4.1- Brief Historical sketch

Historically, India has a long and rich tradition in education, arts, culture and scientific research. The significant contribution to human knowledge made by her poets, philosophers, religious leaders, mathematicians, medical experts and other thinkers such as Kalidasa, Sankaracharya, Budha, Aryabhatta, Charak etc. are well recognized all over the world.

In librarianship, however, the past history of India like that of several other countries of the east is that of a country having libraries with little emphasis on "library service" in the modern sense. The recognition of the role libraries can play in the educational, scientific and socio-economic development of the country is another phenomenon, which has taken place during the present century, more particularly during the past four decades or so.

The present educational system of India is a "Product of British rule and direct copy of British models" dating back about two hundred years. In India library development, with its close ties to education, owes its origin to the British Administration. The important libraries of today have established during British rule.¹
The need for professionally qualified personnel to manage the libraries were recognized in the country in the early decades of the present century and consequently library education programme came into existence at several places even before independence. Much expansion and development in this field has however taken place after independence in 1947, with the result that library and information science today is well recognized as an academic discipline at the University level.

**Pre-independence Period**

**Baroda School-1911**

The history of library education in India began in 1911 in Baroda State. W.A.Borden, an American librarian was invited by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaikwad, the ruler of Baroda state to organize a public library system in the state. He started one-year course which was conducted in the central library, Baroda. In 1913, Borden started a 5-months summer course as well which was attended by 18 city librarians. The training course in Baroda continued up to 1924.

**Punjab School-1915**

The second training course was started in 1915 at the Punjab University, Lahore by Asa Don Dickinson, another American librarian and a student of Melvil Dewey – Dickinson was appointed by the Punjab University to organize and catalogue and administer the University library and to give a course of training in modern American lines and also published the book “Punjab Library
Primer". The course in library science at the Punjab University continued till the independence of the country in 1947.2

**Andhra Desa Library Association School-1920**

This was started in 1920 and was the first library training course started by a library association. The course was of one-month duration and no particular qualifications were prescribed for admission. The course was more oriented to the education of social workers than to that of librarians.

**Madras School-1929-and 1937**

The Madras library Association which came into existence in 1928 mainly through the efforts of S.R.Ranganathan, conducted an annual summer course in librarianship in 1929 and in 1930. This was taken over by the University of Madras in 1931. In 1937, this course was converted into a full-time Post-Graduate course of one academic year leading to the award of Diploma in Library Science. This was the first Diploma Course at the post graduate level in the country and has served as a model for the development of training programmes during the pre-independence era. In 1960, this Diploma Course was replaced by the course leading to the award of the Bachelor of Library Science degree.

**Imperial Library Course-1935**

In 1935, K.M.Asadullah, librarian of Imperial library, Calcutta, started a full-time Diploma Course in librarianship in Imperial
library (now National Library, Kolkata). This course was based on the pattern of the Punjab Library School. It was discontinued in 1947.

**Bengal Library Association School-1935**

The Bengal Library Association followed next in 1935. One of its President, Late Kumar Munindradeb Rai Mahasai, arranged a library training camp at Banasberia under the auspices of the Hoogly District Library Association of which he was also the president.  

The Bengal Library Association started a regular Certificate Course in Librarianship in 1937. The example of Bengal Library Association was followed by the Bombay Library Association, the Delhi Library Association, the Mysore Library Association and other Library Associations in India.

**University Courses**

(a) Andhra University-1935  
(b) Banaras Hindu University-1941  
(c) Bombay University-1944  
(d) Calcutta University-1946  
(e) University of Delhi-1947  
(f) Alligarh Muslim University-1951

In 1956, the University of Baroda and Nagpur also started training courses in Library science. Vikram University, Ujjain also started a training course in 1957.

**4.2- Levels of Library Education and Training**
Although the Review Committee on Library Science of the UGC had strongly recommended that Universities should not be involved in the conduct of Certificate Courses, a few Universities still offer this course.

The certificate course in Library science being run by Delhi Library Association (DLA), Bengal Library Association (BLA), Uttar Pradesh Library Association, Andhra Pradesh Library Association and Shramik Vidyapeeth, M/o HRD, Govt. of India are popular and attract large number of admission.

