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- **Library and Information Service as a Profession**
- **Relevance of LIS Profession in the Google Age**
- **Future of Library and Information Service (LIS) Profession in India**
- **Survival Strategies for Libraries and Librarianship**



Indian Association of Special Libraries & Information Centres

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Library and Information Service as a Profession*

G Bhattacharyya

Abstract

[Purpose: *This paper is to define the librarianship as a profession in the context of a learned profession which refers to the interlinked activities of secondary information works carried out by librarians for the purpose of rendering secondary information services.*

Design: *This paper is presented rather in a discussion mode on the basis of the facts scattered in published literature. Policies, strategies and the forms of acquiring professional knowledge, practicing it, and developing skills are discussed considering different facets of the foundation-discipline “Library and Information Science”.*

Findings: *The results of all tests essential for establishing “Library and Information Service”, which is known as the activity of the foundation-discipline “Library and Information Science”, as learned profession are perfectly positive.*

Value : *Attributively and functionally, the profession of “ Library and Information Service” is absolutely analogous to those of other learned profession and has earned the social recognition with well-established professional norms. However, as a manifestation of the “Self-Consciousness” of a learned profession, any deviation/violation in this regard must be protested against both individually or collectively.*

Keywords : *Librarianship; Information service; Profession; Calling; Significant characteristic; Specialized knowledge and skill; Self-Consciousness; Professional manpower development; Library personnel management.]*

*'Library and Information Service' profession is the talk of the day, so is also the education of its foundation-discipline 'Library and Information Science'. Incessant is the approach to reach to an equitable state to upgrade the profession in the manner it should. In this context, the Editor feels, it would be prudent to reproduce the learned article on the caption “Library and Information Service as a Profession” authored by the prophetic, legendary and revered personality in the field, Late Professor G Bhattacharyya, presented in the IASLIC 14th National Seminar 1990 held at Mysore during November 14-17, 1990. It is hoped, this reproduced article would bring a solace to the stigmatic state of the 'Library and Information Service' profession. — Editor, IASLIC Bulletin

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Relevance of LIS Profession in the Google Age

C R Karisiddappa^a and B Ramesh Babu^b

Abstract

Purpose: Unprecedented impact of technologies on Library and information services have stimulated certain sections of professionals to question the validity of the Library profession. In many of the professional meetings and interactive sessions this issue was bothering the senior professional experts and scholars. This notion necessitated to present the broad perspective and to justify the contemporary relevance of the profession in the changing scenario. Dr S R Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science have laid the foundation to the profession and its practice. The opportunities, challenges and the identity struggle for the librarianship are outlined. The role of LIS professionals, the status and image of the profession, aspects associated with the librarianship of tomorrow, innovative librarianship, and essential skills of the LIS professionals in the context of changing dimensions of the profession are discussed. The education for Librarianship and the role of Library schools in the present context are highlighted. The ethics of Librarianship and the relevance of the profession in the Google age is highlighted.

Methodology: Literature survey in the subject of Librarianship as a profession has been examined and interpreted with the emerging trends and presented its relevance in the context of knowledge society. The approach adopted is based on the systematic and logical way of focussing the Librarianship and its capability in sustaining the challenges as well as exploring the opportunities in the Google age.

Findings: The what, why and how of Librarianship as a profession is explained. Five laws of library science as propounded by Dr S R Ranganathan fortifies Library Science as a profession. The numerous opportunities for LIS professionals' activities in situation of traditional and modern, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary, briefly listed. The profession of librarianship has reached the zenith of noble profession. The librarianship of today and tomorrow is a dynamic, service-oriented, assertive, and serving diverse clientele with a wide range of sophisticated information, learning, and teaching needs.

Originality: This research paper is original based on the literature studied and has not been published elsewhere. This would benefit the LIS professionals in understanding the field since it presents the cardinal truths of the profession of librarianship which were presented based on the available literature.

Keywords: Librarianship; Information service; Library Science; Librarian professional ethics; Librarian skill; Knowledge society; Internet searching; Web search engine – Google.

