CHAPTER 3

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

India has been the cradle of one of the earliest civilizations of the world. Libraries of today have been developed with the introduction of printing technology and with the advent of European education system in India in 19th Century. In the post-independence era, a major concern of the central and State Governments has been to give increasing attention to education as a factor vital to the national progress and security. Libraries have always been recognized as necessary appendages of learning. It has been the concern of the Govt. of India that a radial programme of developing library and information system would be essential for economic and cultural growth of the country. The availability of information expeditiously and pin pointedly supports all decision-making process at all levels. Relevant information helps accelerate the pace of national development and therefore, proper utilization of information can improve the quality and life style of a citizen.

3.1 History of Library Movement in India (Ancient Medieval and Modern)

Libraries in some form or other, though not strictly in functional form in the modern sense, existed in India since very old times. Reference is available to the effect that the great Sanskrit poet-scholar BANABHATT, who composed his famous work “Kadambari” managed the palatial library of the king “Bhoj”.1 Due
to the spread of liberal education all available manuscripts and other graphic materials were procured and arranged for use in almost all seats of learning, particularly in the Indian Universities at Nalanda, Taxila, Kanchi, Sridhanyakataka, Vikramasila and Varanasi (600 B.C). From the accounts of Yuang Chawang, (Chinese Traveller), who toured India from 673 to 687 A.D. and stayed at Nalanda for ten years, we learn that in the Nalanda University a good library was housed in a building called Ratnadadhi (Ocean of Gems), Ratnasagara (sea of Gems) Ratnaranjaka (Collection of Gems), which was a nine-storied building consisting of rare manuscripts, the sacred prajnaparamita Sutra and numerous Tantric works.2

In the middle ages some of the Sultans and Mughal Emperors had also set up royal and pompous libraries. Well-known among these libraries were set up by the Mughal Emperor Humayun at Agra fort with Lal Beg as Librarian; and a library established by Akbar with Faizi as Librarian. Among other rulers the names of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab will be always remembered with veneration in the history of library services in India. Maharaja of Tanjavur, who started Saraswati Mahal Library, can also be grouped with them. The Libraries known as Saraswati Bhandars were attached to temples, monasteries educational institutions, palaces and the houses of wealthy and influential people. The private libraries, however, were not thrown open to the public.

**Advent of the British**

On the advent of the British in India, with the treasure of knowledge they found in the country, they established the India
Office Library in London as early as 1789 and this has grown as the “largest specialist oriental library in existence”. In August 1835 the first public library was started at Calcutta from private resources. By 1850 public libraries came to be established in the three presidency cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras mostly for the benefit of the British residents. Other important libraries set up in nineteenth century are Andrews Library (1850) of Surat; Gaya public Library (1855) Gaya; Lang Library (1856) of Rajkot, Conmemera public Library (1860) of Madras; Govt Library (1867) of Junagarh, Adyar Library (1886) of Adyar Madras; Dahi Laxmi Library(1892) of Nadiad and others. Libraries of this period were used mostly by the members of the upper class and the elites and the lower starta of the society could not make use of these libraries.  

M.S. Gaikwad III and M.R Mahashay

The year 1903 is important in our public library history because it was on the 30th January of that year that the imperial library, Calcutta, now the National Library was opened by Lord Curzon. Special mention may be made of his highness the Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaikwad of Baroda and Kumar Munindra Dev Rai Mahashay of Bengal, whose single-minded devotion kindled the enthusiasm of others in the field and helped to carry the movement forward. The Maharaja Gaikwad invited an American librarian W.A Borden to build up a network of public libraries system for his state during a short span of three years 1907-10. He even donated his palace library containing 20,000 vols. for this purpose. The Baroda experiment served as a beacon light to lovers of libraries all over the country. There was in Baroda itself Amin Sahib who strove
hard to make libraries popular and helped in the setting up of the “Mitra-Mandal Libraries” in Gujurati speaking areas. In Andhra Pradesh it was purely a people’s movement which helped the growth of public libraries was spread through the efforts of the Madras Library Association which was founded in 1924. A number of village libraries, and even traveling libraries were established during the period. Munindra Dev Ray Mahashay, who formed Bengal Library Association in 1927, and T.C. Dutta also did a lot for promoting and supporting the library movement in the country in general and Bengal in particular. The Committee appointed is the Government under the Chairmanship of A.A.A. Fyzee in Bombay in the year 1939, also contributed to the development of public libraries. The next phase of public library movement began in 1937 when the Congress Party came into power in many provinces.

**Nineteenth Century**

From the middle of the nineteenth century libraries as institutions started appearing on the Indian social scene. The formal growth of the profession is inextricably linked with the development of the libraries. In the ensuing paragraphs a chronological conspectus is spelt out of the growth and development of libraries of various types, training facilities and library association in India.

The history of library movement in modern India can be traced from the advent of the Britishers. In reality the British contribution to the modernization of India was not note-worthy. Real shapes of modern library movement can be seen in the first half of the 19th century. It was during this period that public libraries were established with the active support of the Europeans at Calcutta,
Madras and Bombay. During 1808, the Bombay Government initiated a proposal to register libraries which would receive free copies of books published from the fund for the encouragement of literature. This proposal of Bombay Government may be regarded as the beginning of the library movement in modern India.

