ESTABLISHMENT OF TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY
A NEW ERA IN PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN KERALA

The Trivandrum Public Library is one of the oldest libraries in India. The history of public libraries in Kerala started with the establishment of Trivandrum Public Library in 1829. This library was established even prior to the establishment of the Imperial Library of Calcutta, the forerunner of the National Library of India, or even before the establishment of Baroda Public Library. Mr. Borden, the officer appointed to establish the public library in Baroda took his position only in 1910.\(^1\)

Sri. P. V. Varghese, the former State Librarian of Trivandrum Public Library in his paper published in the 1976 Souvenir of the Kerala Library Association says that the establishment of Trivandrum Public Library in 1829 was a milestone in the history of the Public Library Movement.\(^2\) With the history spanning a period of more than a century and half, it has witnessed a series of social, cultural and educational changes in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore, and Kerala of the present day. "The library movement in the state virtually started with the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library, adding to the historical significance of this institution

\(^1\)N. C. Chakravarthy, p.3.

Unfortunately, very few documents are available about the early history of the Trivandrum Public Library. In the literature available on the general history of Kerala, references to Trivandrum Public Library is very rare. But from the archival materials and the interviews with scholars connected with the subject directly, it was possible to ascertain the year in which the Trivandrum Public Library was established.

Arguments Regarding the Establishment of Trivandrum Public Library

Kurian Thomas in his book, "Trivandrum Public Library," A Historical Perspective, says regarding the year of establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library, even authentic documents on Kerala and its history are found to differ. Kerala District Gazetteers states: "This library is the oldest of its kind in India. It was established in 1829 by the then British resident, Col. Edward Cadogan, the grandson of Sir Hans Salane, the founder of the British Museum." But V. Nagam Aiya, a remarkable historian of Kerala in his 'Travancore State Manuel,' says: "Attached to the Museum, there is a public library started so early as 1836."

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5Ibid

Modern scholars like Prof. K. A. Isaac, C. A. Ramakrishnan and C. A. Augustine are of the opinion that the Trivandrum Public Library had started in 1847. But according to Sri. P. V. Varghese the former State Librarian of Kerala, the Trivandrum Public Library was established in 1829 during the reign of Sri. Swathi Tirunal Maharaja of Travancore. V. K. N. Menon in an article published in the Trivandrum Public Library Platinum Jubilee Souvenir says that 1829 could be the year in which the Trivandrum Public Library was established.\(^7\)

The printed Annual Report of the Trivandrum Public Library beginning with 1963-64 states that the Trivandrum Public Library was established in 1829. A. Sreedhara Menon in his book, "Social and Cultural History of Kerala," says that the Public Library of Trivandrum was established in 1829, the oldest public library of India. This was started by Col. Edward Caldogan.\(^8\)

In 1836 Maharaja Swathi Thirunal sanctioned a grant of Rs.1,000. to the Trivandrum Public Library. This will be discussed at length separately when discussing about the contributions of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal.

Different scholars hold different views about the establishment of Trivandrum Public Library. According to the "World of Learning (1982-83)" the Trivandrum Public Library was founded in 1847.\(^9\)


\(^8\)A. Sreedhara Menon, (1979), p.308.

\(^9\)World of Learning, 1982-83, ed., 33., p.697
first edition of the "Directory of Indian Libraries (1938)" published by the Indian Library Association (ILA), indicates the year of establishment of Trivandrum Public Library as 1859. But in the second edition of the Directory, the year has been changed as 1847. Another directory "Men of Library Science and Libraries in India" says that the Trivandrum Public Library was established in the year 1829.

Scholars of Library Science and Library Movement in Kerala like Prof. K. A. Isaac, hold the view that Trivandrum Public Library is one of the oldest public libraries of India and it was established in 1847. But according to Shri P. V. Varghese, the Trivandrum Public Library was established in 1829 during the reign of Shri Swathi Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore.

V. K. N. Menon, another authority in the history of Trivandrum Public Library analyses the dates of establishment of this particular public library mentioned in various historical sources and concludes that "from the manner in which it is given in the printed Annual Reports of the Trivandrum Public Library, another date, 1829, rather than 1836, cannot be excluded from the commencement of the


Some of the documents located in the Kerala State Archives, Trivandrum, provides some indications regarding the probable year of the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library. Kurian Thomas says that in response to the request of the "Diwan," asking the Library Committee to furnish a write-up about the previous activities of the Trivandrum Public Library, the then Honorary Secretary, C. S. Boyle submitted a write-up on 21 October 1895. Its introductory part read: "The Public Library was founded some time before 1839."

Eventhough the year of establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library in various historical records differ, some common points of agreement can be observed in the 'Kerala District Gazetters' (that is, 1824) and the Draft Report prepared by the Library Committee in 1955 (that is, between 1830-35). In 1836 the library had established itself with sound and well defined objectives and by-laws. It also received in 1836 a generous grant from the 'Sircar,' probably the largest amount during that period. Hence it seems that the steps for the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library might have been initiated in 1829 itself."

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14 Trivandrum Public Library, Minutes of General Meeting, No.4662/G.1125, 21st October 1885.

15 Kurian Thomas, p. 15.
A. Sreedhara Menon, a modern Historian of Kerala in his book "Social and Cultural History of Kerala" says that the Public Library of Trivandrum was established in 1829. The opinions given by Kurian Thomas, V. K. N. Menon and A. Sreedhara Menon and the evidences available in the contemporary records show that the Trivandrum Public Library was established in the year 1829.

**Contributions of Col. Edward Cadogan**

The Annual Report of Trivandrum Public Library states that the library was established in 1829 by Col. Edward Cadogan, the then British Resident of Trivandrum.

Col. Edward Cadogan is the grandson of Sir Hans Sloan, the founder of the British Museum Library, the National Library of England. It is mentioned in the introductory part of this paper while examining the library movement in the world at large and the library movement of England in particular, that the famous British Museum Library was established by Sir Hans Sloan, who was the grandfather of Col. Edward Cadogan, the founder of the Trivandrum Public Library. It won't be out of place to say that this grandson of the famous philanthropist inherited certainly some qualities, values and vision from his grandfather, Sir Hans Sloan.

