CHAPTER – 2

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES:
INTERNATIONAL, INDIA AND KARNATAKA

2.1 Introduction

History of libraries is as old as history of writing. Around 5,500 years ago, people started recording their ideas on various materials such as clay, metal, wax, wood papyrus, silk, leather, parchment, later replaced by paper, film, plastic, and magnetic tape and other electronic forms. At almost every stage in the development of these materials, people have assembled collections of their records in libraries (The World Book Encyclopedia, 2012).

A public library means that (i) it is publicly owned and supported by taxes; (ii) it is open to any citizen who desires to use it; and (iii) contains a wide range of material, both popular and scholarly. Oldest public library in this sense is the Peterborough, New Hampshire Town Library in United States of America, founded in 1833. This was followed by Boston Public Library, opened in 1854. It was the second publicly supported municipal library in the United States. From 1890 through 1914, public libraries expanded rapidly in number, collection size, and staff. By 1920, the Carnegie Estate had donated $50 million to erect 2,500 library buildings, including 1,700 in the U.S. - the most sustained and widespread philanthropic enterprise ever devoted to libraries. President Franklin Roosevelt issued a proclamation late in 1941 supporting libraries as "essential to the functioning of a democratic society" and "the great tools of scholarship, the great repositories of culture, and the great symbols of the freedom of the mind." After the World War II, the Library Services Act was passed in USA in 1956, allowing federal
funding for libraries. Public libraries were established in other parts of the world as well during 18th and 19th centuries. The concept of public library has changed during the 19th and 20th century due to the awareness among the public and governments about the need for public libraries for intellectual growth as well as to meet their routine information needs. In 21st century, they have become a key player in the providing information to each and every citizen in the democratic set up. An attempt is made in this chapter to trace the history of public libraries at global level, at national and State level.

2.2 Ancient Libraries

The collection of recorded knowledge and its preservation dates back to more than 5,000 years ago. Libraries of clay tablets were established in ancient Mesopotamia, a region that covers part of Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Recently, archeologists have discovered oldest clay tablets in southern Mesopotamia, preserved by the Sumerians. A Library of 30,000 clay tablets is found at the site of the ancient city of Nippur. Archaeologists have also found other libraries of clay tablets in ancient cities in Syria and Turkey during excavation.

In 1850, British archeologist discovered thousands of clay tablets at the site of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of ancient Assyria in northern Mesopotamia. The tablets formed part of the library in the palace of King Sennacherib of Assyria, who ruled from 704 to 681 B.C. In 1983, a larger library was found nearby, assembled by Sennacherib’s grandson, Ashurbanipal.

While the people of the Mesopotamia were using clay tablets to record their ideas, Egyptians used Papyrus, a writing material made from the Papyrus reed. This reed grows
in marshlands of the Nile River. The Egyptians cut its stems into strips, pressed the strips into sheets and joined the sheets to form scrolls. Some of the scrolls reached great lengths. One, called Harries Papyrus 1, is 133 feet long. This scroll is in the British Library in London. Papyrus became the preferred writing material among the people of the Mediterranean area about 500 B.C. and remained so until A.D 300. The Egyptians used papyrus until the 900’s. The great libraries of ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece consisted of large collection of papyrus scrolls. It was recorded by Ailus Gellius that near the middle of the 6th century B.C., the tyrant Pisistratus had a large collection of papyrus scrolls and later shifted them to the city of Athens, where it was opened to public. Greeks also used papyrus for recording the ideas. Some historians credit Pisistratus, a ruler of the Athens during the 500 B.C., with the establishment of city’s first government owned first library.

The most famous library of ancient time was the Alexandrian Library in Alexandria, Egypt in 330 B.C. Pisistratus’s successor as ruler of Egypt, Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II, developed the Alexandrian library into the greatest collection of scrolls in the ancient world. The library was headed by famous scholars and it housed 500,000 Scrolls. In late A.D 200, the library was destroyed during the war over the control of the Roman Empire.

In Asia Minor, a library rivaling that of Alexandria was set up at Pergamum during the reigns of Attalus I Soter (d. 197 B.C.) and Eumenes II (d. 160/159 B.C.). Parchment (charta pergamena) was said to have been developed there after the copying of books was impeded by Ptolemy Philadelphia’s ban on the export of papyrus from Egypt. Parchment proved to be more durable than papyrus and so marks a
significant development in the history of technical advances in the dissemination of knowledge. The library was opened to the Roman people in 133 B.C., and Plutarch records an allegation that Mark Antony gave its 200,000 volumes to Cleopatra, to become part of the Alexandrian library.

A Roman Statesman and General, Lucius Licinius Lucullus was reckoned one of the richest men in the Roman world at that time and was famous for his luxurious way of life. He acquired as part of his war ill-gotten gains an enormous library, which he generously put at the disposal of those who were interested. His biographer, Plutarch, speaks appreciatively of the quality of his book collection, and Cicero tells of visiting the library to borrow a book and finding his friend Cato ensconced there surrounded by books of the Stoic philosophy.

Julius Caesar planned a public library and delegated the implementation of his plans to an outstanding scholar and writer, Marcus Terentius Varro, also the author of a treatise on libraries, *De bibliotheca* (which has not survived). Caesar died before his plans were carried out, but a public library was built within five years by the literary patron, Asinius Pollio. Describing its foundation in his *Natural History*, Pliny coined a striking phrase that has application to libraries generally: *ingenia hominum rem publicam fecit* (“He made men’s talents a public possession”). Libraries were also set up by Tiberius, Vespasian, Trajan, and many of the later emperors. Bibliotheca Ulpia, which was established by Trajan around 100 A.D. and continued until the 5th century, was also the Public Record Office of Rome.
In the East, the library tradition had picked up at Constantinople. For the first time, at Ceaseria, Constantine I The Great ordered fifty copies of the Christian scriptures. Under the supervision of Constantine himself, scholarly libraries at Constantinople amassed large collections. These landmarks show the importance that was attached to preservation of knowledge during ancient times (Encyclopedia Britannica online, February 5, 2014).

2.3 Early Public Libraries

It has been recorded by the writer Aulus Gellious that near the middle of the 6th century B.C., Pisistratus established a large library of books and gave it to the city of Athens, where it was opened for the public. Later, Julius Caesar had the idea of founding a national or public library with Greek and Latin books in Rome and opens it to the public. He planned to place Marcus Terentius Varro as In-charge of the library. Caesar was assassinated before he could carry out the project. Later, Asinius Pollip opened the first public library in the Atrium Liberalis in 39 B.C. In Rome, by the end of the 4th century, there were twenty eight to thirty public libraries. Even though these were not the public library of today, they were available to people for use (Encyclopedia Britannica online, 2014).