"Survey of India" was established in the year 1800 A.D. which collect and stored a large number of books. In 1804 Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was opened which had a fine Library. The Mythic Society Library was started in 1809. The Modern Literary Society Library was instituted at Madras in 1812 which had a rich collection of literature. Hindu College at Calcutta was established in 1817 which developed its library. Perhaps this is the oldest worth mentioning college library in India. The United Services Library at Poona was started in 1818. another important college library, namely, Agra college Library, Agra was established in 1823.4

In 1835 J. H. Stocquel, editor of the "Englishman" drafted a scheme for the establishment of a public Library in Calcutta. It was opened in Esplanade in July, 1841 which had 4675 volumes. By the year 1848 it had about 20,000 volumes. Later on, in 1903 this library became the Imperial Library of India and in 1948 it was renamed as National Library of India5. The year 1935 also saw the opening of Benaras Queen's College at Varanasi, which had a marvelous library, while Presidency College Library at Madras came into being in 1840. Indian copy Right Act was passed in 1847, which is a landmark in the history of Indian librarianship. The Poona City General Library was established in 1851, which had more than 30,000 volumes.
The famous education dispatch of Lord Dalhousie in 1854 gave incentive to the establishment of Universities in India. The Calcutta university was the first Indian University which was established on January 24, 1857. Universities of Madras and Bombay were also started in the same year. By the year 1860-61 MA Classes were started in Calcutta University. The library of Calcutta University was established during the year 1870 which was consulted by the faculty members, paper setters and administrative officers of the British Empire.

The Central College Library at Bangalore was opened in 1858. The world famous Connemara Public Library, Mardras established as a small museum library in the year 1890, became a large library by the year 1890. Babuji Deshmukh Vachnalya (Library) Akola, was also started in 1860, while Allahabad Public Library was established in 1864. The year 1867 saw the opening of Nilgiri Library at Ootacamund and Amaravati Nagar Vachnalya (Library) at Amaravati. During 1857 three libraries namely, "Meteorological office Library," "Zamia’s Nizamie Library" and Poona Albert Edward Institute & Cowasjee Dinshaw Hall and Library" were established. Indian Association of Cultivation of Science was started in 1876 which had a library too. Indian Research Association was also started in the same year. The famous Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna which was Originated by Maulavi Mohammad Baksh Khan had a collection of more than 14,000 volumes was left by Baksh Khan at the time of his death in 1876. This library had a large number of manuscripts also. It was opened to public in 1891.
Fergusson College Library in Maharashtra, which is also known as “Bai Jerbai Wadia Library” was established in 1882. Theosophical society Library, Madras and Bihar Hitaishi Library, Patna were instituted in 1883. Similarly, Morris College Library and Bishop College Library. Nagpur were opened in 1885. Adyar Library, which was founded in 1886 was known as temple of all faiths. It had about 60,000 volumes and 15,000 manuscripts including 10,000 bundles of Palm-Leaf manuscripts. Adyar Library had books in Archaeology, art history, philosophy and religion that were in various languages such as Tamil, Malyalam, Kannada, Telugu, Oriya, Bengali, Nepalese and Devnagri. It had a children section also.

Allahabad University was established in 1887, which had a large library. Nizam College Library was also opened in the same year. Poona Anand Ashram Library, Poona, was instituted in 1888. Botanical Survey of India was established in 1889 which had a library too. Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras was started in 1891 which is still famous for its rich collection of manuscripts in oriental languages. Indian Veterinary Institute was established in 1895 which had a nice collection of Books. Sinha Library and Khuda Baksh Library were manuscript libraries of the 19th century. Khuda Baksh Library is even today well known for its rich collection of Urdu, Persian and Arabic manuscripts, which were in addition to a good number of books in these languages.

The Vizianagram Maharaja’s Sanskrit library, founded in 1900 A.D., also had a very rich collection of books and manuscripts in Sanskrit. Although a few University libraries and a large number of Public and Special Libraries were established in India during the 19th century. The librarians working therein were not
professionally qualified. The documents of these libraries were kept under closed access while the librarians were their keepers or custodians.

A careful study of the preceding pages reveals that a good number of public libraries, college libraries; University libraries and special libraries were established during the nineteenth century. Most of these libraries were manned by part-time librarians, who were not trained in the skill of librarianship. They were more or less keepers or custodians of library material. Thus librarianship did not develop as a profession in India even in the nineteenth century.

**Twentieth Century**

**Pre-Independence Period (1901-1946)**

During the first half of the 20th century Imperial Library of India (1903) and quite a good number of special libraries i.e. libraries attached to societies, associations, research institutions, industrial organizations, commercial concerns, Govt. departments and their Research & Development Units, were established, providing special type of library services to the specialized group of clientele. In 1901, Mining, Geological land Metallurgical Institute of India was established and a library was organized within it. The Bombay Natural History Society was founded in 1902; Indian Mathematical Society in 1907; and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1909. These societies and institutes established their libraries, which had very rich collection in their subject fields. During the year 1910, the newly established organizations worth mentioning which had a good libraries are: Prince of Wales Sanskrit Bhavan; Kashi Vidyapeeth; Sanskrit College Library, Varanasi; Amirudaula
public Library, Lucknow; Servants of India Society and Central Library, Poona; and Oriental Research Institute, Baroda. The Bharat Itihas Sansodhaka Mandal Library had a fine collection of indological research all over the world. It was founded by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III had and about 25,000 manuscripts and over 50,000 printed books in the field of History, Philosophy, Art, Sculpture and Grammer.

