



# Foundation of Library and Information Science

V B NATARAJU

LIBRARIAN

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

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## Abstract:

Library and Information Science are very essential for the development of a society. It helps in overall personality development and quality of life of a human being. It also helps in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage of a country. The information as resource is very crucial for the development of a country. The libraries are responsible for socio-economic development. Now a day, progress of a country is measured on the basis of “information rich” or “information poor”. LIS can also be seen as an integration of the two fields – library science and information science, which were separate at one point. The purpose of this unit is to enable the students to comprehend basic expressions. At the end of this unit, you should be able to understand the definition, history, need, purpose and functions of Library Science.

**Keywords:** *Academic Libraries: Committee: Culture: Documents: Library Science: Manuscripts: Public Libraries: Quality: Research Libraries: Union.*

## I. Introduction:

Library science is basically the study of how to operate a library. The field is made up of several branches, including public services, technical services and administration. It is referred to as “library and information science” at many colleges and universities because librarians work with physical books as well as virtual information. Library science (often termed library studies or library and information science) is an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspectives, and tools of management, information technology, education, and other areas to libraries; the collection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information resources; and the political economy of information. The first American school for library science was founded by Melvil Dewey at Columbia University in 1887.

ALA glossary of Library and Information Science has defined library as “a collection of materials organized to provide physical, bibliographical and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff that is trained to provide services and programmes related to the information needs of the target groups.”

According to Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of library science in India, “a library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of collection of books, the duty of making them accessible to those who require the use of them and the task of converting every person in its neighbourhood into a habitual library goers and reader of books.”

The word “Library Collection” is synonymous with holdings. It is the total accumulation of books and other materials owned by a library, organized and catalogued for ease of access by its users. Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science describes library collection as “the sum total of library material – books, manuscripts, serial, government documents, pamphlets, catalogues, report, recording, microfilms reels, micro cards and microfiche, punched cards, computer tapes etc. that make up the holding of a particular type of library.”

## II. History of Library Science in India

The first libraries were only partly libraries, and stored most of the unpublished records, which are usually viewed as archives. The archaeological as well as literary evidence (written by Chinese travellers in India) make it clear that writing and reading of manuscripts were regularly practiced in ancient period since the 4th century B.C. to the 6th century after Christ. This must have led to the growth and development of collection of manuscripts in important centres of learning. The important library of that period was that of Nalanda University of Bihar in the 4th century AD. The library was said to be in three grandest buildings, the area of which was called

### Medieval Period

The medieval cycle may be roughly taken to have ended with the 17th century. It was during the ascending phase of this cycle that the giant intellectual and spiritual leaders such as Sankara, Ramanuja and Madheva flourished.

**1. Personnel Libraries:** From the earliest times, the kings and nobles of India patronized education and encouraged writing of manuscripts and their preservation. Even the princes of small states maintained their manuscripts libraries. The tradition was continued till the nineteenth century. The emperors of Timuride dynasty were patrons of learning. With the exception of Aurangzeb all the early Mughal rulers extended their support to art, music and literature. The libraries also made remarkable progress during their times. Humayun converted a pleasure house in Purana Quila in Delhi into a library. Akbar maintained an “imperial library”; he was also instrumental in introducing reforms in the classification and storage of books. Jahangir is said to have maintained a personnel library which moved with him wherever he went.

**2. Public Libraries:** In the 17th and the 18th century, the development of libraries received an impetus due to rise of European settlement in India. From 1690, Calcutta began to develop as one of the principal English settlement, when a large number of British began to settle there. Subsequently, the circulation and

subscription libraries came into being. The East India Company established the Fort St. David library in 1707 at Cuddalore. In the year 1709, the society for promotion of Christian Knowledge sent out a circulating library to Calcutta, the first of its kind in India. Subsequently, a number of such libraries were established in India, the notable among them were Fort St. George library (1714), East India Company's library, Bombay (1715), John Andrews circulating library at Fort William, Calcutta (1770), the Calcutta Circulating Library (1787), etc.

