

# Library organisations and their role in LIS education

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## Abstract:

Libraries hold a special position in the development of a society. The objective for training of Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals is to promote library, to educate, to articulate and provide for the need of the clientele to increase productivity and economy of the society. The process of developing competent library and information science professionals is directly related to the quality of LIS education imparted to these professionals. In the networked environment there is a strong need for continuing professional education and training. LIS education and training for LIS students and professionals has become crucial for meeting the challenges of 21st century. Besides many universities and institutes, library associations also organize various training and refresher courses, orientation programmes, seminars, conferences etc. that pertaining into LIS education to overcome the challenges of 21st century. This paper presents a view of LIS education in India provided by different library associations.

**Keywords:** Library and Information Science Education, Library Association, Library Science, Library and information science Professional, Librarianship, India.

## Introduction:

Education is as important as any other resource for economic and industrial development of a nation because it is the key to human resource development. Library supplements a great deal in achieving educational role and serves as a gateway for academic world. Library and Information Science (LIS) education began in India in 1911, initiated taken by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad II of Baroda. LIS education in India offers at various levels such as certificate, diploma, degree, Associate ship in Information Science, M.Phil. and Ph.D. Like members of other professionals, librarians have joined together in professional associations to solve common problems, to advance the profession, to support continuing education for librarians. Library associations are generally formed to look after service conditions of librarians and their professional developments. They also serve the people by promoting the culture of library services and uses in the country. Almost all associations publish journals, monographs, relating to their particular areas of interest. They held conferences, seminars, lectures, training program so that library professionals may come together to develop policies and ideas.

## Objective:

The objectives of this paper are as follows -

- i. To discuss about various library associations in India
- ii. To depict the functions of library associations in India in LIS education.
- iii. To know how much they are active in playing role in LIS education by organizing seminar, conference, workshop, training programme etc.

## Role played by library associations in LIS education:

To educate and update the library personnel various continuing education programmes like training courses or programmes, seminar, conference, workshop etc. are taken by various library associations. Although most of these initiatives are continuing till now, some of these are discontinued. As follow-up programme, associations also publish a number of publications that also educate and update library personnel. Thus these library associations play a very important role that may be summarized by the following:

**Courses offered by library associations:**

In India although the formal library and information science courses are offered by different universities and institutions however, short term training courses are offered by some library associations. Among these associations, some of them are still continuing their courses and some discontinued their courses. These courses help to be skilled persons for library technical work. Some of these library associations that offered this type of short term training courses are discussed below –

**Andhra Desa Library Association:**

Andhra Desa Library Association course was started in 1920 and was the first library training course started by a library association. The course was of one month duration. The course was more oriented to the education of social workers than to that of librarians. In 1934 the syllabus of the course was modified to include more subjects on library work.

**Madras Library Association:**

It conducted an annual summer course in Librarianship in 1929 and 1930. In 1931 this program was taken over by Madras University and was conducted as a certificate course for three months duration.

**Bengal Library Association:**

In the 1935 Bengal Library Association arranged for a library training camp at Bansberia, a precursor to the summer course provided by the association in 1937. This summer course was later upgraded to a regular certificate course. The course is conducted in two sessions.

**Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres:**

It organises short-term training courses. These courses are usually held in collaboration with University departments, specialized institutions, National Library of India and other professional bodies etc. at different parts of India.

**Delhi Library Association:**

It conducts training course at the certificate level since 1955. The courses are conducted in morning shifts. They also conduct a diploma course in library and information technology. The duration of most courses is one academic year. The course contents are constantly being reviewed to introduce changes for meeting the needs of the time.

**Medical Library Association of India:** It offers training course.

**Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science:** It offers training of the teachers of Library and Information Science in India.

**Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science:** It conducts training programme.

**Indian Theological Library association:** It offers library training courses for theological college library staff to build quality leadership in theological colleges.

**Manipur Library Association:** It offered orientation training programme for the community library in the year 2012.

**Haryana Library Association:**

It conducted a course of six months duration which changed into course of one year duration in 1981.

**Gomantak Library Association:** It offered a certificate course of two months duration in 1983.

**Conclusion:**

National associations organize seminar and conferences on latest trends and technologies time to time, different training and education programmes, study circle for knowledge up gradation. But state and regional associations work needs assessment. The professional associations like Indian Library Association, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres, Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science, are trying continuously to revise and update the syllabus as

per the current demand but still it is necessary to be properly framed, as per the global necessities. Conference, seminar, refresher course, workshop, lecture, specialized training programme at regular intervals should be organized by library association for the discussion and exchange of knowledge and ideas for specific groups on issues, topics or problems in all areas of librarianship, so that the library professionals may increase their knowledge and efficiency in the application of modern technology in their work. This will be a platform for educators and learners to expose themselves with latest trends and developments in LIS education. Library associations should maintain a publication section that should motivate scholarly output by LIS professionals. Currently LIS education is on a turning point when traditional libraries are changed into hybrid libraries to digital libraries with the advancement of modern technology application like information and communication technology in library environment. LIS education in India should undertake a sea change both in balancing tradition and technology, restructuring and incorporating the latest trends and development. The field of library science needs to change according to the need of the time. Information and communication technology has brought many new aspects for librarianship to increase their own capabilities in organizing and retrieving information in the 21st century. In the era of knowledge society, library professionals have to maintain their tradition of capturing, processing and disseminating knowledge with the help of modern technology. It is high time, library professionals should come together to overcome all shortcomings and take LIS education to greater heights.

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