

INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: STATE AND STATUS

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(A web based forum of LIS professionals)

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http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/lisforum_orissa/info

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(The name does not restrict its scope to Odisha state only; rather it is just a name indicating its place of origin)



(Dr. S. R. Ranganathan)

This forum is a common platform for LIS professionals, teachers, researchers, students to share ideas, knowledge, messages, information etc. with each other for the development of LIS profession and professionals. It will help to address issues on Library and Information Science, to solve day today problems of libraries, resource sharing among libraries and generation of new ideas on LIS.

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From the desk of moderator...

The "lisforum_orissa" started in 2006 has grown over the years in terms of members and messages with the support and cooperation of LIS professionals, friends and well wishers. On the occasion of 7th Anniversary of the lisforum_orissa, I congratulate all members for their consistent support and cooperation over the years.

In spite of its small size in terms of members, lisforum_orissa has been able to create its own identity among the LIS professionals of India. I have the pleasure to mention that "lisforum_orissa" is special of its kind due to following reasons.

- Messages are informative and in abstract form, which save the time of viewers
- All queries/requests of members are attended
- Posting of message is not moderator centric, which gives privilege to members to post messages with utmost freedom
- Numbers of irrelevant messages posted by members are negligible
- Discussion on various current topics of LIS profession
- Sharing of current information by members which helps professionals to keep themselves up to date and thereby helps in professional development.
- Regular posting on recruitment, forth coming events etc.

It has been observed that involvement in professional forum by the LIS professionals are decreasing day by day which is a negative sign for the profession. The numbers of LIS literature are increasing tremendously, the job opportunities have been increased, the salary and status of LIS professionals are being streamlined, more and more LIS professionals are becoming NET, Ph.D qualified, but the overall library situation of Libraries, LIS profession and professionals are not changing remarkably. Hence it is our moral responsibility to try for the development of the profession. In this context I request all members to actively participate in forum activities such as inviting professional friends to join the forum, sharing professional knowledge, posting messages relevant to LIS

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profession and finding ways to improve lisforum_orissa, so that the basic purpose of formation of the forum will be fulfilled and it will contribute to the development of LIS professionals and profession.

This online annual issue entitled "**Indian librarianship: state and status**" has segments like messages, feature articles, short communications, and comments on lisforum_orissa. The contributors of the write ups / articles are the copy right holders and the forum does not bear any responsibility for the contents or comments in these.

I am highly grateful to our teachers, senior professionals and members who have sent messages, short communications and comments to the forum, which will definitely motivate us to work for the development of LIS profession.

I am highly thankful to the members, friends, LIS teachers and well wishers for their direct and indirect support towards the forum.

I wish them good health and professional prosperity.

(Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy)

Messages

lisforum_orissa

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MESSAGE

Dear Dr. Satpathy,

I am glad to know from your mail that lisforum_orissa – the web based professional forum is going to celebrate its 7th Anniversary. It is a pleasure event for all of us that this forum which took its auspicious birth under your patronization in 2006 witnessed a spectacular growth in terms of its audience and quality of professional contents and have had served its audience by sharing most significant information of professional interest in an online platform benefiting many to get jobs, encouraging many to contribute papers to professional journals of repute, to make them aware about of the day to day developments in LIS discipline, and facilitate to establish rapport with professional colleagues significantly at no cost.

The Indian Librarianship today is passing through the stage of maturity and the era of soft-contents which the contemporary librarians are quickly grabbing through the application of ICT techniques. Yet, the status of a larger chunk of our professionals are unfortunately in a state of utter dismay as they are being paid differently by different organizations based on the principle of “ pay on mercy”. What I mean to say, the pay structure of librarians of some States like Odisha and School Librarians all over the country still remained at par with file pushers. Majority of the Librarians working in State government Offices and in different School libraries throughout the country are not paid UGC pay scales, why? In my opinion, there are two factors which can be safely attributed to such a somber state of our professional librarians. Firstly, we lack a powerful association and strength to demonstrate our visibility as well as unity in a single platform. Secondly, most of us who hold the Chair in this profession are unable to prove themselves worthy and fail to adapt changes and new techniques and tools to make the library more vibrant, informative, lively and clientele-centric. If these two factors do not change in the coming days, the status of this noble profession would remain dormant, rather than dynamic. Hence, putting all librarians across originations and the State under one umbrella is the need of the hour.

I wish all success for the celebration with an appeal to my students, scholars, professional colleagues to come closure sacrificing their interest at the cost of our profession and encouraging younger's to come up.

