1.0 Introduction.

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3.3 Academic Library Movement.

3.4 Seminar Recommendation.

3.5 Library Bills.

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CHAPTER III

LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN ASSAM

3.0 INTRODUCTION

Public Library movement is not a new phenomenon in India. It came into being prominently in the society during the British rule. Different trade unions and organisations launched a movement in the interest of common good of the society. To raise a voice or to gather public opinion for common objectives and to establish it from common platform are the rights of the democratic citizens.

Public Library movement in Assam was not started on the line of trade union movement. It was a constructive idea of some scholarly persons. They formed and organised an Association with a view to developing library service in the rural areas of Assam.

Academic library movement as an organisation has been started by Assam College Librarians' Association for the first time and it has been patternised as a trade union. The objective of this organisation is to develop college libraries and to expand it to national level.
The role of other library organisations has not been significant at all.

Every movement must have cause and effect, goals and purpose. The success of an organisation depends specially upon its leadership. Wise, efficient and powerful leader can show better results in the field of activities. While inefficient leaders destroy it or cannot attain the goal.

3.1 MODERN LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

Satra Institutional Libraries, which were adopted and organised to cover a major portion of populated area has now changed its views and confined to a particular or limited section of people e.i. among the Satradhikars, Bhaktas, monks or Knulns and their discendants. It has failed to maintain its original idea, due to defective organisation and traditional religious bias. Some private libraries of scholars were grown during this period with good collection of books. Side by side a public library, initiated by the State Government has been established in its Capital at Shillong. In 1956, this library was amalgamated with the newly established State Central Library. During the first five year plan the government of India sponsored a Scheme entitled 'improvement of Library Ser-
Service', which was accepted by the State government, in 1954 as the apex in the public library system. With the spread of primary education and the starting of the Social education programme, libraries have grown up everywhere in a wide spread manner and Adult education scheme brought into being a number of village libraries. The All India Library Association was founded on October, 1933 through the efforts of Khan Bahadur Asadullah. A parallel Library Association were formed in all the provinces of India. The modern public library movement acquired great strength when the Indian National Congress assumed power. The Indian Library Association impressed upon the Central government and the State government the need for creation of a network of public Library Service uniformly throughout the country.

Under the scheme of improvement of Library Service sponsored by the government of India Ministry of Education from 1952, the different States of India have been organising a network of libraries in their respective jurisdiction. The Assam Education Department has set up one Central Library at Shillong and seven district libraries at Guwahati, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Dhubri and Silchar. These libraries have their own Advisory Committees of a predominantly official character. The overall scheme of library Service in the State has been placed under the State Central Librarian. The Central Library has organised a unit of Book Mobile Service with three Mobile Vans. There were as
many as 70 deposit centers for circulation of books to the villages in 1959. There was also a unit of integrated Library Service at Titabar in the Sibsagar District, consisting of one Regional Library and five branch libraries with twenty unit libraries, thus giving a circulation of book service in the region. In 1956 the old Assam Government Public Library was amalgamated with the State Central Library. Provision has been made in the Third plan to cover the Sub-divisional Headquarters under the Library Service Scheme. By the end of 1963 the State Central Library had roughly 1,20,000 volumes and the District libraries a total of approximately 85,000. The largest number of village libraries in the State are being run by the Social Education Department, under the Community Development Programme. Medical, Agricultural, Forest and other Department of Assam have their own library service. *(1)*

3.2 PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT

In 1938, Kumudeshwar Barthakur, a retired Secondary school teacher, with the help of Lokapriya Gopi Nath Bardoloi, Bishnu Dowrah, Raghunath Chaudhury, Harendra Nath Baruah and other students of Gauhati, started a libr-

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ary movement in Assam on the same lines as in Boroda State. They gave wide publicity for its first sitting at Gauhati. At this time there were only fifty libraries all over the State. In the beginning they attempted to build up a voluntary village library system. The Association held a few Annual Conferences at Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Nowgong between 1937 and 1952 at Jorhat in 1953, at Gauhati in 1955, at Bokakhat between 1955 and 1958, at Mangaldoi in 1959 and Gauhati in 1964 and 1971 and Nowgong in 1971-72. The Association was not vigorous. It is a little candle burning in the horizon of library movement. (2) Sylhet was under Assam and Dibrugarh was regarded as Calcutta of Assam. There was no public library at Dibrugarh and other principle towns of Assam. The personal library of late Loboram Dutta of Dibrugarh had a very rich collection of books and served to a great extent, the demand of general public. At that time there were a woman's library at Dhubri, Children library at Sylhet, and Bani library at Tezpur. In Sibsagar the personal library of Akhaya Ghose an Advocate and library of an eminent scholar Bhagabati Prasad served the purpose of public libraries. Bali Cohain of Sibsagar was very famous for his personnel collection of historical literature and preserved it in such a way that on rare occasions these books could be used. The Bishnu Ram Hall Library of Jorhat was properly

2. Ibid P. 74.
managed and the Collection of Assamese books were very negligible. After the first sitting of this Association at Guwahati a network of activities for the need of library service have been started through the best efforts of the youth and the students of the State. They gave wide publicity through the meetings, nam kirtans, Sabhas, and other religious and social performances by arranging lectures, seminars, public meetings, group discussions and other means throughout the State, and tried to attract the general public towards the library. Once in the weekly bazar of Dhupdhara in the Goalpara District while some members of this Association, including a professor of local college started on speaking like stompatorator standing upon from pilling over the shop boxes, driven away from the bazar area, by the public and debarred them from speaking. On various occassions the organisers themselves had to made statement either to the police or to the Magistrate for this purpose.(3)

The Association gave more stress on establishing private libraries in each and every family. A committee of the family members was formed with father or mother as president, one of their children as Secretary and others as members. All the members were responsible for the development of family library, develop reading habits among friends, relatives, not to take presents of other things

3. Ibed pp 75-77.
except books, offer books for reading to the new members, but in no circumstances books were not given for taken away or lent. Children were vowed not to purchase any luxury goods except books, and force their parents to present them books in lieu of other necessaries. Sometimes children were induced to go on hunger strike and press their parents to fulfill their demands. Besides, a bold step was also taken for popularising the scheme by covering all the working and the labour class families. With a view to develop reading habits at the initial stage members of these families were engaged in reading at night by supplying interesting books namely stories, novels, newspapers and religious books under the street light or by lighting country lamps.