Indian Institute of Philosophy, Amalner, was started in 1911, having excellent collection of Jainism. The Kannad Sahitya Parishad Library was established in 1915. The famous Zoological Survey of India Library was founded in 1916. The Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and Mysore University, Mysore, were also established in the same year, which are known for their splendid libraries. Bhadarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona came into being in 1917. Osmania University, Hyderabad, was established in 1918 and a library was attached to it. The first All India Public Library Conference was organized in Madras in 1919, which is a landmark in the Public Library movement in India. Indian Botanical Society and Indian Chemical Society were founded in 1921 and 1922, respectively. Aligarh Muslim University and Lucknow University were established in 1921, respectively, while Nagpur University was established in 1923. These Universities too had developed their Libraries, manned by part time librarians.

Madras University Library was the first Indian University Library which appointed a full-time librarian in year 1923. S.R Ranganathan was confirmed as its librarian in 1924. Andhra University, Waltair, Agra University, Agra and Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, were opened in 1926, 1927 and 1929, respectively. Institute of Engineers (India) was also founded
in 1929 which had a library, very rich in its collection. Possessing different types of documents in the field of Engineering and its allied subjects.

The first Asia Educational conference was organized from December 26-30, 1930 at Banaras. S R Ranganathan acted as Secretary of the Library Service Section of this Conference which drafted the Model Library Act for India. Indian Statistical Institute was established in 1932. It had facilities for teaching and research in a number of subjects and has one of the excellent libraries in India.

Indian Library Association (ILA) as founded in 1933 which became a common forum for librarians in India to discuss their professional problems and find viable solutions thereof. It struggled for development of library profession in India. Kerala University, Trivandrum was started in 1937 which has one of the best university Libraries in south India. In the year 1942, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established, which has 34 laboratories in different parts of India. The Research and Development (R&D) wings attached to these laboratories have highly specialized libraries, very rich in Scientific and technical literature. Two more Universities, Cuttack, Orissa in 1943 and Sagar University, Sagar, 19449. Anthropological Survey of India having an excellent library was instituted in 1946. In the same year, "Special Libraries" of the Indian Library Association was created in its Baroda conference (1946) which paved the way for establishment of Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) in the year 1955.
Post Independence Period (1947-83)

Prior to the partition of India, Punjab University Library was situated at Lahore, which was famous for its rich collection and facilities for training in librarianship. Consequently upon the partition of the country on August 15, 1947, the then state of Punjab was divided into two parts West Punjab (Pakistan) and East Punjab (India). East Punjab University Library, now known as "Punjab University Library", was reestablished in 1947 at Simla. In 1959 it was shifted to its own six-storey building in Chandigarh. At present it has more than 3 lacs volumes, including manuscripts, dissertations, reports, bound periodicals and very rare and precious documents in all fields of knowledge. The first Public Library Act was passed by Madras state in 1948, which was the result of constant efforts of S.R. Ranganathan. Report of the "Education Commision" (1948-49) also recommended proper attention to University Libraries in India. This helped the growth and development of all the University libraries in India.

Delhi Public Library was founded in Delhi in 1951 under a joint pilot project of UNESCO and Govt. of India. It was formally opened by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in October, 1951. Its objectives was to provide to the people of Delhi, a public library service using modern techniques, paying special attention to book service, problem of neo-literates and less educated people. After 4 years, this project was evaluated by Gardner, UNESCO Consultant, and reported that it was working satisfactorily and to have achieved its objective.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was instituted in 1950 which helped in the development of Medical libraries in the
country. In 1951, Aligarh Muslim University started Certificate Course in Library Science, in order to meet the demand of trained library personnel for Indian libraries. Indian institute of Technology (IIT) was also instituted in the same year. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC-now NISCAIR) was established in 1952 by Govt. of India with technical assistance from UNESCO. In 1953, the first volume of “Union Catalogue of Learned periodicals in South East Asia” compiled by Ranganathan and others was published. The year 1954 saw the passage of “Delivery of Books and Newspaper,” Act which was amended in 1956. Formation of Indian Association of special Libraries and Information centers “IASLIC” on September 3, 1955 is a landmark in the history of special libraries in India.

3.2 - Contribution of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

India’s contribution to library science began to blossom in 1925 when Ranganathan started pursuing research in this field. Prior to that, librarianship had been looked upon as a craft full of clerical operations and housekeeping for a collection of books and other kindred materials. Ranganathan changed the scene first by engaging himself in solo research, during the first 25 years, and then by organizing team research in the next 25 years of his life. The highlights of his contributions are indicated in the succeeding paragraphs and a chronological summary of his work and achievements is presented below.

Five Laws of Library Science

Perhaps the most far-reaching effect of Ranganathan’s contribution flows from his formulation of the five laws of Library science, viz.,
books are for use; every reader his book; every book, its reader; save the time of the reader; and a library is a growing organism.

The exciting cause for the formulation of these laws, as Ranganathan himself explained, was the unusual experience he gained while visiting more than a hundred libraries that were at varying stages of development- in their techniques, services, and in building and equipment- in the United Kingdom. There was no common point of emergence of the new trends in different library practices. All development appeared to be a matter of trial and error, and severely empirical. Ranganathan's scientific approach could not be reconciled to this state of affairs, and it led him to think deeply and search for a common root.