### **Period of Modern Cycle (till 19th Century)**

Following are the Period of Modern Cycle till the 19th century:

**1. Public Libraries:** The role of Mughal rulers and missionaries in establishment of some libraries also find their way to modern cycle. Some of the scattered manuscripts of the early periods have been collected and preserved in many modern manuscripts libraries. These are found in many States in India. Those of Baroda, Banaras, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Mysore, Poona, Tanjavur and Trivandrum are well known. The year 1808 is considered an important period during which the then Government of Bombay initiated a proposal to register libraries which were to be given copies of books published from "funds for the encouragement of literature". This has been the first attempt to register the libraries and assist them with literature by the government.

**2. Academic Libraries:** The first college to be started in this country is the Fort William College in 1800. Sir John Colville in 1857 introduced the bill to establish universities in India. In the same year Lord Dalhousie, then the Governor General of India gives immediate consent to this bill. As a result, the first three modern universities were started at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857 based on the patterns of London University.

**Calcutta University Library:** Calcutta University was the first to be established on January 24, 1857. On February 24, 1869, Mr. Joy Kissen Mookherjee of Uttarpara donated ` 5,000.00 to the University for Purchasing Books for the library. The senate in the year 1872 succeeded in constructing a beautiful building at a cost of ` 4, 34,697.00. This is the first and oldest university library that was established in British India. In 1874, the library also started a collection of periodicals. In 1876-77, Calcutta University library had a good collection of books with printed catalogue service to the user. In 1934, a new library building was set up in the Calcutta University. In 1937, the Calcutta University Library appointed the professionally

**3.. Research Libraries:** The Asiatic society of Bengal that was established at Calcutta in 1784 started building up a good research library since its inception. The Asiatic Society of Bombay, founded in 1804, also developed a good library. The first technical library to be founded in this country is the Victoria Technical library at Nagpur in 1806. The Madras Literary Society had founded its library in 1812.

### **III. 20th Century**

**1.Role of Individual:** The development of public libraries as a movement may be said to have started by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the ruler of Baroda State in 1906. During his visit to USA he was

impressed by the public libraries system in that country. In order to organize libraries along modern lines, the Maharaja appointed an American librarian by name William Allenson Borden as curator of libraries of his state. During his tenure of office that is in between 1910-13, Borden could organize a very good network of free library services in the state. However, this example did not set a pace in the later development due to lack of interest on the part of the State Government. But the contribution made by Maharaja Sayajirao III would be written in golden letters in the history of public library movement in India.

The library movement in Baroda originated as the peoples movement under the leadership of Motibhai Amin (a public leader) in the form of Mitra Mandal (Society of Friends) as early as 1906 which received state patronage in 1960. Newton Mohan Dutta, curator of libraries at Baroda also did good work

**3. Role of Library Association and Organization:** Library association also played a vital role in the progress and development of library movement in India. The Andhra Desa Library Association, founded in 1914, is the first of its kind in India. It started the first full-fledged professional periodical in 1925 under the title “Indian Library Journal”.

All India Library Association was also set up in 1920, but it could not do anything for libraries and their development. By Dr. S. R. Ranganathan’s effort Indian Library Association was set up in 1933 in its present form with its head quarter in Calcutta (Kolkata). The association published a quarterly periodical named ABGILA.

Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was set up in 1972, on the occasion of the bicentenary of Raja Rammohan Roy who raised the banner of revolt against obscurantism in the society and devoted his life to fight against injustice. RRRLF is an autonomous organization of Dept. of Culture, Govt. of India and it provides different types of grant to different public libraries.

Bengal Library Association (1925), Madras Library Association (1928), Punjab Library Association (1929), Assam Library Association (Sadou Assam Puthibharal Sanga) (1938), etc. played vital roles for the growth and development of public libraries in the respective states of origin.

**3. Role of Union and State Government:** Role of Union and State Government are as follows:

*First Five Year Plan (1951-56):* The Government of India in its first five year plan of educational development includes the scheme of “Improvement of Library Service”. This scheme envisaged a network of libraries spread all over the country. The proposal of setting up a National Central Library at New Delhi was also made. During the first five year plan nine state governments i.e. Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, etc. decided to set up State Central Libraries.

*Second Five Year Plan (1956-1961):* Under the second five year plan the Government of India allocated about ` 140 lakhs for setting up a country wide network of libraries in 320 districts. Under this plan, the “Institute of Library Science” at University of Delhi was also established. The refresher course on “The public library and national development” on March 2, 1959 also started.