A step closer to modern public library was town library concept that came into existence during the period of 15-19th centuries in England, Scotland, France, and Germany. The early libraries in England were either founded as gift of individuals or by a “public or joint stock contribution and then entrusted to the guardianship of the respective municipalities”. Norwich, Leicester, and Bristol in England are the examples of such
town libraries founded in the beginning of 17th century. But, after some time, their books and buildings ended up in a state of neglect or in the possession of private society. Later, Leicester the town library, founded in 1632 gradually fell “into careless guardianship and ultimate neglect”. Scotland had to wait until the late in the 18th century (1791) for a library.

The Chetham Library in Manchester was founded in 1653 out of the gift of Humphry Chetham, who left 1000 pound to be used for books, an additional 1000 pound for the purchase of place for the library, and 200 pound for the purchase of Godly English books such as Calvin’s, Prestori’s and Perkin’s works. By 1826, the library’s collection was 14276 items.

The library at Caen was established in 1431, and after suffering from the effect of religious wars and suppression, it was restored in 1736. The library was open to public in 1809 and the library’s collection was 25,000 volumes. A library was established at Lyons in 1503. By 19th century, the library had 1, 20,000 volumes and 1,500 manuscripts (Aitken, 1971).

In Germany, during 15th and 16th centuries, town libraries were established in Ratisbon (1430), Ylm (1440,) Erfurt (1440, Nuremburg (1445), Hamburg (1529) and Lubeck (1530).

2.4 Public Libraries: United Kingdom

United Kingdom was the forerunner of public libraries. There were Parish Libraries of the Reverend Thomas Bray which provided collection for laymen as well as clerics. In
Scotland, Reverend James Kirkwood developed a scheme for founding and maintaining libraries in every parish throughout United Kingdom. The scheme entitled providing a place for books in each parish, the handing over of personal collection of books of Ministers to the libraries, cataloguing of the books and making of the four copies of each catalogue, one of which would go to the principal library in Edinburg which would make general catalogue of the all the books in the Kingdom.

Later, an important landmark in the public library development was the idea of Reverend Samuel Brown of East Lothins, who developed plan of travelling libraries, through which there would be provided “a library or division of 50 books in each town or village. The library would remain two years in a village or town and later, move to another village or town, then move again in another two years and so on. The plan was so successful that, by 1836, there were forty seven libraries with 2380 volumes. After the death of the Reverend Brown in 1839, the project slowly declined, partly because there was no one to offer the management and financial support he had supplied (Aitken, 1971).

Towards the middle of the 19th century, the modern public library moved closer to reality by the passage of the Museum Act of 1845. The Act authorized levying of half dollar tax in town with not less than 10,000 population for erection of Museums of Science and Art. The Act provided for the building and authorized the Museum to collect an admission charge of one dollar for support. Within a short time, three towns –Canterbury, Warrington and Salford took advantage of the Act to establish combined Museum and Libraries.
Willium Ewart was stimulated to work towards Public Library Act by an article written by Edwards Edward, “statistics view of the principal libraries in Europe and United States. Edwards, a prolific author on the subject of libraries was then A Supernumerary Assistant at the British Museum. Ewart drew upon Edwards’s knowledge of libraries and, by 1849; he had convinced the Parliament to establish a Select Committee to inquire into the possibility of establishing libraries, freely open to the public, especially in large towns. The Committee recommended, after inquiring into libraries on the continent and in the United States, that Parliament authorize Town Council to levy a small rate to establish and support public libraries (Kelly, 1973).

After considerable debate, the Bill to establish public libraries in Town councils went to the House of Lords and then received assent on August 14, 1850. The main provision of the Act was that corporate towns of 10,000 persons might levy half a dollar rate to buy land and building for libraries. The Act applied to England and Wales. It was extended in 1853 to the Municipal of Boroughs in Ireland, and the Royal and Parliamentary Borroughs in Scotland (Aitken, 1971).

The Museum Act was passed with general support, but the Public Library Act ran into considerable opposition. In general, the arguments ran to extending the benefits of reading to the lower classes. The benefits of Public Library Act were seen as social, moral and educational. Brotherton argued that reading would reduce the crimes and provide the cheapest police that could be gathered. Others argued that it would keep workers from the evils of the gin ships. Opposition came from those who objected to
increase in the rates and those who feared that agitation and social unrest would result (Murison, 1971).

The Parliament passed the Public Library Act in 1850. Whereas William Ewart wanted all boroughs to have the power to finance public libraries, the legislation only applied to those Boroughs with populations of over 10,000. The Borough Councils also had to obtain the consent of two thirds of the local ratepayers who voted in a referendum. Other restrictions included that the rate of no more than a half penny in the pound could be levied. Furthermore, this money could not be used to purchase books. This led to two amendments to the 1850 Public Libraries Act. In 1853, the Act was extended to Scotland and Ireland, and in 1855, the rate which could be levied was raised to a penny. Borough Councils were also granted the power to buy reading material for their libraries. Manchester was one of the first to establish a public library and appointed one of the main campaigners for this reform, Edward Edwards, as its first Chief Librarian. However, Edwards' radical political views resulted in him being dismissed in 1858. The public libraries started spreading gradually throughout the United Kingdom. Twenty three libraries were opened between the years 1851 and 1862, and 98 more between 1868 and 1886, for total of (with the four previously established) 125 libraries. In June 1892, a new Public Library Bill received Royal assent. The Act repeated former legislation and in effect, consolidated previous advances and charges.

Andrew Carnegie contributed significantly to the public library movement in the United Kingdom. His first gift was that of 8000 pounds to his native Dunfermline in 1879. By 1883, thirty one libraries were opened and he helped to finance over 380 libraries in
Britain. In 1913, Andrew Carnegie created the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust (CUKT) with a capital of 2,000,000 pounds and he indicated that libraries were high priority. Most of the public library development had come in large cities and towns. At Staffordshire, the Trustees of CUKT funded a Central repository of Books from which books should be dispatched to the schools of county. The same would reach through the agency of the schoolmasters and the school children (Munford, 1951).

The Act of 1919 not only permitted the development of urban library services by removing the rate limitation, but it also gave library powers to counties and hence, free library service was possible.

2.5 Public Libraries: United States of America

Early American cities such as Boston, Philadelphia and New York had the first organized collections of books. Oldest public library was opened in Peterborough, New Hampshire Town in 1833. This was followed by Boston Public Library, established in 1852. In 1698, Charleston's St. Philip's Church Parsonage started a Parish Library.

The movement towards social library was started in America in late 1720s by Benjamin Franklin, who was the organizer of the group interested in “Socializing and debating” the Junto. An experiment of pooling personal books to provide resources for their debating materials was not a success. Franklin then proposed a library provided by the subscription of 40 shillings by each member of the Junto and an annual fee of 10 shillings. Out of this proposal came the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded in 1731 (Shera, 1965).
There other public libraries still in existence are the Library Company of Philadelphia, Redwood Library of Newport, Rhode Island, (1747), the New York Society Library of New York City (1754) and the Charleston Library Society of Charleston, South Carolina (1748). A library in Massachusetts in the town of Arlington claims to have had the first free children's library, opened in 1835.