**Organization of Library and Information Systems**

The organization of library and information systems was one of the favorite activities of Ranganathan. He aimed at developing a legislation-based library network for public libraries. He drafted several library bills in order to achieve the acceptance of the concept of a public library system by various constituent states of India. In doing so, his work clarified the differential nature of various kinds of libraries, such as national libraries, state libraries, district libraries and city libraries. At the apex of a national library system, he suggested setting up a series of national central libraries, both for conservation and for book and kindred document services. His principal contribution in this field was his holistic approach to library systems development.
**Library Housing**

Ranganathan crystallized the theory and practice for library buildings and furniture through a pragmatic analysis of the functional layout needed for a library building. His experience was enriched by his studies in anthropometry, psychology, bibliometry and other economic factors in the establishment of standards for library buildings and the library furniture.12

**Professional Education**

Ranganathan's principal contribution lies in the fact that he established an edifice of high standards for the professional education of librarians in India. The establishment of postgraduate courses in the Universities, the curriculum and the textbooks for such courses, and the establishment of cadres for professional excellence were some of his important contributions. It was because of his efforts that India took the leads in establishing master's degree and Ph.D. courses in library science.

He initiated a considerable amount of research in teaching techniques for the different branches of library science. Several case studies of teaching techniques have been published. Procedures for setting guidelines for the establishment of standards for library education were started under the sponsorship of UGC. As the chairman of the Library Science Courses Committee, Ranganathan set a pattern for the courses in library science in the universities. Estimates of the staff needed and plans for raising the library manpower required to staff the public,
academic, and industrial and research libraries were also worked out. These plans were proposed in a flexible fashion, so as to be amenable to periodic reversions in the light of new developments in society and educational methodology.

Throughout his life, Ranganathan endeavored to mark out a path for library science. His objective was to find a theoretical base for the subject, which has intense practical implications. His contribution to library science stem from his inquiring mind, which was set in search of a structured pattern of paradigm for library science. Probably his creative ideas evolved from his education in mathematics. The integral nature of Ranganathan's theory emerged from occasional intuition; and his intellect strove to make it more explicit to the rational mind of the scientific worker. His contributions sometimes bordered on a poetic beauty and sometimes on an uncouth prose- but his life and work in the field of library science modeled an ever-inquiring mind, well expressed in the following lines from John Drinkwater's loyalties:13

Haunting the lucidities of life

That are my daily beauty, moves a theme

Beating along my undiscovered mind.

**Library Development Plans (Unpublished)**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>University of Delhi</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Library development plan for India</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>University of Allahabad</td>
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<td>University of Nagapar</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore</td>
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1948 University of Bombay
  Parliament Library, Delhi
1956 University of Mysore
1957 All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
1959 Scientific and Technical Information Centre
  for the Third Plan period, a draft for the
  planning commission
1964 National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore
  Mysore legislature
1965 All India Institute of Mental Health,
  Bangalore Library Building and Development
  plan for the Parliament Library, Delhi

**Library Bills And Development Plans (Unpublished)**

1931 Bengal
1946 Central Provinces and Berar
1947 Cochin

  Travancore

**Committee Work Within India**

1930-1944 Member, Academic Council,
  Madras University
1933-1935 Member, Imperial Library Committee
1942-1947 Member, Board of Management, Beasanta
  School, Kashi
1947-1966 Chairman, Documentation (sectional)
  Committee, Indian standards Institution, New
  Delhi
1948-1953  Member, Adult Education Council, Delhi Municipality

1948         Member, Committee on National Central Library

1948-1951    Member, National Library Committee

1958-1960    Chairman, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture Committee, Indian Standards Institutions, New Delhi

1958-1959    Chairman, Library Committee, university Grants Commission

1959-1961    Member, Banaras Hindu University court, Varanasi

1959         Consultant on Library Development plan, Kerala state, Chairman, Board of studies in library science, university of Madras

1960         Chairman, Review Committee on Library Science, university Grants Commission. Chairman, Library science Courses Committee, University of Madras Chairman, Expert committee on library science, Banaras Hindu University Member, Board of Studies in Library science, Osmania University Member, Board of Studies in Library Science, Utkal University, Chairman, Committee for Library Science Course, University of Mysore.

1961-1963    Chairman, Committee to Draft the Library Bill for Mysore State

1962         Chairman, Board of Studies in Library science, University of Kerala

47
1965 Member, Academic Council, Bangalore University, member, Gandhi Centenary Bibliographic Committee

1966 Member, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, New Delhi.

**Association Work**

1928-1953 Founder-Secretary, Madras Library Association
1930-1933 Member, International Library Committee of the World Association for Adult Education
1933-1972 Member, Indian Library Association
1937-1944 Vice-President, Indian Library Association
1944-1953 President, Indian Library Association
1949-1953 Secretary, Indian Adult Education Association
1953-1956 &
1958-1960 Vice-President, International Federation for Documentation
1953-1957 Vice-President, Madras Library Association
1958 Founded the Madhya Pradesh Library Association
1965-1972 Vice-president, Governing Council, Indian Statistical Institute

**Books Published**

General

1. Papers offered to the Library service section of the First All-Asia Educational Conference, 1930(edited).
8. Library Service for All, 1965 (edited with A. Neelameghan). 17