From the Minutes of the Library which we are having only from 1877, it is clear that the founders of Trivandrum Public Library were a few private individuals, names now unknown except for that of Col. Edward Cadogan. Mainly Britishers, civilian and military

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16 A. Sreedhara Menon (1979), P. 308.
and perhaps also a few Indians, residing in Trivandrum, both having a status entitling them to be invited for the darbars of the Maharaja, were the readers. Sreedhara Menon says that in its early days its membership was confined to those who were invited to the 'Royal Darbars.'

Maharaja Sri Swathi Thirunal assumed power in 1829. Col. Edward Cadogan, who is said to have initiated the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library also assumed office as an Acting Resident on 26th December 1829. The initiative for the establishment of the Trivandrum Public Library came from Col. Edward Cadogan, a man with a reputed library heritage as the grandson of Sir Hans Sloan, the founder of the British Museum.

The Library was managed by an association known as the Trivandrum Public Library Committee with Maharaja as the Patron and the British Resident as the President.

The beginning of the Trivandrum Public Library was a new chapter in the history of Library Movement of Kerala. The credit for the initiation of a library movement, which finally became a great force and a popular movement, goes to the British Resident of Trivandrum, Col. Edward Cadogan.

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17 V. K. N. Menon, p. 15.
18 Sreedhara Menon, (1979), p. 308
19 Kurian Thomas, P. 15.
20 Ibid., p. 102.
നവിനി. 1009-ൽ ലേഖക്കനിര്‍മ്മിച്ച വെള്ള മാത്രമെ പൊതും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണമാണ് നിലവിൽ സ്ഥിരമാക്കുന്നത്. നിരീക്ഷണം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന മേഖലകളിലെ നിരോധനങ്ങള്‍ നിലവില്‍ ഇല്ലാത്തതെങ്കില്‍ ലേഖക്കനിര്‍മ്മിച്ച വെള്ളയെ പൊതും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണമാണ് നിലവില്‍ സ്ഥിരമാക്കുന്നത്. നിരീക്ഷണം പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന മേഖലകളിലെ നിരോധനങ്ങള്‍ നിലവില്‍ ഇല്ലാത്തതെങ്കില്‍ ലേഖക്കനിര്‍മ്മിച്ച വെള്ളയെ പൊതും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരണമാണ് നിലവില്‍ സ്ഥിരമാക്കുന്നത്.
Royal Edict of Maharaja Sri Swathi Thirunal inviting Mr. J. Robert to Trivandrum to start an English School, April 1833:

So far we have not appointed anyone to teach English to prepare workers for the government jobs. Therefore, if we appoint Mr. J. Robert, who is residing in Nagarcoil, he could teach them efficiently. We should also pay Rupees Hundred extra per month to Mr. Robert for teaching English. Therefore, His Majesty is ordering the Diwan Shesha Pandithar to execute the order accordingly.
Contributions of Mr. John Roberts

Contributions of some Britishers were very great in the functioning of the Trivandrum Public Library. Most of the names are unknown to us today since there were no regular and systematic method of keeping records. An English School was opened at Trivandrum in 1834, by Maharaja Shri Swathi Thirunal, the then king of Travancore.

The king himself was a scholar in the English Language. Therefore, he was able to understand the cultural progress of Europeans. Hence he finally became interested in establishing an English School at Trivandrum. One Britisher, Mr. John Robert was conducting an English School at Nagarcoil during this time. The king appointed Mr. John Robert as the Headmaster of Maharaja's School, paying him rupees one hundred per month.

Sreedhara Menon in his work "Social and Cultural History of Kerala" explains that in 1834 Maharaja Swathi Thirunal had invited Mr. J. Roberts to come to Trivandrum to start the new English School. Before coming to Trivandrum he was the Headmaster of C. M. S. English Seminary in Nagarcoil.

The contribution of Mr. J. Roberts for the development of Trivandrum Public Library was notable. He also appreciated the contributions of many British officers in the task of establishing

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23Sreedhara Menon, 1979, p. 308.
a public library in Trivandrum.  

An order sent by Maharaja Shri Swathi Thirunal to Mr. J. Roberts, the then secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library, shows that he was well respected and accepted in the Royal Court. In the Royal Edict sent by Maharaja Shri Swathi Thirunal, it is mentioned that the king was sending the money to the Secretary of the Public Library, Mr. J. Roberts. It will be discussed in detail about the Royal Edict of Shri Swathi Thirunal concerning the Trivandrum Public Library under another sub-heading.

The above mentioned details shows that Mr. J. Roberts was very much concerned about the progress of the Trivandrum Public Library. As an educationalist, he had tried his level best to convince the rich people both British and natives to contribute generously to the development of this public library. In September 1836, Mr. J. Roberts received Rs.1,000.00 from Maharaja Swathi Thirunal as a gift for the Trivandrum Public Library. It is a big amount compared to the value of it with present day inflation rate.

Maharaja Shri Swathi Thirunal (1829-47) and His Contribution to Trivandrum Public Library

The reign of Maharaja Shri Swathi Thirunal (1829-47) was a Golden Age in the history of modern Travancore. The Raja was a great scholar and multi-linguist. A musician and musical composer

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24 P.V. Varghese, p. 135

25 Sreedhara Menon, 1980, p. 320
of rare talents, his reign saw the encouragement of fine arts in the Travancore Court. The reign of Swathi Thirunal also witnessed far-reaching changes in the administrative and educational setup. He reformed the judicial system. A code of regulations framed on the British Indian model was issued in 1835. The 'Kaimukku' ordeal of boiling ghee was stopped by Swathi Thirunal.

"With Swathi Thirunal is associated the beginning of English education in Travancore." The spread of English education sponsored by the British administrative system had very soon found its impact on Kerala. A special mention has to be made of the role of Sree Swathi Thirunal in the encouragement of English education in the State as evidenced by the policy of starting schools in important centers and the assistance given to the church mission in its efforts to start educational institutions.

Missionaries who showed interest in literary and linguistic studies were encouraged by the Maharaja. The educational activities of the Christian missionaries also were encouraged by Maharaja. He took the advices of educationalists in the educational programme of his country.

