



“Five Laws of Library & information Science Importance in 2022”

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Abstract :-

These laws of Library Science are the "fundamental laws" of Library Science. These are applicable to any problem in the areas of library science, library service, and library practice. These laws are like pot containing oceans. Prior to their enunciation, the subject of Library Science had no philosophy. These laws gave a philosophical base, guaranteeing an everlasting future to the subject of library science, the profession of librarianship, and the use of libraries. These laws have provided a scientific approach to the subject of library science. Even though S.R. Ranganathan proposed the Five Laws of Library Science before the advent of the digital age, they are still valid and equally relevant today.

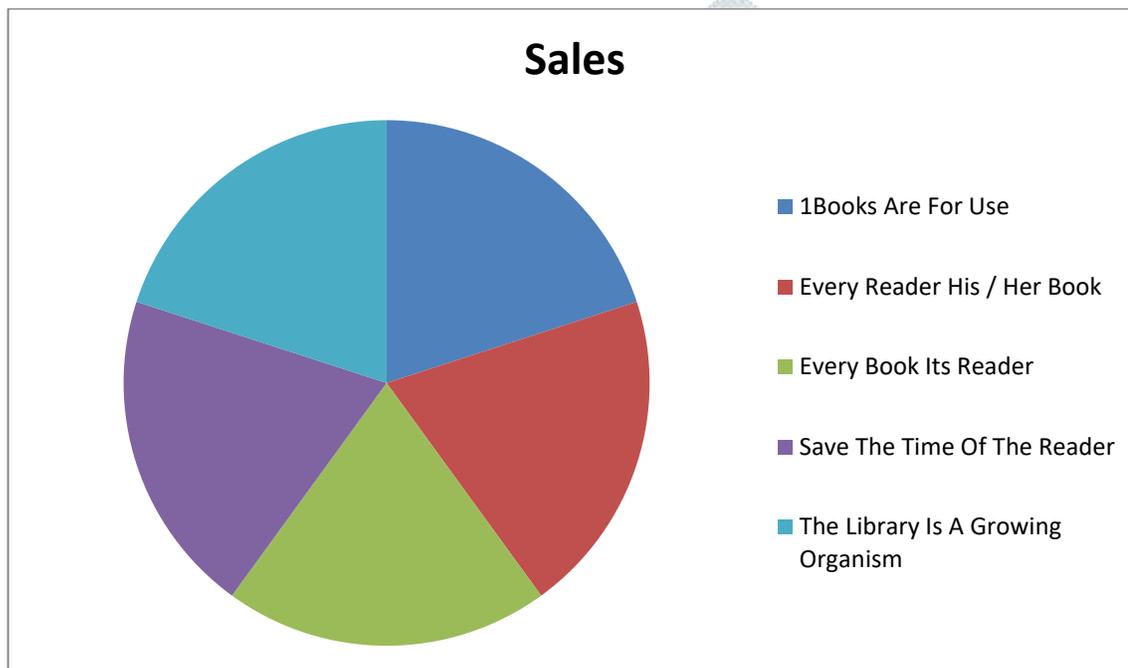
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Books Reader, Fundamental Laws.*

Introduction:-

Five Laws of Library Science is a theory proposed by S. R. Ranganathan in 1931, detailing the principles of operating a library system. Five laws of library science are called the set of norms, percepts, and guides to good practice in librarianship. Many librarians worldwide accept them as the foundations of their philosophy. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan conceived the Five Laws of Library Science in 1924. The statements embodying these laws were formulated in 1928. These laws were first published in Ranganathan's classic book entitled Five Laws of Library Science in 1931. Every profession has some basic philosophies or guidelines that they follow. For doctors, the Hippocratic Oath is perhaps the most well-known. Police officers often adopt the concept of "to protect and serve," while firefighters often use the phrase "Everyone comes back alive." Librarians, too, have such a concept of service. This service guide should not be confused with a code of ethics or a code of conduct. It is not a code, but rather a concept, or philosophy, that the profession has used as a guide for what we do. The most frequently used foundations of philosophy for librarians are often called *the five laws of library science* or *Ranganathan's Code*. They were developed in 1931 by Indian librarian S. R. Ranganathan. While they have been modified and attempts have been made to update them, we will consider them in their original, basic form, as that form has been the most enduring.

OBJECTIVES:-

1. State the Five Laws of Library Science as given by S.R. Ranganathan.
2. List the implications of each Law of Library Science in various library activities.
3. Describe how the guiding principles of library science apply to various library activities.
4. Illustrate the modern versions of the Five Laws by various experts.
5. Describe the relevance of the Five Laws in view of modern technologies.
6. Explain the importance of the Five Laws for users and use of documents.

“Five Laws of Library & information Science Importance”

- 1. Books Are For Use**
- 2. Every Reader His / Her Book**
- 3. Every Book Its Reader**
- 4. Save The Time Of The Reader**
- 5. The Library Is A Growing Organism**

1. Books Are For Use:-

A book is a guide, a friend, and a philosopher. A writer writes a book to communicate his thoughts. The primary purpose of writing, therefore, is that the thought it contains should be communicated. To do so it is necessary to put the books for use. The first law, therefore, truly demands that all efforts should be made to

ensure that all the books kept in the library are used because it is created for use. The first law "Books are for use" places emphasis on the use of books rather than storage. Books were once kept in closed access in order to prevent theft, but this discouraged free use and prevented loaning. The first law of library science "books are for use" means that books in libraries are not meant to be shut away from its users.

Open Access - Open access of books enhance their use. In this system, every reader is allowed to go to the shelves and choose the book of his interest. In case he does not find the desired book of his interest, he can choose some other from the shelves.

