The five laws of library science
3. Prolegomena to library classification
4. Ramanujan, the man and the mathematician
5. Library book selection
6. Reference service
7. Classified catalogue code, with additional rules for dictionary catalogue code
8. Library manual, for library authorities, librarians, and honorary library workers
9. Library administration
10. Free book service for all; an international survey
11. A Librarian looks back : an autobiography of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan by S R Ranganathan and P N Kaula

Books Written on Dr. S.R. Ranganathan:

1. Ranganathan's Philosophy: Assessment, impact and relevance: Proceedings of the International conference by T.S.Rajagopalan.
2. Ranganathan, a pattern maker : a synthetic study of his contributions by A. P .Srivastava
3. Relevance of Ranganathan's contributions to library science by T S Rajagopalan
4. S.R. Ranganathan, 1892-1972 : papers given at a memorial meeting on Thursday 25th January 1973 by Edward Dudley
5. An essay in personal bibliography: Ranganathan Festschrift. A bibliography of the writings on and by S.R. Ranganathan and A.K. Das Gupta
6. S.R. Ranganathan, Pragmatic Philosopher of Information Science: A Personal Biography by Ranganathan Yogeshwar
7. Ranganathanism and Knowledge Society: Relevance of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in the Present Day Knowledge Society and Other Essays by Satyanarayana

Conclusion:

Ranganathan's achievement in the field of Library Science is an earmark as India is concerned. He felt dissatisfied at the inability of the decimal classification, then widely prevalent, to accommodate the newly emerging subjects. He thus emerged a new species of classification "Analytico-synthetic classification".

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