Chapter - III

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
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PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Section - A : Public Library System in U. K. and U. S. A.

3A1.1 Libraries before 1850

History of public library movement in United Kingdom can be stated as of recent origin. Before the 17th century there existed some monastic and university libraries. It was only in the early 17th century few municipal libraries were set up. These libraries were established in the year 1601. Similar libraries though on a smaller scale were opened in Norwich (1608) Bristol (1615) Luangley Marish (1623), Leicester (1632), Manchester (1653) and Innerpiffray (1680).

3A1.2 Cathedral and Parochial Libraries

In 17th century some of the Cathedral libraries were damaged or destroyed, during the civil war. But the Cathedral libraries which survived have done a great service as they were the only libraries which could preserve some of the ancient documents. The Cathedral Libraries were not of much help either they were situated at distant places or their services restricted to few hours in a week. In view of difficulties the establishment of Parochial libraries took place These Parochial libraries gradually fell into decay, some were sold or destroyed.
3A 1.3 Fillip to Public Libraries

The years 1890 to 1910 was a boon period for British public libraries. Andrew Carnegie gave 8,000 pounds to his native Dunfermline in 1876. The library was opened in 1883. In 1913 he founded the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust with a capital of 2 million pounds. The trust gave grants liberally for construction of library buildings. Another great library benefactor was Passmore Edwards. The donations of these two donors gave fillip to public library development in Great Britain.

3A 1.4 Adams Report

The Carnegie Trust requisitioned the services of Dr. W.G.S. Adams to report on the working of public libraries. The report appeared in 1915 suggested measures for the improvement of public library services. This report helped to bring amendments in the Public Library Act in U.K. As a result a new Act was adopted in 1919 which made provision for the establishment of country library authorities. The Act permitted the development of urban library services by removing the rate limitation of one penny rate for England and Wales. The rate limit was removed for Scotland in 1955.

3A 1.5 Kenyon Report

In the year 1924 the Board of Education, Great Britain appointed a
committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Frederic Kenyon, Librarian of British Museum to look into the adequacy of public library services. Sir Kenyon in his report suggested for greater co-operation between library authorities on a voluntary basis. He also suggested for the establishment of a National Central Library to cater to the needs of the local libraries and also ten regional bureaux in England and Wales to work in close co-operation with the National Central Library.

3A1.6 Dainton’s Report


The newly created British Library System has three separate divisions:

(i) Reference Division (ii) Lending Division; and (iii) Bibliographic Service Division.

The British Library Act 1972 led to creation of fewer and larger library authorities. Seventy five library authorities were created in the place of 314 local authorities in England. In Wales 8 authorities were created.
3A1.7 Library Legislation in U.K.

Edward, an assistant at the British Museum was pleading for the establishment of public libraries under law. William Ewart, a member of the Parliament from Dumfries Burghs in Scotland moved this proposal in the parliament in 1849. The matter was referred to a Select Committee. The committees in its report accepted the proposal and suggested for funding of public libraries with unrestricted access, supported by fixed taxes and appropriations. Then Mr. Ewart with the support of Joseph Brotherton of Lancashire introduced the first Public Libraries Bill in 1850. August 14, 1850 is a red letter day in the annals of library movement, not only in Britain, but also in the whole world, because, it was on that day the first library act was enacted.

A. Provisions of the 1850 Act

The public libraries Act, 1850 authorised town councils with a population of 10000 and above to adopt the Act. It needed two third majority of votes in the Council to adopt. The Act provided a levy at rate of one half penny in the pound on the rateable value of the property assessed. The money thus collected was to be spent on building, fuel, lighting, fixtures and furniture but not on purchase of books. It was assumed that books could be acquired through donations from benefactors. In 1853 the Act was extended to Scotland and Ireland. In 1854, in Scotland, substantial improvements were incorporated. The library authorities were empowered to raise aid rate and permitted to spend on buildings as well as on books, maps, and specimens.
A comprehensive Act for England and Wales was adopted in 1855 incorporating amendments. The Act made provision for adoption by a two-thirds majority at a public meeting of rate payers. It empowered the authorities the power to purchase books, newspapers, maps, and specimens. The population limit was reduced from 10,000 to 5,000. The rate limit was raised to one penny. The Act was extended to areas outside the municipal boroughs.

In the first 4 years only 8 boroughs adopted the Act. By 1870 only 48 authorities adopted the Act. By 1890 the number reached to 215 and by the end of the 19th century it increased to 401. There were a number of minor amendments to the Act during 1866, 1871, 1877, 1884, 1887, 1889, 1890 and 1891. In the year 1892 a consolidated Public Libraries Act was passed repealing all previous statutes.

The above narration gives the commitment of the British Government for the development of public libraries. In fact British System became a model to many other countries.

3A.2 Public Library System in USA

The first library in America was founded in 1638 at Harvard University. A few churches also established small parish libraries in the colonial period, but, these had little effect on the average man. In America, libraries got their start with the help of Benjamin Franklin. He started the Philadelphia Library Company
in 1731 heralding a new era of co-operation for the procurement of books. The Boston Athenaeum established in 1798 and New York Athenaeum founded in 1809 had good libraries. William Wood started establishing a series of 'Mechanics Libraries' since 1870, William Boot took lead in establishing 'Mercantile Libraries' for the benefit of clerks employed in different firms Virginia established a college in 1693. It also had a library. Soon laws were passed for collecting education tax along with property tax. Libraries were established in all the schools and these were made open to the general public.

Philanthropy played a great part in setting up of libraries in U.S.A. The Newyork Public Library, the greatest American Public Library was a venture based on Philanthropy. In the year 1848 Jacob Astor, a wealthy merchant endowed an amount of 4000,000 dollars for the purpose of founding a library. Before Astor’s death he had commissioned Joseph Green Cogswell to buy books for the library. The library was incorporated in 1849. Many endowed libraries were established before the end of the nineteenth century and in the first quarter of 20th century.

There were 3,873 public libraries by 1923 serving 53.5% of total US population. The public library movement slowed down in 1930s owing to depression.

In USA there are differences in the organisation of public libraries from state to state. There are five types of public libraries serving the public.
❖ Municipal libraries (set up by the law of the city, town or any other municipal unit).

❖ School District Libraries (These public libraries serve both schools and public. These are supported by cess on property);

❖ Country Libraries (Established under library acts of different States);

❖ Endowment Libraries (maintained by financial support from private endowments); and

❖ Central Public Libraries (Established in each State).

3A2.1 Commissions on Public Libraries

The Public Library Inquiry of 1947-50 surveyed and analysed American Public Library as an institution. Robert Leigh in his report mentioned that only 10% of the population of an average community were using public libraries and they primarily belonged to better educated sector of the community. He concluded that the public library as a popular institution has virtually failed. This made libraries to improve their services.

The National Commission on Library and Information Science was established through an Act of Congress (PL 91-345) passed on 20 July 1970 (as amended by PL 93-29 Section 802, May 3, 1973). The Commission is an independent agency within the executive branch. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare provides the Commission with the necessary administrative
services. The Commission advises the President and Congress on the implementation of national policy by such statements, presentations and reports as it deems appropriate; conduct studies, surveys and analyses library needs of the nation; appraise adequacy and deficiencies of current library and information resources and services and evaluate the effectiveness of current services; develop overall plans for meeting national library needs; submit to the President and Congress, a report on its activities during the proceeding fiscal year, etc.

3A2.2 Library Legislation

Boston has the credit of passing the first library act in 1854. This law empowered the municipality to collect tax and utilise it for the maintenance of public libraries and declared the public library to be free to all people. New York followed suit. Many States did enact library legislation. Gradually the laws were amended to include establishment of country libraries for the benefit of rural population.

a. **Federal Act**

Library Services Act (LSA) was enacted in 1956. As a result, Federal Government came into picture for the first time. This Act was meant to assist in the establishment of library service in un-served areas, specially in rural areas. In 1960, this Act was extended for 5 more years.
In 1964, the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) was passed replacing the LSA. The scope was broadened to cover funds for the construction and remodelling of library facilities. All public libraries were made eligible for federal aid.

b. Role of Federal Government

Most of the libraries are local institutions under local control. The Federal Government is playing an important role in helping ensure access to resources and services to all.

The Department of Education through its mandate to assist librarians across the country, raises standards of service and develops new programmes to benefit library users. The Department not only administers effective grant programmes to public, elementary and secondary schools, academic and research libraries, but also provides leadership, technical assistance and dissemination of information. It also compiles and disseminates statistical information on libraries. The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) of US Department of Education chiefly responsible for operating Federal funding to libraries. The OERI programme objectives are: promote resource sharing; focus on under served population; assistance for construction of new library facilities; service to native population; strengthen research libraries; support adult literacy; advance education of librarians; promote use of technology in libraries; fund research, etc.
Characteristics of US Library Legislation are:

❖ Library legislation is permissive. Library service is based on popular demand for books.

❖ Library service is free.

❖ Library laws were responsible for the qualitative improvement of the library staff.

❖ Library laws enabled the library boards or trustees and the libraries to act freely and boldly. The laws kept the public libraries above political interference.

Section - B Public Libraries in India

Library as an institution of scholarship and wisdom is not of recent origin but existed even in times immemorial. The history of library shows that the institution has been a spontaneous development of literal culture in India. The ruins of Rome, Greece, Egypt and Mesopotamia furnish unmistakable evidence that all these older civilizations had well-equipped libraries. Library has been functioning as a light house for those who want to read and extend the boundaries of various disciplines since ancient times.