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Dr B Ramesh Babu was *Professor* in the Department of Library and Information Science, University of Madras and former Visiting Professor at the Mahasarakham University, Thailand. He has been awarded Dr. S R Ranganathan Memorial Gold Medal from the University of Mysore, Commonwealth Fellow. He is the recipient of many awards like IATLIS-MOTIWALE Best LIS Teacher Award by IATLIS, Best Reviewer award by Korean Institute of Science and Technology Information, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Karnataka State SC & ST Library Professionals Association. About 30 candidates were awarded Ph. D degree under his guidance. Currently he is the Co-President of I-LISS and Life Member in ILA, IASLIC, IATLIS, MALA, APLA, ALSD, and TLA.

Future of Library and Information Service (LIS) Profession in India: Issues, Challenges and Strategies

Prakriti Ranjan Goswami^a

Abstract

Purpose : *The main purpose of this paper is to examine the current national as well as international trends in the library and information science (LIS) sector and to project country specific as well as world wide future scenario enumerating the areas on which the professionals should develop certain skills and expertise.*

Design : *It has been written in a discussion mode relying on anecdotal information as well as isolated facts and figures found in published literature. In the introductory part a brief background of the subject 'future studies' has been provided. It is followed by changes in technological practices that have taken place in libraries and their legal implications.*

Findings : *An attempt has been made to identify a few functional 'extended' areas of academic, public and government libraries in which the young professionals should proactively intervene to remain relevant in a fast changing information and communication technology (ICT) dominated organisational climate.*

Value : *It is expected that on the basis of the issues briefly discussed, LIS professionals can explore the possibility of developing a few new research topics for further investigation.*

Keywords : *Librarianship; Information service; Profession; Forecasting – study and teaching; Future study; India*

Future studies is "the art and science of taking responsibility for the long term consequences of our decisions and our actions today"

Jennifer M Gidley¹¹

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Dr Prakriti Ranjan Goswami is a library professional with more than forty years' experience in the domain. He obtained Master Degree in Library and Information Science in 1978 and PhD in Library and Information Science (1995) from the University of Delhi. He has worked in Central Statistical Office, Government of India; Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi ; Indian Council of Social Science Research (as Director, NASSDOC); Central Secretariat Librarian, Ministry of Culture, Government of India (as Director); Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (as Director, Library and Information). He is a Member, Governing Board, DELNET and Member, Technical Advisory Committee of Library and Documentation Unit of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

Survival Strategies for Libraries and Librarianship in the Digital Environment

K P Vijayakumar^a

Abstract

Purpose : The article tries to explore the reasons for the declining use of all types of libraries and to examine the efforts made at different libraries to overcome the situation. Taking cognizance of the overall scenario, the paper aims to suggest the ways and means that can be adopted by the libraries and library and information professionals to survive and excel in the changing environment.

Approach : The presentation is based on the review of literature related to the strategies adopted by libraries to tide over the adverse situation and the proactive approach to be adopted by the professionals

Findings : The major developments that compel the libraries to transform are the changes in the information landscape, new technologies, changes in the social interaction, and changes in the services and use context. The common methods that can be adopted by libraries for overcoming the threat posed by other agencies are: growing need for academic skills training, user involvement in the redesign process, re-skilling of the staff, change in the mindset, change in the hierarchical structure, thrust on information literacy, right approach to changes, increasing the accessibility of research content, rethinking library spaces to foster more hands-on activities, makerspaces, creation of a basic mobile website, virtual referencing and smart information professionals. The essential skills required for the information professionals to be smart include Communication, Content curation, In-depth research and analytics, Expertise in quality indicators, Proficiency in Altmetrics and Digital preservation, Ability to cope up with the mobile environment, and Collaboration and facilitation.

Originality : The paper is a comprehensive survey of the survival strategies adopted by libraries at the global level and brings together the suggestions made by authorities who have made special studies on the topic.

Keywords : Librarianship; Web librarianship; Library; Library employee; Library personnel management; Threats to libraries; Smart information professionals; Skill sets

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