Prof. K.C.Panda
2nd Oct, 2013 (Gandhi Jayanti)

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MESSAGE

Library and Information Centres assume of greater importance in the present information age. Libraries of all types serve the community in disseminating useful information. Librarians and information professionals continue perform their jobs to satisfy the users' needs. In the new information and communication technological environment the Librarians job has been drastically changed. Such technologies have posed challenges and opportunities for the Library professionals not only to improve the services but also to develop new systems and services for the new generation libraries. In this critical situation, the library professionals need to be oriented with the latest trend of librarianship. Among most of the forums to reorient Librarians 'LIS Forum' plays a very key and significant role in disseminating latest professional information to its stakeholders. The moderator has done excellent job in developing the forum in right direction. The forum has successfully completed six years in doing its job in right track and should continue to empower the library professionals in their fruitful objectives of managing libraries.

I wish the forum a great success

DR. RABINDRA K. MAHAPATRA



Editorial

Uncaring Approach of People in Positions

Over the years, librarianship in India has been developed significantly in terms of salary and status. But many have sensed the development negatively in terms of contribution of LIS professionals for development of the profession, more especially by the well placed established LIS professionals and teachers. The theme of the annual issue has been kept as **"Indian Librarianship: state and status"** for our introspection and self realization. The librarians of present day in India can be categorized as follows.

1. Librarians who are confined within their library but without any contribution to profession.
2. Librarians who are neither interested for the development of their library nor have any contribution for profession, simply engaged in earning and satisfying their materialistic needs.
3. Librarians engaged in meetings, seminars, conferences etc. ignoring their prime duties towards library (we may called them 'Seminarian' as coined by D. R. Meher in Annual Issue, lisforum_orissa, 2012); and involve in personal development through lobby, personal advertisement, holding various posts due to reputation of their positions but without any dedication/thought for the overall development of libraries and the profession in true sense.
4. Librarians engaged in publication of LIS literature in journals/book chapters in large numbers to increase so called API score but are quite reluctant to

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share their view / knowledge for professional development either vocally or in writings in non-formal platforms like fora, social media etc. as if it is not related to them or their positions will be lowered if they care for.

5. Librarians sincere for the improvement of their libraries and utilizing their practical knowledge and experience for the development of the profession without any personal interest/benefit.

Further it is seen, day by day the librarians belonging to category 2 and 3 are increasing where as librarians of category 5 are decreasing, which has become a threat to the overall development of Indian libraries and LIS profession.

The role of many LIS schools of Indian Librarianship has mostly confined to "Certificate Distribution" and their products when employed lead to a confusion state -- "post filled" or "purpose filled" in librarians' jobs. Some LIS schools are mostly engaged in forming alliance among them to exchange guest faculty, speakers, examiners, theses evaluation etc. and have contributed a lot for clear demarcation between LIS teachers and professionals so that the latter can be forcefully placed in non-teaching category.

Here question arises, when get recognition, status and salary due to the profession, is it not our moral responsibility to contribute something to the profession? Is it fair to close our eyes towards the dark sides of the profession for our personal interest? There is nothing wrong to remain confined within own library, to try for personal development, to write for API score, to organize and attend professional events, but at the same time we should also think about the conditions of Indian libraries, LIS profession and fellow librarians, unemployed LIS students. These matters cannot be decided through discussion, arguments or framing laws, rather can be done through introspection and self realization, which the moderator appeals for.

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FEATURE ARTICLES

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CONFUSED STATE OF AN INDIAN LIBRARIAN

D R MEHER*

Librarian – “A factor and trader for helps to learning.” — John Dury

August twelfth of a calendar brings the birthday of Dr. S R Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India, and prompts an Indian librarian to introspect whether he has chosen or happened by chance to become a librarian after all. He cannot find a suitable answer for this when examining and considering his idea. This individual, may he hold a position in any of the provinces of public, academic or special libraries, finds his observation as consternation he experienced previous years which can be a narration of mixed sentiments.

Many of his professional brothers, besides some bright ones, have come to this profession in a 'if nowhere, then somewhere' fashion. More than eighty universities and institutions are imparting the course of librarianship of different levels nationwide. Each conducts its own entrance exam for admission having conformity only to its self-fixed criteria. A common entrance test like Law School Admission Test (LSAT), General Management Admission Test (GMAT) for admission into this course could be happened; brighter students could be fallen in this net, and metamorphosed into librarian *per excellence*.