This period of educational growth may rightly be called the "Age of Swathi Thirunal," as regards literature and other arts. He was indeed the most remarkable person in Kerala at this time. "A great scholar in several Indian languages, he tried his hand at

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poetic and musical compositions in not less than seven of them, Malayalam, Sanscrit, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, and Marathi. He was an inspired devotional poet. 

He learned English, a rare accomplishment in those days and received warm eulogy of Europeans. Learned men from all parts of India flocked to his court to display their talents.

Maharaja Swathi Thirunal himself was a scholar in more than eighteen languages of India and in English. Col. Welsh a British General who visited Maharaja in the year 1820 had written in his "Military Memories" about Maharaja Swathi Thirunal. He says: "I had the opportunity of witnessing the studies of the young Rajas in private, and forming an estimate of their progressive acquirements and abilities. The elder boy (Swathi Thirunal) now thirteen... read a chapter of Malcom's Central India, the Governor General's persian letter on the capture of Rangoon, a passage in Sanscrit, another in Malayalam and seemed equally clever at each. He then took up a book of mathematics and selecting the forty seventh proposition of Euclid, sketched the figure on a country state; but what astonished me most was his telling us in English that geometry was derived from Sanscrit, which was "Jwamithi," and that many of our mathematical terms, such as hexagon, heptagon, octagon, decagon, duoclecagon, etc., were derived from the Sanskrit forms such as shasta-con, saptacon, ashtacon, dasacon, dwadesacon, etc. respectively. This promising boy is now, I conclude, soverign of the finest country

The same type of appreciations had been received from his 'gurus' (teachers) also, for example, his teacher Subha Rao in 1827 wrote to his brother Thyagaraja Rao the following way about Maharaja Swathi Thirunal "The prince had already made considerable progress in his learning and my conscience assures me that I have done my duty sincerely as a tutor. The liberal knowledge he has acquired under my tuition by the study of Ethics, Mathematics, History, Logic, is, I think adequate to render him worthy of the rank he is destined to hold in Society."\(^\text{29}\)

Maharaja Swathi Thirunal started his reign very brilliantly. Within a short period of time he became famous. His aim was to lift Travancore as a 'model country'. He appointed his teacher K. Subha Rao as the 'Diwan' even before getting the consent of his Aunt who was his regent and the British Resident. He had brought lots of administrative reforms such as changing the 'Hasur Kacheri' (Government Secretariate) from Quilon to Trivandrum. Maharaja himself used to spend some time in looking after the administration every day.\(^\text{30}\)

Maharaja, who had received his education in English language also, was concerned about spreading the English education through out his country. He appointed Mr. John Roberts to start an English


\(^{30}\)Sharma, p. 22.
school in Trivandrum. Maharaja was also interested in establishing a printing press in Trivandrum. He brought equipments from England for this purpose. He was also known for the collection of scholarly books. Once from Punjab, a scholar, Mr. Sankaranath brought some rare palm leaf books (documents) and presented it to the king. King had examined and read these collection. He decided to collect books of this type and publish it in printed book form. For that purpose he ordered the construction of a palace "granthapura (house of books). This gave birth to a library of hand written books ("Hastha Likhitha Grantha Sala").

H. Padmanabha, a scholar who was working in this palace library of hand written books says that Shri Swathi Thirunal had read all the books which were in this library. Later on, the collection of Sri Visakam Thirunal was added to this library.

As regards literature, the leading figures were Iraimman Thampi and Vidwan Koithampuran, both court poets of Swathi Thirunal. They can truly be termed as representatives of the trends of the times, since their works abound in a beautiful and happy blending of poetry and music. Iraimman Thampi is pre-eminently the most musical of the poets of Kerala.

In the above paragraphs we have seen the great interest of Sree Swathi Tirunal in the field of literature and education.

\[^{31}\text{Ibid., p. 28}\]
\[^{32}\text{N. Balakrishnan, Biography of Sri Swathi Thirunal, Trivandrum, B. V. Printing Works, 1962, pp.79-80.}\]
\[^{33}\text{Majumdar, p. 202.}\]
Since he was interested in spreading English education as well as native language, he took several measures to achieve this end. One of them was the establishment of libraries in his country.  

On the 14th of September 1836, a Government order was issued to the then Diwan of Travancore to pay Rs.1,000.00 to Mr. J. Roberts, the Secretary of Trivandrum Public Library. This is recorded in palm leaf. This was the largest Government grant ever made then.

Mr. J. Roberts, who was invited by Maharaja Swathi Thirunal to start English education in Trivandrum was also the Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library.

This palm leaf Royal Edict (Neetu) is in the possession of the central Archives in Trivandrum (Neetu 216). A translation of the original Malayalam 'Neetu' with the xerox picture of the palm leaf document are given in the following pages.

Neetu, S Kanni 1012 M. E.* (Royal Edict, September 14, 1836):

"Received the letter of the Library Secretary and read and understand the content requesting to pay to the Public Library Rupees 1000.00 (thousand) as inam from the Government also. Therefore, for the above mentioned purpose issuing an order (Neetu) to the Diwan Shesha Pandither Subharayar to order to Thanmaperuma Pillai, the Acting Treasurer of Hajoor Treasury to pay Rupees 1000.00 (thousand).

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34 Sankunny, p. 408.

35 Varghese, 1979, p. 135.
COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ROYAL EDICT OF

MAHARAJA SREE SWATHI THIRUNAL ON PALM LEAF

A photostat of a royal edict in Ola (palm leaf) issued by the then Maharaja of Travancore sanctioning a gift of Rs. 1000 for the Trivandrum Public Library in September 1836. The Ola documents are preserved in the State Government Archives.
115

(115) 1012, ക്ഷായിലാണ് 53-

(115) 1012, ക്ഷായിലാണ് 53-

(115) 1012, ക്ഷായിലാണ് 53-
This Royal Edict signed by Majaraja Swathi Thirunal proves more than one thing. It undoubtedly proves the controversy of the date of establishing the Trivandrum Public Library. The Library was already existing when the King sent the grant. The library was established even prior to the Royal Edict of 1836.