Mercantile libraries, primarily meant for the use of merchants, clerks, and general public were established and these were supported by merchants and a periodic fee (Perkins, 1876).

Young and Men’s Christian Association in America Library was founded in Boston in 1851 for the improvement of the spiritual and mental condition of young men. By 1859, there were 145 associations with libraries, 12 of which had 1,000 or more volumes.

Caleb Bingham, a Boston book seller and publisher, made a donation of 150 titles to his native town of Salisbury, Connecticut, to serve as a library that would provide reading he did not have as a boy. A self perpetuating Board of Trustees was formed to have control of the Bingham Library for the Youth, open freely to those between nine and sixteen years of age.

In 1835, New York State passed legislation that permitted the levying of a tax to support school district libraries. Other States followed, but by 1876, the impetus was lost (Garceau, 1949).

The first large Municipality to establish library that met the requirements of a modern public library was Boston, which opened doors of its library to the public on March 20,
1854. The concept of public library was suggested in a letter by George Ticknor, Smith Professor of the French and Spanish language at Harvard to Daniel Webster in 1826, seven years before the Peterborough Library was established.

The prime force in the establishment of library was the zeal of Mayor Josiah Quincy. Also, important in the movement were George Ticknor, Edward Everett, and Mayor Joseph Bigelow, who followed Josiah Quincy as Mayor in 1849. The Athenaeum had been established in 1805, an outgrowth of the Anthology Society organized to continue publication of the monthly, ‘Anthology and Boston Review’, about to go out of existence. The next step was establishment of an Anthology Reading Room and Library with annual of 10 dollars. When the library opened on January 1, 1807, there were more than 1,000 volumes and French, English and American periodicals (Thompson, 1952). The library began operation by opening to the public the first of its two rooms in the Mason Street Schoolhouse on March 20, 1854. It was open daily (except Sunday) from 9:00 A.M to 9:30 P.M and all inhabitants of Boston over sixteen years of age might use it. A single volume might be withdrawn for home use for the fourteen days on signature agreement to observe library rules by select list of people, including city officials, employees, ordained ministers, teachers in private schools, and benefactors. Other inhabitants of the Boston who wished to borrow a book had to deposit full value of the book with the librarian. The first librarian appointed by the Council, Edward Capen was a Harvard M.A. who later became the graduate of Harvard Divinity School, and served as a clergyman for several years.
During the later part of 19th century and beginning of 20th century, Scottish-American businessman, Andrew Carnegie donated over $60 million, to build over 2,811 free public library buildings in the United States, often known as Carnegie libraries. Carnegie envisioned that libraries would "bring books and information to all people". Many libraries were started with Wills from other benefactors like the Bacon Free Library in South Natick, Massachusetts, founded in 1881 after a benefactor left $15,000 in a Will. It has been functioning as a public library since then (Whitehill, 1956).

Once the idea of the public library as an agency worthy of taxation was broadly established during the 19th and early 20th century, librarians, through American Library Association and its division, the Public Library Association, sought ways to identify standards and guidelines to ensure quality service (Whitehill, 1956, p. 108). Legislation such as the Library Services Act and the Library Services and Construction Act ensured that unserved areas and unserved groups would have access to library services. In 2009, with the economic downturn, many public libraries have budget shortfalls. The library in Darby, Pennsylvania found expenses were greater than revenues from local property taxes, State funds, and investment income. It was on the risk of closing, according to a newspaper report. At present, many public libraries in United States face budgetary problems. As local funding drops, libraries are turning to their endowments. Many libraries have foundations behind them to support them financially, and rely on the help of donors as well as local corporations for funds (Whithill, 1956).
2.6 Public Libraries: France

The National Library of France is one of the oldest libraries in the world still in service. It traces its origin to the Royal Library, founded at the Louvre by King Charles V in 1368. But, at the time, it was conceived as the private library of the French kings. It was opened to the public in 1692, during the reign of Louis XIV. Claude Sallier, the philologist and churchman, had an idea that was advanced for its era - to make culture accessible to all. From 1737 to 1750, he made books available to the town of Saulieu, forming France’s first public library. The pioneer of modern public libraries in France was Eugène Morel, a writer and one of the librarians at the Bibliothèque Nationale. He put forward his ideas in the 1910, in his book, ‘La Librairie publique’ (Benoit, 2008).

2.7 Public Libraries: Italy

The National Central Library in Florence is the biggest public library in Italy. The Malatestiana Library (Italian: Biblioteca Malatestiana), also known as the Malatesta Novello Library, is a public library dating from 1452 in Cesena, Emilia-Romagna (Italy). It was the first European civic library belonging to the Commune and open to everybody. It was commissioned by the Lord of Cesena, Malatesta Novello. The works were directed by Matteo Nuti of Fano (a scholar of Leon Battista Alberti) and lasted from 1447 to 1452 (Wikipedia, 2014).

2.8 Public Libraries: Poland

The Załuski Library (Polish: Biblioteka Załuskich, Latin: Bibliotheca Zalusciana) was built in Warsaw 1747–1795 by Józef Andrzej Załuski and his brother, Andrzej Stanisław Załuski, both Roman Catholic bishops. The library was open to the public and indeed was
the first Polish public library, the biggest in Poland and one of the earliest public libraries in Europe. In 1794, the library was looted on orders from Catherine II of Russia. Much of the material was returned in the period of 1842-1920. But, once again, the library was decimated during World War II, during the period following the Warsaw Uprising. The Zaluski Library was succeeded by the creation of the National Library of Poland (Biblioteka Narodowa) in 1928 (Wikipedia, 2014).

2.9 Public libraries in India

2.9.1 Before 16th Century

Libraries were established and supported in ancient times in India by the kings and emperors. The great Sanskrit poet-scholar, Bambhatta who composed his famous work ‘Kadambari’, managed the palatial library of the King Bhoj (Chohan, 1998). The Chinese pilgrim, Fahein spent about six years in India in the beginning of 5th century A.D. He collected authentic Buddhist scriptures and recorded in his notes about the Buddhist kingdoms and Jatavana Monastery as chief places of learning with well preserved libraries and reading rooms where scholars and religious teachers gathered and made use of the storehouse of knowledge (Government of Jammu and Kashmir State, 1998: Gupta and Singh, 2006). Another Chinese Buddhist monk and scholar, Hiuen Tsang, visited India a couple of centuries later than his predecessor, Fahein. He observed more scholarly activity and a developed library culture in Nalanda and other places in the country. After 30 years of this, I-Tsing visited Nalanda University in Bihar and made use of the resources of the library. The library had a good collection of books covering universe of knowledge and he got copied about 400 Sanskrit works comprising 5,00,000 verses.
During this period, the use of the library was limited to scholars. Other Indian universities such as Vikramshila and taxila also had their own library of valuable books (Archives Department, 1918).