3B.1. Pre -Christian Era

According to Pandey Sharma “To trace the history of libraries during the Pre Christian era the available proof was the great Sanskrit poet and scholar Banabhatt who authored the famous work Kadambari managed the palatial library of the King Bhoj ”.
Further references are also available to prove that the reputed universities like Nalanda, Taxila, and Vikramshila had their own multistoried libraries neatly housed with a massive collection of rare documents, treatises and books with huge volumes efficiently managed and testified to its rareness and significance. And the social educational and cultural life of people in India during those days centered round these libraries.

3B.2 Post Christian Era

As per Swaminathna, “Fahien, the intrepid Chinese pilgrim who spent six years in India collecting authentic Buddhist scriptures in the beginning of the 5th century A.D. referred in his chronicle a record of the Buddhist Kingdoms and to a Jatavana Monastery which was a chief place of Buddhist learning as having a library and reading room”. 2

3B.3 Mughal Period

Many of the Muslim rulers were either themselves men of letters or patrons of the learned. They established schools, colleges and libraries to spread Islamic religion and learning. The first well-known library was established by Jalal-U-din- Khilji at Delhi and renowned Persian Scholar, Amir Khusrau was appointed librarian. Mohammad Gawan built a college at Bidar for which a library was attached and it contained more than 5000 books. Mohammad Tughluq had a good library to which several hundred valuable Sanskrit manuscripts were added
by Firuz Shah Tughluq. During Mughal period The Mughals had also set up pompous royal libraries during their period of ruling. The Imperial Library built by them speaks volumes about the library development in those days. Akbar introduced reforms in the management classification and storage of books which has increased enormously by the time. The important features of the Mughal period were that their libraries were housed in magnificent buildings with rare manuscripts and managed by scholar- librarians.

3B.4 Royal Libraries

a) The rich tradition of Indian scholarship learning and cultural heritage are stored as treasures in the famous libraries and learning centres which existed in the ancient and modern periods in India. During the 16th century, the Christian missionaries established some libraries in India. During this period libraries had been functioning as beacon lights for those who wanted to read and to extend the boundaries of various disciplines. Nalanda University (Bihar) had its own multi-storied library in 600 AD with massive collection of manuscripts. Takshashila and Vikramshila (Bihar) Universities of ancient India also had valuable libraries.

According to Gopala Rao Ekbote "One of the earliest libraries that survived in the Tanjovur Maharaja Sayoji’s Saraswati Mahal Library. Telugu Nayakas (1532-1673) who ruled Tanjore in the 16th century started it around AD 1535."
Another oldest library which was established in 1876 is the Khuda Baksh Oriental library, Patna which is still functioning even today.  

3.B.5 British Period

During the 19th century, the British were the first to set up a public library in India in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other parts of the country. The Bengal Royal Asiatic Society had set up a library in 1784. The Calcutta Public library was set up in 1835 and it was opened for public in 1836. This library later developed into Imperial Library (1903) and subsequently named as National library in 1948. Some of the important libraries started during this period are Andrews Library, Surat (1850), Gaya Public Library, Gaya (1855), Larg Library Rajkot (1856), Cannemara Public Library, Madras (now Chennai) (1860), Adayar Library, Madras (1886). By the end of 19th century, all the provincial capitals as well as many of the district towns especially in the three presidencies had public libraries. Even princely state such as Indore and Travancore – Cochin had public libraries in their capitals. However, the masses in general did not take full advantage of these institutions.

Public library in the modern sense is of recent origin in India. We have discussed above about the existence of many type of libraries. All the libraries referred earlier were for a particular type of people or they had individual collections and public had no access to them.
The credit for the establishment of a free public library in India goes to Maharaja Sayoji Rao Gaekwad (1852-1930) of Baroda who borrowed this concept from the USA. According to Rama Krishna Rao, "The Maharaja who may be called the father of the popular library movement in India" ⁴ witnessed the establishment of libraries in the western countries and was very much impressed by the impact of libraries on the social and cultural life of the people of those countries. He wanted to establish free library services to his state of Baroda and invited an American expert namely W.A. Borden who was appointed as a curator. By the year 1910, Borden was able to organise a network of free library services in the state. According to Navalani, "The Punjab public library was started in 1900 at Lahore, an erst while part of India. The increase in library activities were reflected in the formation of Library Associations and the holdings of professional gatherings." ⁵

Another milestone was the appointment of a Library Development Committee with A. A Fyzee as Chairman in the year 1939. During this century the untiring efforts of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and his memorable achievements resulted in generating the rhythm of public library services through legislation in the state, the first being the Madras State (Currently Tamilnadu).

3B.6 Post - Independence Era

As per Navalani, "a significant development of the post-independence era
was the declaration of the Imperial Library of India (Calcutta) as the National Library in the year 1948. In 1951 Delhi Public Library, the first Pilot Public Library, in association with UNESCO was established. During the five year plans, the Government of India earmarked funds of public libraries in India and envisaged a network of libraries, spread all over the country. Moreover the Government of India appointed three committees for public libraries viz., Advisory Committee for libraries (1957). The committee on plan projects (Study team for selected educational schemes) and the working group on libraries (1964). In 1972, the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation was established by the Government of India. This was the first major organised effort to, promote and support library movement in country, to enunciate a National library policy and to work towards its adoption by the central and state Governments."

3B.7 Committees on Public Libraries

Government has appointed many adhoc committees periodically to feed back about the situation of the libraries and also to give suggestions for the improvement of libraries. As the reports of these Committees are only recommendations, these are not binding on governments. But in most cases, the committees’ reports have been accepted by government in principle. It is important to know the work of various committees and commissions and their suggestions. A brief account of the reports of some important committees are given hereunder.
Sinha Committee

- The Government of India, appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P.Sinha, the former Director of Public Instruction, Bihar. The Report of Advisory Committee for Libraries (also known as Sinha Committee Report) was submitted in 1958. It recommended an integrated library system in states, linking state Central Libraries with National Library at one end and with district, sub-division, block, panchayat and village libraries at the other end. It also recommended setting up an Independent Department of Social Education and Libraries at the Central and State Library in each state. The other recommendations made by Sinha Committee are:

- 25 years library plan to raise the library structure.

- Every state should have a State Central Library consisting two wings - the state central library and the state lending library. The important functions of the state central library should among others be as follows: (a) build up an exhaustive collection of all publications official and non-official in the state; (b) undertake bibliographical work, including special bibliographies for the use of scholars and research workers; (c) maintain a union catalogue of the important libraries in the state; (d) maintain a strong reference collection and service. (e) act as a clearing house of information on the five year plans of the country etc. (f) organise book exhibitions and professional conferences; (g) be the centre of inter-library loan within and out of the state; (h) promote library work with children.
❖ The state lending library should honour the tickets of all service points in the state.

❖ In a district library service should be a system based on urban centres having responsibility for their surrounding rural areas. A district headquarters library should have two wings one running a reference service and lending service as the central library of the town in which it is located and the other running the circulation service to branches in the city and block libraries.

❖ There should be an Executive Committee of the All India Library Advisory Council which will have all the necessary executive powers and will be supported by a Division of libraries with a Divisional Head in the Ministry of Education.

❖ Government should levy the library cess of 6 paise in a rupee on property tax.

❖ The Government should contribute to the library fund of a state an amount equal to the cess so collected.

❖ State Government to enact a State Library.

❖ Similarly Government of India should enact a Central Library Law.

❖ Library associations are essential to the development of library movement and the state governments and the government of India should encourage development of strong library associations.

❖ Library Departments in the states should make clear-cut separation between
professional and semi-professional work and entrust professional work to trained staff only. State Governments should freely grant study leave to librarians going in for ordinary or higher training in the profession.

❖ The committee is of the opinion that research in the librarianship should be encouraged in the universities. Special funds should be provided for this purpose.

Though Sinha Committee Recommendations are valuable in promoting the libraries, they are not implemented in action. So the public library system in our country failed to meet the needs of the society.

**3B.8 Library Legislation in India**

Library legislation provides the necessary mandate, direction and finances for the development of public libraries. Library legislation is supposed to give the public libraries better prospects of stability, development and required finances provided for the public libraries were left to the vagaries of governments without any definite commitment. In order to put any public library in a proper track there is a need for legislations that would solve many library problems. Moreover, it is a well-accepted principle that in all the civilized societies it is the responsibility of the government to provide adequate library and information services to its citizens in both urban and rural areas. Public libraries are supposed to be people’s universities. Hence, the expenditure on public libraries should be borne
by the government. The library legislation should aim at fixing the financial
responsibilities upon the government in-connection with the library staff, reading
materials, building, furniture, equipment etc. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Dr.
S.R.Ranganathan who was a crusader for library legislation at least from 1930
when he drafted a Model Library Act. However, he could succeed in getting the
Madras Public Libraries Act passed by the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1948.
Thus, the Madras Public Libraries Act has showed a path to other states to pass
legislation in their respective states. "So far, the following states have enacted
library acts:

- Kolhapur State in 1945.
- Madras State in 1948.
- Hyderabad State in 1955.
- Karnataka State in 1965.
- West Bengal State in 1979.
Note: After reorganisation of states, Kolhapur and Hyderabad states were merged in the Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh states respectively.  

Majority of the act follows the tradition of Madras Act drafted by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, but drastically modified by the government to suit its purpose. According to Alake Buragohain, “Even after subsequent amendments, there are many drawbacks in library acts.”

- **Objectives**: Preamble does not lay down clear objectives and purpose of the act. Unlike the public libraries before independence the present public libraries are without any clear direction and guidance. The library legislation is to be based on the recognition by both the central and state governments of people’s democratic right for receiving functional and efficiently library support for continuing informal and non-formal life lay processes of self learning of one-and-all, both general and specialized readers.