They christen librarianship-- a professional course. After earning degree as a master's the pass out wonders whether he has studied a professional subject at all. Because students of other professional courses like law, medicine etc. can take civil exams but student of librarianship cannot. Again, is it a professional course in any respect? Not easy to answer. No affirmation to this interrogation. A lawyer or doctor gets registration and gets license for practicing their profession independently. Can a librarian even speculate to venture practice his profession as lawyers or doctors independently do?

The education of librarianship starts from Five Laws of Library Science and ends with some computer applications and e-databases. There is still ample room for teachers to play evangelists and infuse professional ethics in students so much so

that, along with techniques and technology of information handling, a missionary attitude is indoctrinated to serve clientele in near future.

Many regulatory bodies of government fix criteria regarding qualifications of librarian. When it is time to pay him, it is not their onus. You might have come across many Master's having cleared NET is serving as trainee somewhere. A librarian is manager or academic or clerical staff— his status differs organization-wise. In public libraries, he is clerical; academic support staff in academia, scientists or scientific assistant in special libraries; and multi-purpose teacher in schools.

In working place, he renders a thankless job for people he served. Though an information provider, for many, he is still a book-lender. He is rarely supported and encouraged by authority when taking any challenging task to make a library functional one. Some common occurrences: manpower needed? Bring them from library. Budget shortage for something else? Divert it from library. Room required? Squeeze library space. And lest he would take an independent decision, an officer-in-charge or professor-in-charge is pitted against him.

Sometimes, as an elite-class librarian, not adhering to techniques, he goes excessively dependent on technology; produces bogus literature having no practicability (exception to very few). This causes a positive damage to his profession.

There are still some platforms where learned preachers cry out – 'it is a noble profession, librarian should take pride.' Doctors, engineers, lawyers, and professors want their children to go for parents' professions. How many professors/librarians would aspire so? (Obligations to Dr. Ranganathan who preferred librarianship over professorship)

Hey! Who is he? Go nowhere. It is me. Not clear? Then go for an answer – whether it is 'Confused State of Indian Librarianship' or the author is confused?

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LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT

Dr. Sada Bihari Sahu*

Library and librarianship has traveled a long journey from the traditional days to the modern days and during this journey it has changed itself many folds to come to the expectation of its users and to match with the changes in technology and system with the passage of time. There is sea-change in the concept, management and development of library and librarianship during last two decades. Today, apart from our basic knowledge in librarianship, modern Librarians need to be comfortable and conversant with technology, be willing and able to speak in public, and possess people skills and a commitment to lifelong learning, as the profession and the expertise necessary for success are constantly changing. Therefore, in the present scenario are we 'the librarians' prepare to face the challenges and well equipped to put our foot forward to show our presence and relevance to the modern society? If the answer is yes, then how? Personally, I feel modern librarians should have the quality of 10 C' which are as follows:

1. **Customers or Users** – One should know our users' need, want, habit and interest as customer or user is the king. The existence and growth of library is mainly depends on the users. One thing to be remembers 'Care for Users'.
2. **Consultants of Information:** We are not simply information mediators. We're not generalists anymore – we're experts! So we may think for the work as consultant in the present context.
3. **Convenience:** One should know the priority of delivering services when, where and how.

4. **Communicator:** One should be a good communicator to communicate with our fellow professionals, the administrator to convince our proposal, and more over to our users or customers to know their need and provide library services in a better way.
5. **Creator:** Librarians may try to be a creator of document or information apart from being mediator between publishers or creator of documents and users. One should create original content, not waiting for the questions but showing people what librarians can do for them. Actually, we blog, shoot videos, do podcasts.
6. **Continuous improvement:** One should always try to improve the system and service along with continuous improvement of oneself.
7. **Change-Anticipate and manage:** One should ready to anticipate and manage change with good planning, strategic leadership & actively looks for the next cool or better thing.
8. **Connect with our customers:** One should always try to share not just our expertise but our personalities.
9. **Current:** Librarians should update their knowledge more frequently than any other profession. It can be done by doing environmental scanning, experimenting with new processes and technologies and providing experiences.
10. **Collaborate** – Have zeal or interest with partners throughout the community and leverage resources and expertise to get things done.

Hope, we the librarians or library professionals, with these qualities be able to face the changing world in a better way and make our presence felt in the modern society where we serve and move forward.