The Mughal period gave a further stimulus for growth of libraries. The rulers believed that their existence also relied on being educated and knowledgeable and hence, they gave importance to the social and cultural development of society. They established private libraries in their forts, courts. Babar’s daughter, Gul-Badan Begum owned her private library. Emperor Humayun set up library at Agra Fort and appointed Made Lal Beg as its Librarian. Akbar established great library with Faizi as its Librarian. The library contained Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic books. He was also instrumental in introducing reforms in the classification and storage of books. Jahangir is said to have maintained a personnel library which moved with him wherever he went.

2.9.2 16th – 19th Century

The name of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Panjab will be remembered with appreciation in the history of library services in India. The Maharaja of Tanjauar started the famous Sarsawati Mahal Library in the 17th century A.D. it remains as a unique institution in its nature of collection and services. The libraries established by the kings functioned like private institution and access to libraries were limited to kings, princes, the nominated scholars, rich persons and their loyalists ((Sathikumar 1993).

In 17th and 18th centuries, development of libraries received an impetus due to rise of European settlement in India. From 1690, Calcutta began to develop as one of the
The principal English settlement, when a large number of Britishers began to settle there. Subsequently, the circulation and subscription libraries came into being.

The East India Company established the Fort St. David library in 1707 at Cuddalore. In the year 1709, the Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge sent out a circulating library to Calcutta, the first of its kind in India. Subsequently, a number of such libraries were established in India. Notable among them were Fort St. George library (1714), East India Company’s library, Bombay (1715), John Andrews circulating library at Fort William, Calcutta (1770) and Calcutta Circulating library (1787).

Major landmark for the development of public library movement in India started with the enactment of Delivery and Registration of Publications Act of Bombay Government in May 1808. During the first half of the 19th century, three presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras had public libraries and these were mostly financed by Europeans residing in these towns (Jagdish, 1979).

A few public libraries started appearing sporadically during the same period in the country. Notable among them are Asha Granthalaya, Waltair (1800), Calcutta Literary Society’s Library (1818), United Services Library, Poona (1818), Raghunandan Library, Puri (1821) and Bombay General Library (1830). At Pondicherry, a public library was established under the name of Bibliotheque Publique in 1827 by Eugene Desbiessys de Richmont, the then Governor of Pondicherry. A public library, known as Public Livaria was established as early as in 1832 at Panaji by Viceroy Dom Manvel De Portugal Casto. The Library was originally attached to Academia Militar, a military training institution. In 1836, the name of the library was changed to Bibliotheca Nacinal de Nova, Goa.
Among these, establishment of public library at Calcutta in the 1835 was the most significant. It was meant to serve the needs of all ranks and classes without distinction. This library later became National library of India.

In 1860, a small library was established by Jesse Mitchell in Madras as a part of the Museum. It was opened to the public in 1896. It was named Connemara Public Library. This library can be claimed to be the first true public library, and only a nominal refundable deposit was collected. In 1948, it became State Central library.

In 1867, Government of India enacted the Press and Registration of Books Act (XXV), under which the publisher of a book was supposed to deliver free, to the provincial government concerned, one copy of the book and one or two more copies, if the provincial government so desired, to be transmitted to the central government. This legal tool has influenced the collection development of the public libraries in country.

In 1876, Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna was established. Maulvi Muhammad Baksh Khan, on his death left a collection of 1500 manuscripts. It formed the nucleus of the library. In 1891, the library was opened to the public. Asafia Library was established in 1891 due to the sustained efforts of Moulvi Syed Hussain Bigrami, the then Director of Public Instruction in Government of Hyderabad. It was named after Asaf Jha Dynasty as Kutubkhana Asafia.

2.9.3 20th Century (Before Independence)

The Imperial Library was also established at Calcutta in 1891. Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India promulgated the Imperial Library Act 1902, which is based on Registration of
Books Act of 1867, amalgamating Calcutta Public Library with Imperial Library. Soon after independence, Government of India passed the National Library Act in 1948 following which the Imperial Library was renamed as the National Library of India.

The contribution made by the Maharaja Sayyaji Rao Gaekwad III to public library movement in India is highly remarkable. He visited United States of America and was deeply impressed with role played by public libraries in promotion of education. He thought of extending the library services to public in his State. Thus, He invited Mr. M.A. Borden, an American Librarian in 1910 to introduce a scientifically organized free and open access public library system in Baroda. He established Statewide free Public library network. According to Annual Report of the Baroda Library Department, by the year 1940-41, there were four district central libraries, forty two town libraries, 1351 village libraries and 300 travelling libraries in the Baroda State. As a result of this within two decades, 85 percent of the urban and rural population in the State of Gujarath had access to libraries. Borden also established the first Library School in India and trained his own assistants and successors. He also developed a library classification scheme, especially suited to Indian libraries. Further, he was instrumental in the foundation of Baroda Library Club and its journal called ‘Library Miscellany’ (published quarterly in three languages between 1912 and1919 (Kaula, 1965).

At the same time, in Punjab, Asa Don Dickinson founded the Punjab Library Association in 1915. Dickinson published ‘The Punjab Library Primer’ in1916 which was the second Library Science publication in India. (Taher, 1994). The Modern Librarian Journal was published by the Punjab Library Association, in 1930.
In Andhra Pradesh, Library employees started publishing a journal, Granthalaya Sarvaswamu, in Telugu language. Another journal in English, ‘The Indian Library Journal’ also started its publication in 1921 in Andhra Pradesh.


The first Conference of Library Workers and persons interested in Library Movement were held at Beswada, Andhra Pradesh in 1914 and the first All India Library Conference of Librarians, sponsored by Government of India was held on 04 August 1918 at Lahore. The first national association, Indian Library Association was launched in Calcutta in 1933. The first All India Library Conference was held at Calcutta in 1933 and the first All India Public Library Conference was held at Madras in 1934 (Kaula, 1965).

Between 1937 and 1942, a number of village libraries and traveling libraries sprang up in Assam, Bihar, Punjab and Travancore. It was estimated that in 1942, there were about 13,000 village libraries in India (Verma and Agarwal, 1994). One more important development was the appointment of Library Development Committee by the Government of Bombay, with A. A. A. Fyzeeas its Chairman. The committee recommended that comprehensive library system be implemented in three successive stages. Because of financial constraints, the government could implement only a part of the recommendations.
The Library development Committee, Bombay was one of the important landmarks in the history of library movement in India. This committee was appointed by the Government of Bombay, under the chairmanship of A. A. A. Fyzeein in 1939. The committee prepared a report and submitted in 1940. The committee recommended that the Government should encourage private libraries by giving financial assistance, and establishment of one State Central Library at Bombay and one Regional Library at Pune. The Committee further recommended for the establishment of one District Central Library and one Taluka Library in each District and Taluka place in the State of Bombay (Chakrabarti, 1993).

2.9.4 20th - 21st Century (after Independence)

Origin of National Library, Calcutta can be traced to the Calcutta Public Library, which came into existence in 1835. The Calcutta Public Library and an Imperial Library, formed in 1881 were amalgamated in 1903 to become the Imperial Library of Colonial India, and finally, it was named as National Library by Government of India in 1948.