- **Local Library Authorities**: When there are good number of public libraries already established by voluntary organizations, it is convenient to grant recognition to these libraries and constitute adhoc independent local library authorities either in city, town or district in order to govern these libraries as in the case of West Bengal and Kerala. But when there are no such libraries establishment of libraries by creating independent autonomous adhoc local library authorities is not an easy task. These bodies may not have initiative and interest for such work. It is a fact that Ranganathan originally made the
elected local bodies like corporations, municipal corporations, municipal councils, district boards, responsible for establishing efficient library service. But this fundamental provision had been changed in the select committee stage in Madras Legislation and public library service is entrusted to separate independent ad hoc local library authorities. This provision of adhoc body according to R.S. Saxena is uneconomical, inefficient and often suicidal, nomination being against democratic principles and the body is not answerable to the local community as well as there is no scope for community involvement.

It is interesting to note that in Tamil Nadu the library reorganisation committee recommended abolition of local library authorities as they have miserably failed to fulfil the aims of library service. It is also noteworthy that the staff of Local Library Authority are made government employees since 1982. Likewise, owing to the strong move made by the Andhra Pradesh Public libraries Association since 1986 the service of all categories of employees in libraries under the act are provincialized.

**Autonomy**: No act passed in India appears to provide for autonomy in the hands of the State Library Committee which, is rather advisory. Even in matter of recognizing existing libraries as government aided libraries there is scope for political interference. Without some amount of autonomy, no planning and implementation could be made freely and properly.
It is a fact that in spite of enacting library acts in several states of India, the library movement has still not been able to reach the take off state. States without library acts are suffering under the whims of the administrators and the political personalities. In the days of market economy and television it could be a matter of great concern that with no legal mandate for organization and fiscal niche public library service may be receding to the background.

*Finance*: Adequate finance is the key factor for the growth, development and spread of the public libraries. The usual sources of finance for the public libraries are:

- Library taxation / cess;
- Grants from the State and Central Governments;
- Donations, gifts, endowments, etc.;
- Amounts collected in accordance with the rules of the Acts.

The finance derived from the sources (c) and (d) above are negligible. The Central Government grants are only matching grants and generally inadequate. The State Governments grants are sometimes matching grants; otherwise to cover the staff salary or capital expenditure on buildings, furniture, equipment, etc.

In the states where the library legislation is in vogue, public libraries are financed either from:

(a) general revenues or (b) the library rates or cess. The above two
modes are reflected in the Public Libraries Acts. As per Ramaiah, the financial provisions of library cess provided in all the 10 Public Libraries Acts so far enacted in the country are given in the Table below:

3B.9 Provision of Library Cess in Public Library Acts in Different States in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Provision of Cess</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Kolhapur</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>(a) No library cess. Grants from the Kolhapur Government, local authorities and public institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>(a) Library cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or house tax at the rate of six pies for every whole rupee levied. (b) The rate of surcharge can be increased with the previous sanction of the Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>(a) Library cess in the form of a surcharge on the property tax or six pies for every whole rupee. (b) The rate of surcharge can be increased with the previous sanction of the Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>A. P.</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>(a) Library cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or house tax at the rate of four naya paise for every rupee. (b) The rate can be increased with the previous sanction of the Government. (c) The rate is not to exceed eight naya paise for every rupee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Library cess in the form of surcharge on the following taxes: a) At the rate of three paisa for every rupee of the tax on lands and buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Regulations</td>
<td></td>
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<td>------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>a) The State Government shall provide every year a sum not less than twenty five lakhs of rupees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>a) No provision for the library cess.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Government may make grants for the general purpose and connected with libraries or social education.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>a) There is no provision of library cess.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Special grants by the State Government.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c) Government shall contribute annually to the Library fund maintained by every District Library Authority.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>a) Government grant annually to the State Library Council a sum which shall not be more than one percent of the amount allotted for education in the State Budget for the year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Library cess in the form of surcharge on the building tax or property tax at the rate of 5 paise for the whole rupee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>a) Library cess in the form of a surcharge on property tax and house tax at such rate as the Government may decide from time to time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the above table trends of library finances are revealed. The public libraries in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana are provided finances through library cess. In Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, library cess is levied only as surcharge on the property tax or house tax. This is a single base tax. In the state of Karnataka, the library cess is levied as surcharge on the taxes on lands, buildings, octroi, vehicles, professions, etc. This is a multi-based tax.

In the state of Kerala, both annual grant and library cess are provided. The annual grant has been fixed at 1% of the educational budget of the State. Where as in the case of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Manipur, Goa and Mizorum the finances are wholly provided from the public revenues. Here also in the case of Maharashtra, the amount is stated not to be less than 25 lakhs annually, whereas in the case of West Bengal and Manipur, the amount is not fixed or stated explicitly. Thus there are mainly three types of finances. They are:

- Single or multiple based library cess/tax,
- Annual grants from the public revenue either fixed amount or wholly, and
- Combination of both the library cess and a percentage from the public revenue.

The library cess, either single-based or multiple-based is inelastic. The library cess cannot go beyond 8 paise. The annual grants, either fixed or wholly
provided entirely depend on the changing governments. So this form of provision is undependable. Provision of 25 lakhs as in the case of Maharashtra for the public libraries is a pittance. The third mode of public libraries finance where both library cess and a percentage of state educational budget, are combined as in the case of Kerala is a better one. Here, even though the library cess component is static, the other part, that is, the percentage of the educational budget is elastic. Hence, this is a better one than the remaining two modes of public libraries finance.

Section - C : Public Libraries in Andhra Pradesh

3C.1 Introduction

Library movement in Andhra region ran almost parallel to the movements in other parts of India. The main difference was that movement in India as a whole was started with the active support and initiative of Europeans whereas in Andhra it took the form of people’s movement.

According to Gopinath Rao, “owing to the initiation, enthusiasm and drive of selfless individuals and groups of devoted library workers who are interested in library movement. As Andhra area was an integral part of erstwhile Madras state the inspiration no doubt generated from the presidency town of Madras. The library movement in Andhra aimed at not only for disseminating knowledge to a common man but also to provide sufficient material for intellectual advancement library workers who are interested in library movement.”10
The glorious history of libraries in Andhra Pradesh can be studied under three broaden headings.

- History and development of libraries upto 1901 AD.
- Growth and development of libraries upto 1960.
- Growth and development of libraries upto 1989 and after math.

3C.2 History of Public Libraries upto 20th Century

a. History and Development of Libraries upto 1901 AD.

According to Ekbote, “Andhra Pradesh has a rich tradition of learning. The history of Andhra Pradesh reveals during the Buddhist period Acharya Nagarjuna established a residential University at Sri Parvath Vihar, the Hill abode of Nagarjuna, on the banks of river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. This library was rich in its collection.”

Later on, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the paused collections of reading materials of several prominent individuals were made available to the general public in the form of libraries. Prominent among them were the libraries of Parvasthu family (1800); the collections of Raja Rameshwar Rayalu of Wanaparthi (1821-65), and the collections of Justice James Thomas at Rajahmundry.

Later developments include the opening of the Saraswati Nilayam at Visakhapatnam (1886), Gouthamy Library at Rajahmundry (1898), Asafia Library
at Hyderabad (1891), Sri Krishnadevaraya Andhra Bhasha Nilayam at Hyderabad (1901) and Saraswati Andhra Bhasha Nilayam at Khammam (1904).

b. Growth and Development of Libraries upto 1960

The prominent persons like Sri Iyyanki Venkataramana Pantulu, Sri Narasimha Sastry, Kalaprapurna Chilakamurthy, Sri Laxmi Narasimha Panthulu, Sri Pathuri Nagabhushanam, Sri Medapati Hanumantha Rao and Sri Suvarnam Pratap Reddy advocated free public library services. As per Raju, “By 1914 there were 163 libraries scattered all over Andhra Desa without any central authority to co-ordinate their activities or to promote their growth.”

According to Raju,” another landmark is the organization of the first Andhra Desa Libraries conference on 10th April 1914 which led to the establishment of Andhra Desa Grandhalaya Sangam”.


The first public libraries Act in India was enacted in the year 1948, named as Madras Public Libraries Act which paved the way for the development of public libraries in the three composite Madras State. This act was implemented in 1950 onwards in 12 Andhra districts which formed part and parcel of the
composite Madras State. Subsequently the Nizam Government, 1955, enacted
Hyderabad public libraries act for implementation in the then Telangana region.
With the states’ reorganisation in the year 1956, the newly framed Government
of Andhra Pradesh enacted a fresh act named as Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries
Act (APPL) 1960, which came into effect from 1-4-1960.

c. Growth and Development of Libraries upto 1989 and After

During this period fairly a good number of aided libraries emerged and
they were managed by Municipal Corporations, Grama Panchayats, Co-operative
societies and voluntary organisations. However these libraries did not get sufficient
grants from the state government. Thus by 1976, there were 969 aided libraries
in Andhra Pradesh.

The establishment of Regional libraries (RLS) in the state was not a
planned one, but only an accidental phenomena. The SCL at Visakhapatnam
prior to State Reorganisation was shifted to Guntur and named as State Regional
Library, in the year 1958. The SCL of former Hyderabad state was named as
SCL of A. P. Later the State Government established a number of Regional
Library as listed below:
Regional Libraries in Andhra Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Regional Library</td>
<td>Guntur</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Library</td>
<td>Tirupathi</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Library</td>
<td>Warangal</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Library</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Library</td>
<td>Nizambad</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Gowthami Regional Library</td>
<td>Rajahmundry</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus during the period of implementation of Act upto 1989, it could be seen that the library movement in Andhra Pradesh showed a spectacular growth both in terms of number of libraries established, education for librarians, and services. However since the act was passed as early as 1960, the Government of Andhra Pradesh with a view to amending the Act appointed a review committee (Ekbote Committee) under the chairmanship of Justice Gopal Rao Ekbote in the year 1976 to look into the functioning of public libraries in Andhra Pradesh in the light of the implementation of APPL Act, 1960.