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LIBRARIANSHIP IN ICT ERA

Dr Manoj Kumar Verma*

Librarianship:

Management of information and services to people with information, librarianship is defined as- "***A profession concerned with organizing collection of books and related materials in libraries and making those resources available to readers and others.***" These points highlighted the traditional functions of the librarians in the selection, acquisition, organization and provision or deliver of books, information and knowledge to community of users.

A librarian is a person who develops procedures for organizing information and provides services that assist and instruct people in the most efficient ways to identify and access any needed information or information resources. The librarian is professional persons who has been trained in library science and engaged in provide library services. Modern librarians deals with information in many formats including books, magazines, newspapers, photographs & others graphic materials, bibliographic databases and internet resources in general. They also provide other information services including computer provisions and tanning coordination of public programs, basic literacy education and help in finding & using community resources.

Professionalism and Librarianship:

A library is established on the basis of the expectations of society and known needs of users. On the basis of this, the objectives and main functions of the library can be deduced. The objective is to assure the users right to know and function is to make library resources available to users. Thus, it must be the fundamental professional concern of the librarians to attempt to predict grasp

analyze and materialize such expectations and needs. The ICTs have changed the library professionalism like other major profession.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India have expressed his opinion on the value and power of knowledge during address to the Nation on Republic day in 2003 as – “Our society is emerging as knowledge society and efficient utilization of his existing knowledge can create comprehensive wealth of nation and also improve the quality of life whether a nation has arrived at the state of knowledge society is judged by the way the country effectively deals with knowledge creation & development in all sectors like IT, industries, agriculture, health care etc”.

A Library system based on ICTs will undoubtedly reallocate tasks between libraries professional and beginning it poses new uncertainties. The foundation of librarian’s work lays in pursuit of this duty in accordance with the known expectations of society in general and the needs of the users of his library in particular.

In the era of ICTs the libraries have changed in their shape, size, structure and most important in their services. Recently endeavors are being made to establish digital/electronic library in all over the world. By apply recent emerging ICTs and many virtual libraries have been established to facilitate the users to access the knowledge on a mouse click. Therefore, the foundation of librarian works lies in pursuit of his duties in accordance with the known society in general and needs of users in particulars. Now libraries and librarians by their interventions direct the speed and direction of the society and the condensational role does not apply any more. Therefore library professionals have to learn new area of ICTs, intellectual property right and new subject areas to sustain their identity because now their role is not only information providers but they are a catalyst for development.

Impact of ICT on Librarianship:

Today most of the good library services require skills of emerging technology. The use of ICT in libraries and its impact on library professional work (librarianship) requires them to acquire ICT skills to manage new technologies in their work place. Library professional are driving force for successful implementation of new technologies in libraries. Without library professionals’ ICT skills it is difficult to achieve success in implementing new technologies in libraries. Library

professional with adequate technology skills are essential for effective ICT implementation. According to Dobb (1999), without a very committed and energetic staff willing to share their skills and enthusiasm for library work with our patrons and with each other every day our organization could not really progress in using technology.

Role of Librarian in ICT Era:

In order to reach an understanding of the role of librarians in the present ICT era, it is necessary to examine the role of librarians had played in the past. In the modern libraries, the roles of LIS professional have changed drastically. Traditional immediately identifiable library skills are being subsumed by generic transferable skills used in other paraprofessional sectors such as business, finance & media. The changes in the role of LIS professionals are as discussed below:

- ❖ Provide access to electronic resources
- ❖ As a search intermediary
- ❖ Electronic publishing & web based content management
- ❖ Creation of digital library & industrial repository
- ❖ Role in Information policy development
- ❖ Role in educating to users

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INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: STATE AND STATUS

Dr Kamal Lochan Jena*

Today Indian librarianship is in a threshold. Various commissions and committees of Government of India and University Grants Commission have given the status at par with the teaching faculties. But in practice the librarians are not getting their due status. Very few librarians are enjoying the status, but in most of the cases it is personal based. Till date all the states of India have not implemented the UGC recommendations for Librarians and are not giving the status at par with faculties. Further some states have implemented it, but not in toto. Almost all universities are showing their interest to create the post of professor and taking early steps to fill it as and when it lies vacant. But in case of Librarian in the rank of professor are lying vacant for years together and one Professor In-charge is appointed to rule the library. The worst situation is that the white elephant institutions of Govt. of India i.e. IITs are not spared from this. In IIT Delhi, one of the leading IITs the post of Librarian is lying vacant for more than 05 years, and the very sad thing is that the AICTE-INDEST consortium is maintained by this institution. The case of new IITs is that almost all the libraries have not the post of Librarians. Similar is the case of almost all NITs. The case of universities should not be discussed. The condition of state government organizations are worst and need no discussion.