The establishment of the Delhi Public Library, involvement of the Union Government in Public Library movement, and enactment of Public Library Laws are some of the main issues which contributed towards the improvement and expansion of public libraries in independent India.

The most significant development after the independence of the India was the establishment of Delhi Public Library. The Public Library was started in 1951 as the first UNESCO Public Library Pilot Project under the joint auspices of UNESCO and Government of India. The purpose of this library was to adopt “Modern Techniques to
Indian Conditions” and to serve as a Model Public Library for Asia. The Delhi Public Library provides completely free service to all, taking into consideration the modern concept of public library service. The success of Delhi Public Library service is due to the adequate finance, trained personnel and government patronage. However, the authorities have not paid due attention to improve it. Delhi Public Library System reflects in the poor status of public library scenario in India (Verma and Agarwal, 1994).

Delivery of Books and Newspapers Act was passed in 1954. The Act made it mandatory for publishers in India to deposit a copy of every book they published with the National Library in Calcutta; the Asiatic Society (Central) Library, Bombay; Connemara Public Library, Madras; and the Delhi Public Library. Based on books received under this Act, Indian National Bibliography (INB) is being published by the Central Reference Library, Calcutta.


An Advisory Committee (Sinha Committee) was appointed in 1957 to take stock of public library system in the country and suggest the measures for the improvement of the system.

The objectives of the Dr. Sinha Committee were:

- Determining present reading needs, how they are met, and what part existing library system play in the meeting the needs;
- Determining reading tastes, what agencies provide suitable literature, and how reading tastes can be improved;
- Recommending future library structure in India;
- Recommending areas of cooperation between libraries and education systems;
- Considering the training of librarians and the condition of their service and
- Recommending the administrative and financial measures necessary to support public libraries in India (Ministry of Education, India, 1961).

The committee submitted its report on 12 November 1958 to Dr K. L. Shrimali, the then Minister for Education, New Delhi. The committee described the situation as dismal and called libraries in most cases, “a stagnant pool of books,” because new books were not added regularly. The committee also observed that where large collection did exist, they
were not fully used. The following are the some of the important recommendations made by the committee:

- Each State should have Public Library System under the control of State Library Authority.

- Each State should have an independent Directorate of Social Education and Libraries.

- In each State, Library Cess of 6 Paisa per Rupee in the Property Tax might be levied.

In the nutshell, the Committee recommended development of public libraries along a hierarchical model with the National Central Library at the apex, followed by State Central libraries, District Central libraries, Block (sub-district) libraries and Panchayat (village) libraries. However, this has not been implemented to date.

The Planning Commission appointed a Working Group on Libraries in 1965 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. K. R.V Rao. The Committee prepared a report and submitted in 1966. The Working Group suggested balanced development of public library services for the five years during the fourth five year plan. (1966-71). The Group also presented prospective plan for the next 15 years. Main recommendations of the Committee include:

- Creation of a separate Division / Branch for library affairs.

- Setting up of three model public libraries in the country on the model of Delhi Public Library.

Again, the Planning Commission set up Working Group on Modernization on Library Services and Information, under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Seshagiri to give report on
modernization of library services and informatics for the 7th five year plan (1985-90). The report was submitted in July, 1984.

The Working Group made following recommendations:

- Public library development activities should co-ordinate with activities of other agencies such as Social Education departments, Extension activities of Department of Agriculture etc.

- Enactment of Public Library Law should be given top priority.

- Network of public libraries need to be planned and developed in all the States.

Enactment of Copyright Act 1957 was another landmark in the history of public library movement in India. The new Copyright Act, 1957 incorporated an extensive list of ‘fair dealing’ exemptions, including the right of public libraries to make up to three copies of books that were not available for sale in India. Research users of previously unpublished library resources were given the fair dealing right to reproduce them in publications provided the reproduction was accompanied by an identification of the author. At a general level, the statute protected ‘fair dealing’ uses of literary, artistic, musical and dramatic works from the ambit of infringement if the purpose was for private use, including for research. This potentially made the public library amenable to a range of uses by its members without the fear of prosecution.

The most remarkable phase of the library movement in our country is the year 1972 when Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation was established by Government of India in memory of the great social reformer, Raja Rammohun Roy, who stressed the need for
modern education for the progress of the nation. The Foundation was established to spread library services all over the country in active co-operation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and Voluntary Organizations (NGOs) working in the field. Main objectives of RRLF are:

- Promotion of library movement in India;

- Adoption of national library policy by the Central and State government;

- Development of a national library system by integrating the services of national libraries, State central libraries, District central libraries and other types of libraries;

- Propagation and adoption of library legislation in the country;

- Provision of financial and technical assistance to libraries;

- Provision of financial assistance to voluntary organizations and library associations for the promotion of library development in India;

- Periodic publication of reports on library development;

- To act as a clearing house for ideas and information on library development in India and abroad;

- To advise Government of India on the matters related to library development; and

- Promotion of research in problems of library development in India (Baraua, 1994).

The Foundation has taken long strides in promoting library services in the country. With the expanded activity during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the total Plan grant reached Rs. 3233.00 lakh against Rs. 1175.70 lakh during the 8th Five Year Plan from the Government of India with an average annual plan grant at Rs.646.60 lakh, and State’s
contribution reaches Rs. 1977.00 against Rs. 645.97 lakh during the 8\textsuperscript{th} Five Year Plan with an average annual contribution at Rs.395.40 lakh. During 10\textsuperscript{th} Five year Plan, the plan grant stepped up to Rs.1150.21 lakh including a special grant of Rs.150.21 lakh for North-Eastern States and contribution received from various State governments also reached Rs.769.59 lakh. Consequently, the amount of assistance rendered to libraries during 10\textsuperscript{th} Five year plan period reached Rs.1756.29 lakh against the annual average of Rs.701.20 lakh during the 9\textsuperscript{th} Five Year Plan. Over the last thirty-two years, the Foundation has covered more than 31,000 libraries at different levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Central Libraries</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional and District Libraries</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Divisional / Taluka / Tehsil Libraries</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town &amp; Rural Libraries</td>
<td>30134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nehru Yuvak Kendras</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawahar Bal Bhavans</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>31563</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: [http://rrrlf.nic.in/achivfrm.htm](http://rrrlf.nic.in/achivfrm.htm)

2.10 National Policy on Library & Information System (NAPLIS)

In 1985, a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyay to formulate a National Policy on Library & Information System (NAPLIS) (Chatoopadhyay, 1998). The Committee submitted its report in May 1986. Following this, another Committee looked at implications of the report and created an Action Plan for its implementation (Bhatacharjee, 2002). The Empowerment Committee submitted its
report in April 1988 and an Implementation Cell was formed to implement its recommendations within a period of six months. Yet another Working Group, under the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Culture, was constituted to examine its recommendations for implementation. The Working Group submitted its report in July 1993 and suggested implementing only 29 of 60 recommendations made by the NAPLIS.