Location - A library should be situated near the central place. If it is an institutional library, then it should be situated near the center of the institutional complex. If it is a public library then it should be in the center of the city.

Library Hours - The first law demands that a library should be kept open for long hours, and during the hours which suits to its patrons most.

Library Building and Furniture - There should be a functional library building with pleasant, natural, and electrical light, soothing interior, good looking furniture, comfortable chairs, etc.

Book Selection Policy - Books should be purchased which are relevant to the needs of the readers. Books should be attractive such as it fills the reader with pleasure.

Library Techniques - Proper cataloging and classification of books are essential for promoting the use of books.

2. Every Reader His / Her Book

This second law expands on the first by taking the assumption that books are for use to the next level. It states that each person has a desire, or need, for a book. It is important to note that not every person will want the same book at the same time; on the contrary, it presumes that people will want different books at different times. Even people who are very similar may want different types of books at any given time. Here we accept that all people want, and have a right to, the book they want when they want it. This concept leads us to our next point. The second law of library science is "Every Reader His / Her Book". This law implies that the "books are for use of all" or "books for all." The Second Law stressed on the democratization of the library where every reader has the equal right to get the book of his / her interest. The second law fixed some responsibilities or obligations of the state, the library authority, the library staff, and the readers. A library should serve all patrons, no matter their age, race, or economic status.

3. Every Book Its Reader

The Third Law prescribes Every Book its Reader. The emphasis is on the book. This law desires that every book in a library must find its reader. It implies that there should be maximum use of books by their users. This principle is closely related to the second law, but it focuses on the item itself, suggesting that each item in a library has an individual or individuals who would find that item useful. Dr. Ranganathan argued that the library could devise many methods to ensure that each item finds its appropriate reader. One method involved the basic rules for access to the collection, most notably the need for open shelving.

The third law of library science "every book its reader" means a library's books have a place in the library even if a smaller demographic might choose to read it. It is, therefore, necessary to adopt measures to ensure successful implementation of the demand of the Third Law. The factors that may be kept in view in this regard have been discussed below:

Open Access - It is one of the most effective ways to ensure that the maximum number of books are seen by the readers. It also happens sometimes that the reader to the shelves in search of a book and in the process of search select many more books.

Book Selection - Give full weight age to the tastes and requirements of the clientele of the library. Difficulties of the Third Law can be minimized by adopting a well-balanced book selection policy. If the right books are selected it will definitely find its readers

Cataloging - Proper cataloging of books is very important as even though there may be well planned and arranged books on the shelves but they are incapable merely by itself. Series entry and cross-reference entries are highly useful in drawing the attention of the readers. Analytical entries increase the chance of a composite book getting its reader.

Reference Service - A reference librarian should know about the world of books and try to find out a reader for every one of these. The reference librarian should act as a canvassing agent for each book.

4. Save The Time Of The Reader

This Law requires that there should be no time lag between the demand received from the user and the document supplied. This Law makes its approach from the point of view of the user. It almost completely centers on the user from the moments he/she enters the library to the moments he/she leaves it. The objective of this Law is to save the time of the reader. To provide better services, it is required that, latest technologies in library operations be adopted and users be trained to use them independently.

(a) Classified arrangement:-The classified arrangement of books in the stack room saves the time of the reader, as it is easy for a reader to find all books on the same subject arranged at one place for browsing. The arrangement of entries in the catalogue cabinet in classified manner, aids the reader to select the books easily from the respective shelves. The Fourth Law, therefore, calls for classified arrangement of books in the stack room.

(b) Catalogue Entry:-In case of composite books, classified arrangement is sufficient to save objective time of the reader. The various facets of composite books can be brought to the notice of the reader by making cross references and subject analytical entries. Therefore, the Fourth Law calls for (i) classified arrangement of cards in the catalogue cabinet, and (ii) analytical entries for composite books. In order to save the valuable time of the reader, the Fourth Law also recommends a bipartite classified catalogue for this purpose, because readers have diverse approaches to find books, i.e., author, title, collaborator or series approach. In the classified part, the entries are arranged in the fulminatory sequence, each subject is represented by an ordinal number, i.e., class number. In the alphabetic part, the author, title, collaborator and subject approach is provided.

(c) Open Access :-The Fourth Law strongly opposes the process of the closed access system. It supports open access system for saving the time of the reader.

5. The Library Is a Growing Organism

The Fifth Law states, "Library is a growing organism". It is an accepted idea that a library along with its services is a growing organism. This Law maintains that the library as an institution has all the attributes of a growing organism, which takes in new matter, casts off old matter, changes in size and takes new shapes and forms like human beings. Since library is trinity of books, readers and staff, it is bound to grow in all three respects. Therefore, library authorities should plan the library building in such a way so as to make it easy to keep pace with the necessary growth in size of collection, number of readers and the members of staff. According to Ranganathan, the growth of an organism can be of two kinds, growth as of body of the child and growth as the body of an adult. He compared the growth of a storage or repository library and service library to that of child and adult respectively. A child's growth is characterized by the overall increase in size and weight. Similarly the building of a repository library should be capable of growth to incorporate additional material. On the other hand the building of a service library need not grow beyond a certain size, as is the case with the body of an adult.

- (a) Growth in Size- As the body of a child grows steadily in size and weight, similarly a newly started library grows steadily in size in terms of reading material. The growth and size of reading material has effects on:
- (b) Library Building- Stack area• Circulation area• Reading room area, etc.•
- (c) Growth of Readers The growth of a library is dependent upon the growth of its readers. The growth of readers affects: the size of the reading room• the issue method• certain safeguards (in case of open access system)•

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