

## **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

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Library and Information Science (LIS) is a dynamic field concerned with information in all its formats and processes, the technologies that process it and human interaction with information and associated technologies. It encompasses the education and training of professionals who work in libraries and other information related organizations.

Library and Information Science (LIS) is highly interdisciplinary by nature and has been affected by the evolution of technologies. LIS provide access to meaningful recorded information through variety of channels. In order to provide such access, it is necessary to know what information is needed, how such information is sought, evaluated, and used to meet these needs. LIS as a discipline has a particular focus on providing information to end users and the functions of the information professionals are determined by the needs of users that they serve.

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 them and the task of converting every person in its neighborhood into a habitual library goers and reader of books.”

Library and Information Science is, as the name implies, a combination of two fields; Library Science and Information Science. The joint term is associated with schools of Library and Information Science (SLIS). The first American School for Library Science was founded by Melvin Dewey at Columbus University in 1887. The first use of the combined term was in the school of Library Science at the University of Pittsburgh, which added information science to its name in 1964. There after followed by other American Library Schools and by the 1990's almost all former library schools had added information science to their names.

Information Science is that discipline that investigates the properties and behavior of information, the forces governing the flow of information, and the means of processing information for optimum accessibility and usability. It is concerned with the body of knowledge relating to the origination, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, interpretation, transmission, transformation and utilization of information. This includes the investigation of information representation in both natural and artificial systems, the use of codes for efficient message transmission, and the study of information processing devices and techniques such as computers and their programming systems. It is an interdisciplinary science derived from and related to such fields as mathematics, logic, linguistics, psychology, computer technology, operative research, the graphic arts, communications, library science, management and other similar fields. It has both a pure science component, which inquires into the subject without regard to its application, and an applied science component, which develops services and products.

Library and Information Science is a vital field essential for the development of the society. LIS 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. Presently, progress of a country is measured on the basis of “information rich” or “information poor”. Library and Information Science is an integration of two fields- library science and information science.

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 deal with physical books as well as virtual information. 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 political economy of information.

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 neighborhood 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 user. Encyclopedia of library and information science describes library collection as “the sum total of library material- books, manuscripts, serials, government documents, pamphlets, catalogues, reports, recordings, microfilms reels, micro cards and microfiche, punched cards, computer tapes etc, that make up the holding of particular type of library.”

A library is organized for use and maintained by a public body, an institution, a corporation or a private individual. Public and institutional collections and services may be intended for use by people who choose not to – or cannot afford to – purchase an extensive collection themselves, who need material no individual can reasonably be expected to have, or who require professional assistance with their research. In addition to providing materials, libraries also provide the services of librarians who are experts at finding and organizing information and at interpreting information needs. Libraries provide quiet areas for studying, and they also offer common areas to facilitate group study and collaboration. Libraries also provide public facilities for access are increasingly being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and many sources.

### **Society Needs:**

In modern society, there are varied needs. Education is perhaps the most important among them, for it helps to mould a well informed, knowledgeable and responsible citizen who alone will be able to contribute to progress and advancement. Then there is the goal of economic well being of society. Activities towards this end have to be sustained by technological developments brought about by research and the enormous amount of information it makes available to us. But human does not live “by bread alone”. There are deeper and finer instincts in the human being such as the spiritual and ideological instincts, cultural and aesthetic instincts and other which refine life and elevate it to a higher plane. The aim should be the development of a society with laying emphasis on certain basic values in life and adhering to them. It is the collective responsibility of members of society to make suitable arrangements for this purpose.

### **Foundations by Society:**

Society over a long period of its existence, founded various institutions, for the purpose of discharging the important responsibilities towards education. Educational institutions like schools, colleges and universities, research institutions, cultural institutions, institutions of fine arts and recreation, business and industrial establishments and a host of others of others are some examples of such social institutions.

The library is also one such institution. But, unlike the other institutions each institutions each of which concentrates on one or a few of the needs. If you are a student of a school, your primary task is the acquisition of knowledge prescribed for that level. And this will be mainly through oral communications from the teacher supplemented by the reading of a prescribed text books. But in the library you are exposed to books on a variety of themes- books that will give you knowledge, bring to surface your latent aesthetic talents, stimulate your intellect, inculcate values and learning skills in you, provide you with recreation and many more. Therefore, of all the institutions founded by society, it is the library and its modern cognates that are the most potent in meeting the multifarious needs of different users of the modern society.

### **Library towards Formal Education:**

Every institutions of formal education whether it's a school, a college or a university, there should have a library attached to it. It should have a collection of books relevant to its courses of study. Students should be encouraged to read books and imbibe the knowledge contained in them. At the earlier stages of education, this should be done to supplement classroom teaching but at later stages, particularly in colleges and universities, the focal point of learning should gradually shift from the classroom to the library.

It is through the extensive reading of a variety of book on a subject that a student will be able to acquire in-depth knowledge of the subject. By being able to analyze and compare different viewpoints as expounded in different books, a student will be able to develop his capacity for analytical and critical thinking. This will enable him/her to formulate independent viewpoints and opinions. The role of the library in fostering the intellectual development of student cannot be over- emphasized.