The following are some of the recommendations of NAPLIS related to public libraries:

- Proposals for maintenance and development of public libraries should preferably come from State Legislative Enactment.

- The Central Government may revise the Model Public Library Bill. Funds for library development should come from each State, either from general revenue or from local taxation. Central Government agencies may provide funds under Plan Expenditure.

- Efforts should emphasize rural public libraries. A village or a cluster of villages with an adequate population should have a community library/rural community centre, which will also serve as an information centre. Resources from various agencies engaged in the public health, adult education, State and central government, should be used to build up and maintain this centre.

- The central government should increase its assistance to State governments in the development of public libraries. RRRLF, as the national agency for coordinating and assisting the development of public libraries, should be suitably strengthened in order implement the above mentioned recommendations.

- Standards and guidelines for library service should be created.
- There should be a system of national libraries consisting of National Library, Calcutta (Now Kolkata) as the National Library of India, National Depository Libraries in Delhi, Bombay (Now Mumbai), Madras (now Chennai), National Subject Libraries, and others. These national libraries should form part of one integrated system.

- A National Commission on Libraries and Information System or National Commission on Informatics and Documentation may be constituted by an Act of Parliament to serve under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Commission will have representation from appropriate central and state agencies and could provide guidance and coordinate library development programs in all sectors. This body will have the primary responsibility for the implementation of NAPLIS programs.

- National Depository libraries; Connemara Public library, Chennai; Central Library (Asiatic Society), Bombay; and Delhi Public Library, Delhi should concentrate on development of document collection and preservation of Indian culture produced in the languages of their regions, supplementing and complementing the efforts of the Indian National Library.

- The Indian National Bibliography should have a comprehensive coverage of the national output of documents and should be updated regularly. This responsibility should be vested in the National Library.

- Government should create national awareness of the need to preserve the nation's cultural heritage. National libraries should be responsible for preservation of documents, and preservation facilities needs to be created there. Links between
libraries, archives, and museums should be established for the purpose of national preservation.

- Ministry of Rural Development has a plan for one Community Centre in every Panchayat Centre. The Department of Culture and the Ministry of Rural Development have agreed to provide library services at each of these Rural Community Centers.

- An important link should be established between Community Centre library and primary schools. If the schools do not have libraries of their own, the Community Centre Library should provide children with adequate services.

- Community centre library should have an important role in adult education programs.

- A district library should provide facilities and recreation for the disabled and low-income people, e.g., literature in Braille.

- Libraries should be built in areas of tribal concentration and in minority communities to help in developing and sustaining their distinctive cultures.

- Libraries should be equipped with relevant resources, such as publications covering Open University and vocational educational courses, for their role in support of distance education.

- All public libraries within a State should form a part of the network extending from village library through Community centre library, district library, and state network, and should be linked to the national information grid (Sahib, 2003).
2.11 Development of Public Libraries during I – X Five Years’ Plans

1951-1956 – First Five Year Plan Period

The first five-year plan for educational development included a proposal for “Improvement of Library Service.” This proposal envisioned a network of libraries throughout the country, coordinated by National Central Library, New Delhi (Planning Commission of India, 1952). During the first five-year plan, nine State governments, i.e. Assam, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Savarashtra, Bhopal, and Madhya Pradesh, decided to set up State Central Libraries (Sharma, 1996).

1956-1961 – Second Five Year Plan Period

At this time, the government allocated funds to set up a national network of public libraries in 320 districts. As a result, most States established State Central Libraries and District Libraries as the main distributing centers (Planning Commission, India, 1956).

1961 – 1966 Third Five Year Plan Period

During this period, the system of Central government assistance to the States was changed, and funding for libraries was kept to a minimum. It was up to the individual States to take initiative and develop their public libraries. The program to assist State governments in establishing State central libraries, district central libraries, and block development libraries was abandoned. The decision was a major setback to the development of public libraries. During this period four national libraries were established at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.
1969-1974  Fourth Five Year Plan Period

This plan proposed a substantial sum for the social education program. A much lower sum was allocated. Of this, only a very small amount was available for the development of public libraries in the country.

1974-1979  Fifth Five Year Plan Period

No importance was given to public library system during this period.

1980-1985  Sixth Five Year Plan Period

This plan emphasized establishing a network of rural public libraries to sustain literacy and disseminate information to rural areas. It discussed the necessity of integrating school and college libraries with the system of public libraries. By 1982, 26 States and Union Territories out of 31 States had established State Central libraries and 291 district libraries.

1985-1990  Seventh Five Year Plan Period

During this period, the Commission's objective was to address the needs of 90 million people in the Adult Education Program. The network of libraries was to play a role in the development of literature for neo-literates. Library systems were to be strengthened, with specific attention given to improvement of facilities at national level institutions. An important development was the adoption of National Literacy Mission in 1986, which emphasized the education of women and the establishment of rural libraries. In addition, RRRLF set up an Integrated Research Cell-cum-Computer Unit for promoting research in
During this period, it was proposed to reorganize the Central Reference Library into the National Bibliographical and Documentation Centre, which would also have a Computer Centre. The Delhi Public Library set up two new libraries in its service area. RRRLF implemented programs to (i) help State central libraries to purchase reprographic equipment, (ii) help libraries process rare books, and to give special assistance to networks of public libraries that were at least 100 years old (Planning Commission, India, 1992).

1997-2002 Ninth Five Year Plan Period

During the 9th five year plan, the National Library, Kolkatta, undertook several major initiatives to upgrade and modernize its collection building program, Reader services, and Conservation of library material. The major activities completed during the period were automation of the circulation system in the lending section, setting up of a local area network, improved reader services, and more efficient collection management. Modern equipment were provided to preserve rare books and other materials. The Central Reference Library, Kolkatta computerized various functions during the Ninth Plan. As a result, the publication of the Indian National Bibliography is now up to date, with records available online.
Funds were provided to the Delhi Public Library and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi, for acquisition of new material in different languages and media as well as for modernizing their infrastructure. The benefits of these efforts can be seen in improved reader services, networking, and resource sharing. The Central Secretariat Library organized a number of computer training programs for resource sharing, standardization of cataloguing formats, and co-operative acquisition.

Funds for modernizing and computerization were also provided from central grants to the Connemara Library, Chennai, Thanjavur Maharaja Serovji Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur and the State Central Library, Mumbai. Besides these, the RRRLF provided assistance to public libraries across the country for collections and storage, construction, and seminars and workshops (Planning Commission, India, 1997).