Organization

10. Model Public Library Bill, 1941.
17. Library personality and library bill, west Bengal, 1958.
Dr. Ranganathan contributed 1,500 articles to the professional literature. India was fortunate to find in the late Dr. S. R. Ranganathan an undaunted and dynamic leader who, along with many others in the field, vigorously advocated the cause of public libraries. In the third decade of the 20th century S. R. Ranganathan appeared on the scene like a radiant luminary. Since 1946, Dr. Ranganathan had been crying hoarse for the establishment of a National Central Library as an apex of the library system required for our country. He gave a picture of an entire library structure of our country in a book entitled: “National Library system: a plan for India”. A Model Library Act drafted by Dr. Ranganathan, was presented to the All Asia Educational Conference, which was convened at Banaras in 1930. This Act provided for the “Establishment and Maintenance of a system of public libraries and for the Comprehensive development and organization of city, rural and other classes of library services in the state.” Munindra Dev Rai Mahashay of Bengal, a great library enthusiast, was impressed with the model Library Act and tried hard to introduce the library bill in the Bengal Legislature in 1931. Though Dr. R. Ranganathan worked in the libraries of Academic institutions, owing to his efforts the Governments of four Indian states viz. Madras (Tamil Nadu), Andhra Pradesh, Mysore (Karnatak) and Maharashtra passed and enacted library legislation
in their states. Prof. Ranganathan is remembered for being the very soul, inspirer, builder and the crowning glory of the movement not only of the Madras state but of the entire country. His immortal achievement lies in ultimate generating the rhythm of public library services through legislation for countless millions in South India by his untiring efforts through Public Library Bills.

3.3 Library Legislation In India

India is a diverse federal country with wide variation in geographical, political, economic, cultural and educational backgrounds of its constituent states. In the field of public library service in India nothing probably is more difficult than to ascertain and describe the present situation, owing to non-availability of a consolidated picture. There are at present 28 states and 07 Union Territories. All of these have their own public library systems, structure and pattern of financial assistance.

When we look at what India has done in respect of library legislation in the background of the UNESCO declaration, we get a mixed picture.

The present Public Library System in India gives an impression that from the State Central Library down to the village library are well integrated in a hierarchical order there by constituting the State Library System. But the reality is different. Although Library consciousness was created through the length and breadth of the country even in pre-independence period, no organized efforts were made to give it a direction and shape at all India level. Even at state level, with library legislation is in operation for years, they tend to function in isolation. Necessary linkages, despite provision
for them in legislation, have not yet been established except in the city systems. Networking has nowhere been applied in organizing libraries. District Libraries are not given any central library are functions of centralized acquisition. Centralized processing and resource sharing.

Library service in a state is generally looked after by the Education Deptt. In some states multiple departments are involved in the management of public library service.

Public libraries in India generally provide lending and reading - room services. Mobile Library Services are limited to a few cities. They do not Stock textbooks for students. Audio - visual service through TV - Cum – VCRs are arranged in a limited number of libraries. Services to the handicapped and disadvantaged people are scantily rendered. Information services are hardly provided. Dual use of libraries (school – cum – public libraries) has been experimented in Himachal Pradesh and the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh.

The question that remains is whether a public library system exists in India.

**Model Library Acts**

On the whole, the development of public libraries in India has been very slow. The multifarious problems of over population, poverty, illiteracy etc. stood in the way of creation of library consciousness among the people. With in India, it is found that progress of lib. Development differed from state to state. While some states are relatively advanced, others lags much behind. When some states
have enacted library legislation, other appears to have no intention of that sorts.

The Concept of legislation for libraries is a contribution of S.R. Ranganathan. In the year, 1930 Ranganathan prepared the Model Public Libraries Act and presented it at the First All Asia Education Conference at Banaras.

M. A. Gopinath has written that it was the seed of library legislation in India which was revised by him a number of times and the last revision was made in 1972. There are four more Model Acts/ Bills drafted in this direction.

(a) Model Public Libraries Bills 1963, drafted by Govt. of India under the chairmanship of Dr. D.M. Sen.
(b) Model Public Libraries Bill, 1965 of the Planning Commission, which was appended to the report of the working group of the Forth Five Year Plan.
(c) Model Union libraries Act (revised in 1972) by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan.
(d) Model Public Library & Information Act drafted by Dr. Velaga Venkatappaiah in 1989, was revised in 1995. This act was approved by Indian Library Assn. and was in active consideration in some states; while drafting the public lib bills in those states.

**Library Acts In The States**

The public library movement has received impetus due to enactment of library legislation in different states of India. These acts have provided for funding, Structure of library systems, power
and functions of authorities and such other matters relating to public libraries. So far library legislation has been enacted in 13 states. The states that passed Public Libraries Act are shown below along with the year:

- Kolhapur state 1945
1 Madras Public Libraries Act 1948
  Having provision for library cess (10 percent) on property tax.
* Hyderabad Public Libraries Act 1955
2 Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960
  Having provision for library cess (8 percent) on lands and building
3 Karnataka Public Libraries Act 1965
  Having provision for libraries cess (6 percent) on lands, buildings, vehicles and profession
4 Maharashtra Public Libraries Act 1967
  No library cess – state govt. meets the expenditure
5 West Bengal Public Libraries Act 1979
  No Library cess, state govt. meets the expenditure
6 Manipur Public Libraries Act 1988
  No Library cess
7 Kerala Public Libraries Act 1989
  Having provision for library cess (5 percent) on property tax and not less than 1 percent of state expenditure on education
8 Haryana Public Libraries Act 1989
  Local bodies to levy library cess
9 Goa Public Libraries Act 1993
  Surcharge on IMFL 0.50 paise per ltr. and 0.50 paise on bulk ltr. of beer and 1 percent on state Education Budget
10 Mizoram Public Libraries Act 1993
No library cess – state Govt. meets the expenditure

11 Gujarat Public Libraries Act 2001

No Library cess

12 Orissa Public Libraries Act Dec. 2001

No Library cess

13 Uttaranchal Public Libraries Act Feb-2005(22)

No Library cess

Five states (Haryana, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa and Uttaranchal) have yet to enforce the laws though passed the Acts few years ago.