Besides these the threatening is from the computers and internet. The automation of libraries has reduced the importance of library professionals.

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Further most of the journals and books are available online and in digitized form for which the users are reluctant to come to the library. They are accessing these through the internet in their PCs. Now the size of the library is not growing physically as in old days rather the library is growing through its e-resources which takes very less space. As a result the concept of Librarian may be changed to Cybraian in the coming days and the library becomes boundary less or cybrary. A day may come when one will enter to the library and will not find any hard copy book, journal or any other document, rather he/she will find a number of computer monitors in the tables. The user will use the computer and will get the desired information more easily than any other traditional library.

Now the state of librarianship is in a crucial mode. The librarians have to struggle for their survival and have to adopt the latest technologies and trends in their libraries and use it efficiently, otherwise they will be discarded and their jobs will be taken by the computer professionals for higher organizations. In small organizations the librarian will seat with few books with no or less users and will be treated as storekeeper or as an office clerk with no professional dignity. So now the time has come for self-assessment of the profession, to adopt new technologies and to take the challenges of the coming days.

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STATE AND STATUS OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN INDIA

Dr. Dillip K Swain*

The status of librarians in India is quite confused, uncertain, and precarious barring a few librarians who are working in central universities, IITs, NITs, and such other coveted organizations. Honestly speaking, librarians working in private institutions all across the country feel the heat of less salary, insecurity in job, and lack of job satisfaction. On the contrary, some academic librarians in colleges and universities are considered as faculty, and they hold similar academic ranks as professors. In this situation, they enjoy the salary and position, but it is a debatable topic whether they get real job satisfaction? Are they treated equivalent with the faculty members? Are they properly taken into confidence in academic matters?

We are told that a librarian works at the top level of administrative hierarchy, next to the principal and vice principal at college level and along with the top administrator such as Vice Chancellor, Registrar, and Controller of Examinations in the University level. In case of universities, the librarian is directly responsible to the vice chancellor of the university or in colleges to the principal. The librarian is also a member of a University's Academic Council. But I strongly feel that this theory loses its dimension when comes to practicality of the situation. Librarians' academic excellence, scholarship, outstanding research contributions are often given less recognition, especially in India.

I do not think that an academic librarian is given that much priority that he is deemed to have unless he is a teacher cum librarian. Simply, a sense of underestimation shadows the power of their acquired qualification, experience, and knowledge. Teachers' community treats the librarians inferior to them irrespective of their salary and position.

At present the entry qualification for the post of librarian at college is on par with that of the lecturer i.e. Master degree with minimum of 55% marks in Library Science. In some cases, a Master's degree in another field, SLET/SET/NET and at university level, it is similar with that of the head of different departments.

If the criteria of selecting a librarian is same to that of a teacher, why then is this disparity and compartmentalization?

Again, there is an issue on which the government sits idle. In this context, I would like to cite the case of West Bengal where there are two distinct groups of librarians. One groups who are enjoying the status & service condition (in case of University & Govt. Colleges) and others who have no service condition and status. The latter group belongs to the working class librarian who serves in the Private College library. Such is the case in Odisha. Therefore, it is the duty of central government and state governments to sort out these anomalies so that a uniform status of professional librarianship can be achieved sooner or later.

Contextually, I would like to add that, irrespective of the state and status of librarians, professional friends and colleagues from all parts of the country should come forward to establish their acumen and acquired knowledge and qualification in the academic arena and take this profession into new height.

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LIS EDUCATION IN INDIA: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Rabindra K. Maharana*

There are several challenges in keeping the LIS education programme relevant to new kind of jobs in the market and new work performance requirements at work places. Whenever, some changes are introduced in the educational programs, needs for still more changes emerge to align such programs with the job markets and new roles and responsibilities in the libraries and information centers. So long as the information environment remains fluid, LIS education programs will remain in a state of flux, demanding constant change and adaptation to developments, technologies and desired service levels. However, there was ever no time in the history as today when LIS educators are able to offer broad based, flexible and diversified LIS education and training programs that can suit the manpower requirement for knowledge management in different sectors of economy. Further, the courses of study can be tailored to any requirement of imparting specific need based skills and competencies.