2002 – 2007 Tenth Five Year Plan Period

The Planning Commission proposed further modernization of central and public libraries during the Tenth Plan. A national bibliographic database was developed to encourage resource sharing, networking, and to improve reader services. The Commission resolved to strengthen public library infrastructure through the RRRLF. The Tenth Plan focused on upgrading existing libraries, including private collections, and widening the program for bibliographic control and documentation. To make readers’ services more comprehensive and effective, the National Library is expected to act as the ultimate Referral centre for various subjects. To keep pace with the latest developments in information technology in public libraries, the upgrading and networking of central and state libraries was also planned (Planning Commission, India, 2002).
Planning Commission decided to drop National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS) scheme during 11 plan period. Considering the acute shortage of facilities in the public libraries and the need to improve them, it was proposed to set up a National Library Mission with the mandate of addressing the problems of the public library sector and bringing their facilities to an optimum level within a period of three to five years. The Library Mission was assigned the following tasks:

- Undertake a national census of public libraries so as to create an adequate database about the infrastructure up-gradation programs for public libraries in association with the State Governments;

- Undertake a widespread training program for overall human resource development in the library sector with a sense of urgency’

- Undertake and encourage R & D projects in the library sector for customizing technology for Indian conditions;

- Take-up special schemes for improving the collection in public libraries and help create locally relevant materials;

- Create special materials with technological support for visually challenged and hearing impaired persons;

- Creation of at least one Knowledge Centre per block; and

- Undertake networking of public libraries in the country.
At the end of the Mission, it is hoped that the public libraries of the country would have acquired technological competence and infrastructure facilities of a pre-set standard. The Working Group recommended an outlay of Rs.50000 lakhs for 11th five-year plan and Rs.7000 lakhs for the Annual Plan 2007-08 (Planning Commission, 2007).

2.12 Public Libraries in Karnataka

Early libraries Karnataka State were established and supported by kings. Kings of Vijayanagara Empire established good libraries and also they had donated land for the libraries. Tippu Sultan established a personal library. Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar and his successor, Jayachamrajendra Wodeyar undertook translation of ancient books into Kannada language and the translated books were distributed free of cost to interested institutions. Epigraphic evidences are available to show that many libraries attached to universities and Religious Maths did exist. Some such centers where university prospered were Ihole, Pavatiage, Nagai and Balligavi (Deshpande, 1962).

The Karnataka State was divided in to the five parts during the British period:

1. Mumbai Karnataka comprising of Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwad and Karwar districts;

2. Hyderabad Karnataka comprising of Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur districts;

3. Madras Karnataka comprising of Bellary, Dakshina Kannada districts;

4. Union Territory comprising of Kodagu district; and

5. Old Mysore comprising of remaining Nine districts.
2.12.1 Public Libraries in Mumbai Karnataka

The first modern public library in Karnataka was started at Belgaum in 1848, known as Sarvajanik Library by J. D. Inveralty, the then District Collector. First Reading room was started in Shahapur in the year 1834. It was purely a private one with five books and one magazine to start with. Other Public libraries were started at Khanapur (1863), Gokak (1865), Athani (1865), Chikkodi (1866), Saundatti (1870) Nippani (1875) and all were described as 'native libraries. The Siddheshwar Mofat Vachanalaya of Athani was inaugurated by Lokamanya Tilak in 1917 (Gazetteer of Belgaum District, 1987).

Native General Library, Bijapur established prior to 1890 was being run in a portion of the Taj Bavdiarches which were in possession of the Municipality and used for office work. In 1890, the Municipality gave a free site, on which the Sarvajanik Vachanalaya with the help, partly of Municipal contribution and partly of public donations was constructed.

The Shrimant Ramabai Saheba Vachanalaya, Jamkhandi was established on 25th June 1905 by a band of selfless workers who were infused with the national spirit of Lokamanya Balgangadhar Tilak. It was Free Library meant for common man. Bhalchandra Wachan Mandir, Tikota, in Bijapur taluk, was founded in 1917 to offer library facilities to the reading public (Gazetteer of Bijapur District, 1966).

The Hindi Pracharak Sangha established a library, named as Arvind Hindi Library. In 1928, the library was registered as a first grade library. This was affiliated to the Karnataka Regional Library, Dharwar. Now, the library owns 8000 books and has a
Reading room providing leading Kannada, Marathi, Hindi and English dailies, weeklies and monthlies.

The Vidyarthi Sangha Sarvajanika Vachanalaya, Nidagwandi, Bagewadi Taluk was established in the year 1957 for the benefit of the people residing in and around Nidagwandi village. (Gazetteer of Bijapur District, 1966, p. 467). The Basaveshvar Vachanalaya, Kondgili, Sindhagi Taluk, was also started in March, 1932 with the object of spreading reading habit and knowledge among the population. These libraries were financed chiefly by well-to-do cultivators. Shri Kalmeshwar Library at Huvin-Hippargi was started in 1942 with the object of spreading knowledge among the rural population. The number of members on its rolls was more than 100, and there was a good collection of books on various subjects.

The Shri Sharada Vachanalaya was started at Hire Kodagali, Hungund Taluk, in 1941 with a membership of 75. There were 365 books in the institution as on the 1st October 1965. The reading room is well stacked with newspapers and periodicals. About 800 villagers make use of the library and Reading room. The day-to-day administration of the library is vested in a Managing Committee.

Hardinge Library, Bagalkot, which was functioning since the year 1868 was renamed as Sarvodaya Vachanalaya in 1949. There were about 3,000 books in the library in English, Kannada, Marathi and Hindi (Gazetteer of Bijapur District, 1966). Curdoz Library was established in 1894 in Gadag city.
Karnataka Vidya Vardhak Sangha, Dharwad came into existence in 1889 with establishment of a library as one of its objectives. Later, Shantesh Wachanalaya of Dharwar, was merged with Karnataka Vidya Vardhak Sangaha. The library of the Sangha aimed at rendering services to Kannadigas. In 1947, Government of Bombay, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Library Development Committee, entrusted the management of the Karnataka Granthalaya (Karnatak Regional Library) to the Sangha.

The Karnataka Library Association also became very active. The Association secured recognition from the State government (Bombay Government) in 1950 and started receiving annual grant-in-aid. Its constitution was finalized. The association published a book on Library Science, written in Kannada by experts. It also conducted library training classes. Compilation of a Directory of Librarians (in Kannada) had been contemplated by it. Under the auspices of the Association, Second Bombay Karnataka Library Conference was held in 1948 at Dharwad. The third and fourth Conferences were held at Kundgol and Kumta in 1952 and 1953 respectively. The fifth conference was held in 1958 at Dharwad. The important outcome of these conferences was the decision to transform Karnataka Library Association into that of an all India stature.

The Marathi Mandal, Dharwad was established in the year 1927 with the object of preserving and promoting Marathi language and literature. The Mandal was housed in its own building near the District Court, and runs a Marathi library. The institution also arranges other literary and cultural functions. (Gazetteer of Dharwad District, 1959, p. 753).
Shri Saraswati Vidyaranga Free Library was started in 1922. It was housed in a rented building in the heart of the city. Its object is to maintain a well stocked library and Reading room. The organizers of this institution collected donations in the form of rice, and the library and Reading room were run on the sale proceeds of the rice so collected. It is this spirit of devotion that is mainly responsible for the growth of a network of libraries serving the needs of the citizens in the area (Gazetteer of Dharwad District, 1959).