Therefore, the year of establishment mentioned by the State Librarian, Mr. P. V. Varghese, 1829, is the year of its beginning. If the King had to be convinced to send an inam of Rs.1000.00 by the Secretary to the Library, the Library had to be there even prior to the date of the Royal Edict.

Secondly, it shows the interest of the king in the growth and development of the Public Library. This was the largest grant given to the Library from the Government.

Swati Thirunal's reign was one of the enlightened administrations in all the fields. He died when he was only 34 in 1847. This early death of the king was a great loss to Travancore. He was called by his subjects "Garba Sriman," i.e., one who was the sovereign even from his birth.

The Early Developments of the Library

In 1847 the Trivandrum Public Library was registered as a society with a proper constitution and body of rules. The state

\[36\] Central Archives, Trivandrum, 'Neetu' 216.

recognition came soon after in 1856 when the Government agreed to pay Rs.13/- per mensem for office expenses. At the same time library was shifted by a Government order to the Museum, and then located at the Observatory House with a view to use the library building as a Traveller's Bungalow and to construct another building for the library afterwards. Where the library was first located is not known now. But there is evidence that, by 1847, it had acquired its own land and building. When the library was in the Observatory House, a set of valuable scientific books were transferred, in 1865, from the Observatory to the Library. The Museum and the Library were in the Observatory House from 1856 onwards.\textsuperscript{38}

The Trivandrum Public Library established in 1829 remained more or less a private institution till 1898.\textsuperscript{39} In that year, the administration of the library was transferred from its subscribers to Travancore "Sircar" (Government). In 1862 another library, the Trivandrum People's Library was established for the benefit of the natives. This library continued to function till 1899 when it was amalgamated into Trivandrum public Library.

**Early Location**

The exact location of the Trivandrum Public Library in its early years is still unknown. But there is evidence that by 1847 it had acquired its own land and building, somewhere in the present

\textsuperscript{38}V. K. N. Menon, pp. 15-16

\textsuperscript{39}Kurian Thomas, p. 21
On 28th February 1856, an agreement was reached between the Travancore 'Sircar' and the subscribers agreed to lend the library to the 'Sircar' without rent for the purpose of a Traveller's Bungalow. Accordingly, books, maps, globes, and other property of the library were shifted to the house generally known as the Caldecalt's Bungalow, that is the Trivandrum Observatory of which Caldecalt was the first Director.

**Agreement Between the Sircar of Travancore and Subscribers to the Trivandrum Public Library Regarding the Transfer of the Library to the Museum Bungalow.**

Trivandrum, 28 February 1856.

That the building at present occupation by the library shall be lent to the Sircar without rent for the purpose of a Traveller's Bungalow as long as the following conditions are completed by the Sircar or as long as the contracting parties may concern therein

2nd The Sircar shall provide a satisfactory place elsewhere for the library which place shall be kept in good repair by the Sircar.

3rd The Sircar shall pay monthly into the hands of the secretary of the society for the time being the sum of thirteen rupees, being eight rupees for a writer and five rupees for a peon.

4th The nonsubscriber with the permission of a member may be allowed to consult the books in the library, in accordance with the

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40 Ibid

41 Travancore Sircar and Subscribers of the Public Library, Agreement 28 February 1847.
by-laws of the library relating thereto, to be via be hereafter.

5th In the event of these conditions not being fulfilled by the Sircar, or the contracting parties ceasing to desire the continuance of this agreement, the Sircar shall be abound to return the present library building to the subscribers, in as good a state of repair as it has received it.

6th That the library alluded to under the 3rd head is that existing at present date.

7th That the library shall, be under the care of the subscribers for the time being, as were to fore.

8th That signatories of the British Resident and Diwan on the one hand, and the majority of the subscribers to the library on the other, to this and the preceding resolutions shall be evidences of the competitors of this contract.

Signed

John Allan Brown

W. Cullen

H. Drury

(Resident)

Janus Reid

Edword Waring

V. Krishna Rao

Ramachandra Rao

(Diwan)

H. W. Daly

It is already mentioned that the library was shifted to the Caldecalt's Bungalow. In 1876 the library was temporarily shifted to Mrs. Mead's house, in front of the present library building. This was done as per the request of the then Honorary Secretary, F. H. Thompson, that great damage to books was daily caused by rain
and they sustain a serious loss, if the library is not at once removed.\textsuperscript{42} Major Davidson, the Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library during 1877, informed the government that the building in which the library is held is not suitable and asked the government to allot a portion of the Napier Museum, suitably furnished at the expense of the government. Thus in 1877 the government sanctioned that the books be located in the recently built museum.\textsuperscript{43}

The government in 1886 built for the library, the building known as the Museum Library in the then Public Gardens, the present Museum Campus. But there were oppositions from the secretary of the Public Gardens and finally the library was shifted to the Traveller's Bungalow.\textsuperscript{44}

Kurian Thomas says that on October 1895, the Public Library Committee appealed to the government to be kind enough to erect at the present site, a building in size and appearance to the public library of Travancore. As a result the government sanctioned the construction of the new building and work commenced by the end of 1899. To start the construction of the new building, as proposed by the Chief Engineer, the library was shifted to the large central room in the upstairs of the School of Arts, Trivandrum, on 30th September 1899. This shifting of the library to the Arts School helped the

\textsuperscript{42}Trivandrum Public Library, Honourary Secretary, \textit{Letter to Diwan}, 8 November 1876.

\textsuperscript{43}Trivandrum Public Library, \textit{Committee Minutes}, No.4662/G 1125 21 October 1885.

\textsuperscript{44}Kurian Thomas, p. 22.
construction of the new building.\textsuperscript{45}

The inconveniences caused to the Trivandrum Public Library, its subscribers and document collection are clearly depicted in the appeal of the Honorary Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library, submitted to the government in 1895.\textsuperscript{46} To quote: "... from the year 1856 to 1892, the library had no fixed location... and books were transformed from one place to another, the result being that the books were either injured or lost."\textsuperscript{47}

**Original Aims and Objectives**

There is no relevant record available about the aims and objectives of the Trivandrum Public Library, even though it was established in 1829. No relevant record is available from 1829 to 1836. The Committee minutes of October 15, 1854 says that the rules and regulations of the library were framed in a meeting held in August 30, 1836.\textsuperscript{48} The original objective of this library as stated in the resolutions of this meeting was the gradual formation of an extensive library of books of general reference for the use and benefit of the people of Travancore.