As per Kaula “The Ekbote committee by visiting the libraries in the State presented a report which people often call “Bible for Public Libraries”¹⁵ According to Gopal Rao, “It made far reaching recommendations on various aspects of public library system in Andhra Pradesh, with reference to the State Library Authority, Director of Public Libraries, State Library Council, State central library,
As In relation to the existence of private libraries, the Government of Andhra Pradesh to improve the situation of aided libraries appointed a review committee in the year July 1978, under the Chairmanship of Sri Vavilala Gopala Krishnayya. This committee submitted its report in November 1978. The major suggestions and recommendations include norms for identification, grant-in-aid, inspection, and norms for reactivating aided libraries service in the State.”  

3C.3 Committees on Public libraries in Andhra Pradesh

a. Ekbote Committee

The Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri. Gopala Rao Ekbote in 1976 to review the working of the APPL Act, 1960, and to suggest amendments to the Act. This Committee submitted its report in January 1977.

Some of the important recommendations of the Ekbote Committee are:

- The preamble to the Act should clearly specify the objectives of the Act.
- The Minister-in-charge of libraries should be the State Library Authority with powers of over viewing the functioning of the libraries; take action against the library authorities which do not observe the provisions of the
Act; Lay down minimum standards of library service and see these standards are observed; etc.

Appointment of professional librarian as the Director, He should be relieved of technical work; He should be entrusted with the work of preparing long-term and short-term plans for the improvement of library service, etc.

The State Library Committee should be changed to State Library Council with more representation and with an elected Chairman.

There should be more representation to local bodies and education in the Granthalaya Samsthas. The Granthalaya samsthas should have more powers. The Chairman of the samsthas should be elected.

State Central Library should be developed as a reference and research library. It should introduce centralised processing, special sections for blind, children and neo-literate. It should bring out special bibliographies and catalogues.

There should be only three regional libraries against the present six. These should also serve as reference libraries. These should act as a link between Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas and the State Central Library. The growth of all the three Regional Libraries suggested by them should be ensured on equal basis and discrimination of every kind should be avoided, so that the people of the three regions will have equal access to reference and research material.

There should be an increase in the rate of cess to six paisa for every rupee of property tax collected.
Creation of Library Fund with extended levy of cess on sales tax, vehicle tax and land revenue; Government's equal matching grant or 10% of the education budget which ever is higher.

Recommended for increase in the number of children's libraries and children's sections.

The library service should participate and co-operate in the campaign of removing illiteracy by organising library service stocked with books and other non-book material such as audio-visual materials for that purpose.

The Book Selection Committee of the state should select books for the public libraries only from the list of the books delivered under the two acts and refuse to select any book not so delivered. If necessary a provision may be made in this behalf in the library act or rules made there under.

The selection of books and periodicals should be made by a selection committee or committees constituted by the State Library Council.

Provision for registration of private libraries should be with the Director of Public Libraries. The grants should be made with a view to upgrading their standard with a view to bringing them on par with the state library service. There should be an attempt to get absorbed in the State Library system small association owned libraries so that larger units of libraries can serve the people comprehensively and efficiently.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh in principle accepted these recommendations and could not implement them so far, for various reasons.
b. Vavilala Committee

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri. Vavilala Gopala Krishnayya, in 1978, to review the role played by private libraries to render library service, to evolve a system of grant-in-aid to private libraries for their promotion. The committee submitted the report in the same year.

The Vavilala Committee on private Libraries in its Report made the following recommendations:

❖ Every library other than those managed by the City/Zilla Granthalaya Samstha, local body or public must get registered with the Director of Public Libraries afresh, thought they were registered under different Acts. A library/reading room serving a period of two years should be open to all. It should have a minimum of 500 books and subscribing to at least two dailies and 5 other periodicals. It should provide space for at least 10 readers to sit and study. It should have provision for home lending of books.

❖ Grant-in-aid for various items should be on the following percentage basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Library Share</th>
<th>Government Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Purchase of books and periodicals</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Staff salary</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Building Construction</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Equipment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v) Furniture</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition special grants should be made available for conducting adult education programme, building-up text-book collection, establishing a children's section, etc.

3. Zilla Grandhalayas should not open a branch library where there is already a library.
4. Courses for training librarians of aided libraries should be organised to improve the basic skills of librarianship.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh accepted the recommendation of the Vavilala Committee in their G.O.No. 43, Edn., M.S. dated 30-4-1982. But this Government Order could not be implemented so far for various reasons.

As per Alake Buragohain, “recommendations of the Advisory Committee on libraries and the Planning Commission Working Group on libraries both appointed by the union government and different proposals of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan has been ignored. Until now these recommendations have not been implemented”. 18

3C.4 Library Legislation in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is one of the states, which have Public Library Legislation for orderly development and spread of library services throughout the length and breadth of the state. This act came into force with effect from April 1st 1960. This was amended periodically in 1964, 1969 and so on. The latest amendment was made in 1990.
Andhra Pradesh Public Library Act 1960

Salient Features

- Provision of the State Library Committee,
- Constitution of Local Library Authorities (Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha),
- Levy of Library cess, and
- Matching grant of State Government to library cess, which was discontinued from 1975.

The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 also made some improvements over the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948 in respect of:

- provision of separate Directorate of Public Libraries with a Director as its head,
- making the Librarian of the State Central Library as a member of the State Library Committee,
- provision of decentralization of library administration by empowering the Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha (ZGS) to provide library service in the District, and declaring the City Librarian and the District Central Librarians as Ex-officio Secretaries of the respective ZGS, and
- prescribing a minimum of four paise and a maximum of eight paise as library cess.

The present structure of the Public Library System resulted by the act
offering varied and effective services to the urban and rural population of the state. The structure was recommended by the Advisory Committee for Libraries appointed by the Union Ministry of Education, Government of India in 1957. The public library system consists of State Central Library as an "apex" library with the Regional Libraries, the District Central Libraries, and the Branch Libraries as others in the ladder. Further, below the system, there are also village libraries. Book Deposit centers, and Mobile libraries. In addition to these, Aided Libraries are also functioning in the state. The state library committee, constituted under section (3) of the Act advises the Government on all matters arising under the Act. The Committee is headed by the Minister for Public Libraries. The Director of Public Libraries is the Member Secretary of the Committee. For the purpose of this Act, under section (8), the Government shall constitute a separate department of public libraries and appoint a Director to look after the affairs of entire public library system in the state. The Director so appointed shall work subject to the control of the Government.

According to Raju, "The State Government constituted a Grandhalaya Parishad in April 1989 by amending the existing Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960. Chapter II of the amended act provides for the establishment and composition of the Andhra Pradesh Grandhalaya Parishad. This will be the principal policy-making body in respect of public libraries in the State".19
Grandhalaya Parishad

As per Majid Khan, “The objectives of the Parishad are (1) to organise and promote library services in the State; (2) to establish, equip, maintain and develop an integrated, comprehensive and efficient library service in the State; (3) to augment the supply of books and periodicals to all the libraries in the State; (4) to develop infrastructural facilities such as buildings, furniture, equipment to all public libraries and Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas in the State; (5) to undertake other related activities; (6) to raise finances and regulate their usage for the promotion of library service; (7) to augment the income of the Parishad and Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha and suggest means for raising additional resources and (8) to prepare long-term plans for improving the library service in the state and also to supervise the implementation of approved plans”.  

The A.P. Public library Act was amended in 1989 and Grandhalaya Parishad came into existence. The main features of Grandhalaya Parishad are:

1. The Parishad shall exercise the following powers and functions:
   - To evolve perspective plans for the development of library services and to co-operate and determine the standards of library service in Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas;
   - To prepare consolidated programmes in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government, and the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, and also to implement the development programmes;
❖ To approve the budget estimates of the Parishad and Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas;

❖ To sanction the opening of library branches, village libraries and book deposit centres, subject to the availability of funds, and creation of full time posts with the approval of the government;

❖ To accord administrative and financial sanction for the construction of buildings for the purpose of public libraries;

❖ To accord administrative and financial sanction for additional staff with the approval of the government;

❖ To accept gifts or endowments for any purpose connected with the library activities of a value upto rupees 5 lakhs, and with the permission of the government of a value exceeding 5 lakhs;

❖ To approve and submit to the government every year the audited statements of accounts and utilization certificates of its funds;

❖ To approve the annual audited statement of accounts of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas;

❖ To approve the annual report on the working of public libraries under the Act and cause to be placed before the legislature;

❖ To decide the policy for the selection and purchase of books required by the public library in the state, and for this purpose to constitute sub-committees, which shall include one expert in the subject of the language concerned besides other eminent persons in the faculties concerned.
❖ To organise and conduct library seminars and conferences;
❖ To set-up-committees as may be necessary, from time to time, to regulate the work;
❖ To co-ordinate all the activities concerned with the library service, and to supervise the proper utilisation of funds allotted to such activities including the cess collection by the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas; and
❖ To prepare consolidated programme in the sphere of the library service in accordance with the guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

2. The Parishad shall advise the government on all matters arising from this act, and shall exercise such other power, and perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

3. The Parishad shall meet at least once in two months. The number of members necessary to constitute a quorum at the meeting and the procedure to be followed there at shall be such, as may be prescribed by rules or statutes.

* Other Important things as per Amendment *

The Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas were constituted under section 9(1) of the Act for the purpose of organising and administering public libraries in the state. At present, there are 23 Samsthas. One for the City of Hyderabad, by the name Hyderabad City Grandhalaya Samstha, and one for each of the Districts by the name of the District concerned.
The library cess is the most important source of income for the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas (ZGS). As per section 20, sub-section 1(a) of the Library Act, the Samsthas can levy a cess in the form of surcharge on the property tax or house tax at the rate of eight paise for every rupee. The Municipal Corporations/ Municpal Councils / Gram Panchayats have to collect the cess and remit to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas.