2.12.2 Public Libraries in Hyderabad Karnataka

In comparison to other regions, public libraries movement in Hyderabad Karnataka is not so good, even though some of the libraries did existed in the region. The Hyderabad Karnataka area comprises the districts of Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Koppal.

Prior to the introduction of the Karnataka Public Libraries Act, 1965, there were two public libraries in Bidar district, one at Bidar city and the other at Hudgi village in Humnabad taluk. The public library and Reading room in Bidar city, established in 1939, is oldest grant-in-aid library in the district. In 1976, it contained 5,000 books worth Rs.50,000 and 125 members. On an average, 100 to 150 persons make use of the library daily.

The Sarvodaya Library, Hudgi, was started in 1956, with its own building. By 1975, it contained 2,846 books worth about Rs. 15,000. It has 190 registered members, and daily, on an average, 85 persons make use of it. The institution has a trained Librarian, assisted by a Library Assistant.
The Municipal Library in Bidar, was started in 1959. In 1975, it contained 4,381 books worth about Rs. 20,000. It had 436 registered members, and daily, on an average, 410 persons make use of it. It is housed in its own building and has a Librarian in charge of it. Sri Manik Prabhu Vachanalaya, Manik Nagar, was established in 1955 and was registered under the Karnataka Registration of Societies Act, 1960. In 1975, it contained 1,547 books worth about Rs. 5,000. It has 20 registered members, and daily, on an average, 40 persons make use of it.

Bharateeya Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Bidar, came into existence in 1966 and it was registered in 1968. Establishment of educational institutions, organization of training courses and maintenance of a library are the objectives of the Sangha. The National Youth Club, Chitaguppa, was started on 1st November 1973 and it was affiliated to the District Youth Service Board. It has 42 youth members. Newspapers and magazines are subscribed by each member. These are made available to the public in a Reading room (District Gazetteer, Bidar, 1977).

2.12.3 Public Libraries in Madras Karnataka

The Karnad Sadasiva Rao Central Library, Mangalore, was started in 1951. It is located at an elevated place near the Light House and the Tagore Park. It has fast developed into a big library and, as in 1973, there were 39,071 books in it worth about Rs. 2,15,000. It was also getting nine dailies and 128 magazines in different languages. The Nehru Memorial Library, Manipal, is a public library, started in 1956 by Academy of General Education. It is housed in its own building constructed at a cost of Rs.1,30,000. As in 1972, it had a collection of books valued at about Rs.
:25,000. Daily, about 100 to 150 members make use of this library. It had on its rolls five life-members and 305 ordinary members in 1972 (Gazetteer of Dakshina Kannada, 1973).

### 2.12.4 Public Libraries in old Mysore area

The thought of development of public libraries throughout the State was expressed at the Conference of Education Committee convened in 1913, presided over by the then Diwan of Mysore. He sponsored a scheme for a planned program for development of public libraries’ facilities. As the outcome of that, two libraries were established, one at Bangalore and another at Mysore.

Bangalore United Services Library existed before 1905. It was situated on South Parade Road, Behind Gymkhana Pavilion and adjoining Mayo Hall. It had about 6000 books. It was managed by a Committee of six Members.

Srinivas Mandiran library was established in Bangalore in 1888 for collecting the oriental works. It received grants from the municipality earlier, and from 1894, the government started giving grant of Rs..600 / year. The public library, Bangalore was opened in 1st May 2015 under the direct control of the government at Sir Sheshadri Iyer Memorial hall built of public subscription of over lakhs of rupees. Membership was open on payment of a fee. It had a Reading room, open to non members also. Till 1920, it remained government institute and in 1920, it was converted to aided library. In 1932, it was handed over to society comprising 15 members. At that time, it had 215 members, 19318768 books and 9384 members. Lal Bagh Library, Bangalore was founded in 1858 by William New, the then Superintendent of the Lal Bagh Botanical Garden. It had rare
scientific books and journals related to all branches of horticulture and agriculture (Gazetteer of Bangalore District, 1959).

In July 1914, Yuvuraja Narsimharaja Wodeyar inaugurated the Public Library at Mysore which provided library and Reading room facilities to the public. It was housed in a hall of Chamarajendra Technical Institute. Registered in 1920, it was managed by a Committee of fifteen members. The District Adult Literacy Committee is maintaining a central library at the district headquarters, two city central libraries and 329 rural libraries besides two other libraries, one at Kolar and another at Narasapur for the benefit of the public.

An important feature of the library movement in the State is starting of an integrated library service, under a Government of India scheme of educational development. Each area under the scheme is supplied with periodicals, journals and books of interest, which are circulated among the villagers of that area.

The school libraries and educational libraries are under the control of the Department of Public Instruction, while the urban and rural libraries are under the control of the local authorities concerned. These libraries receive liberal grants from the Government. The public libraries are managed by committees and they also receive grants from the Government.

There were seven public libraries in Kolar district as on the 31st August 1967, namely, (i) Krishnarajendra District Library and Reading Room, Kolar, (ii) Vani Nilayam Free Reading Room and Library, Robertsonpet, Kolar Gold Fields, (iii) Reading Room and

The public library in Hassan was opened in the year 1916 by the Late Sir M. Vishveshvarayya, the then Diwan, in commemoration of the coronation of King George V and it was called “The King George Coronation Institute Library and Reading Room. In 1970, this library was converted to Hassan district central library, and in 1978, it was named as City Central Library. Reading room and library in Sakleshpur town was established in 1914. It was being managed by a Committee of members (Gazetteer of Hassan District, 1971).

A public library at Mandya district was established in 1940. During the year 1965-66, its document collection included 6,000 books in English and Kannada and about 125 books in Urdu. The library was getting a grant of Rs.500/year from the Government. A well-equipped Reading room is also attached to the library (Gazetteer of Mandya District, 1967).

Melkote town also has a public library founded in 1935. It is managed by a Committee of 15 members, including a President, a Vice-president, a Honorary Secretary and a Librarian. There were 4,600 books in English, Kannada, Hindi and Tamil as on the 1st April 1966. The institution is getting an annual grant from the Government and also from the Melkote Town Municipal Council. A Reading room is attached to the library.
2.13 Public Libraries in Karnataka State: Present Status

The Department of Public Libraries came into existence on 1st November 1966, consequent to the implementation of Mysore Public Libraries Act, 1965. The Act provided for the establishment of the public libraries. In Karnataka State, at present, there is one State Central Library in Bangalore and twenty six City Central Libraries located in district headquarters, where population is more than 1, 00,000. In addition to this, Thirty District Central Libraries, 490 Branch Libraries and 5766 Gram Panchayat Libraries are there. In addition, Government of Karnataka provides funds for 15 Mobile Libraries, and 42 aided Libraries (Government of Karnataka, 1965).

In the present study, an attempt is made to find out the status of public libraries offering services to public at district and taluka levels in Karnataka State. The results of the study are presented in Chapter 5.
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