\textsuperscript{45}Ibid

\textsuperscript{46}Ibid., p. 23.

\textsuperscript{47}Trivandrum Public Library, Committee Minutes, 21 October 1895.

\textsuperscript{48}Trivandrum Public Library, Minutes of the Special General Meeting, October 15, 1854.
Early Administration

The Trivandrum Public Library was established in a pattern similar to the British Private Subscription Libraries and 'Book Clubs' of the early 19th century. In a similar pattern in 1022 ME (1847) the Public Library Society was organized with a limited membership and registered itself with a proper constitution.49

Kurian Thomas says that during the initial periods, the membership in the society was considerably small, less than a dozen.50 The Minutes of the special general meeting held on September 7, 1847, gives the list of members present on that day:51

- Major Sherreff
- Captain Beaw
- Mr. John Caldecalt
- Mr. F. Row
- Captain Daly
- Dr. Peterson
- Lient. Crewe (Honorary Secretary)

The routine administration of the library was entrusted to the Library Committee. The Maharaja and the British Resident were the patron and President respectively of the Library Committee during the initial stages. According to the Palm Leaf Document (Neetu


50Kurian Thomas, p. 23.

51Trivandrum Public Library, Minutes of the Special General Meeting, 7 September 1847.
of Maharaja Swathi Tirunal), Mr. J. Robert was the Honorary Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library in 1836.

The Honorary Secretary was a British, either a civilian or a military officer, posted in Trivandrum. The following is the list of persons who held the office of the Honorary Secretary from 1836 to 1900:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>John Robert</td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>Lient. Crewe</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>Captain Daly</td>
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<td>1876</td>
<td>Major F. H. Thompson</td>
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<td>1877</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>I. Sperschneider</td>
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<td>1883</td>
<td>F. S. Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892-94</td>
<td>H. P. Esonde White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895-98</td>
<td>C. S. Boyle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People's Library - The First Library Open to Public in Kerala

While the Trivandrum Public Library was making its slow progress, a People's Library had come into existence some time before 1878, housed in a building in the area then known as the 'Bodyguard Maidan' and now as the 'Police Stadium' near the place where All India Radio's Trivandrum Station was first located.² Kurian Thomas in his book 'Trivandrum Public Library' says that the People's Library was established in 1862 and this was an important landmark in the

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²V. K. N. Menon, p.16.
history of public library movement in Kerala. This library existed about 37 years.

The Trivandrum Public Library was not opened to the public. Its membership was restricted. P.V. Varghese observes: "As the Trivandrum Public Library continued as a library with restricted membership, the urge to read among the public has taken shape in the form of a new library called the Trivandrum People's Library, round about 1878, housed in a building somewhere near the present Police Stadium."

The initiative for the establishment of the People's Library in Trivandrum came from Dr. John Allan Brown, the Astronomer to the Travancore Government and the Director of the Observatory, Trivandrum during 1852-65. On 7 November 1859, Dr. Brown made his first Proposal with reference to a People's Library in Trivandrum. In the covering letter to the Proposal, Dr. Brown had stated:

"You will observe that the Library is for all the classes and castes and this is not an "East Indian Library." It has been quite agreed that it should be open to all persons willing to subscribe 4 annas a month."

To substantiate the need for a new library, Dr. Brown put forward the following arguments:

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53 P. V. Varghese, 1979, p. 135.

54 Kurian Thomas, p. 31.

55 John Allan Brown, Proposal with Reference to People's Library at Trivandrum, November 17, 1859.

56 Kurian Thomas, p. 31.
1. There are many persons in Trivandrum who have received English education and desire to acquire more information and to occupy their spare hours in useful and agreeable reading.

2. The books and periodicals necessary to satisfy their desire can only be obtained at expenses wholly beyond the means of the greater part of the persons mentioned.

3. These difficulties are obviated in Europe by Public Libraries open to all classes, or on payment of a small subscription.

Due to administrative and personal reasons, Dr. Brown had to submit the Proposal three times: first on 17 November 1859; then in December 1859 and finally on 8 May 1862.57 By May 1862 he had succeeded to collect a substantial amount as subscription, the major contributions being from:

- High Highness Maharaja . . . . . . Rs.600.00
- General Cullem . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 500.00
- John Allan Brown . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 200.00
- Sir Madhava Rao, the then Diwan . . . . . . . . . . . . . 50.00

In the meeting of the People's Library held on 18 October 1862, the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Brown, pointed out that the ground between the present Band House and the public road to Fort would be most convenient place for the library. In order to make arrangements for the site & building, etc., a committee was appointed with Major

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57 John Allan Brown, Proposal for People's Library, November 17 1859.
Drury as Chairman, Dr. John Allan Brown as Secretary, La Bouchardiere and J. D. Lewis as members.

The first meeting of subscribers of the People's Library authorized Dr. John Allan Brown to act as the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the institution to formulate rules, to manage the library and to constitute a Managing Committee to elect a Managing Secretary. A meeting of subscribers was held on 5 May 1865 in the library room. The rules formulated by the meeting envisaged that the members shall annually elect from the list of the subscribers, a Managing Committee, a Managing Secretary and a Librarian. The following persons were then elected to the Managing Committee:

T. A. Row
S. Ananda Subramania Iyer
A. Atkinson
J. Bensly
C. G. Gressense
J. M. La Bouchrdiere
T. Krishna Iyer
J. D. d' Leons
G. D. Narse
H. Padmanabha Pillai
J. Walls

---

58 People's Library, (Trivandrum), Minutes of the Meeting of Subscribers. 18 October 1862.

59 People's Library (Trivandrum), Rules of the Library, 5 May 1865.
The complete list of Honorary Secretaries and Managing Secretaries of the Library from 1881 to 1899 is given below:

**Honorary Secretaries**

- 1877 - 80 Rev. Samuel Mateer
- 1881 - 83 John Ross
- 1884 - 87 R. Harvey
- 1888 - Rev. Samuel Mateer
- 1889 - 90 R. Harvey
- 1891 Rev. Samuel Mateer
- 1892 - 98 A Crichton Mitchel
- 1899 A Thanu Pillai

**Managing Secretaries**

- 1881 - 96 M. La Bouchardiere
- 1897 - 99 A. J. Vieyra

It was stated in Dr. Brown's original Proposal that the library was intended for the continued education for those who had received an English education. The book selection policy of the library would have been influenced by this clear objective. With this objective in view, the meeting of the subscribers held on 18 October 1862, resolved that the subscribers should be requested to forward the list of books which they might think desirable to be obtained for the library. The Government also contributed to the development of the book collection.
Amalgamation of People's Library with Trivandrum Public Library

The Government grant for the People's Library was ceased during 1886 and the institution somehow functioned till 1899. When it was found impossible to continue the institution, the library general meeting, held on 14 April 1899, authorized the Honorary Secretary to communicate to the Government and arrange the handing over the library with books, furniture and money to government and amalgamate the institution with the Trivandrum Public Library.

