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## Library Science & Information Science Profession

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### Abstract

*Library and Information Science (LIS) is the academic and professional study of how information and information carriers are produced, disseminated, discovered, evaluated, selected, used, organized, maintained and managed.*

*Libraries provide materials to those who need material where one is not able to afford to purchase intensive collective themselves.*

### Introduction

A Library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and it can be a physical building or a room, or any virtual space or both.

A collection of library may include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blue-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases and other formats. The size of Library may range

from a new books to few shelves of books to several million items. In Latin and Greek, the idea of a book case is represented by “Bibliotheca” & “Bibliotheke derivatives of these mean library in modern languages eg. French bibliotheque.

History of Library dates back to the achieves of the earliest form of writing – the clay tablets in uniform script discovered in Sumer, some dating back to 2600 BC. A library is organized for use and maintained by a public body an institution, a corporation or a private individual. In addition to providing materials, libraries also provide the services of librarians who are experts at finding and organising information and at interpreting information needs.

Libraries provide materials to those who need material where one is not able to afford to purchase extensive collection



themselves. To maintain a good library is not a kids play it is to managed in a very proper way or in a very scientific manner.

Library science commonly termed as library studies, library and information science, bibliothecography or library economy is an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspective and tools of management, information technology, education and other areas to the libraries in which the collection, organisation, 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.

Historically library science has also included archival science too. This includes how information resources are managed or organised to serve the needs of select user groups, how people interact with classification systems and technology, how information is acquired, evaluated and applied by people in and outside libraries as well as cross-culturally,

how people are trained and educated for careers in libraries, the ethics that guide library service and organisation, the legal status of libraries and information resources and the applied science of computer technology used in documentation and records management.

The term library and information science (LIS) is most often used, most librarians consider it as only a terminological variation with the intention to emphasize the scientific and technical foundation of the subject and its relationship with information science (LIS) should not be confused with information theory, the mathematical study of the concept of information, rather Library and information science be looked upon as an integration or amalgamation of the two fields of library science and information science. Library philosophy has been contrasted with library science as the study of the aims and jurisdiction as opposed to the development and refinement of techniques.

### **Skills**

Some essential cross-sector skills for Library and Information Science Profession:-

- IT skills, such as word-processing and spreadsheets, digitisation skills and conducting internet searches, together with skills in digitisation, loan system.

- **Customer Service:-**

An information professional should have the ability to address the information needs of customers.

- **Language Proficiency:-**

This is essential in order to manage the information at hand and deal with customer needs.

- **Soft skills :-**

These include skills such as negotiating, conflict resolution and time management, which are useful for all interactions at a workplace.

## **Theory and Practice of Library Science**

Many practising librarians do not contribute much to LIS scholarship, but focus on daily operations within their own libraries or

library systems. Other practising librarians, particularly in academic libraries, do perform original scholarly LIS research and contribute to the academic end of the field.

Library science is closely related to issue of knowledge organisation, however the latter is a broader term which covers how knowledge is represented and stored, how it might be automatically processed and how it is organised outside the library in global systems such as the internet. Library science, in addition is typically referred to a specific community engaged in managing holdings as they are found in university and government libraries, while knowledge organisation in general refers to this and also to other communities i.e. publishers and other systems such as internet. The library system is thus one socio-technical structure of knowledge organisation.

The terms information organisation and knowledge organisation are often used as synonym. The fundamentals of their study were originated in 19<sup>th</sup> century and were



developed, in part, to assist in moving human intellectual output accessible by recording, identifying and providing bibliographic control of printed knowledge.

Five Laws of Library Science is a theory proposed by S.R. Ranganathan in 1931, detailing the principles of operating a library system. Many Librarians worldwide accept items as the foundations of their philosophy.

**These Laws are –**

- Books are for use.
- Every reader their book.
- Every book its reader
- Save the time of the reader
- The library is a growing organism.

The technological revolution paved the challenges for the library and information science schools not only in India but also in west. Responsibilities of LIS departments and teachers are increasing to produce best. LIC professionals to lead the 21<sup>st</sup> century librarianship. The major responsibility of the LIS departments in India is to grow LIS

students in the philosophy, knowledge and professional values of librarianship, as practised in libraries and in other contexts and as guided by the vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century librarianship. There is rapid changes in LIS education and training facilities in India during the past 10 years, the number of library schools/departments have grown/increased substantially, both are regular and distance education programmes Re-orientation has been common in most LIS departments and review and revision also have been seen remarkably.

“Library” as a term has universal awareness and the strength of this brand has developed over centuries. Libraries and information is not simply about the materials and the technology or to provide material to the reader only, but it is the art or tool to quench the thirst of knowledge, curiosity<sup>7</sup> of the reader, in which librarian plays a very important role to play with. They help to satisfy the need of people to connect, libraries ensure the access to the books, literature, resources and technology for everyone,

promoting equality of opportunity. There is one big flow also in maintaining libraries that these are often maintained mostly by those who are not library users. The libraries do not thrive well when :-

- Governments are oppressive.
- New ideas are seen as dangerous or irrelevant.
- The past is easily discarded.
- There is a “near enough is good enough” approach.
- People don’t value books and reading.
- Poverty and disadvantage go unchallenged.
- Enterprise and innovation are moribund.

### **Building the Information Management Brand**

Many Library users and professionals say that “Library” is the word that unites and defines the sector and that it sends out positive messages. Others, especially those working in business, industry, government, health and research say that “Library” is outdated and they

prefer to talk about their information science or information service. “Library” provides as easily understood shorthand, but how does it relate to a virtual service that is primarily concerned with online access to electronic database.

### **Conclusion**

The conclusion is that the role and perception of libraries and information centers continue to change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is therefore necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of library and information systems in the changing scenario. And at the end the changing scenario calls for skills and competencies beyond the daily operational skills.

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