In the continuous changing landscape of information, LIS professionals are facing instability but not insecurity. They are required to constantly add value to existing services, intimately integrate technologies with work process for facilitating uninterrupted supply of information and innovate new services that suit the changing work styles in organizations and facilitate saving of time. As profile of libraries and information centers is changing, so do the role of librarians. LIS professionals' role has now expanded to solve every possible information problem through best possible manner in a given situation. Besides the knowledge of technical processes and tools, time management, collaborative work on networks, relationship management for better user services, cooperation

with colleagues, image management, fund rising, technology selection and up gradation are also getting importance in the work performance of LIS professionals.

Today's LIS professionals are required to be a search engine, effective worker on internet, service coordinator, information evaluator and marketer, keen innovator, prompt learner, etc. Several Indian LIS schools by large are not preparing their students for such roles, desired competencies and skills. Therefore, they require revamping their facilities, reviewing their educational programs, preparing their faculty and building a curriculum with a difference that may match the needs of knowledge society.

Current LIS education models in India focus on the functionality of document procurement, document organization, document supply, database development and the Internet search assistance. LIS schools in India.

Indian LIS education curricula are based on the western education and focuses on information supply to learning communities, whereas a number of people in the country are illiterates who also need information through some media to do and accomplish in their own vacation. Several people in India are not able to make adequate use of even existing information facilities due to lack of information literacy. No LIS school in India is presently offering a course to prepare manpower for imparting information literacy. The present LIS educational programs are concentrating on information processing whereas the Indian situation also demands information presentation according to the level of users so that information may facilitate action.

The above discussion concludes that LIS programs must match contemporary information systems, take advantage of global technological developments, but conform to local situations. Greater level of collaboration is also required among the LIS schools and stack holders.

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INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: AN OVERVIEW

Manoj Mishra*

Respect can't be commanded, it has to be earned is a popular saying. Librarianship itself is a challenge for the profession "Library & Information Science". **Jesse Shera** has stated that history is the "logical starting point for almost every enquiry into the nature and function of the library as a social agency". Librarianship can be fully apprehended only through an understanding of its historic origins. Librarians should have a clear idea about the profession to serve the community. In this relation I can suggest that there should be a relationship between the library and the society. One should study the history of libraries in relation to science, technology, medicine and social science. A theory in librarianship involves procedures, system, framework and principle.

Now we are in the 21st century which is called as age of information where we approach towards "**Information Literacy**". This term indicates that each and every individual in the society should possess some information which is required and implemented. In this electronic era, all information is readily available at the door step to acquire as "switch on the button and get the information". The most important duty of a professional librarian is to provide information to the end users. Still there is a discussion about the professional status of librarianship among both librarians and non librarians. According to **S. R. Ranganathan**, a profession is a "set of people, organized people of sufficient ability, who are dedicated to do a particular service in a particular field".

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Currently LIS profession is one of the most challenging professions in the modern society which require sound mind in the information management and management of ICT. Despite the popularity of the internet and supposed user-friendly of the WWW, users need significantly more guidance in using electronic resources than they did in using a library of print materials and most academic libraries have now organized substantial programs of user training.

The professional librarians should possess new knowledge for better dissemination of information towards the society. This is a part of knowledge mining, where we can calculate this with the simple mathematical formula i.e. DATA + PRIOR KNOWLEDGE + GOAL = NEW KNOWLEDGE. The modern librarian should require a limited knowledge to extract unmet information needs of users from various sources.

Librarian in present situation should act as a manager. Because library is a system of sub systems, there is a basic need of team effort for different functions of the library. The librarian should have different management skills for smooth running and best output for the library. A professional librarian as a specialist information officer should organize and catalogue various knowledge based information in order to facilitate to the library staff and the users. Ranganathan's five basic laws of library and information science always advocated the full attention and top priority to the users while coming to the library and the supply of right information in a right form to the right user at the right time.

In this age of internet, the librarian should act as information analyst. There are so many information in the Internet which is full of syntactic and semantic impurity. The librarian needs to carefully examine the originality and authenticity of the information source. The sheer amount of information is available and intellectual

processing of retrieved information has become the core job of a good information scientist.

Libraries provide the real and virtual spaces in communities for the free and open exchange of ideas fundamental to the society. The future of the library will be shaped in part by the changing environment of society, our profession, education system and the government also.

In current situation the LIS profession is in its peak position for its reputation and the requirement of the society with inter disciplinary approach in comparison to the other disciplines of the educational environment. We the professionals may be called as cybrarians instead of librarians, because now we are the exposure of the advanced technology used in the field of information Science.