On 27 September 1889, A. J. Vieyra, the then Honorary Secretary, requested the Diwan to arrange for the books being taken over by the Public Library as early as possible, as the present library is not in a good condition.61

"The People's Library merged with the Trivandrum Public Library in 1899."62 As a whole, in the socio-cultural and educational life of Travancore, during the second half of the 19th century, the People's Library had a more significant role than that of the Trivandrum Public Library.

Trivandrum Public Library Opened to Public

Owing to slow progress of the discussions with government—with proposals and counter proposals—a deputation of the library visited upon the British Resident, Mr. Grigg, in 1893 to seek his advice and assistance with the Government regarding the library's

61 People's Library (Trivandrum), Honorary Secretary, Letter to the Diwan, 27 September 1889.

62 Kurian Thomas, p. 37.
future. He advised as the first step, the formal registration of the library members as a society under the "Travancore Joint-Stock Companies Regulations," and to open the library to the public. The members ultimately accepted the advice and the Trivandrum Public Library Society was registered in 1894.63

Three years later in 1897, an agreement was at last reached between the society and the Government where the institution was to be transferred, opened to the public and housed in a suitable new building. Accordingly Government took over the Library in 1898, and since then it became the real Public Library. The People's Library during this time merged with the Public Library in 1899.64

One of the decisions of Government in order to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 was to construct library building on the present site. The building was commenced in 1900 as the foundation stone says, and completed in 1902. In the same year the Public Library moved into the new building from the old Traveller's Bungalow.

The Trivandrum Public Library was opened to the public on the advice of the then British Resident, Mr. Grigg.

"Thus in 1898, fifty years before the dawn of Indian independence in the Country, the common people of Trivandrum were allowed entry into this temple of knowledge during the reign of Maharaja Sree Moolam Thirunal which is an event as unique as the Kerala Temple-entry Proclama-

63Varghese, 1979, p. 136.

64V. K. N. Menon, p. 17.
With the take over of the Library by the Government in 1898, the opening of its membership to the public, its amalgamation with People's Library and the occupation of its new building in 1902, we may conclude this early history of the Trivandrum Public Library and examine its development towards a State Central Library.

**Trivandrum Public Library Towards Modern Period**

The period 1898 - 1956 witnessed a lot of transformation in the social, political and administrative spectrum of the erstwhile Travancore and the present Kerala State. These transformations had real impact on the development of the Trivandrum Public Library also. The establishment of the University of Travancore, the dawn of independence, the reorganisation of the State, etc., are worth mentioning in this context.  

**Construction of the New Building**

The main building of the Trivandrum Public Library was constructed during the period between 1900 - 1902. Though the Trivandrum Public Library Committee submitted to the Government a plan and estimate for a new building on 30 November 1880, the construction was not accomplished mainly due to difference of opinion regarding

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65 Varghese, 1979, p. 135.

66 Kurian Thomas, p. 40.
the site, facilities to be provided, etc. On February 19, 1891, J. C. Hannyngton, the then British Resident stated:

"It is the duty of the Sircar (Government). . . to build up on the site occupied by the members. . . a building according to the plan and estimate submitted by the members of the library."

As one of the programmes to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the Government in 1897 decided to convert the Trivandrum Public Library into a Circulating and Reference Library and to construct a new building on the present site. The Government paid a keen interest in almost all details of the construction, and in 1897 Diwan Krishnaswami Rao (1892-98) reminded the Chief Engineer that the building should of course be decided, laying a particular eye to the architectural beauty and ordinary convenience required of an institution of its kind and should be such as to admit of accommodating not only the present stock of books but considering additions.

Dr. A. W. Bishop, the then Honorary Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library on 7 December 1898 expressed the opinion of the library committee about the accommodation needed in the proposed

67 British Resident (Travancore), His Memorandum, 19 February 1891.

68 Ibid

69 Diwan (Travancore), Letter to the Chief Engineer, 24 November, 1897.

70 Ibid
new building as:

1. Book Room
2. Reference Library
3. Librarian's Room
4. Regular Reading Room
5. Members Reading Room
6. Ladies Reading Room
7. Committee Room
8. Waiting Room with counter for issue and receipt of books.
9. Store Room
10. Ladies Lavatory
11. Outside Lavatory

The Chief Engineer on 23rd June 1899, submitted a plan and estimate of Rs.50,000.00 (fifty thousand only) for the proposed new building. The modifications suggested by the Committee were effected in the design and government sanction for a revised estimate of Rs.50,600 was obtained on 30 September 1899.

Since the construction of the new building was done in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria,

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71 Trivandrum Public Library, Honorary Secretary, Letter to the Diwan. 7 December 1898.

72 Chief Engineer, Travancore, Plan and Estimate of the Trivandrum Public Library, No.9980, 23 June 1899.

73 Travancore, Palace Order, 30 September 1899.
the library was named as "Diamond Jubilee Library." Finally in 1902 in one of the meetings of the library committees held at the School of Arts before occupying the new building, it was resolved that with regard to the name of the institution, the name 'Diamond Jubilee' should be avoided as the term was merely a popular phrase. The committee also suggested that a tablet or a brass plate should be placed in the Central Hall stating that this building was erected in commemoration of the 60th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria Empress of India. However, no such tablet or plate is now seen in the Central hall of the library.