On some occasions by beating drums, singing songs like 'Bihu Geet', 'Hussori', 'Bargeet', etc. wide publicity was given among the general public of rural areas so that they become library minded. Wide publicity was also given through newspapers and movies like Kelvin at Guwahati. Besides, establishing village libraries in different villages under voluntary agencies, a system of 'musthi Viksha' has also been introduced. The poor villagers who were not in a position to subscribe their share at a time, therefore, they accumulate a part of their daily earning and handed it over either monthly or weekly to the organisers and collected funds accordingly for establishing village libraries in the State. With the help of a junior minister this
Association was able to collect two inter class railway tickets to travel free of cost all over the state for organising purpose. The Association met the then Governor of Assam Sri Joy Ram Das Doulratram at Tezpur circuit House and again at the Governor House at Shillong and submitted a memorandum for the introduction of all integrated library service scheme in the State. The Scheme was accepted by the government on principle. But it is a matter of great regret that the scheme was ignored by the Departments concerned. The Association also degenerated because of the premature death of its founder members. An attempt was made to build up voluntary organisations consisting of representatives from all classes of the society. In each district a District committee was formed to look after all round development of different categories of libraries in their jurisdiction.

At the first step the Association started working on 29th August, 1971 under the presidency of Prindipal Giridhar Sarma. During the month of May to July, 1971 nine districts committees were formed in sub-divisional headquarters of Goalpara, Tezpur, Nowgong, Nalbari, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Mangaldoi, consisting of:

1. S.D.O. or his nominee
2. Chairman of the Town Committee or Municipal Board as Executive officer.
3. President Mahakuma Parisad.
4. President Anchalic Panchayat.
5. Principal of Local Colleges.
6. Principal/Headmaster local Higher Secondary/High school.
7. Librarian, District/Subdivisional library.
8. College Librarian.
9. School Librarian or any such person.
10. Members among the village librarians.
11. Local Dignitaries.
12. Inspector of Schools.
13. Social Education Officer.

As per need and requirement of the local demand the number of members could be increased or decreased.

The Block Committee were formed consisting of:

1. President, Anchalic Panchyat.
2. Members of the Anchalic Panchyat.
3. Representatives of the Educational Institutions.
4. Three Secretaries/Librarians/Village libraries.
5. Five dignitaries of Panchyats area.
6. Block/Social Education Officer as organising Secretary.

As per local needs and requirement the strength could be increased or decreased.

After the completion of the Block level Committees, a village level committee for two or three village or in each village, a village library committee was formed.
In the IX Annual Conference of the Association it was decided to publish a half yearly magazine named 'Granthalok' and to publish a national catalogue of published books in Assamese language and literature. The Association published its first and second issues in 1971 and 1972-73 respectively under the joint editorship of Dharmadutta Sarma, the State Social Educational Officer and Deputy Librarian of Dibrugarh University Ramesh Phukan. In 1959, Dr. M. Neog was elected President of the Mangoldoi Conference. The VIII annual conference under his presidency was held at Guwahati in 1964. Many eminent Scholars from outside the State like Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, Professor P.N. Knuln, Dr. Gaur, and Dr. Ohdedur attended the conference. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan submitted a draft library bill on Library Legislation in Assam, to the Chief minister of Assam B.D. Chaliha and the State Education minister D.K. Baruah. But no action was taken on it.

The long felt demand of the Association to introduce B.Lib.Sc. course in Guwahati University has been fulfilled with Dr. J. Sarma, Librarian of Guwahati University, as the Head of the Department. Under his active efforts and sincerity the Guwahati University authority has also introduced M.Lib.Sc. course.

In the IX annual conference of this association Principal Giridhar Sarma, Aryavidynpith College, Guwahati, Dr. J. Sarma, Librarian and Head of the Department
Library Science, Gauhati University, and Bhadra Bora, Lecturer, Department of Library Science, Gauhati University have been elected President, Organising President and Secretary respectively. The Association held its Xth Annual Conference on the 24th and 25th November, 1971 at Nowgong. The President toured extensively to study the existing condition of village Public libraries sponsored by voluntary organisation all over the State and tried to implement the resolution adopted in the IX and Xth annual conference of the Association, and tried to re-organise the village library. Sarma died and the Association languished.

The government of Assam did nothing for the development of Library Service in the State. According to the census report of 1971 the total population of the State was 14.6 million and the urban population 13 lakhs and the rural population 13.3 million. There are about 22,000 villages. Panchayat libraries are the only agencies serving the rural community. It has been proposed by the newly formed Directorate of Library Services to established 50 panchayat libraries during 1984-85 and 100 in 1985-86, 50 in 1986-87 and 746 in 1989-90 covering all the Gaon Panchayats of the State. For urban population seven district libraries were also established in 1954 for plain districts. Five district libraries for hills and five sub-divisional libraries were also set up in 1967-68. At present Assa-m has
one State Central library at Gauhati 10 districts libraries and 13 sub-divisional libraries. Some of the voluntary village library systems organised by the Assam Library Association are still functioning. The deplorable condition of the public library service is due to lack of Library Legislation.