The government, through an amendment made in February 1987, abolished the then existing procedure of electing certain percentage of members to the Samsthas and replace them with nominated bodies. Even the Chairmen of the Samsthas were nominated by the government for a period of three years to hold office.

The recent amendment to Act, passed in October 1990, declared the specified three-year term of the office of the Chairmen of the Samsthas. At present, they shall continue in office as long as the government wants them.

As per Raju, “The development plan for urban areas, given in rule (16) of APPL Rules, 1961 mentions that each municipal town shall have a main library, and if the population municipal town exceeds 50,000 there should be in addition, a branch library for every 25,000 people in excess of 50,000”. 21

As per Ramaiah, “Andhra Pradesh Public Library Act 1960 created a lot of ineffectiveness in the Public libraries system in A.P. This has also resulted in
failing of contributing to the establishment of National Library System. There was a gradual decline of the public participation during the last 36 years. Now the ZGS are completely politicalised with the nominated Chairman and the Grandhalaya Parishad. Today the library development in the state has come to a stand still. The progress achieved after the integrated AP Public Libraries Act, 1960, is minimal and it is not in proportion to the size and resources of the state and expectations of the people."

Drawbacks of the Act

Some of its drawbacks even after subsequent amendments are:

- Preamble does not lay down clear objections and purpose of the act. Unlike the public libraries before independence the present public libraries are without any clear direction and guidance.

- The Regional libraries were established under the Act more out political exigencies and are in a dilemma as to their role in the total public library system of the state.

- Library finance despite the provision for library cess is neither reliable nor sufficient.

- The management of the Public Libraries through elected/nominated bodies known as Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas is in a chaotic condition.

- The staff working under the provisions of the Act can neither act with zeal nor ignore their duties and responsibilities.
The background for modernization of the public libraries functioning under the provisions of the act is in a very pathetic situation. The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act may therefore have to be suitably amended to set right the various drawbacks.

Since 1960 the State has recorded a satisfactory growth in number of libraries and their services. The following table presents the data relating to the decades of growth and development of libraries in the state from 1970-2000.

3C.5 Growth and development of Public Library System from 1970-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Govt. Libraries:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Ls</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Lib., Eluru</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (A)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. ZGS Libraries:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCLs</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCL (Hyd.)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Libs.</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>1417</td>
<td>1448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Libs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Guntur &amp; Hyderabad)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Libs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Deposit Centres</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (B)</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>1480</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>2405</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Aided Libraries:

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat Libs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>1561</td>
<td>1238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-op. Society Libs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Management Libs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>698</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (C)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1832</strong></td>
<td><strong>2295</strong></td>
<td><strong>2310</strong></td>
<td><strong>1955</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand (A+B+C) Total**  
2879 3783 4681 4368


I. Growth of Government Libraries

By 1970, there were only 7 Government libraries functioning under the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries system, comprising 1 SCL, 5 RLS and 1 mobile library. However there is only regional library i.e. Sri Gowthami Regional Library, Rajahmundry. Other than this there is no further increase in the number of Government Libraries in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

II. Growth of ZGS Libraries

In 1970, there were only 1040 ZGS libraries functioning in the state, which comprises DCL, CCL, Branch Libraries, Mobile Libraries, Village Libraries, Book Deposit centres. By 2000 the number of ZGS libraries increased more than two fold and reached to 2502. However there is three fold increase in Branch Libraries from 517 in 1970 to 1449 in 2000.
III. Aided Libraries

The aided libraries comprising Panchayat Libraries, managed by cooperative societies and private managements were 1832 in 1970 and this number increased to 2295 in 1980 and to 1955 in 1990. However, the number of aided libraries increased to 1995 by 2000.

3C.6 Organisational Structure of Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh

Government of Andhra Pradesh

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\downarrow \\
\text{Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Department of Public Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Govt. Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{City Granthalaya Samasta/ Aided Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Zilla Granthalaya Samasta / Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{State Central Library} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{City Central Library & District Central Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Regional Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Branch Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Mobile Library} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Mobile Village Libraries} \\
\downarrow \\
\text{Book Deposit Centres} \\
\end{array}
\]

1. Voluntary Organisations
2. Organisations
3. Municipalities
4. Panchayats
5. Co-op Societies
The structure of Public Library System in Andhra Pradesh is in the form of a pyramid with the State Central Library (SCL) at the apex and the Book Deposit Centres (BDCs) and Aided Libraries (Als) at the bottom. In between these two levels, there are from top to bottom, the regional libraries (RLs), the City Central Library (CCL)/the District Central Library (DCLs), the Branch Libraries (BLs) and the Village Libraries (VLs). The PLS in the State may broadly be divided into three categories:

- Government Libraries consisting of the SCL, the RLs, and the Mobile Library, Eluru.

- ZGS Libraries consisting of CCL/DCLs, the BLs, the MLs the VLs and the BDLs.


The Structure of the District Library System

The District central libraries were established by the Zilla Granthalaya Samsthas (ZGSs) under the provisions of section-9 (1) of the Act. At present there are 23 ZGSs, (the city of Hyderabad and Secunderabad it is known as City Granthalaya Samasthas (CGS) and one each for the remaining 22 Revenue Districts in the State) The Librarian of the CCL, Hyderabad and District central Librarians are ex-officio Secretaries of the CGS and ZGS respectively. The following chart shows the structure of the District Library System (DLS).
3C.7 Role of the Department of Public Libraries

a. Future Programmes of the Department of Libraries

The future programmes of Department of Public Libraries in A.P. are enlisted below:
❖ Filling up of the vacancies either by deployment from surplus man power cell the government or by contract appointment.

❖ Establishment of competitive examination, reference units in all 23 district central libraries and 7 Government libraries in the first phase and in all Branch libraries in a phased manner.

❖ Digitalization of State Central Library.

❖ Strengthening of text book sections in all branch libraries.


❖ Undertaking repairs to the government libraries and District Central Libraries for making them suitable to undertake computerization and providing internet facilities.

❖ Supply of reading materials, storage materials and construction of own buildings to branch libraries with the financial assistance of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, MP Constituency funds, Public contribution etc.,

❖ Continuous in-service training to the employee of the department to render better library service to the clientele.

❖ Associating library staff with literacy centres either as volunteers or supervisors where ever possible.
Organizing competitions like newspaper reading, post card writing, singing and rangoli competitions for the learners of 'Akshara Sankranthi centres' to sustain interest and motivation.

Lending of reading material to continuing education centres of adult education department from the nearest public library for the benefit of illiterates after becoming literates.

Establishing linkage with nearby primary and upper primary schools to cultivate the habit of reading and moral values by supplying books on children's literature.

To provide library service in the villages/habitations where public libraries are not in existence by Panchayats/village educational committees by lending reading materials from the nearest branch/village libraries.

Delegation of powers to Gram Panchayats to supervise the functioning of public libraries in their jurisdiction.

b. Specific Targets for the Period 2001 - 2002 to 2004 - 2005

Target I: Readership and membership drive.

Target II: Establishing competitive examination reference units in 7 government libraries, 23 DCLs and 47 Gr - I Libraries.

Target III: Computerization of all library services and provision of internet facilities in 7 government libraries, 23 DCLs and 47 Gr - I libraries.
Target IV: Repairs required to 7 government libraries, 23 DCLs, 47 branch libraries.

Target V: Provision of infrastructure facilities like storage equipment and furniture to 600 libraries.

Target VI: Construction of 400 library buildings to branch libraries.

Target VII: Supply of books to all DCLs and BLs with matching assistance from RRLF.

Target VIII: Microfilming of old periodicals, rare book materials and newspapers.

c. New Initiatives

❖ Establishment of competitive examinations, reference units in all 23 District Central Libraries and 7 government libraries in the first phase and in all branch libraries in a phased manner.

❖ Undertaking repairs to the buildings of all government libraries and District Central Libraries to make them suitable to undertake computerization and internet facilities.

❖ Computerization of library services and provision of internet facilities in all 7 government libraries and 22 District Central Libraries and branch libraries in a phased manner.

❖ Filling up of vacancies by appointment on contract basis.

❖ Conduct of in-service training to the librarians and other staff for capacity building with the RRLF matching grant.
❖ Conduct of seminars/workshops with the RRLF matching grant.

❖ Digitalization of old periodicals and rare book materials identified in government libraries and private aided libraries like Sri Gowthami Regional Library, Rajahmundry and Saraswatha Nikethanam, Vetapalem.

❖ Strengthening of text book sections in all branch libraries.


❖ Extension of referential services to the academicians and researchers through digital library.

❖ Training programmes for librarians for competencies and capacity building.

❖ Tapping resources from national archives of India for preservation and special accommodation.

❖ Tapping resources from Iran Councilate General for Preservation of Rare Arabic and Persian books.

❖ Exploring the possibilities of marketing the information.

❖ Establishing linkages with nearby primary and upper primary schools to cultivate the habit of reading and moral values of supplying books on children's literature.

❖ Monthly reviews for effective monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators such as readership, membership, cess collection and expenditure under plan / non-plan budgets.
Converging of public libraries with A P Open schools and continuing education centres of adult education- Locational - Functional.

d. The Achievements of the Department of Public Libraries in Andhra Pradesh

- An amount of Rs.1244.14 lakhs was incurred towards payment of salaries to the employees of the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas.
- An amount of Rs.3.10 lakhs was incurred towards maintenance of building of State Central Library, Hyderabad.
- An amount of Rs. 3.00 lakhs has been released by government towards the state share for getting equal matching grant from Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation.
- An amount of Rs.490.00 lakhs was released by the government towards payment of arrears salary and pension grant owing to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samsthas.
- Under XI Finance Commission: An amount of Rs.112.00 lakhs was released by the government towards strengthening and up gradation of the network of public libraries in the state by the creation of corpus fund by investing it and use the returns for the same for purchase of books and periodicals every year on sustainable basis.
- An amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs was released by the government towards grant-in-aid to the Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad.
- Universal Digital Library has been established with the collaboration of
Carnige Mellon University, Pittsburgh, U.S.A. An amount of Rs.49.64 lakh has been spent so far on this project.