I have noticed that some of the Indian librarians are much eager in organizing seminars and conferences frequently. I think there is no such need of theoretical aspires, although it has some value to its credit. Earlier I have discussed about the reputation of our profession, so we need the practical knowledge to explore the information from various sources. We should have the basic idea how to write an article, to organize workshop which will put an impact on our profession.

It could be better if we share our professional experiences both failure and success with others through different social networks. LIS is expanding into several areas. The professionals should have the competency of commitment to render traditional services and also plan for the future career in the shape of advance learning.

*The author is Assistant Librarian, IMS & SUM HOSPITAL, SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN UNIVERSITY BHUBANESWAR,PH: 09938071880 (Mobile).

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/lisforum_orissa/info

INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: STATE AND STATUS

Dr. Ranganathan gave us five laws to apply, we should follow as:

1. Books are for use;

We, the librarians should make it available for use

2. Every Reader his book;

We, the librarians should ensure that reader reaches his/her book.

3. Every book, it's reader;

We, the librarians should make the book travel towards the reader.

4. Library is a growing organism;

We, the librarians should ensure upbringing of library qualitatively.

5. Save the time of the reader;

We, the librarians should keep in mind that this is the only way to ensure next visit of the user.

Be proud to be Indian Librarian.

Mrs. Bhagyashree J. Sane

Chief Librarian, National Insurance Academy

25 Balewadi, Baner Road, Pune 411045, Maharashtra, Contact: 9960821381



INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: STATE & STATUS

Is librarianship a noble profession? A service orientated profession which believes to deliver the best services amongst the society. In India, librarianship starts with the name of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan who considered as a father of library science and because of his fundamental thinking librarian get their identity. He gives a new face to Indian librarianship.

Today we are living in ICT age, where everything is changing so fast because of advance technology. Users are very much tech savvy and want all information in his/her palmtop or ipad with 24 X 7 accessibility. Due technology change librarian are able to provide the service such as self-check in / out facility by users, automatic shelf rectification, facilities of return the issued documents anywhere in the campus, online resources facility, single search box for all online resource available, research and reference service etc. Now a days librarians are treated as E-resource manager, who are not only managing print document but to manage E-resources. They are the one-stop-solution service provider. The motto of the librarian is to deliver the best service to the right users, at the right time in the right format using latest tools and technology like web 2.0 ERMS, Discovery, SSO, cloud computing libraries etc. Therefore, it is to suggest that for the betterment of Indian librarianship we should update our self because of technology advancement and demands of the users as they are information oriented. Personal characteristics plus the new skill and competency are also essential for a librarian.

Nihar K Patra

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Indian Librarianship: state and status

The status of any profession depends upon the qualification, position, nature of job performed by the professionals, salary etc. But in India the status of the librarian more specifically the librarians of academic libraries is somewhat confused and uncertain. Some academic librarians in colleges and universities are considered as faculty, and they hold similar academic ranks whereas in some institutions they are treated as non teaching staff even having same designation, qualification and salary. The affiliating institutions like UGC, AICTE, and Technical Universities of various states are also not clear in their policies regarding the position of librarians in an academic institution. It is better not to discuss the status of LISA professionals working in public libraries of India because even if many states have enacted Public Libraries act, it is in paper only. It can be stated that the overall situation of Indian librarianship is not encouraging since we cannot think Indian librarianship in the light of librarianship of centrally funded institutions like IITS, NITs, IIMs etc. or reputed universities of India.

Moreover, it can be said that the connotation that "Librarianship is a noble profession" seems to be more theoretical than practical in true sense.

Mr. P. K. Panigrahi
Dy. Librarian
Sir Padampat Singhania University
Udaipur (Rajasthan)



Access to Libraries for Persons of Differently Abled and Children's: Need of the Hours

“Every person his or her Book” is yet to be realized. In many countries all over the world, access for patrons with disabilities and children to use libraries is not yet available or even expected. In order to provide equal opportunities for all library users, many step need to be taken in India also and recently a thought has come up from professionals in this regards in India. Although we have enough technology for optimum use of general users but we lake of such for the person of reading, hearing, and other disabilities.

Tape recorder, CD player, DAISY (Digital Audio Information System), special media format, physically suitable infrastructure and special service and communication etc. need to be addressed in India. Recently Dr. PallamRaju (Minister, HRD)on 56th foundation day of N.B.T laid emphasis on creating interesting spaces in the form of children libraries in all parts of country and he also said that NBT and National BalBhavan Should work together for promotion of reading habits among children. Library professionals should look in to the matter and come up to the expectation of the needy.