Every year about thousand new books were added to the stock and the need for additional space for accommodating new books was pressing. The Honorary Secretary appealed to the Government in 1927 to construct an extension to the library. The Chief Secretary on 11 October 1928 informed that there is no provision in the budget for the purpose, but asked the Chief Engineer to prepare the necessary plans and the estimate for the extension. This extension was made during 1935. Another extension to the main building was made during 1950.

Trivandrum Public Library Under the University of Travancore

The University of Travancore was established in 1937. During that time the University had no separate library. Therefore,

74Kurian Thomas, p. 42.
76Chief Secretary, Travancore, Letter No.1038/280, 11 Oct. 1928
Trivandrum Public Library was assigned the functions of the University Library also. Consequently in 1939 the Public Library was transferred to the control of the University of Travancore.\(^77\)

Though a separate library for the University of Travancore came into existence in 1942, the Trivandrum Public Library continued to function under the control of the University for another seven years. It is reported that later on there were complaints that the library was being neglected by the University, consequent to the starting of the University Library, and that it was being neglected by the University as an unwanted child.\(^78\) Subsequently, a resolution was unanimously passed by the Legislature resolving that the government should take over the institution from the University and manage it as a separate department.

The Government in 1949, issued the necessary orders sanctioning the Public Library together with the funds allotted for the library being transferred from the University to the Government.\(^79\)

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\(^77\)Trivandrum Public Library, **Travancore Directory**, 1949, p.111.

\(^78\)Secretary, Department of Education (Travancore), **Report Submitted to the Government**, 24 January 1956.

\(^79\)Chief Secretary, Travancore, **Letter to the Registrar of the University of Travancore**, ROC No. 11290/48 EDN, 20 March 1947.
### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
#### 1926 - 56

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Cost to the Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>4,450</td>
<td>12,056</td>
<td>8,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-30</td>
<td>5,082</td>
<td>14,784</td>
<td>9,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-33</td>
<td>4,626</td>
<td>12,505</td>
<td>7,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935-36</td>
<td>4,025</td>
<td>20,476</td>
<td>16,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-38</td>
<td>4,172</td>
<td>12,927</td>
<td>8,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-51</td>
<td>8,078</td>
<td>27,724</td>
<td>19,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953-54</td>
<td>9,184</td>
<td>40,750</td>
<td>31,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956-57</td>
<td>9,558</td>
<td>1,14,506</td>
<td>1,04,948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GROWTH OF BOOK COLLECTION
#### 1898 - 1958

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Book Stock</th>
<th>Increasing during 5 years</th>
<th>Percentage of Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>2,888</td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>. . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>12,350</td>
<td>9,462</td>
<td>327.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>16,950</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>37.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>18,096</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>6.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1,904</td>
<td>10.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>28,297</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>32,689</td>
<td>4,392</td>
<td>15.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>37,549</td>
<td>4,560</td>
<td>14.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>37,650</td>
<td>2,101</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>49,473</td>
<td>9,823</td>
<td>24.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>74,435</td>
<td>24,960</td>
<td>50.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Towards the State Central Library

The draft report prepared by the Trivandrum Public Library Committee in 1955, for the interim management of the Trivandrum Public Library and draw up a scheme for the working of the library enhancing its utility to the entire population of the State, says that it should be developed as a State Central Library.

Accordingly during the year 1956 - 57 the institution was converted into State Central Library. The Government included in the planning scheme and sanctioned about Rs.6.93 lakhs for converting the library into the State Central Library and the Distributing Library for Trivandrum. The Convener of the Library Committee was appointed as the State Librarian.80

Trivandrum Public Library Towards Modernisation

The Trivandrum Public Library has also the privilege of being the first University Library in Kerala for ten years from 1938 to 1948. Again the administrative council was taken over by Government by a resolution of the State Legislative in 1948, and started functioning as a Public Library. The Library had then to be equipped to meet the increasing requirements of the public, a new generation of people, both the elite and the common man, after the declaration of independence.

There was a cultural awakening during this time and all sections of the society started using the library. More books and space for reading had to be found. A new three storeyed building

80 Kurian Thomas, p. 59.
was constructed to house the increasing number of books and the first floor of the Centenary Memorial Building was opened to the public as a general reading room. A separate children's section also was started in 1958. In 1959, the Library was designated as the State Central Library. Even though the library has been up-graded, it has not yet been possible for the library to function as a full fledged State Central Library for want of library legislation.\textsuperscript{81}

However, the Library gives guidance and technical advice to those libraries and Government departments which seek its help. It also distributes books, bicycles and financial assistance to the district libraries and selected rural libraries.

**Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation**

1972, the Silver Jubilee Year of India's Independence, saw the birth of a new institution in Public Library Service. The Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation was formed in memory of the great social reformer and educationalist on May 20, 1972. In thus honouring the father of Indian Renaissance, the country has created a very powerful instrument for imparting literacy and new knowledge to its masses through a network of libraries even in the remotest parts of the country.\textsuperscript{82}

The main objectives of the Foundation are to promote a library movement in the country, build up a national library system,
provide financial and technical assistance to libraries and library associations, act as a clearing house for ideas and information on library development and bring out necessary literature for that purpose. It was registered as an autonomous body under the Societies Registration Act. Membership of the Foundation consists of specialists in library services and other disciplines and ex-official representatives of the Government of India in the related Departments. The Union Minister for Education and Social Welfare is the Chairman of the Foundation.

Considering the various schemes that were to be taken up step by step, top priority was given to the establishment of a strong frame-work library service at the district level and inorder to implement it effectively, a detailed survey of the existing situation in each state was thought of. To conduct the proposed service and to implement the schemes sponsored by the Foundation at the State level, State Library Planning Committee composed of representatives of the Foundation and State Governments were set up.

**Funds of the Foundation**

The Foundation commenced its activities with a capital of Rs.50 lakhs donated by the Union Government. The policy envisaged for raising funds is to approach the State Governments for contribution. Every year the Union Government and the State Governments are expected to release their contributions to the Foundation. The amount allotted by the Foundation for each state will be in the form of a matching grant and so it is always advantageous for the State to contribute more to the Foundation so as to receive more in the form of books,
cycles, etc.