The responsibility for the development of library service is of the State Government. On the 4th February, 1986 the Director of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Foundation collaborated with the State Directorate of Library Service, Assam, and organised a seminar to ascertain the views of a cross section of the people for formulating a national policy on Library and Information system in the State. The Seminar was held at District Library Auditorium, Gauhati. Mr. C. S. Rajagopalachari, President Indian Library Association, Prof. Asim Dasgupta, Director of National Library, Calcutta and Dr. B. P. Bora, Director, Raja Ram Mohan Foundation explained and stressed the expansion of the Library System in the country through public Library System and to set up a library in the city on the line of the National Library to preserve the Eastern Indian Language, and to pass Library Legislation by the State Government, to make the library service financially sound and efficient. The State Education Minister Brindavan Goswami said in the context of the new education policy to be taken up the national policy on library and information system should be so designed and formulated so
that it could give concrete and permanent benefit to all section of the people.

Love of books could be created in the primary stage, which will continue for all time to come and to attain the goal of social reconstruction and development. Today is the day of Science and Technology and all schools, Colleges, Universities and Public Libraries should be equipped with books on these subjects separately. The new measures for the development of Library Service are that a full-fledged children section would be set up in all libraries in a phased manner. A library cum Information and Research centre at Madhupur Satra, Cooch Behar, West Bengal would be opened and Science Section in all the Districts and Sub-divisional level Libraries would be established. It remains to be seen how far the proposals would be implemented. (4)

3.3 ACADEMIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

The Academic Library movement in Assam was started along with the public library movement organised by the Assam Library Association in 1938. This Association

4. Source materials Collected :-
b) Sentinel, 5th Feb.86, Assam Tribune 8th Feb. '86 and New Star 7th Feb. '86
Call for National Lib. in a city.
National policy of Lib. urged.
was given less importance in establishing academic libraries in the respective educational institutions of the State. More importance was given to the establishment of village public libraries and personnel libraries. The administration gave top priority for the training the library personnel. For this purpose, the association submitted many memorandums to the Chief Minister, Education Minister and the Governor of Assam.

The State Central Library trained the working Librarians by deputing to the recognised Universities in India. At present all the District Librarians have been trained. The sub-divisional librarians and library assistants were also deputed for training. The scheme will continue till the librarians are trained in library science. The State Central Library Assam conducted training course in organisation, administration and management of departmental libraries. (5)

Allmost all the schools are running without library facilities. No librarian was appointed in the school library. The condition of school libraries in the State of Assam is pitiable and deplorable. Colleges have libraries, but most of them are only worth the name. The book stock was very scanty, housed in a small room within an underqualified librarian or under the direct charges of an assistant, who has

no idea about library services. The college governing body, the Principal, or the teaching staff of the colleges do not stress the importance of overall improvement of the library and its various services, and activities. Libraries are neglected from all sides and from all quarters. Up to the year 1963 there were no qualified librarian in the definite system colleges in Assam. The highest academic body like Assam College Teacher's Association with more than four thousand members did not gave any positive views in respect of development of libraries in the colleges of the State. The Assam College Principal's council also did not do much for the development or improvement of the academic libraries. The Government's attitude was not encouraging. The Director of Public Instruction, Assam thought that "librarians are nothing but a store keeper". So their status and salary scale should not be higher than that of a senior clerk of a college. What kind of improvement can be expected from such a top ranking academic administrator for the library profession.

The academic library movement in Assam came in to being with the formation of Assam College Librarians Association. Before that the College librarians were under the organisation of Assam College Teachers Association in name, but librarians were the members of the Assam College Ministerial Association (A.C.M.A.). As the librarian in the Colleges are few in number both the associations always try to set aside the burning problems of the working libr -
rarians from the negotiation table. On the other hand, the (A.C.M.A.) ministerial Association would try to equalise the status and pay of a librarian to that of an Upper Division Assistant or a senior clerk though there is a vast difference in the nature of duties, responsibilities and qualification. The teaching staff also thinks that the status of a librarian should not be equal to them. Therefore, there was great resentment among the college librarians. Besides, a turbulent undertow of conflict was going on in the mind of the working librarians. The problems of the college librarians remains unsolved. To solve their problems, the Assam College Librarians Association was set up.

At the initiative of P.C. Mishra, D.K. Sarma, B.N. Sarma, B.M. Mahanta and B.K. Sarma a convention was held on the 25th March, 1973 in the Nabin Bardoloi Hall, Gauhati, under the presidentship of P.C. Mishra, a senior-most librarian of Aryavidyapith College, Gauhati. They constituted a committee consisting of 12 members.:

1. P.C. Mishra, President Aryavidyapith College, Gauhati.
2. M.N. Sarma, Vice-President, Nalbari College.
3. D.K. Sarma, General Secretary, B.Barooah College, Gauhati
4. S. Biswas, Joint Secretary, Pandu College.
5. Reba Bora, Joint Secretary, Nowgong College.
6. B.N. Sarma, Pragjyotish College, Gauhati.
8. B.M. Mahanta, Commerce College, Gauhati. Member.
9. K. Born, K.D. College, Member.
The executive committee of the Assam College Librarians Association wish to improve the status of college librarians and of the library staff, professional security, implementation of plan and policies recommended by the University Grants Commission and the education Commission and to contribute something towards the academic field to collegiate education, by holding seminar, workshop, symposium on library science in particular and to develop socio-economic and cultural life of the State in general. The august body continued to act up to 1977. On the 3rd of April, 1977, Vice President M.N. Sarma, conveyed a General meeting of Assam College Librarians Association at Aryavidynoith College, Guwahati. The meeting formed a fifteen members executive body with P.C. Mishra, as president and B.N. Sarma as General Secretary, and R.C. Sarma, as Treasurer. On 31st December, 1978 the next general meeting was held at pragjyotish College, Guwahati and a new Executive Committee was formed with fourteen office bearers:

1. Prof. Ajit Kumar Sarma, M.P. President.
2. P.C. Mishra, Vice president.
3. B.K. Sarma, -do-
4. B.K. Sarma, General Secretary.
5. B.C. Nath, Joint Secretary.
6. N.C. Sarma, Joint Secretary.
7. B.M. Mahanta, Treasurer.
8. M.N. Sarma, member.
9. R.C. Sarma – do –
14. A. Deko all are members.

The Executive body functioned up to 15th July, 1988. The
next General Conference of the A.C.L.A. was held in the
Bishnath College, Chariali on three days programme from
15th July, 1988. A new executive Committee was formed with
fifteen members Prof. Ajit Kumar Sarma as President, B.K. Sar-
ma, as General Secretary and Ramesh Chandram as Treasurer
and other twelve members as office bearers.

There are two categories of librarians in
the colleges in Assam. Some are professionally qualified and
some are not. In 1967, there were only 9 professionally qua-
lified librarians, in 1972 it was 22, in 1982 it was 58, in
1986-87 it was 71. The number of unqualified (graduate and
non graduate) librarians were 42. The underqualified libra-
rians are not at all willing to join as members of the Asso-
ciation. They prefer to become the member of the A.C.M.A.
In the year 1982, the number of librarians in deficit grants-
in-aid system Colleges was 115. Of the Qualified librarians,
majority of them have not enrolled as members of the Asso-
ciation. Therefore, the Association had to face financial hard-
ship that threatened its very existence.
It submitted a memorandum and waited on deputation on the Government. But of no avail. In utter disgust the first general body resigned. The executive body did not get much time to implement the new plan and programme. It continues to exist.

Till 1977, the government did not give any importance to the Association. The College authorities also did not realise the difficulties faced by the college librarians in the State. At the special general Conference of the Association, held on the 19th June, 1977 a seven point charter of demand was placed before the Education Minister Hiteswar Saikia.

1. Implementation of U.G.C. Scale of pay to the College Librarian.

2. Staff norms for College libraries as recommended by Ranganathan Committee.

3. To train the existing graduate librarian.

4. Underqualified librarian who had completed 10 years of service should be treated as qualified and they should get all the privileges of trained librarians.

5. To depute the librarian to the all India Conference, symposium, Seminar, summer institute, refreshers course etc.

6. To recognise proper status and frame service rules to the college librarians at par with U.G.C. norms.

7. To recognise the A.C.L.A. by the government.

The Association also suggest staff norms to the government as follows:-
### Table 3.1

Staff norms as suggested by the A.C.L.A. to the Govt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of Students</th>
<th>No of Teachers</th>
<th>No of Books</th>
<th>No of Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 500</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Librarian - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Asstt. - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Counter attendant - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Bearer - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Book bank Asstt. - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gate keeper - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total = 6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501 to 1,000</td>
<td>21-50</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Librarian - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Asstt. - 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Counter attendant - 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Bearer - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Book bank Asstt. - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gate keeper - 1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total = 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001 to 2,000</td>
<td>51-70</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Librarian - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant Librarian - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Assistant - 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bookman - 3</td>
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<td>Bearer - 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Book bank Asstt. - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gate Keeper - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total = 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001 and above</td>
<td>51-70</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Librarian - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>above above</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant Librarian - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library Assistant - 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bookman - 4</td>
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<td>Bearer - 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Book bank Assistant - 1</td>
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<td>Gate Keeper - 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total = 14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ultimately the government recognised the A.C.L.A. on the 4th of August, 1977. The government has formulated staff
norms for the Grade III staff of the deficit grants-in-aid system Colleges during the year 1967, and Grade IV staff in 1973, but except the librarian no additional staff was sanctioned for the college library. But with the effort of the Association the government formulated a staff norms for the college libraries on the 31st March, 1980. Implementing this norms 34 posts of library Assistant and 62 posts of library bearer were sanctioned by the government for 54 different colleges of Assam. The norms was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of students</th>
<th>No of books</th>
<th>Staff sanctioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Library bearer -1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 501 to 1,000   | 10,000      | Library Assistant-1  
                  |              | Library bearer- 1 |
| 1000 and above | 20,000 or above | Library Assistant-1  
                  |              | Library Bearer- 2. |

Further the government sanctioned one Assistant Librarian to those libraries where collection of books was thirty thousand or above.
Up to the year 1978 there was no bar for the appointment of unqualified librarians in the college libraries in Assam. Sometimes unqualified librarians were appointed in the colleges and thereby harmed the profession. The Association brought this to the notice of the government. The government directed the college authorities to stop the appointment of underqualified librarian to the college libraries of Assam from February, 1978.

A General conference was not held outside Gauhati except in 1982. On the initiative and endeavour of Sri Dilip Kumar Sarma, Librarian, J.B.College, Jorhat who invited the A.C.L.A. conference and accordingly a General Conference of the A.C.L.A. was held in the J.B.College Auditorium on the 21st to 23rd May, 1982. In that conference a seminar was also held on the following topics:

1. Role of Academic Libraries on Modern Education System and
2. Problems of Classification system in College Library:

Dewey Decimal or Depth Classification.