- After the reorganisation of states in 1956, kolhapur and Hyderabad Acts were merged with Maharastra and Andhra Predesh states respectively.

Process for Library Legislation. The remaining 15 states and 7 UTs are in process for enactment but no tangible progress has been made on this direction.

3.4 National Library of India

The Imperial Library was opened in 1903 by Lord Curzon and in 1948 it was shifted from the down town, cramped location to the present spacious complex at Belvedere, once a winter residence of the Viceroy's of India.

The National Library of India has a total holding of about 23,25,089 books of which 5,75,229 are in the Indian languages. There are nearly 3,000 manuscripts of great value and some 75,000 maps. There are about 15,300 current periodicals received in the library. It is a repository under the National Legislation for all printed materials in the country and, as such, is the place for a monumental collection of Indian officials publications from the

The National Library burgeoned so quickly that it was necessary to have a well planned, air conditioned, multistoried annex which contains rare books and regional language books. After nearly 25 years of functioning in its new location, the library was reviewed by the Govt. of India through a high-power Committee, whose recommendations for its future growth have been accepted. As a result the following basic functions have been developed upon the library:

1. Acquisition and Conservation of all significant national production of printed materials to the exclusion only of ephemera.
2. Collection of printed material concerning the country, no matter where this is published, and as a corollary, the acquisition of a photographic record of such material that is not available within the country.
3. Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts of national importance.
4. Planned acquisition of foreign material required by the country.
5. Rendering of bibliographical and documentation services of current and retrospective material, both general and specialized. (This implies the responsibility to produce current national bibliography and retrospective bibliographies on various aspects of the country.)
6. Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographical information and participation in international bibliographical activities.
7. Provision of photocopying and reprographic services.
8. Acting as the Centre for international book exchange and international loan.

The National Library is yet to take up the leading role as the apex of the library system of the country. One of the major problems this library has been facing over the last two decades is the acute shortage of space, which in turn has seriously affected its services. During the 8th plan period (1990-95), the whole library process shall be fully automated. National libraries (eg Asiatic Society, Calcutta, M.S.Saraswatimahal Library, Tanjavur, Rampur Raja Library, Khudabux Oriental Public Library, Patna, National Medical Library, Delhi) need to be developed and managed on modern approaches.

3.5 - Academic Libraries in India

There are 277(24) University level institutions including 60 deemed universities and over 10,000 Colleges with over 2, 25,000 faculty staff and over 40 lakh students (inclusive of 40,000 research scholars and 3.5 lakh post graduate students). Teaching and research in Universities centre around their libraries. College libraries functioning under the jurisdiction of Universities do not get much support from the parent body nor is there any standard pattern of co-ordination in sharing the resources of the cluster of these libraries. Additionally, some of the Universities have departmental libraries, which may or may not be part of the Central library complex. In 1953 the University Grants

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Commission (UGC) was established to oversee the development and financing of University and college libraries. Since then, over 50 universities and hundreds of college have been provided with modern library buildings, some of which are centrally air-conditioned.

Most university libraries do not extend their services to a wider section of community down to the village level, the Karnataka University library proving to be an exception in this case. The library facilities in the majority of the college in India are very unsatisfactory, inspite of the liberal grants provided to the colleges by the U.G.C. for purchasing books, journals, and equipments for setting up the textbook banks and for appointing the staff. Generally, learning has been identified with classroom instruction and hence the libraries have mostly been ignored or alienated from the mainstream of education. Students go to the library mainly for recreational reading. As a result, the major book stock of the college library remains idle. The books recommended for reference are never consulted. The attitude of the majority college teachers towards the library is not very encouraging also.

Today the majority of the university libraries have a fair and sizeable document collection and good physical facilities in terms of building, furniture and equipment. However, an enormous increase in the number of publications and at the same time a rapid escalation the cost of books and journals have forced a large number of libraries to acquire lesser and lesser number of items every year, thereby unable to keep their collection up to date. The minimum expenditure of Rs.25.00 and Rs. 300, 00.(Something to the effect that the value of the Rupee has been subject to considerable change over the period covered in this study. As a
rough guide the value in November 1973 was 7.28 Rupees equivalent to US $1 dollar. In March-2006 the figure is Rs 44.62 to the $1 US dollar (Rs.77.97 to the £1 sterling pound). For each student and teacher respectively (being a norm established in the fifties and that needs revision) is not being provided for in the book budget of University Libraries. More than 50% of the total number of Universities receives less than Rs 10 lakhs and 25% receive Rs.10-20 lakhs and the remaining 25% libraries well over Rs 25 lakhs. By and large, university libraries mostly offer lending services. The other burning problem is lack of properly paid and willing workers. This is largely due to low scales of pay and low status of university library staff, whose parity with their academic counterparts has been a matter of debate for quite sometime now. The professional staff of the university library does not enjoy the faculty status unless they formally teach. The immediate cause of the poor image of many university libraries in India lies in -(i) inadequate funds, (ii) irrational acquisition programmes, (iii) old fashioned readers services, (iv) low pay scales and second rate status to library staff, (v) little or no co-ordination among various units of the library and (vi) lack of dynamic leadership.

The school library in India is a badly neglected area. The new Education Policy (1986) therefore has strongly urged to develop school libraries. Operation Blackboard in one of its recommendations under which there will be a small book collection of 200 titles in every primary school of the country. This job is now in progress.
3.6 - Public Libraries in India

The efforts of Lord Curzon, Sayaji Rao Gaikwad Munindra Dev Ray Mahashay, W.C. Borden, A Dickinson and the Library Associations in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madras deserve special mention during the period of library services in India.