4.3- **Certificate Course in Library and Information Science**

The professional Associations are conducting Certificate Course of 3 to 6 months duration along with the Department of Public Libraries in many states have either set up by themselves or support else where Certificate Course in library Science. The certificate course is a Semiprofessional programme. Admission to this programme is meant for non-Graduate with a high school Certificate. After completion of the course, the students find employment in school libraries, public libraries, small libraries etc. and in junior position in big libraries.

4.4- **Diploma/Degree in Library and Information Science**

The diploma course in library science was earlier established in library schools in India. The Graduate diploma course was renamed by some library schools as a Bachelor’s of library science. The Polytechnic for Women at Ambala, Bangalore, Delhi, Chattisgarh and Patiala, DAV, Polytechnic, Rourkela and others offer a two
years diploma course open to High School Certificate holders. These diploma holders get employment as junior librarian and Library Assistants in Colleges and Schools.

4.5 **Library and Information Science Education at post-Graduate Level**

We have come a long way from 1937, when the University of Madras began Post-Graduate training for librarianship with one year Diploma Course. In thirties there were two University library schools. At the close of Sixties, these were 30 Universities offering B.Lib.Sc. course. Three Universities had provision for M.Lib.Sc course. There are 66 Universities in India conducting B.Lib.Sc/B.LISc degree courses, and 74 Library Schools offering courses leading to the degree of M.Lib.Sc/MLISc. In addition INSDO(NISCAIR), Delhi and DRTC, Bangalore has offered a two years programme called Associateship in Information Science.

* (See the Appendix-? LIS Schools in India)

4.6- **M Phil/Ph.D in Library and Information Science**

The Master of Philosophy in Library Science and Information Science degree programme is offered by nearly 20 library schools. Delhi University was the first to offer the one year programme (M.Phil) in 1978. M.Phil programme has proved to be a good training ground for doing further research.

At present there are 58 Universities offering Ph.D. programme in library and Information Science in India. It may be seen that this is now a spirit in research leading to Ph.D. degree and in a variety of
topics unlike the past when history of libraries used to be the predominant topic. The diverse areas being covered now in Ph.D. programme include public libraries, special libraries, University libraries, bibliometric studies, Indexing. IT application and many others. A number of library schools have a reasonably competent and experienced faculty capable of guiding research at a high level.

4.7- Library and Information Science Literature

The volume of library and information science literature generated in the country has been steadily increasing. This is a result of manpower growth and expanding professional and academic activities. Periodical articles, doctoral research leading to publication of learned articles and books, papers presented at conferences and seminars, festschrift volumes, monographs and reports constitute bulk of our library and information science literature. While literature in Indian language is picking up, the output is not appreciable yet.

**Books**

The books brought out in library and information science are largely text books as there is a great demand for them. A majority of them are in English language. However, text book writing in Indian languages (mainly in Hindi) is also on the increase for meeting the needs of training programmes at B.Lib.ISc. and certificate level. UGC has a scheme of supporting text book writing by teachers. As mentioned earlier, there is a growing tendency to publish Doctoral dissertations in the form of books. Conference proceedings is also brought out either as Pre or Post-
conference publications. Some Lectures series like Ranganathan Memorial Lectures give rise to publication of books. In each year, 4-6 festschrift volumes, which are mainly collection of Essays, are being brought out. There are only stray instances of individuals writing monographs of high Academic Standard. The number of books in library and information science being published at present may be estimated at 150 items in each year.

**Periodicals**

Dr. R.P. Kumar had contributed an article on “Periodicals in Library and Information Science in India: Origin and Development.” Dr. Sewa Singh had written an article on “Analysis of Documentation Literature in India”, which deals with mainly periodical literature. There is yet another article on the subject by Dr. M. P. Satija.

In the pre-independence period, we had a few periodicals in library science, the notable being Modern Librarian, ILA Bulletin and Indian Librarian. In the post-independence period, there has been a great increase in the number of library and information science periodicals. But the rate of mortality and irregularity is high. Very few have been surviving and have attained some standard and appeal.