❖ The method of purchase and supply of books under RRRLF is drastically changed to see the payments to the authors and publishers are made in record time.

❖ An amount of Rs.75.00 lakh is going to spend on purchase of books under RRRLF matching scheme.

❖ 576 book deposit centers which were defunct earlier have been revived in the villages not having libraries.

❖ 8 training programmes are arranged for the librarians working in government and Zilla Grandhalaya samsthas libraries in the state.

❖ Construction of 43 library buildings have been taken up from March 2002.

Section - D  Public Libraries in Modern Era

3D.1 Public Libraries - Concept and Definition

Our society is still agrarian even though it is fast developing industrially since independence. Even today the large percent of our population is illiterate even though various government agencies are trying their best to transform the illiterates into well-formed educated individuals. Illiteracy has hindered much the attempts to carry knowledge and information to each individual in the society. It is quite challenging task to transfer even basic and fundamental information.
Libraries being social institutions are entrusted with the responsibility of carrying knowledge to the doors of those who require it so that it can be fruitfully utilized both by the educated and uneducated. The library is not an end itself. Its existence depends upon the society from which it has grown and it is directly influenced by the cultural and social changes that are taking place in that society.

The public libraries should be able to reduce tension and move towards objectively by skillfully protecting the required information. It can diffuse, it can remodel and it can bring the situation to objective analysis by its timely identification of information needs of the society.

Information is vital for the economic and social development of an individual in a society. For an overwhelming majority of the population of India public libraries provide the quickest and easiest access to the world's best thoughts. So these institutions occupy a prominent place in the socio-economic development of the nation. They are the depositories of ancient as well as modern knowledge. Organised research, both individual and institutional has brought to light findings that are more productive and fats about nature and society. Public libraries which, provide access to the latest development in various fields are the primary means for promoting acquisition of new knowledge and skills required for the development of human resources. They provide the right climate for lifelong self education, creative thinking and growth of an individual.
In order to satisfy the bibliographic and information needs of varied user community public libraries have to be established in requisite numbers in the urban and rural areas. Efforts have also to be made to ensure that these institutions are systematically organised and provided with adequate resources to effectively carry out their stated objectives. Periodic review of the organizational structure and administrative processes have to be carried out to ensure that these institutions are functioning effectively and efficiently.

A library is one of the effective repositories of our cultural heritage. The term Public Library is an amalgamation of two attributes, namely 'Public' and 'Library'. The first one is an epithet dependent on and supplemented by a noun of common utility which means a collection of books and other reading material assembled for public use as against a collection assembled for sale, for display or for any other such purposes. A public library is the local gateway to knowledge, it provides basic conditions for life-long learning and promotes cultural, social and individual development. 'Public Library' as understood in the west (meaning unfettered service to all, free of cost) has an altogether different connotation in India. It denotes any library which permits its material to be used by the public with or without paying a fee. There are libraries set up and sponsored and / or supported by the government, including local bodies. Private individuals and organisations have established libraries, some of which receive aid from the government. A public library opens its doors to all sections of the people of a community irrespective of any consideration.
Definitions

❖ The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994) proclaims Public Library as a “living force for education, culture and information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.”

The Information Organization for Standardization defined the Public Libraries are, “those, which serve the population of a community or region free of charge or for a nominal fee, they may serve the general public or special categories of users such as children, members of the armed forces, hospital patients prisoners, workers and employees”.

As per Leigh Robert “This open-door policy helps an individual to develop his potentialities and abilities which otherwise would go waste for lack of proper resources, equipment or atmosphere. A public library attracts such an individual by means of its varied activities and provides him with material for self-education.”

The Advisory Committee for Libraries appointed by the Government of India (1958) advocated the internationally accepted definition of a public library. A public library is one: which is financed for the most part out of public funds.

❖ which charges no fees from readers and yet is open for full use by the public without distinction of caste, creed or sex;
which is intended as an auxiliary educational institution providing a means of self-education which is endless; and

which houses learning materials giving reliable information freely and without partiality or prejudice on as wide a variety of subjects as will satisfy the interests of readers.”

According to Las Vegas Walters librarians need to" reinforce the concept of the library as a locus in the community for public discussion, cultural enlightenment and place that can counteract the fractious effects of urban living.”

In India the term ‘Public Library’ is used to denote any library which allows the public irrespective of state, culture, race, sex, community etc., to use the services of the library.

Thus it is basically a service library providing free-service or some times at nominal charges.

3D.2 Objectives and Functions of Public Libraries

a. Objectives

The public library is the centre for the intellectual life of the society which, it serves. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, in his library manual, has identified the following objectives for a public library.

- It shall help the life long self-education of one-and-all.
- It should furnish up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to one-and-all.
It should distribute, in an unbiased and balanced way all shades of recorded views and thought to one-and-all.

It should contribute to productivity-drive by informing top management of the latest trends in diverse enterprises, by ploughing back into the minds of researchers, designers and technologists every piece of relevant new thought, promptly and pin-pointedly.

It should provide one-and-all a harmless and elevating use of leisure.

It should preserve the literary remains of humanity for prosperity, as vehicles of culture and as source of materials for antiquarian research and in general.

It should work for continued social since the agency in charge of all socialised recorded thought.”

To achieve these objectives the public library units perform a wide range of functions. They collect and organize the printed and audio-visual materials needed to conduct the individual and group life of its constituency. They interpret and guide the use of these materials to enable as many people as possible to make the best use of the materials from its stock.

The UNESCO conference (1952) observed “The Public Library, a product of modern democracy and its foremost agent for the integral education of the people, is the institution which conserves and organises human knowledge in order to place it at the service of the community without distinction of profession, creed or race.”
Thus a library has educational, information, political, economic, industrial, cultural, and antiquarian functions.

b. Functions of Public Libraries

The role played by the public libraries has undergone a transformation in course of time, from acting as mere repositories of old stock of books and reading materials to that of an 'information reservoir' for multiple user groups. Presently the public library not only collects books and other reading materials, but also assumes the responsibility of meeting the diverse needs of individuals through effective library/information services. The public library's prime-role is that of communicating ideas, thoughts and experiences contained in books and other reading materials. With advancement of technology audio-visual materials are also used in the provision of library and information services.

Thus the public libraries through effective collection and dissemination of information meet the educational, informative, recreational and cultural requirements of a society. These different roles are explained below.

Educational Role

The stock of varied books held in the public libraries enables an individual reader to learn and know more and more about his field of specialization. In the case of students who are pursuing formal education, the book-stock held in the public libraries supplements the knowledge they gain through formal class-room
teaching. For those students who are engaged in part-time courses, correspondence courses and in the preparation for examinations as external candidates, the bookstock held in the public libraries is itself the primary source for obtaining the required information.

In this context, Lord Parry states, “As far as the (open university) students are concerned, scattered as they were throughout the whole country, it would not be feasible to offer a library service. They would have to rely on the public libraries and on inter library loan services to acquire the reading materials that they would need.”

Public libraries also enable school dropouts and the general public interested in various trades and professions to keep abreast of the developments taking place, in various branches of knowledge. Furthermore, public libraries contribute immensely to the success of adult education programmes. They make available reading materials which are appropriate for the promotion of literacy programmes. Hutchins states, “… it may be that the world cannot be saved. But if it can be, it will be saved by the kind of education for adults for which the public library is best equipped.”

Public libraries prevent the neo-literates from relapsing into illiteracy, by keeping reading materials on varied subjects accessible to them. The needs of children are also taken care of by the public library units. The innovative and creative literature held in the library stock promotes reading habits among children.
The educational role of public libraries has been briefly summed up by V.K.R.V. Rao as "Public libraries are an indispensable condition for the utilization of literacy and the intelligent participation by the people in the economic, and political development of the country. In fact libraries constitute as an important sector of education as either elementary or secondary or university or technical or adult education." 32

As per Marianu Scott, "Without libraries, there can be no education; without education there can be no progress; without progress there can be no hope. Those who do not know who they have been and who they are now cannot know who they can become". 33

The public libraries afford an opportunity for enhancing the dignity and well being of the common man and they are vitally needed to enrich human personality and to arrest the degradation of man into just a functional unit. Whoever learned to read beyond the level of bare literacy and wishes to play his full part in the life of his community can possibly keep in touch with all developments in the world, including the happenings at his desktop through his recourse to books and periodicals. But few people only in the world can buy all the books and periodicals they need for their own personal use.

According to Mangla, P.B. "Alwin Johnson rightly calls a public library 'People's University' because when properly developed. Public libraries play
indispensable role as community centres for education information, recreation, and culture. They provide free service to all without any discrimination based on caste, creed, sex, or any other consideration.\textsuperscript{34}

As per Philip Gill, "The three key roles of the public library:

- Education
- Information
- Personal Development

Different societies give these different levels of priority. It is very important that priorities are agreed and maintained to ensure the most effective use of resources.\textsuperscript{35}

It is now the time to accept the public libraries as part of the educational equipment of the country and the stage is passed when these libraries can be scoffed at as doing little but provide second rate fiction for the use of the idle and foolish. They have to provide the reading material to the educated public for their continuous education.

\textit{Informatory Role}

Information is dynamic and interactive, it involves all media; it involves many non-traditional domains; it must harness technology and lead, not be led; information specialists must direct the software developers. Information need must lead the technology; it needs champions and publicists to broadcast what the professionals can do to enhance user's and organization's performance.
Information is vital for the socio-economic and cultural development of individuals and the society. The need for information arises when an individual is pursuing a specific project. It is also required in carrying out the day-to-day activities of an individual in a community. The stock of reading materials, particularly the reference collection enables an individual to obtain the required information.