"Public Library" as understood in the west (meaning, unfettered service to all, free of cost) has an altogether different connotation in India. It denotes any library which permits its material to be used by the public with or without paying a fee. There are libraries set up and sponsored and /or supported by Government, including local bodies. Private individuals and organizations have established libraries, some of which receive aid from government. These libraries are “subscription” libraries.

Since independence, a definite structure of public libraries has emerged. At the apex are the National libraries: one at Kolkata, and three more of its kind yet to emerge. Besides, there are three copyright libraries, viz-Central Library, Bombay, Connemera public library, Madras and Delhi Public Library, including National Library, Kolkata.

India is comprised of 25 states and 7 union territories. Though the structure of public libraries varies from state to state, most of them have a state central Library. Every state is further divided into districts and blocks comprising 100 or 80 villages, cities and towns. In some states there are intermediate units such as regions, divisions, tehasils, talukas and pettas. Some of these units have corresponding public libraries. There are also branch libraries, delivery stations and traveling libraries. In addition, there are
innumerable subscription libraries, run by private organizations in urban and rural areas.27

Looking at the overall number of public libraries in India, we find that 15 out of 25 states (60 per cent) have central libraries; 291 out of about 400 districts (73 per cent) have district central libraries; 1,798 development blocks out of 5,027 blocks (36 percent) have village libraries and 1,280 towns out of 2,643 (48 per cent) have town libraries. Out of 29 metropolitans cities, of which four (14 per cent) Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Delhi have city public library systems with Central Libraries, branches and deposit centres.28 It is estimated that only about 20 per cent of the literate population has access to the public library system. Thus we have much leeway to make up in the development of public libraries in the country.

The five year plans have doled out funds for constructing some state and district Central Libraries but most of the public libraries hardly have the proper atmosphere, building, furniture and fittings which are prerequisites for efficient functioning. There is no uniform standard of service, nor are the services of the existing public libraries evenly spread over the states. Only a small fraction of the persons employed by these public libraries are technically qualified. In general, the state central libraries, the district central libraries, and other units of library service function in complete isolation from one another; and except for a few they cater to the local needs of the town or cities where they are located.

Publication of books, which are the major source from which libraries, draw their supplies, is also very low in the country. According to the survey conducted by the working group on
libraries in 1963-64, there was only one book available in public libraries for every ninety-eight persons; and for every thousand persons in the country only one was registered at a public library as a borrower; and for every sixty-three persons in India, one book was borrowed in a year. Free access to books is allowed for consultation, but securities and subscriptions are required for borrowing books in many libraries.

The constitution of India delegates certain powers to the states. Accordingly, the public libraries are the responsibility of states. However, the National planning Commission administers all finances available for development purposes. The interest of the Central Government in public libraries is evidenced by the three Committees K.P. Sinha Advisory Committees for Libraries (1957), Committee on plan projects (1963) and the working Group on Libraries (1964), it has appointed in this respect and the increasing quantity of money it has provided through five year plans. Until recently, there was no general structure of library service to co-ordinate the activities of libraries at the national level as there is in the United Kingdom. Raja Ram Mohan Ray library foundation, established in 1972, has been engaged in the promotion of public library services and popularizing the reading habits among the people in the country has also expanded by implementing nine various schemes of matching and non-matching assistance in order to improve nation wide public library services, but in other states public libraries are mostly supervised by the Directorate/Department of Education/culture/social welfare department or department of public relations.
3.7 Special Libraries And Information Centres In India

Special Libraries/ Information Centers are important sources of data collection and a good number of them have already been working in the country. Special libraries are known to be better developed as compared to the other types of libraries. Over the years, since independence, centers for advanced learning, research societies and institutions in all branches of knowledge. Together with an increase in the growth of large industrial and commercial organization have helped special libraries to grow both in number and in size. It is estimated that there are nearly 2000-2500 special libraries that now exit in the country. There are about 1,000 libraries attached to scientific establishments, 500 to social science research institutes, 277 university libraries and 600 government department libraries. In the present stage of development of special libraries, the need for networking and resource – sharing seems to be permanent. Towards this end, computer application is a better way. Science and technology libraries are far more developed than others. An average science and technology library may have a stock of 30,000-35,000 vols, add about 400-500 volumes per year and receive 250-300 current periodicals. Its average annual book budget is Rs 5 lakhs (based on 1987-88 figures) and almost 70% of the same is spent on periodical subscription. There are about 633 medical libraries and 100 libraries of different sizes with varying scope in the field of agriculture in the country. The ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) library was established in 1930 to cater to the needs of the people for the proper agriculture information. Most of the medical libraries provide with conventional lending and reference services whereas agricultural libraries are highly active in maintaining large bibliographical
database on Cards as well as in producing current awareness lists, etc.

The origin and growth of special libraries in social sciences are closely linked with the development of teaching and research organizations as seen from the beginning of the 19th century.30

**Information Centres**

India, among developing countries in the Asian region has very good libraries and documentation centers. The few prominent in social sciences are:

1. National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), New Delhi;
2. Centre on rural Documentation, Hyderabad;
4. Centre for Development and Instructional Technology, New Delhi;
5. ICSSR Data Archives, New Delhi;
6. Centre on policy Modelling, Pune;

There are a few major Bibliographical and information Centers covering various subjects, viz.

1. Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, New Delhi; (Now NISCAIR)
2. Agricultural Research Information Centre, New Delhi;
3. Bhaba Atomic Research Centre Library, Bombay;
4. Central Food Technology Research Institute Library, Mysore;
5. Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre, New Delhi;
6. Indian Agricultural Research Institute Library, New Delhi;
7. National Aeronautics Library, Hyderabad;
8. National Medical Library, New Delhi;
9. National Science Library, New Delhi;
10. Small Enterprises National Documentation Centre, Hyderabad;
11. NISSAT Sectoral Centers, New Delhi;
12. Tata Energy Research Centre, New Delhi;
13. National Documentation Centre for Health and Family welfare, New Delhi;

The libraries/documentation centers/data archives, within their discipline fields, undertake bibliographic control of published/unpublished literature, compile inventories of research (completed and in progress) and research information centres, and preserve statistical data for secondary analysis etc. The services include reference, referral, document delivery, and translation. These also provide access to foreign databases like AGRIS, DEVSIS, INIS, MEDLINE, etc., either off line or on line through information systems like DIALOG, ESA/IRS, and ORBIT etc.

To provide integrated information services, networking or information centres has also been undertaken under NISSAT programme since 1977. The system has six missions oriented sectoral information centers: Food, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, leather, machine tools, Textiles and Crystallography.
3.8 Library Associations In India

Professional Associations

The role of professional associations in a country to foster library development is well understood and recognized. In our country, professional associations in library and information science field—past and present have made and have been making contributions, with varying degrees of success, for promoting the cause of library service and library profession.

We have records of early library associations, such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), Bengal Library Association (1925) and Madras Library Association (1927). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933. Post-independence period has witnessed great increase in the number of library associations.

We have now national and state level library associations as well as associations devoted to specific categories, subject fields, and other special interests. There are some associations primarily interested in service matters. The proliferation of library associations causes frittering away capacity for collective efforts. Mortality, inactivity, groupism, etc are not uncommon in the development of library associations in the country. This impairs professional solidarity, public image and channelised efforts to work for the cause of library profession. The profession had always felt that library associations should be more effective to plead its cause on issues of crucial importance. We have a vast stock of library and information personnel. But, individuals are indifferent to become members of professional associations. Against this
backdrop, the need for a unified approach in matters of establishing and running library associations to look after common interests of the profession is emphasized.

**Indian Library Association**

The Indian Library Association (ILA) was founded in Calcutta as a registered society. Its headquarters is now at Delhi (A/40-41, Flat No. 201, Ansal Bldg, Dr Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009.) During the existence of 63 years, ILA has grown in size and in range of activities. It is now firmly organized as a premier national association, representing the entire library profession in the country. As on December-2005 it has a membership of 4416 (as per the latest membership list of ILA) members comprising patrons, honorary fellows, institutional and association members and life and ordinary members. It has been addressing repeatedly many communications to the state governments for enactment of library legislation. It has also done some work recently on norms for school library management. By way of attending to follow-up action on various resolutions of professional interest and concern passed at the Annual Conferences, the Association takes up all important and pressing issues with appropriate authorities.

ILA is represented in important bodies such as Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, ISI Documentation Committee, World Book Fair Committee, UNESCO National Commission and Good offices Committee.32

**IASLIC**
The Indian Association of special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) (Registred office: p-291 CIT scheme 617, Kankurgachi, Kolkatta, 700064) was founded in 1955 with the objective of promoting library services and library profession, with greater emphasis on issues relating to special libraries and information centres. Over the past 32 years IASLIC has made its own distinct contributions to special library and information services in the country. It has made a steady progress and is recognized for carrying out its activities in a systematic manner.33

IASLIC strives to improve the standard of services of all kinds of libraries as well as better the services conditions of library professionals. In all professional and technical issues, IASLIC has been active to express opinion for consideration of appropriate authorities.

IASLIC is also an active member of JOCLAI.

**Government of India Librarians Association (GILA)**

GILA, founded in 1993. It is a registered society. Its present address is C/o- Central Secretariat library,‘G’,wing Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, 110001. GILA has been active in working for the betterment of salary and service conditions of government librarians. It had submitted well documented and convincing memorandum to all the five central pay commissions, justifying the need for better scales and status for government librarians. The Association has been pursuing vigorously for the creation of Indian Library and Information Service (ILIS) recommended by V-CPC. In addition, there are some National and State level library
associations functioning at different levels all over the country. Some of are mentioned below:-

1. Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS)
2. Society for Information Science (SIS)
3. Medical Library Association of India (MLAI)
5. Academic of Library Science and Documentation, C/o Dept of L&L Sc, Osmania University, Hyderabad, 500007
6. Indian Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists, C/o ICAR Library, New Delhi-110001.
7. Indian College Librarians Association (1967), C/o Rajdhani College, New Delhi-110015.
8. All India Public Libraries Association.
9. Andhra Pradesh Library Association
10. Bengal Library Association
11. Bihar State Library Association
12. Delhi Library Association
13. Gujarat Granthalaya- Seva Sangh
14. Haryana Library Association
15. Madras Library Association- The Madras Library Association is one of the older library associations in the country, having been founded in 1927 by Dr. S R Ranganathan. Dr. Ranganathan made use of this Association for many years as a forum for many professional activities and reforms, including enactment of first library legislation in the country by the Government of Madras in 1948. Many of his earlier works were published by the Madras Library Association.
There are other Associations those have been working for the professional development and contribute significantly in improving the library and Information services in the country.

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