After a gap of long five years the Second General Conference of the A.C.L.A. was held in the Biswanath College, Chariali for three days from 15th to 17th July, 1988. A seminar was also held on the topic "Role of Library for developing reading habits among the students."

The Library and Information science department Gauhati University took a bold step by introducing B.Lib.Sc.
and M.Lib.I.Sc. course. The Department initiated U.G.C. sponsored National Lecture and held a Departmental Seminar on the 20th and 21st February, 1984. Two lectures were delivered by Dr. T.K.S. Iyenger, Librarian, I.I.S., Bangalore on
1) Automated Information System and
2) Computerization in Academic Libraries.
A seminar was also held on the topic "Impact of College Libraries on Higher Education in Assam ". Altogether 100 persons attended the seminar and lectures. About 54 College Librarians of different colleges of Assam attended the seminar. It was for the first time that the government of Assam by a notification of the D.P.I., Assam requested the respective college authorities to bear the expenses e.g. the Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowances from the College fund for this purpose.

A three week U.G.C. sponsored refresher course was held from June 6th to 26th on organisation, administration and service of Academic libraries of N.E. Region under the auspicious of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University. This was the first endeavour to bring together the working academic librarian of N.E. Region. The student Forum of Library Science Department, Gauhati University and the Head of the Department of Library and Information Science with the members of the Assam College Librarians Association met the Chief Minister, Education Minister and the Education Secretary.
Through the seminar resolutions, the government was urged to raise the standard of the Academic Libraries and improve the status of the academic librarians of the State.

The Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, broadcast a talk on A.I.R., Gauhati in which she has pointed out all the pros and cons for the deterioration of the standard of library service, negligence of the concerned authority, and suggested improvements. Many articles were published in the daily leading newspapers of Assam concerning Academic Libraries of the State, prepared by Mrs. A. Buragohain, R.C. Sarma, Librarian, Tibu College, N. Sarma, Librarian, Bishwanath College, etc.

On the 18th November, 1986 a one day seminar sponsored by the U.G.C. under the auspicious of the Department of Library Science, N.E.H.U., Shillong was held on the topic "University and College Libraries in E.E.Region". Four teachers of the library and Information Science, Gauhati University and the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the A.C.L.A. represented Assam. Prof. N. Sarma, and M.N. Bora of Gauhati University read a paper in the seminar, in which all the problems of the working college librarians of Assam were pointed out.

It was a tremendous achievement of the A.C.L.A. that their demand for the implementation of U.G.C. Scale of pay to the College librarians, fulfilled by the State govern-
ment and gave effect to it from 5-8-87 in case of financial
benefit giving notional benefit from 1-1-73, and promised
to declare the status with immediate effect.

3.4 Seminar Recommendation.

The VIII conference was one of the landmarks in the history of the Assam Library Association. In this
category, three seminars were held on the following topics:

   and College library.

The conference had also decided on the following:

1. Removal of language identity. 2. Provision of effective
   use of books. 3. Removal of the institution of honorary
7. Provision of a minimum grant at the rate of Rs. 10.00 per
   student and Rs. 20.00 per teachers in the college library.
8. Organization of periodicals conference inviting teachers
   and librarians.

After a gap of six years, the annual conference of the A.L.A. was held in Guwahati on the 9th, 10th, 11th
April, 1971. With the help of the Department of Social Edu-
cation, Assam, a seminar was also arranged. The discussion of
the seminars were: 1. Regarding School and College libraries. 2. Public and Rural Libraries and 3. Problems and their development.

The seminar recommended the organisation and administration of the libraries.

(a) The librarian should be trained up as per modern scientific methods and the respective supervisor of the library should equally be trained up.

(b) Development and productive schemes of the library should be implemented along with the department of agriculture which should be a compulsory to one and all.

(c) For the access of the plan and programme, a self help developmental scheme of the government, the rural library should take important part and to raise their fund through these schemes. The library should give a dive for voluntary collection either in cash or kind and to collect membership fees regularly.

(d) The government should categories the libraries into different grades and should provide financial assistance. Besides, the government should implement a fixed norms for providing grants-in-aid in different categories of libraries.

(e) In every library for smooth functioning a uniform library rules should be framed, so that each and every library should be under the purview of these rules.
The Xth annual conference of the Association was held on 24th, 25th, November, 1971 at Nowgong. In that conference a seminar was held on the topic "Role of Librarians in spreading Social Education." The discussion was held in five different units, such as:

1. Organisation of libraries as a public institution.
2. Working plan to be taken by the libraries.
3. Management of libraries and financial resources.
4. Care taking of libraries and its inspection.

Recommendation of the Seminar on "Library System Data Collection and dissemination of information for North East Region " on 23rd and 24th March, 1981, at the State Central Library, Gauhati.

Session No-1

Subject: Role of libraries in the Socio-economic development of North East Region.

Recommendations:

1. N.E.C. should arrange training of Librarians by establishing Regional Library Training Centre.
2. A committee should be constituted to go on the details of the problems of Library in North East Region.
3. It was recommended for consideration if a library cess usually levied through a library legislation could be imposed. It was further suggested that the North Eastern Council should act in the line of University Grants Commission and give grants to the libraries in the ratio of 30 : 20 (between the North Eastern Council and the State Government)
Session No 2

Subject :- Importance and method of keeping the archival materials.