The infromatory role of public libraries is of greater significance in the rural areas. The library acts as a community information centre providing varied and valuable library services to the rural masses. Audio-visual equipment like radio, television and audio-visual tapes are extensively used in rendering informatory services. The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1972), in one of its objectives clearly states, "Its contents should be a living demonstration of the evolution of knowledge and culture, constantly reviewed, kept up-to-date and attractively presented. In this way it helps people form their opinions and develop their creative and critical capacities and powers of appreciation. The public library is concerned with communication of information, and ideas, whatever the form in which these may be expressed."  

Recreational Role

Public library units help an individual to make his leisure time worthwhile by subscribing to journals and stocking fiction and light reading materials. They
are centres which encourage wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure
time. The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1972) observes. "The public library
is concerned with the refreshment of man’s spirit by the provision of books for
relaxation and pleasure, with assistance to the student and with the provision of
up-to-date technical, scientific and sociological information." 37

**Cultural Role**

Public libraries also play vital role in the cultural development of a society. They act as the centres where various cultural and literacy activities like discussions and lectures are conducted. One of the objectives of public libraries as stated in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1972) is “The public library is a natural cultural centre for the community bringing together as it does people of same interests. Space and equipment are therefore necessary for exhibitions, discussions, lectures, musical performances and films, both for adults and children.” 38

**3D.3 Public Libraries and Adult Education**

As per Houle, Adult education is defined, “... as any purposeful effort toward self development carried on by an individual without direct legal compulsion and without such effort becoming his major field of activity. It may concern any or all of three aspects of life his working life, his personal life, and his life as citizen.” 39
Libraries in the march of history have stood by the side of the individual in his purposeful effort toward self development in the belief that a developing individual contributes to the development of society in his own way.

According to Margaret, Monore "The history of the public library is a record of transition from a narrowly conservational function to a broad programme directed toward the advance of popular education. These changes in the objectives of public library were merely reflections of transformations in society itself. Libraries that were only storehouses of accumulated knowledge were not adequate to the needs of a society that was consciously seeking to encourage the participation of the individual in the life of the group. The modern public library in large measure represents the need of democracy for an enlightened electorate and its history records its adaptation to changing social requirements." 40

As per Mohan R. Khedre, "The education that helps adults to become aware and make use of the possibilities of their personal growth and develop with the potential enrichment of their social and collective life is adult education." 41

As per the first five year plan report (1959) "The library was accepted as an important wing of social education activities, in the first five year Plan. Later on the Government of India in 1959 appointed a committee to suggest ways and means and submit a plan for libraries in the country." 42

As a result of the recommendations of the 1959 committee, libraries
were organized at National level, state level, District and Block level. The Development Department gave grants on a matching basis to organize libraries in rural areas. Thousands of libraries were organized with the objective to provide materials to the new literates and people of limited reading ability.

As per Kaula, P. N., "The five year plans speak of the apathy of the government towards library development. The establishment of National Central Library provided in first and second Five year Plans and modified in the third plan has yet to see the light of the day. An integrated national library system with many cultural, political, economical, educational functions is urgently needed. The constitutional snag of keeping libraries separate from Education and then retaining it in the state subject list should have been rectified long back. The government did not draw up a national policy on education soon after our independence. It woke up only in 1968 and formulated a policy which was not implemented. In 1985 it again woke up to draw up a national policy and produced a document called 'Challenges of Education—A Policy Perspective' But the document prepared by experienced and top educationists in the country had ignored the role of libraries in education. Protests by professional organizations and individual librarians were launched. This resulted in the appointment of the National Committee to draft the national policy on library and information system. The committee finally delivered the draft into the hands of the Union Minister for Human Resource Development on 30 May 1986. But no implementation has
taken place till this date. The revised draft of the National Policy on Education contained a paragraph on the general improvement of libraries and book culture. This paragraph was interpolated on the basis of representation."

Public Libraries must concentrate more largely now than they have in the past on materials and services for persons who have some purpose in their reading. Libraries must be increasingly aware of social, economic, political, and cultural objects and must learn how to use their materials and personnel to help people advance towards those objectives. These objectives are good racial relations, religious tolerance, international cooperation, and good citizenship. The library should change its role from mere book-delivery library to the learning material centre.

The problem of providing education facilities to adult illiterates is so great and complex that it cannot be considered independently either of adult educators or of librarians. They should join their hands and work together to meet the needs of adult illiterates. The job of adult educators should be to explore the field, prepare the ground of willingness readiness for learning and the function of librarians should be to provide the tools of self-education, development and familiarize the community that await it in life.

*Manu* says: “To carry knowledge to the doors that lack it, and to educate all to perceive the right even to give away the whole earth can not equal that form of service.
The tasks of the public library in supporting adult education activities should be strengthened as in the Delhi Public Library. The main tasks specified are:

- To supply study materials
- To inform and advise on adult education courses
- To offer study facilities
- To organize stimulating public events and
- To develop information service within adult education activities.

The positive image of the library should be projected through its branches by extending the opening hours and projecting diverse adult education activities.

As early as 1888 Melvil Dewey the father of library science rightly called Public Library as People’s University meaning thereby a place where people of all areas and of all the stages of their mental growth and progress can freely go to acquire knowledge or supplement their knowledge for keeping it up to date either themselves or under the guidance of able librarians in an unbiased personal way. It was the concept of Dewey that promoted future generations of librarians to shape their libraries as a media for mass education and a permanent centre for adult education informally together with the extension of the work of schools, colleges and universities into the field.
3D.4 Public Libraries - Educational Services to Women

According to Iyer, V. K. “The Public libraries are taking care to serve the reading needs of women through various methods such as provision of separate accommodation (reading rooms) for women, maintenance of branch libraries exclusively for women’s use and operating mobile library services etc.”

The future of developing countries lies not so much in the hands of politicians, or even scientists, as much as in the hands of women. The progress of the country depends on their reaction to present changes that take place in society and willingness to change for a better life. Adult educators and the librarians can do a great service by devising a special programme in keeping with the needs of women. Adult literacy programme for women should be a must for all adult educators. The libraries should have special section for ladies and build up a programme to motivate women of the community to take advantage of their facility.

The public library system should co-ordinate the adult education programmes as one of the library services so as to provide continuing education to women of all age groups.

3D.5 Public Libraries in Electronic Age

Even in this Internet age, we need the libraries and their services. Nancy Kranich. The President of American Library Association, recently opined that “Librarians are human search engines. They shift through vast amounts of words
and images and arrange, organise and filter them for the public. Librarians are selective. They are critical and choosy in ways that computers will never be. Further the librarian’s knowledge and skills are more valuable now that there are computers, for they can guide customers to information they need in the quickest way from the most reliable sources. Besides, not all information is available on the Internet and the information on the Internet may not help the reader. Full textbooks are still rare on the Internet and people still want to check out the collection of books available in libraries.

Therefore, the services of libraries are essential for purpose of collection, preservation and dissemination of information to the users in the society. In this context, the public library system plays its role in dissemination of information through books, magazines, books on tapes, videos and CDs. The country libraries in the United States are also offering latest community services such as Online Book clubs, Summer Reading Programmes, Library Volunteers, Reading Volunteers, Library - On - Wheels, etc.

As per Philip Gill, “The United Nations Human Development Report 1999” while stating that the internet was the fastest growing information tool also revealed that South Asia with 23.5 percent of the world’s population had less than 0.1 percent of the world’s internet users. A quarter of the countries of the world have less than one telephone per one hundred people. The risk of a growing gap between the information-rich and information-poor has never been greater.
This gap is not just between countries but also between groups and individuals within countries. The UN report says “determined efforts are needed to bring developing countries and poor people everywhere into the global conversation.” This presents public libraries with an exciting opportunity to help and bring everyone into the global conversation. To do so should the public library nail its colours firmly to the technological mast and accept that print based and other services should no longer have a high priority.? We took the view that to fulfill the principle of access for all libraries must continue to provide information in a variety of ways, for example through print and the oral tradition. While becoming the gateway to the electronic information world they should not close the other doors through which knowledge and information are provided. This presents public libraries with a major challenge and their success in meeting it will determine the future of public libraries.”

The present scene of public libraries in India is pathetic. They are still considered to be the storehouses of some newspapers, magazines, novels, and short stories, housed in poor buildings without scientific furniture, equipment and other physical facilities and staff. To take public libraries into 21st century, it will be desirable to use modern technology which is now limited to special libraries, have to be modified considerably. The public library acts may need modifications for the public libraries of 21st century. In these acts many more definitions will have to be added like computer, information network, compact disc, etc.
Public Library Network (PUBNET) While taking public libraries to 21st century, which is to come after just 5 years from now, we cannot imagine drastic changes in this short span of time. But we can think many changes in public libraries some time in the 21st century. The 21st century will be a century of many more new technological advancements. There have been such changes in special libraries and to some extent in university libraries, but there is very little change or effect on college and school libraries and hardly any effect on public libraries. The development of new technology is bound to force the public libraries to adopt these sooner or better.

National Information System of Public Libraries (NISPUB) Unfortunately public libraries do not figure anywhere. At present there are information networks in science. India should have a public library network too which may be called (PUBNET) or National Information System of Public Libraries (NISPUB), with its headquarter at National Library, Calcutta.