**4. Role of UGC (University Grants Commission):** The UGC gave a new life to the university and college libraries. It gave librarian a status, prestige and a better life. The major commission and committees formed by UGC for the growth and development of college and university libraries are as follows:

*Library Committee (1957):* The UGC programme (Commission) appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan to advice on a wide range of subjects including the standards and principles for the designing of library building, fitting and furniture, administration of university libraries, training of librarianship, etc.

#### **IV. Review Committee (1961):**

In order to consider, the question of improving and coordination the standards of teaching, and conducting research in the department of library science in Indian Universities under the chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan a review committee was formed in July 1961. The first meeting of the committee was held on 15th July 1961, in which a questionnaire was finalized on the basis of data supplied by the Indian Universities. In response to this questionnaire a note was prepared by the UGC, which form the back bone of many developments in the subject of library science.

#### **Other mentionable Committees and Commissions are:**

- *Education Commission (1964):* Chairman D. S. Kothari.
- *Pal Committee (1970):* Chairman A. B. Lal.
- *Mehrotra Committee (1983):* Chairman R. C. Mehrotra.
- *Committee on National Network System for Universities (1988):* Chairman Yash Pal.
- Curriculum Development Committee on LISc (1990).

*Work Flow Seminar:* UGC organized a seminar on “work flow” in libraries in New Delhi from March 4-7, 1959, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, the then chairman of UGC, extended assistance to libraries for constructing building and furniture as well as for the engaging the staff on a scale which is, relatively speaking, larger than found in many other countries. The recommendations of the seminar were circulated to the universities and colleges all over the country. These comments were considered by the commission and were accepted.

**5. Role of UNESCO:** The great contribution of UNESCO towards the library profession in India is that it gave it an international status. UNESCO for the first time started the first pilot project by establishing the Delhi Public Library in October 1951. The main aim of this project was to provide information on the problem of public library services for the parts of India in particular and for Asia in general.

The Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) was set up in 1952 by the Government of India with technical assistance from UNESCO. In 1964, UNESCO assisted INSDOC again in setting up its regional centre in Bangalore.

The second eminent step that the UNESCO took in this direction was the holding of a seminar on the



development of public libraries in Asia in Delhi from October 6-26, 1955. It was the first international meeting on this subject to be organized in an Asian country. On the whole, the seminar was a great success for the library profession in India.

Another UNESCO seminar which had far reaching effect on library profession in India was the “Regional seminar on library development in South Asia”. It was held in the University of Delhi library from 3-14 October 1960. The most significant achievement of this seminar was the “grading of staff”, “salary scales” and “status of librarian”.

Besides these, the UNESCO honoured the Indian librarians by inviting them to advice on various library projects meant for the member country. The prominent among those are Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, B. S. Kesavan, S. S. Saith and a few others.

Indian National Commission is the official agency of UNESCO, the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) in Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is the focal point for UNISIST (PGI) and is also the coordinating centre for ASTINFO programme. NASSDOC of ICSSR is the focal point for UNESCO supporting APINESS programme.

## V. Need of Library

Libraries are very useful for all of us, either when we are kids in school, students in college, learning something to ace that new job interview or for finding that perfect book to read in our spare time.

A library can be considered a store – house of knowledge. In dictionaries the word “library” has been defined as “a building or room containing a collection of books”. A library renders a great service to the society. There are a large number of Public Libraries maintained by the local authorities throughout the island.

A library plays a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge. There are many people who love reading. But they can't afford to buy books because the prices of books are very high. So when one becomes a member of a library, he can borrow valuable books. A member can borrow two books at a time and he can keep it with him for two weeks. Libraries are

## VI. Purpose of Library

The purpose of a library can be stated as is explained in this section:

1. ***Libraries are for the lending of books:*** Indeed, the earliest libraries were just this – a small business, museum or other place would take it upon themselves to educate their neighbours by lending out their collection of books. As collections increased, these places would need innovative means to organize and provide access to such books and innovative people to do the innovative work – thus librarians were invented. Current libraries continue to offer ‘the lending of books’ as a key service. However, as processes slowly became replaced through automation, ‘librarians’ have been taken away from these activities in favour of a more broad slate of activities like instruction or management.