With this little information and request I congratulate members of lisforum_orissa and Dr. S.K Sathpathy (Moderator) on its 7th Anniversary.

With Best Wishes

Mr. ShibaBhue
Librarian
KendriyaVidyalaya INS Chilka
Cell: 9778386662



INDIAN LIBRARIANSHIP: STATE AND STATUS OF OLD WORKING PROFESSIONALS IN DIGITAL ERA

Library is a growing organism; it grows in terms of collection, users, staff and also technology. It is observed that the overall library environment especially the academic library environment has been drastically changed due to development and application of Information Communication Technology. The collections are getting digital day by day and services are being offered through web. Library automation and use of library software have become very common in almost all types of libraries. Hence to manage the ICT based libraries, the LIS professionals need to possess necessary qualification, skill and knowledge.

But it has been seen that the LIS professionals who have completed their LIS study 20-30 years earlier feel themselves uncomfortable in the digital library environment, since they had neither been taught on these aspects of modern technology nor the libraries of their time were so developed technically. The old LIS professionals working in various libraries feel uncomfortable in the changing library environment and in using latest technology especially in digital library, library networking, web based library services etc. In this context the role and function of old LIS professionals have been limited to a non-professional library staff only. The changes in library environment has become more challenging for them to retain their identity and existence since the change in library environment is inevitable and cannot be stopped.

Hence it is highly necessary to make them updated and well versed with the latest technology where LIS schools, LIS teachers, reputed libraries and librarians can play important role. They need to organize various in service short term courses, training program, summer courses (not merely to distribute certificate or full fill UGC/AICTE norms) which will in true sense can developed their knowledge and skill to make them capable in managing modern libraries.

Smt. Nilam Soni

Asst. Librarian, Central Library
N.I.T, Raipur (C.G.)



PROBLEMS OF LIS EDUCATION IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

India has witnessed a slow and steady growth of Library and Information science (LIS) education. The foundation of LIS education in India dates back in 1911 when W.A. Borden (1853-1931) for the first time started a short term training programme in Library Science at Baroda Under the patronage of Maharaja Sayajiroa Gaekwad III. Though LIS programme at the university level have existed for more than six decades and have strong roots, but the profession still suffers from many problems which affect the status of LIS profession. The most important is an urgent need for a national level accreditation body. Not much has been done even with the establishment of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Several few important which affect the LIS profession and education are as follows:

- i. Accreditation
- ii. Mushrooming of LIS schools
- iii. Inadequate faculty strength
- iv. Lack of resources
- v. Lack of IT laboratories in the LIS departments
- vi. Curriculum revision
- vii. Student's selection criteria
- viii. Admission procedures and intake etc.

On the successful completion of seven years of Lisforum_Orissa I gratitude my sincere thanks to Dr. Sunil Kumar Satpathy for his noble effort. Thanks a lot sir and hope such type of service will remain continue in future.

Thanks.

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Comments
on
lisforum_orissa

http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/lisforum_orissa/info



LISFORUM_ORISSA: AN ALARM BELL

The lisforum_orissa since its day of beginning it is continuously discussing the issues and problems pertaining to library and information profession and professionals. Be it job vacancies or conferences or seminars or any news on library personality or library development, it is regularly informing us. In my opinion it is serving as 'alarm bell' for library professionals for it wakes us from our so called 'busy sleep' whenever an issue is there.

I, on the occasion of 7th anniversary congratulate all involved who are making this forum so success. Again thanks to contributors and the moderator as well.

Rudra Prasad Behera

Asst. Librarian

HKM State Library

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LISFORUM_ORISSA: A BEST FORUM TO REACH LONG TAIL PROFESSIONALS

The lisforum_orissa ,since its inception is trying its best to disseminate professional information, job vacancies, forthcoming events etc which are highly beneficial for the LIS professionals of India, specially the professionals working in remote institutions who do not have much scope to keep themselves up-to-date about the recent development in LIS field.

The messages posted by the members are very specific, informative and with much clarity unlike other professional for of India.

On the occasion of its 7th anniversary, I congratulate all members of the forum and thanks for their contribution for dissemination of professional knowledge for the benefit of LIS profession and professionals.

I wish the forum will grow more and more in future years.

Mitrabhanu Padhan
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Nagaon (A),
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http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/lisforum_orissa/info