### **Library towards Non-Formal Education:**

Libraries of formal educational institutions as well as public libraries have a significant role to play in this respect. In non-formal education where the help of the teacher is minimal, it is the library that is the main resource. Students here have, by and large, to acquire knowledge through self study. The former should throw open their facilities to students of non-formal education in such a manner that the interests of their primary clientele are not adversely affected. The libraries should try to make their services reach as wide a clientele as possible including students of non-formal education. One way to make this possible is to establish branch libraries of the main library at different places within its jurisdiction and making them accessible to the entire academic community in the area including students of non-formal education.

But the main responsibility of supporting users of non-formal education rest with the public library system. Everyone should have access as a matter of right to the public library. A public library should try to discharge this responsibility by acquiring books and journals with resources suited to the needs of the students of non-formal education in its area. The development of a sound public library system is an essential pre-requisite for the successful implementation of all non-formal educational programs.

### **Library towards Illiterates:**

Is illiterate person unable to get the benefits of education? Not at all, Literacy is only a means of education, not education, not education itself. Today many other effective means, modern technology has brought into existence. The audio-visual media, especially the video tape, have made it possible for education to be brought to the door step. It is a special responsibility of the public library to work for the education of the illiterate people in the community through, such media. It should also organize learning clubs and other programs of oral communication for educating it's illiterate clientele. In India where illiteracy is as high as 47.79% (according to the 1991 census), this responsibility assumes great importance and vast dimensions.

### **Library towards Working Groups:**

The library has an educational role in another sense also. It should stock books relevant to the needs of people engaged in different vocations in its area. By reading such books they will become better informed and educated in their areas of work and will be able to increase their work efficiency. This will lead to greater productivity. The public has to play a contributory role here also.

### **Growth of Libraries:**

The actual process for the development of the academic libraries in India can be said to have been set in motion with the appointment of the University Education Commission presided over by Dr. S.R. Radhakrishnan (1948-49) which gave valuable recommendations. The growth of academic libraries since independence can be seen in respect of the initiatives taken by the Central Government considering the vital importance of higher education and role of libraries in educational development, commitment to fulfill the demand of higher education, and the foundation of UGC in 1953 by an Act of Parliament. The Ranganathan Committee, appointed by the UGC in 1957, made some outstanding recommendations, which included standards for library building, collection development, staff and services and furniture etc. The Kothari Commission also made valuable recommendations for this purpose, but the role of the University Grant Commission (UGC) deserves special mention, because it has played a vital role by providing appropriate grants for developments of academic libraries.

National Knowledge Commission (2005) was constituted on 13th June, 2005 with a time-frame of three years from 2nd October, 2005 to 2nd October, 2008. The report was named as "Libraries as Gateways to Knowledge".

National Mission on Libraries (2012), a high level committee was set up by Ministry of Culture, Government of India in 2012 in pursuance of National Knowledge Commissions recommendations. The National Mission on Libraries was launched on February 3, 2014 by the then President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. The National Mission on Libraries has set up four working groups which have formulated the scheme for upgrading the libraries. The main component of NML is the creation of NVLI (National Virtual Library of India).

### **Library Automation:**

The Information for Library Network (INFLIBNET) set up by the UGC as an autonomous inter-university centre in 1991 proved to be a landmark to interlink the academic libraries. It is involved in modernizing university libraries in India and connects these to a nation-wide-high speed data

network. The INFLIBNET promotes automation of libraries, develop standards; creates union catalogues of serials, theses, books, monographs and non-book materials; provide access to bibliographic information resources; creates database of projects, institutions, specialists; organize training programs, etc. Several other national networks and library networks have evolved. The National Informatics Centre's Network (NICNET), INDONET, ERNET, CALIBNET, DELNET, MALIBNET, etc are notable. These networks boosted the resource sharing and widened the spheres of access to information for users.

### **Status of Library Legislation in India:**

Since independence of India the following states have passed Public Libraries Acts:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>State</b>
1.	1948	Tamil Nadu
2.	1960	Andhra Pradesh
3.	1965	Karnataka
4.	1967	Maharashtra
5.	1979	West Bengal
6.	1988	Manipur
7.	1989	Haryana
8.	1989	Kerala
9.	1993	Mizoram
10.	1993	Goa
11.	2000	Gujarat
12.	2001	Odisha
13.	2005	Uttaranchal
14.	2006	Rajasthan
15.	2006	Uttar Pradesh
16.	2007	Lakshadweep
17.	2008	Bihar
18.	2009	Chhattisgarh
19.	2009	Arunachal Pradesh

So far, only two third of the states of the Indian Union have successful passed the library legislation. However, in the coming few years, there is greater possibility for a library law being enacted in the remaining states. Many of the states have just passed the legislation but it has not been yet implemented properly.

### **Conclusion:**

The development of library system in India has moved a long way. The different societies have played a vital role in the development of library system in India. But there is still need to focus on establishment of libraries in the remote locations and disadvantaged area of the society. The central and state government should implement the library legislation effectively and provide better library services to mass of the people. India has a great scholarly past and there was a time when it was called "Vishwa Guru". If India would like to gain its old glorious status of Nalanda and Taxshila period, it should must encourage and promote the library services for every sphere of society.

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