Recommendations :- The seminar was of the view that steps should be taken properly to preserve archival materials including private papers on eminent persons and public organisation of the region. It was recommended that N.E.C. may take suitable steps to capable the State government and Union Territories of the region to establish their dependent archives and their Regional Branches of the National Archives of India at the earliest.

Session No 3

Subject :- Role of public libraries in the community development with special reference to the North Eastern Region.

Recommendations :-

(1) The North Eastern Council should conduct a survey of the present State of development of library and information service in the Region prepare a 15 years perspective development plan which will provide guideline to the States and Union Territories for preparation of their own Five Year Development plans.

(2) The N.E.C. should have an Adviser for the development of library and information service in the region.

(3) All libraries in the region should be integrated into Regional and State System putting to an end to isolated
existence of libraries.

4. As an experiment the State Central Libraries of Assam and Meghalaya should enrol professionally qualified persons, Scholars and writers as members give them identity cards bearing their photographs which will enable them to make use of all Libraries in their respective States.

5. Steps should be taken to promote the production of more reading materials in Tribal Languages and the librarians should lend support to literacy programme.

6. The Seminar recommends that the Service at the N.E.R. information and Documentation Centre should be computerised.

Session No 4.

Subject :- Reading materials on N.E.R. in National Library of India and others.

Recommendations :-

(1) The Seminar recommends the setting up a Regional Union Catalogue in the N.E.R. The catalogue should in the beginning be confined to research materials. This should include the government documents comprehensively the coverage in the anthropology of the region should also be comprehensive. A collection of National Library of India may be used as a nucleus for the Regional Union Catalogue.

(2) The National Library Calcutta may be used as the training centre for development of manpower. The training in addition to general library management could be in conservation techniques and repographic services.
Session No 5.

Subject :- Role of repographic in research with special reference to N.E.I.

Recommendations :-

(1) The Regional Information and Documentation Centre of the N.E.C. should be developed into a full-fledged centre capable of meeting the larger percentage of the information requirements of the entire region in view of the growing demand for library and information services in the region coming in the wake of the various developments plans and projects and also keeping in view the peculiar geographical situations and special requirements and exigencies of the region.

(2) The possibility of opening a regional Centre of INSDOC in the region may be explored. The appropriate authority or agency may be approached by the N.E.C. in this connection. The Regional Centre itself could help in channelising the request for copies of documents originating with the region to the other centres in the country and abroad.

Session No 6.

Subject :- Role of Library Association in the development of Libraries and mass communication specially in the N.E.I.

Recommendations :-

The seminar suggested that Library should be formulated in every state and Union Territory of the N.E.R. to encourage the people make use of library. An apex body for the entire
region with its sectors/branches affiliated should be set up with the initiative from N.E.C.

Session No 7
Subject: Book trade and book production in N.E. Region.

Recommendations:
(1) The State and Union Territories should launch a mass education planning which will promote reading habit and expansion of book trade.

(2) The Central Body in the pattern of Hindi Directorate should be established in the region to guide and help in the publication of suitable literatures by subsiding private publishers through bulk purchase of copies. These copies should be distributed among various libraries down to the sub-division level including schools and college libraries.

(3) The N.E.C. should approach the Airline Authority to accept book consignment at concessional rates. The Railway authority should be requested to carry books throughout the region and agency service by the railway on priority basis as is available in the case of perishable fruits and vegetables. The N.E.C. should organise short term course in book trade.

Session No 8.
Subject: Role of the N.E.C. in promoting Library and Information Service on the region.
Recommendations :-


(2) N.E.C should complete retrospective bibliographies and bring out awareness services on the region.

(3) N.E.C. should build up and maintain a Union Catalogue of the Regional resources.


Following are the recommendations of the Seminar. :-

(1). College libraries in Assam be immediately re-oriented to have effective impact and proper functional role in the academic life of teachers and students.

(2). The U.G.C pay scales be immediately implemented for the College librarians of Assam according to qualifications. The parity of pay scale of the academic librarians at per with that of the teachers as recommended by the U.G.C. be established immediately both for college librarians as well as the library staff of the University libraries of Assam.

(3) Librarians of different technical colleges also be treated equally in matter of pay scales.

(4) No underqualified non-professional person be appointed as Librarian in any College. Government should issue necessary circular to this effect to the principals and against such appointments.
(5) University ordinance for affiliation of Colleges should insist not only on physical existence of a library but functional existence of a library with qualified librarian and library staff. College libraries be inspected time to time by a person having adequate knowledge in library and information science.

(6) Provisions for staff pattern in College Libraries be made as per U.G.C. Library Committee recommendations i.e.

A. 500 students and 5000 books eight staff members.

   One Librarian, one Assistant Librarian, two library assistants, one library clerk, three library attendants.

B. for every increase of 500 students one assistant and every addition of 2,560 books to 8,000 books two attendants.

(7) The Gauhati University be urged to organise orientation Training workshop for the College libraries time to time and the College librarians be deputed to join the said course. Necessary provisions should be made to depute the college librarians to attend the conferences, seminars, etc. at least once a year.

(8) The Department of Library and Information Science be requested to publish a bulletin in order to focus on the latest development in library world as well as publish local problems.

(9) The librarians made the member Secretary of popularly
constituted Library Committee in order to advice in the management of the library. He made the convenor of the Book selection Committee constituted by the representative of different sub-committee.

(10) Provision for inter library loans system among the neighbouring college libraries be made.

(11) The Universities and the Publication Board of Assam be requested to publish some standard books in library system in regional language in order to popularise the profession.

(12) Provision for compulsory orientation of the students to the library at the beginning of each session be made in the form of Librarian addressing the fresh students in a class organisation of books display, book talk etc. Librarians take all possible means to convert the library into an intellectual workshop.