A list of current Indian periodicals in library and information science, which have some regularity in appearance, is given below:

Annals of Library Science and Documentation (1954). Quarterly, INSDOC, 14 Sat Sangh Vihar Marg, New Delhi-110064


Granthalaya Sarvaswamulu. Monthly, Telugu, A.P. Library Association, Sri Sarvotham Bhawan, Vijayawada-520006

Granthalaya. (Annual), Hindi. UP Library Association, P.O. Box 446, Lucknow-226001


Herald of Library Science (196). Quarterly, C/o Professor P N Kaula, C-239, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016


ILA Bulletin (1965). Previously published under different titles. Quarterly, A/40-41, Flat no. 201, Ansal Bldg, Dr Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi-110009
International Information, Communication and Education (1982). Quarterly, C/o Professor P N Kaula, C-239, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016


Journal of Library and Information Science (1976). Half-Yearly, C/o Department of Library and Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007

LIBRA (1962). Annual, Department of Library Science, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Library Herald (1958). Quarterly, Delhi Library Association, Delhi

Library Science with a slant to Documentation (1964). Quarterly, Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, 432, 10th Cross, 18th Mian Road, J.P. Nagar, IIInd phase, Bangalore-560078

Lucknow Librarian (1968). Quarterly, UPLA, post Box 446, Lucknow-226001.


RILISAR Bulletin (1983). Quarterly, C/o Shri Abbas Ibrahim, 59/12 IV, Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Madras-600020

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Professional associations consider it worthwhile and necessary to publish Newsletters, in order to keep members informed of their present activities as well as developments taking place elsewhere in library and information science field. It is useful as a medium to maintain close touch with members. At present, the following Associations/Organisations bring out newsletters.

Academy of library science and Documentation, Hyderabad, Quarterly
Haryana Library Association, Kurukshetra, Semi-annual
IASLIC, Kolkata, Monthly
IATLIS, Nagpur, Quarterly
ILA, Delhi, Newsletter, Monthly
ITLISA (Indian Techno-Science Librarian and Information Scientists), New Delhi, ITLISA Communication. Quarterly
LUSLIC, Lucknow. Quarterly
MCI (Micrographic Congress of India) New Delhi. Quarterly
National Library, Calcutta. Quarterly
NISSAT, New Delhi. Quarterly
Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta. Quarterly
Society for Information Science, New Delhi. SISCOM. Monthly
U P Library Association, Lucknow, Quarterly
FID/IM Committee, INSDOC, New Delhi 110067. Half-yearly.
APINESS Newsletter, Quarterly. NASSDOC, 35 Ferozshah Road, New Delhi-110001

Published Proceedings
Mention has been made earlier about proceedings of conferences, seminars, etc. Indian Library Association, IASLIC and Society for Information Science bring out printed publications of their annual conference/Seminar papers. A few of ad hoc seminar proceedings/papers get published later, like the proceedings of the National Seminar on Defence Science Information and the MALA Seminar on Library Automation. Otherwise, a large majority of them remain unpublished in cyclostyled form. However, some authors may have their papers published in conventional forums, like periodicals, subsequently.

**Library Directories**

Though slightly out of place here, it may be worthwhile to list the presently available directories of libraries, as the information will be useful to readers.¹⁰

2. Directory of Special and Research Libraries in India. Kolkata, IASLIC. 1985. 90p (Location, Subject and Name indexes.)

In addition, there are library directories at state level brought out by state library associations, such as West Bengal Library Directory by BLA, Directory of Libraries in Gujarat (1985) by Gujarat Granthalaya Seva Sang and Directory of Libraries in Lucknow by UPLA.
Only occasionally, some ad-hoc reports relating to library and information science are brought out. They are negligibly small. Some significant reports/documents brought out during the past three years are Report of the Seventh Plan Working Group, Report on NISSAT, Documents on National Policy on Library and Information System and Health Information (Literature) System and project documents on ENVIS AND biotechnology Information System.

In recent past, only two standard specifications relating to microform storage and preservation and that too revisions have been brought out by the Indian Standards Institution.

Most of the training workshops, which have been organized, bring out course materials in advance in cyclostyled form. They are usually available to participants only.

Special mention is made of the release in October 1987 of the much awaited Colon Classification, 7th edition, vol. I-Depth Schedules by Sarada Ranganathan Endowment in Library Science. The index volume and another volume giving worked out examples will be published soon.

References


8. Ibid p.217


10. Ibid p.218.