State Information System of Public Libraries (SISPUB) Details: There should be State Central Library in each state capitals or in some other big cities of the states. There should be interlink in a Network in each state. A public library network has to be established called State Public Libraries Network and Information (SPLIN) or (SISPUB) State Information system of Public Libraries or with the name of the state with PUBNET i.e. Karnataka PUBNET, etc. In a state
public library network, the State Central Library will work as its headquarters, with its regional libraries, district libraries, city libraries and rural libraries. The state library network will take care in regional languages and in arts and culture of the region. District libraries may have more responsibilities. The collection of information in print and non-print media, will be the responsibility of district libraries and district librarian should have the power of imposing penalties on defaulting publishers and information generators.

From the point of view of Gopinath, "A local Public library can work through its network and get the information through public access network system, information required from other organizations. For these purposes, the library should provide a computer aided system. The information policy for Public Library System should encourage and develop a good computer aided information system. Such system can co-ordinate the human expertise towards :

Achievement of goals. It can lead to the following types of activities:

- To link speedily appropriate sources of information on several activities, missions and subjects
- To moderate the expression of information needs of users and connect them to information content of the documents available.
- To make information readily available to users at the point of their work through network access.
To provide service with a customized gathering and presentation of the information to help to solve specific problems.

To get feedback on use of documents and identify pattern of utilization of information service in different sectors.

These services are to be integrated into going through a variety of media and resources. Such a service may be called Integrated Information Service (IIS). It should provide as far as possible, complete information for decision-making or problem solving situations. It may indicate alternatives IIS should specially act on the following:

- Integrate internal (institutionally- (PLS) generated) information and external information.
- Provide numerical and factual data as well as bibliographical data.
- Provide a wide range of information services (such as CAS services, Retrospective services, Referral services, information analysis and repackaging, statistical processing, technology profiles, product and process information)
- Present data and information in such forms and formats easily usable by the different categories of users served.
- Services should be provided in a manner friendly to information users.

In short, Information services provided should cover a wide range of services such as housing, employment, health, and medical services social welfare,
education, legal aid, consumer's advice, educational facilities, and their availability, career prospects and local historical information. The information policy for public library system should encourage and provide for the infrastructures needed for technological development in library and information systems.  

A state level computerized public libraries network can be made as follows:

- Mainframe computer system can be installed in State Central Library and made fully operational. The system should support administrative services, accounts, book selection, classification and cataloguing and preparation of union catalogue of the region.

- The regional libraries can be equipped with micro processor system, supported by adequate configuration off-line data terminals. These should take routine administrative work, charging – discharging registration, over dues and information retrieval of the interest of the region. District libraries and city libraries should cater to the needs of Local Area Networks (LAN).

3D.6 Public Libraries - Information Services for Women

The direct and major impact is the division of society into two groups- the “haves” and the “have-nots”- leading to the information of a section termed as “disadvantaged”. This would entail a much more structured and focused response than that at present available with the designation of “community librarianship” as an area of high priority. A public library must challenge this deprivation of
information and become demonstrable more responsive towards women community.

Information provided by the traditional reference service is vital to information seekers in a public library. It encourages personal contacts between library staff and the people. The latter may come from government departments, business firms, research institutions, professional bodies, social organizations etc. however reference service confines primarily to ready reference sources in the library. The information needed by the average citizens may not be usually available in library collections but can be found from resources outside the library.

The public library has some strategic points in providing citizens' information services such as:

❖ The public library is formed to meet the information needs of the citizens.
❖ The public library should serve the people with knowledge and information.
❖ The public library services the community in an impartial and helpful manner.
❖ The resources of Public library can be linked to provide back up services to currently sought information.
❖ The location of the public library node is generally at a busy node and is in the hub of people walking across for variety of reasons, such as marketing, shopping, entertainment etc.
❖ The public library timings are beyond office hours say from 8.00 A.M. to 8.00 P.M. This facilitates many people to visit it at their leisure.
The public library has a free atmosphere and this environment provides for helpful interaction. Its personality should be charismatic and encourage people to ask questions.

In view of the information support to be provided for women by the libraries, the following points could be considered.

- Establish a separate wing for women. Women library is a part of Public Library system providing special opportunities for women to develop themselves. To mitigate the hardships of poverty library need to disseminate such information as can be used in seeking employment, skill development or in generating self employment activities. For instance the rural women need to be appraised of the policies and programmes of government whereby a farmer is able to get money to cultivate her lands etc. the ignorance of the farmers who are mostly neo-literates, is at present being exploited by the middleman.

- Similarly policies of the government relating to agro-industries need to be popularized in villages and hamlets where a maximum number of neo-literates reside and so that a climate in favour of the agro-industries is created which in the long run will be able to arrest migration of the rural population.

- The public library should disseminate information among women living in the villages relating to development activities like construction of canals,
dams, and approach roads: digging of tanks and wells for providing drinking water: construction of houses for weaker sections; establishment of colleges and village industries etc. goes a long way in improving economic condition of women.

Dissemination of social information relating to unhealthy and unsocial practices in society, like child marriage, widow re-marriage, Sati, dowry death, corruption in public offices, consuming alcohol and gambling etc. should be brought out in order to enable the neo-literate to think seriously on such issues. Public libraries are the most suitable agencies to undertake this task.

Scientific and technological information also need to be furnished to women so that a favourable attitude for such information is created among them. For example, live demonstration by agricultural scientists of the use of fertilisers, pictorial presentation along with a simple written description on such issues will certainly help them in attaining required knowledge in this respect. Similarly information relating to health and hygiene, child care, children's diseases etc. will be highly profitable to all segments of the society. Public libraries should also conduct exhibitions relating to women empowerment and organise lectures on women issues and bridge public libraries and non government organisations causing women studies and development.
As per Sridhar, S. and Rekha, T. P., "Information centres are changing themselves into user-oriented organizations in the present day environment. So they need to provide quality services to the users which leads to total customer satisfaction." 

### 3D.7 UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994

As per Philip Gill, "The first version of the IFLA Public Library Manifesto started in 1949, continued with the second manifesto in 1972, the standards for public libraries published in 1973, the guidelines for public libraries published in 1986 and most recently the third version of the manifesto published in 1994. The manifesto is an important statement of principle but the committee of the Public libraries Section realized there was a demand for a more detailed document and that the dramatic changes in the information world had rendered the 1986 Guidelines obsolete." In drafting a document which would have world wide relevance at a time of unprecedented change in ways of storing, accessing and using information faced a number of challenges.

The NISSAT while publishing UNESCO Manifesto 1994 mentioned that "Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and of individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic right and to play an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend
on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information.

The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individuals and social groups.

This manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

UNESCO therefore, encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries.

*The Public Library*

The public library is the local centre of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users.

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, sex, religion, nationality, language of social status. Specific services and materials must be provided for those users who cannot, for whatever reason, use the regular services and materials, for example linguistic minorities, people with disabilities or people in hospital or prison.

All age groups must find material relevant to their needs. Collections and
services have to include all types of appropriate media and modern technologies as well as traditional materials. High quality and relevance to local needs and conditions are fundamentals, material must reflect current trends and the evolution of society, as well as the memory of human endeavour and imagination.

Collections and services should not be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor commercial pressures.

**Missions of the Public Library**

The following key mission of the public library, related to information, literacy, education and culture should be considered:

- Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
- Supporting both individual and self-conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
- Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
- Stimulating imagination and creativity of children and young people;
- Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
- Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
- Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favouring cultural diversity;
- Supporting oral tradition;
- Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, association and interest groups;
Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes for all age groups, and initiating such activities if necessary.

Funding, Legislation and Networks

❖ The public library shall in principle be free of charge
❖ The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local governments. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education.
❖ To ensure nationwide library co-ordination and cooperation, legislation and strategic plans must also define and promote a national library network based on agreed standards of service.
❖ The public library network must be designed in relation to national, regional, research and special libraries as well as libraries in schools, colleges and universities.

Operation and Management

❖ A clear policy must be formulated, defining objectives, priorities and services in relation to the local community needs. The public library has to be
organized effectively and professional standards of operation must be maintained.

❖ Co-operation with relevant partners – for example, user groups and other professionals at local, regional, national as well as international level - has to be ensured.

❖ Services have to be physically accessible to all members of the community. This requires well situated library buildings, good reading and study facilities, as well as relevant technologies and sufficient opening house convenient to the users. It equally implies outreach services for those unable to visit the library.

❖ The library services must be adapted to the different needs of communities in rural and urban areas.

❖ The librarian is an active intermediary between users and resource. Professional and continuing education of the librarian is indispensable to ensure adequate services.

❖ Outreach and user education programmes have to be provided to help users benefit from all the resources.

**Implementing the Manifesto**

Decision makers at national and local levels and the library community at large, around the world are hereby urged to implement the principles expressed in this manifesto.” 49.
3D.8 Information Policy for Public Libraries

As per Dabas and Sewa, "Although Library and information professionals have recognized long back the need of organizing the library with customer orientation in five laws of Library Science the route to have the customer focus could not be found out. It emerges from a work place culture built on trust, team work, and other important factors of quality working life. The provider focused policies in fact have enhanced the gap between acquisition and utilization of resources. More over new values, needs, expectations, consciousness and attitudes of the employees are a large step forward from traditional, hierarchical and bureaucratic job structure and design of the Public libraries." 50

Thus the first operation towards information policy is:

- to identify the information needs of society, based on the societal goals and collective approaches to solving problems.

The second operation is

- to identify, prioritise and promote publications on variety of media, the information needed by the society. There is the need to interact, to develop and to promote good publication facilities, data base facilities and continuous updates of them.

The third operation is

- to identify, assess, collect good publications needed for community service, to promote a balance in societal organization and progress.
➢ to identify, adopt and utilise variety of information storage and retrieval technology to better and quicker access to information that is relevant to a seeker.

➢ to identify, prioritize and promote research in different fields of knowledge that can help to promote the role of public libraries to meet the changing societal aspects mentioned in criteria one to four.

References


37. Ibid. p. 130.
38. Ibid. p. 131.