2. ***Libraries are for educating people of all ages:*** Since reading inevitably increases the brainpower of communities, an educational role for libraries seems fairly obvious. In academic and school libraries, this role is the most obvious and apparent, since the institutions that host them are largely educational ones. The educational role for public libraries is also substantiated by the departments that govern many libraries. While the educational role for libraries is strong, it is not perfect. For instance, many assume 'education' to be analogous with 'courses' which, while many libraries do offer courses of all types, this activity is not particularly core to what libraries actually do.
3. ***Libraries are for preserving and/or promoting community culture:*** The cultural role of libraries is supported through the country governance. The cultural role for libraries is also fought with problems because it pits them into competition with museums, symphonies, archives, concert halls that are more closely tied to cultural development and yet offer services that involve the development of culture rather than the storage of it. The cultural role for libraries is largely a supportive one at best and does not speak to the value a library has in the community.
4. ***Other roles:*** The identity of libraries are so tied to their communities that there is no end of roles for them. The reality is that the purpose of a library depends heavily on the culture, location and structure of its community. Libraries, especially public libraries, are extremely adaptive to community needs and can play the role of 'catch all' where other institutions such as hospitals, universities and schools really struggle to play such a role.

Apart from the above purposes, the following are the other purposes of library to:

- ❖ Look at their communities to determine needs.
- ❖ Apply encouragement and leadership to the community to see if they can meet their own needs.
- ❖ Point to and promote community assets (including books, meeting rooms etc.) when they can be helpful.
- ❖ Continue to grow.

## VII. Functions of Library

Quality, but not the quantity, of service enhances the prestige and usefulness of a library. Unless the national library is allowed to concentrate on the function, the nation will fail to conserve for posterity a complete collection of its recorded information. The studies, research and development on all national subjects will certainly deteriorate in their quality unless a country has a complete collection of information on that specific region and its ancient thoughts. A library is also the only centre to which, normally all requests for information about the nation will be addressed not only from inside but also from outside the country. So a library, which does not have accessibility to the complete collection of recorded information about the nation, will be a disgrace to the country. A country like India with limited resources and huge collections of its own, recorded knowledge on all branches of knowledge should build up its library only as a special collection on the nation. That is, a complete collection of documents

originating in the country and documents on the country, originating elsewhere. The functions of library are as follows:

- To acquire and conserve the whole of the national production of documents utilizing the existing library facilities fully.
- To collect all the documents concerning that nation published throughout the world, irrespective of language of publication.
- To build up a complete collection, self-sufficient on all aspects, of all subjects related to its country.
- To store information on the nation, minutely and fully catalogued; classified and arranged which should be capable of answering any enquiry about the country.
- To take the full responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the whole of national production of documents is preserved in its original form. It does not matter whether it is stored in one place or at different institutions. A library is also responsible for compiling and publishing national bibliographies; current and retrospective, and coordinating bibliographical work in general.
- To provide facilities to enable a required document, an extract or information, translated into the regional language of a user if required.
- To extend its services to all the citizens of the country. It should be organized in such a way that people from all over the country find no difficulty in approaching it.
- To provide information about its collection and the ways of using it through all educational and cultural institutions of the nation.
- To enable the people to use the national library through all other institutions from any part of the country.
- To provide leadership among the nation's libraries. It should coordinate co-operative activities between the public libraries, university libraries and special libraries for dissemination of knowledge.
- To be responsible for ensuring that a country gets all foreign literature it requires, especially on the latest developments in the fields of science and technology without any time gap.
- To display permanent and changing exhibitions of collections to the public, including borrowed collections.
- To provide cultural, literary and educational activities, geared towards the general public as well as specific audiences, including students.

### **VIII. Libraries are collections of books and other media.**

Library science is an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspectives, and tools of management, information technology, education, and other areas to libraries; the collection,



organization, preservation, and dissemination of information resources; and the political economy of information.

There is no generally agreed-upon distinction between the terms library science, librarianship, and library and information science.

A library is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, a corporation, or a private individual.

The first libraries were only partly libraries, and stored most of the unpublished records, which are usually viewed as archives.

The first college to be started in this country is the Fort William College in 1800.

The Asiatic society of Bengal that was established at Calcutta in 1784 started building up a good research library since its inception.

The great contribution of UNESCO towards the library profession in India is that it gave it an international status and the first time started the first pilot project by establishing the Delhi Public Library in October 1951.

A library plays a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge.

The cultural role of libraries is supported through the country governance.

## **IX. Conclusion**

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