In Kerala an eight-member State Planning Committee was constituted in 1972 with the Director of Public Instruction as Chairman and the State Librarian as Member-Secretary. The other members of the committee were (1) Shri D. R. Kalia (2) Dr. Prabhakar Machwa (3) Shri K. D. Puranik (4) Shri U. A. Beeran (5) Shri P. T. Bhaskara Panikkar and (6) Shri A. Balagopal. The Committee selected 11 district libraries for the purpose of distributing books from the Foundation. An expert committee consisting of Shri N. V. Krishna Warrior (Director, State Institute of Languages), Dr. K. M. George, Chief Editor, Malayalam Encyclopaedia, Shri P. T. Bhaskara Panikkar, President, Kerala Grandhasala Sangam and Shri P. V. Varghese, State Librarian, was appointed to select Malayalam books.83

Administration of Trivandrum Public Library

It was envisaged in the library rules of 1898 that the property of the library belongs to the Government of Travancore and the Managing Body of the library, the "Trivandrum Public Library Committee. . . shall be appointed by the Government and shall hold office for three years and shall consist of one President, four ordinary members and one Honorary Secretary."84 From 1898 to 1921 the British Resident continued to function as the President. Later A. Govinda Pillai, E. I. John, A. Venkat Rao, Ulloor S. Paramaswara

83 Ibid

84 Trivandrum Public Library, Constitution and Rules of the Trivandrum Public Library, 1898.
functioned as the Presidents during the period 1921 - 49.  

During the period 1898 - 1959 the following persons held the post of the Honorary Secretary of the Trivandrum Public Library:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1898 - 1902</td>
<td>Dr. A. W. Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902 - 1904</td>
<td>M. LaBouchardiere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905 - 1906</td>
<td>Dr. A. W. Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906 - 1907</td>
<td>L. C. Hodgson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908 - 1909</td>
<td>A. J. Vieyra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910 - 1913</td>
<td>L. C. Hodgson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914 -</td>
<td>A. Govinda Pillai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914 - 1916</td>
<td>D. J. Sloss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916 - 1918</td>
<td>Dr. J. F. Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918 - 1920</td>
<td>B. Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920 - 1930</td>
<td>Dr. C. V. Chandrasekharan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930 - 1932</td>
<td>T. K. Velu Pillai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932 - 1934</td>
<td>K. L. Mondgill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934 - 1937</td>
<td>Prof. P. G. Sahasranama Iyar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939 - 1949</td>
<td>A Professor of the University of Travancore appointed by the Government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 1949

The Librarian acted also as the Convener of the Library Committee.

The President Administrative Set Up

The management of the library is vested in a committee of 16 members nominated by the government for a period of three years. The Secretary to the Government in the Higher Education is the President of the Committee and the State Librarian is the Convener. The
President of the Committee is the head of the department (Trivandrum Public Library is a separate department of the State Government) and the State Librarian is the Chief Controlling Officer of the Department. Under this setup even though the State Librarian is not the head of this separate department of the Government, he is responsible for all act of omission and commission relating to the administration of the department.
### Staff Pattern in Trivandrum Public Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial NO</th>
<th>Name of Post</th>
<th>Seal of Pay</th>
<th>No. of Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>State Librarian</td>
<td>Rs.910-1550.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Librarian Grade I</td>
<td>700-1270.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Librarian Grade II</td>
<td>535-950.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Librarian Grade III</td>
<td>420-720</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Librarian Grade IV</td>
<td>350-580</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>650-1150</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Head Clerk</td>
<td>450-785</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>U. D. Clerk</td>
<td>390-580</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>L. D. Clerk</td>
<td>330-515</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>L. D. Typist</td>
<td>330-515</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>L. D. Accountant</td>
<td>330-515</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Binder</td>
<td>310-490</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Janitor</td>
<td>290-425</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Record Keeper</td>
<td>290-425</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Peons</td>
<td>280-400</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gardener</td>
<td>280-400</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Night Watcher</td>
<td>280-400</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sweeper</td>
<td>110 + 22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A Sample of the Budget Allotment for the Library 1977-78*

- Salaries: Rs.4,70,000.00
- Wages: 4,200.00
- Travel Expenses: 3,000.00
- Office Expenses: 50,000.00
- Books & Periodicals: 3,00,000.00
- For Air-Conditioning & Reprographic Section: 1,00,000.00

*Every year this amount varies.
The Present Administrative Structure of Trivandrum

Public Library

TRIVANDRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Separate Department of Kerala Government)

16 MEMBER LIBRARY COMMITTEE
(Nominated by Kerala Government)

PRESIDENT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
(Secretary to Government for Higher Education)

CONVENER OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
(State Librarian)

DEPUTY LIBRARIAN & STAFF
Activities of Trivandrum Public Library

Due to the cultural awakening and educational growth, the library had to be equipped to meet the increasing requirements of the public, a new generation of people, both the elite and the common man. All sections of the society started using the library. More space for books and reading had to be found. A new three storyed building was constructed to keep the increasing number of books and the first floor of the Centenary Memorial Building was opened to the public as a general reading room. This reading room is spacious to accommodate the Public Library's readers.

"A separate children's section also was started in 1958."86 This section keeps books for children's mental development. There are lots of children's story books, moral books and books on hobbies. A huge amount is spent every year for children's books.

The Library also gives technical advice and guidance to those libraries and government departments which seek its help. It is serving the Kerala Government as a State Central Library. This Library distributes books, bycycles and financial assistance to district and selected rural libraries on behalf of the Raja Rammohan Roy Foundation. The Trivandrum Public Library is now conducting a certificate course in Library Science.

The Library's collection consists of books in English, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit and Kannada. About 400 journals are subscribed regularly to meet the demands of the readers. This

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86 V. K. N. Menon, p. 17.
library is serving the research scholars from all parts of the country. There are lots of valuable and rare books and also ancient manuscripts available in this library.

The Trivandrum Public Library, no doubt is a growing institution, but the pace of growth is not at the rate as it ought to be in the case of a State Central Library. This was due to the absence of a public library legislation in the State. Now that the Kerala Legislature has passed the Kerala Public Library Bill, early in 1989, rapid progress in library facilities is expected.