(13) Planning of the new courses and examination system be made in order to encourage library oriented education.

(14) The first hand knowledge of Librarianship to be included in the course of Social Studies which is prescribed in school stages in Assam.

(15) In pre-degree course, a compulsory paper of 50 marks for library and information science be prescribed.

(16) Open access system with proper academic atmosphere and vigilance by the library staff be introduced in all the college libraries.
(17) At least 6 percent of the total annual budget of the college be spent on library materials and any special grant and amount collected for the library be exclusively utilise for the purpose of the library only.

(18) The librarian be given administrative power made directly responsible to the principal only.

(19) The computer centre in Gauhati University, installed in the department of Physics should boost up its existing computer peripheral equipments in order to be utilise by the Gauhati University library, also practically in matters of information storage and retrieval and thus indexing periodicals' literature for scholars, scientists and administrators; the fruits of which in the form of print outs may be shared by the college also. The U.G.C. be moved in this direction.

(20) Resolve to form an Editorial Body to publish the selected papers contributed to the National Lecturers' cum Departmental Seminar along with the recommendations of the seminar.

U.G.C. sponsored refreshers course on Organisation, Administration and Service of Academic libraries in the F.E.Region on June 6 to 26th, 1986, Gauhati University.

As a part of the refreshers course a seminar was arranged on the topic "Librarian's role in Higher Education, Faculty co-operation". Following recommendations were made in the seminar: -
(1) The seminar expressed its grave concern at the non implementation of the U.G.C pay scale in Assam till today recommended since second five year plan for academic library personnel corresponding to their qualifications. The new government be urged to implement it with immediate effect for the betterment of academic environment.

(2) Recommends the Universities be urged to take steps to declare the college librarians as academic staff. The meeting strongly expresses that the objectives of higher education cannot be achieved by ignoring sub section i.e. librarians in the co-operative enterprise for the total system of higher education.

(3) The University Authorities of the N.E.Region be urged to make the existence of a functional library a pre-condition for granting affiliation etc. to the respective College.

(4) Recommends the government be urged to implement the U.G.C. staff norms for the academic library.

(5) The authority of the academic institutions of the N.E.Region be urged to constitute Advisory Library Committees with the Librarian as its members Secretary in respective institutions to help him in proper organisation and operation of the library service. The librarians be made a member of the Governing Body also.

(6) Teaching, examination system be made library oriented eliminating the scope for note book and answer bank.
(7) The academic council of Universities, Secondary Education Board be urged to accommodate library users education to the foundation course in Three Year Degree Course and in social studies in secondary level respectively. The public service commission of respective states be urged to accept library science as a selective subject in the civil service examinations.

(8) Co-operation and co-ordination of the teaching community and the authority be urged to facilitated in creating reading habits of the studies.

(9) The authority be requested to give necessary instruction for execution of the inter library loan system at least among the local libraries in case of rarely used documents and books.

(10) Recommends to form a Federation of Academic Librarians of the N.E.Region.

(11) Recommends completion of bibliographies in different subjects of local interest in co-operation with the College librarians.

(12) The D.P.I. be moved to make provision for regular library grant to college to direct the Principals to keep library accounts separately provided for service facilities and equipements including classifications in the library staff selection committee.

(13) The D.P.I. be moved to make provision for granting deputation to College librarians on duty leave for both
B.Lib.I.Sc and M.Lib.I.Sc Courses and other orientation courses and seminars etc.

(14) In view of very poor management and service of college/public libraries the government be moved to organised special training course for small groups area wise in order to give practical training to the librarians for improving library service.

Minutes of the seminar in University and College Librarians in North East India held on November 19th, 1986 at N.E.H.U., Shillong.

The topic of the seminar was "Academic Libraries in the North East". The following resolutions were adopted in the seminar: -

(1) That the U.G.C. standard both for college and Universities be accepted with suitable relaxation till such time when the require trained persons were available.

(2) That an Association called the Association of Academic Librarians in North East India be formed in the session.

Further a sub-committee with the eight members representing from all the states of N.E.Region were formed to take up necessary action for expanding matters.

(3) Resolved that a certificate course in Library Science through correspondence be started for training para-professional staff with N.E.H.U. taking activities.

(4) Resolved that to facilitate resources sharing in the region N.E.C. should be approached to start a regional centre
for preparing Union Catalogue of books and periodicals available in the libraries of the region.

(5) Resolved that to persuade the authorities that Repographic services be implemented at the College level.

(6) Resolved that all librarians be made aware of the need to introduce users education in their libraries for effective library users.

(7) Resolved that the libraries should be allowed to bear registered parcel charges in order to facilitate quick delivery of books and periodicals.

3.5 LIBRARY BILLS.

The first attempt at Library Legislation in the country was made in 1930. India could not enact Library Law before 1947. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan had drafted Library Bills for several States including Assam.

He presented the salient feature of the draft Library Bill in the VIII Conference of the Assam Library Association, 1964 along with library development plan for Assam. The conference decided that the future library development should be backed by legislation. Among various recommendations the conference adopted the library bill for Assam and decided to have planned library development for Assam through Legislation. Both Dr. Ranganathan and Prof. P.N. Kaula meet the Education and Deputy Education Ministers. They pro-
mised the enactment of the bill to in law but so far it was not done.

The Executive Committee of the Assam Library Association met on 23rd November, 1971 and appointed an expert committee consisting of seven members to draft again such bill. The Executive Committee accepted the bill drafted by Dr. J. Sarma and Dr. R. L. Mittal, and submitted to the government on 20th September, 1971. The draft Bill of 1971 was nothing but a modified and revised bill of 1964.

The salient feature of the plan and the bills are as follows:


Dr. Ranganathan worked out Library Development plan for Assam with the principle of viability and economic lay out of public libraries, in 1964. Provision were shown for state, central, city and rural library schemes. When it was fully developed the annual expenditure will be Rs. 5 crores. The capital expenditure for building etc. will come about Rs. 43 crores of rupees and the need for professionally qualified personnel will be 2242 in numbers. The plan was divided in to tenth different aspects, such as:


This will require annual provision of ten lakhs of rupees and increase it each year at an average rate
of ten lakhs. In this way the full library personality of Assam can be developed by the end of sixth or seventh plan period.

52 Draft Public Library Bill for Assam, 1964.

The bill provides for the establishment and maintenance of Public libraries and the organisation of a comprehensive rural and urban service in the State of Assam. The bill contained eight chapters such as:


53 Draft Public Library Bill for Assam, 1971.

For the second time, Assam Public Libraries Draft Bill, 1971 was submitted to the government of Assam by the A.L.A. It was the revised edition of 1964 bill already submitted to the government. The bill contained in eight Chapters which were as follows:


In chapter one under the plan of main heading "Preliminary" there were two sub-divisions: (a) Short title extent and commencement and (b) "Definition." Under
Chapter II deals with the Assam State Library Authority. This was divided into 6 different headings as:

1. Constitution and composition and functions of the State Library Authority.
2. Nomination of members in default of election.
3. Terms of office.
4. Vacancies.
5. Disabilities for continuing as member.
6. Meetings of the State Library Authority.

After commencement of the Act, the State government by notification constitute a State Library Authority, having perpetual succession and comment Seal and Power to hold and dispose of property and to contract.

Chapter III was a department of Public libraries and sub-divided three broad headings as:

1. Department of public libraries.
2. Functions of the Director.
3. State Library Service. Separate Department of public Libraries should be constituted. Whole time qualified officers appointed with full administrative powers, so that it can advice the State Government in different affairs.

Chapter IV contained 'State Central Library' in which function of State Central Library, powers and function of State Central Library, powers and function of State librarian were shown.

Chapter V was meant for Local Library Authority and divided to in thirteen sub-divisions as:

Chapter VI deals with Finance and Accounts. Under this headings as many as five sub-divisions were framed as :-


It was discussed how grants were received and utilised by different authorities. Submission and maintenance of various accounts, collection of library cess etc were discussed.

Chapter VII discussed reports, returns and inspection. Submission of different kinds of reports and returns for different periods of time and to inspect the libraries, its procedures, powers, were discussed.

Chapter VIII was a miscellaneous one. It was divided further into nine different headings as :-
1. Powers to make rules 2. Power to State Library Authority and Local Authorities to make by laws. 3. Offence and penalties. 4. Control of local library authority. 5. Liability of members for less, waste or mis-applications. 6. Members and employees of library authority to be public servants. 7. Savings of validity of acts and proceedings. 8. Power to remove difficulties. 9. Amendment of the press and Registration of Company Act, 1867 in its applications to the State of Assam. In this chapter the powers and authority of different libraries its control and to remove difficulties etc. were discussed in respective sub-heads.

3.6 MEETINGS.

The two leading organisations namely A.L.A., and A.C.L.A. hold its general conference in different dates and in different places. Eighth, ninth and tenth conference of the A.L.A. were remarkable for various reasons. All these conferences were concluded with grand success.

In the eighth conference twelve resolutions were adopted. Among others, the grievances of the association were- non implementation of the Assam Public Library Bill in to an Act, text book library in the educational institutions, Training the librarians, recognition of the A.L.A. by the State government, to provide annual recurring grants etc.
In the ninth conference, more stress was given for implementation of the resolutions adopted in the eighth conference.

In the tenth conference following resolutions were adopted as:

1. **First Resolution** :- The tenth conference of the A.L.A. unanimously resolved that the government should implement the Assam Public Library Draft Bill into an Act.
2. **Resolution No 2** :- Urged upon the government to implement resolution No 4 of the ninth conference.
3. **Resolution No 3** :- Urged upon the government to implement 6th resolution of the ninth conference.
4. **Resolution No 4** :- Brought to the notice of the government for immediate implementation of resolution no 8 on IX conference.
5. **Resolution No 5** :- The conference request the government to provide at least two kaths of land in Gauhati for office building.

The activities of the A.C.L.A. in respect of organisational matters is not satisfactory as desired. It holds two general conferences, besides annual meetings from its very inception. Some emergent meetings were also held to take some urgent and important decisions on special matters.

The long standing grievances of the A.C.L.A. were brought to the notice of the government and the con-
ning authority through the conference resolutions and urged upon them for immediate solution. The resolutions were adopted on different problems of the working college librarians and for greater academic interest of the institutions.

3.7 CONCLUSION

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of modern library movement sowed the seed for library legislation in India. Library legislation is a social necessity, a political necessity, a cultural necessity, and a necessity to establish and maintain a network of public libraries free to all which serve the people in enriching their mind and in conserving their leisure at various levels, fulfilling the aim of education and its responsibility of the State.

But it is matter of great regret, utter disappointment and disgraceful that the State Government has not enacted the bill into an Act. But our neighbouring State West Bengal is enjoying the benefit of library Legislation.

Libraries of Assam are of recent origin, therefore, a strong public opinion is to be created for better prospects, better organisation and management of library system. The different organisations should come forward with enthusiasm, so that the libraries in Assam could step forward with other prospective states of India.