CHAPTER - II

EMERGENCE OF LIBRARIANSHIP
AS A PROFESSION IN INDIA
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Ancient Period

The Cultural development of a nation is measured by the resources of its libraries. In view of this, Ancient India was certainly an advanced country as she had a rich literary heritage (C.D. Sharma; 1973:16). Libraries preserve and indicate the development of civilization and culture of a country. The libraries and the spread of knowledge have gone hand in hand.

In ancient India all the Vedic texts, before they were presented in the written form, were preserved and imparted from generation to generation by word of mouth. These teachers or "Rishies" were called the living libraries. "Rishies" of Vedic age confronted with the problem of learning the Vedic texts by heart. Consequently, they laid down 8 methods for reciting the "Mantras", which are known as "Astavikrtis". These are Jata, Mala, Sikha, Rekha, Dhavaja, Danda, Ratha and Ghana. The original text of the Vedas is called "Sanhita". It was analysed for the facility of the students and known as "Pada Patha". The scholars were known as the living libraries of ancient India. "Sruti" and "Smriti" i.e. the hearing and remembering were considered the most important methods of learning. The teachers were also known as "walking libraries" and custodians of nation's heritage. The great "Gurus" of that time were
master minded; much more than the modern computers, who could remember by heart hundred of books and disseminate them instantaneously on need. They also created new works on the basis of their observations and experience. It was only when the volume of literature increased that it became clear that human memory alone could not be trusted to preserve it. Consequently, the written record of crystallized human learning piled up in the centres called "Gurukuls" or universities.

The art of writing in India can be seen in Indus Valley writings during 7th Millennium B.C. Later Brahmi script flourished in early 5th Millennium B.C. The early writing material used in ancient India depended upon (i) the availability of suitable material in the different parts of the country; and (ii) the nature of document. The ordinary correspondence and language books were written on soft, pliable and perishable material, whereas religious edicts, eulogies of kings, legal documents etc. were written, engraved or incised on durable material like stone, copper, iron, silver etc. After the stone age and metal age, "Bhurja Patra" was very commonly used in ancient India. It was the bark of the tree called "Bhurja". The Himalayan region produced it in abundance. "Tada - Patra" or Palm-leaf (also known as "Tala" of "Tali") was also used as writing material. Later on "Jataka" or cotton cloth (also known as "Pata", "Patika" or "Karpasapatia") became popular as writing material for "Smritis". Cotton cloth
is still used as writing material for specific purposes. The instruments used for writing were known as "Varnaka" or "Vernika" (i.e. maker of letters). It is also known as "Tuli", "Tulika" or "Salaka". Chisel or Stylus was used for hard surface material whereas bird’s feather or sharpened cane piece was used for writing on soft surface material. The ink used for writing on soft material was known as "misi" or "Mela" (a kind of dye). It was also known as "Melanda", "Melandhu" or "Melandhuka".

There is evidence of use of writing during Vedic period. The discovery of seals in the Harappa and Mohanjodaro are themselves evidence of the prevalence of writing in the 4th Millennium B.C. Picture writing was common in all parts of ancient civilized world, especially in India. Perhaps the earliest scripts commonly traced in India is the "Brahmi" and the "Kharosthi", which were the common scripts for the whole of India during the time of Buddha and Ashoka. The origin of the "Brahmi Lipi" in India has been ascribed by some to Indian priests who developed it from picture writing— the Indus Valley script. It is generally admitted that the earliest known form of the Brahmi script is a script framed by "Brahmanas" for writing Sanskrit. The fully developed "Brahmi" script, an outcome of the remarkable philological and phonological precision wherein the early Indians surpassed all ancient people, provided the various Indian languages with an exact reflex of their pronunciation. James Prinsep - one of the most talented men
that England has given to India, deciphered the script. These scripts have influenced all subsequent developments of writing in different parts of the country. By and by many more scripts came into being at different periods. The "Devnagri" script developed in Gupta period and by 11th century it attained maturity and was prevalent in most of the northern India. Persian script flourished during Mughal period. Although Rigveda refers to "Mudra" (printing) and discoveries of Harappa and Mohanjodero confirm it, yet the era of printed book in India ushered in with the lending of the western missionaries in the western coast of India.

The word "Pustaka" or "Grantha" (Hindi version of the word "Book") was also used in ancient India. "Pusta" means to smear or to bind. In other words, when the "Bhurja Patras" were smeared together, it was called "Pustaka" or a book. In the post - Vedic period, the land of Vedas, then called "Brahmavarta" or "Aryavarta", had "Ashramas" (Forest schools or Seminaries) set up on the banks of the sacred rivers in the forest, where the great seers and teachers lived and taught the sacred texts of the Vedas, the Upvedas, Angas, Upangas, the Brahmanas, the Upanishadas and the Sutra literature to their pupil. To facilitate memory and for reference purpose, the great seers used to maintain a sizeable collection of the Vedic literature in a cottage called "Grantha Kuti" attached to the "Ashrama". This "Grantha Kuti" can be said to be an example of the ancient - most reference library or personal collection of selected works.
The Adikavi Valmiki wrote his great Epic Poem "Ramayana" in his "Ashrama" which had a "Grantha-Kuti" for his use. In "Uttararāma Chrita" of Bhavabhuti, there is a mention of Maharishi Valmiki's Ashrama where Maharani Sita, wife of Maharaja Rama Chandra, stayed in exile and where two sons "Lova" and Kusha" were born. Bhavabhuti mentions "Grantha" (a book) and "Granthakar" (writer of a book) which shows that books were produced and preserved in "Grantha-Kuti" at that time. In "Mahabharata", Vyasa beautifully describes "Shaunik Ashrama" situated in Naimisa Aranyaka (forest). That "Ashrama" was the lending seminary (a kind of University) where 1,000 students had their education. Acharya Shaunik was the Chancellor of that Ashrama.

It is evident from the preceding pages that libraries existed in India during ancient period also, but these were manned by priests and teachers who were not trained librarians. Formal training for librarianship did not exist at all. Moreover, these libraries were only reference libraries and not meant for the general public. As such, librarianship as a profession did not exist in ancient India.

Origin Of Classification And Cataloguing

The origin of knowledge classification (which is the basis of Book Classification of today) can be traced in the Vedic age. The Vedic text was classified in the following
six groups:

1. Samhitas = Original text;
2. Brahmanas = Ritualistic interpretation or Karma Kand;
3. Aranyakas = Ritual commentaries composed in forests.
4. Upanishadas = Philosophical discussions Jnana Kanda;
5. Sakhas = Sectional commentaries which are so exhaustive that Rigveda has 21 and Yajurveda has 100; and
6. Vedanga = Aids to study.

The Vedic literature was classified into the following branches:

1. Siksa = Pronunciation;
2. Kalpa = Science of Ritualism;
3. Vyakarna = Grammar;
4. Nirukta = Philosophy;
5. Chhanda = Prosody; and

Kautalya has also classified his "Arthashastara" in the following branches:

1. Trayi = All that concern "Dharma" and "Adharma".
2. Varta = Concerning wealth getting and spending (Artha and Aurtha);
3. Anviksiki = Relating to various branches of Philosophy (Atmavijnana); and
4. Danda = Relating to Nayay or Anyay (Punishment relating to Justice etc.).
According to Aggarwala (1934), Panini had encyclopaedic knowledge of the great Sanskrit and Prakrit works available in his times for use of the intellectual community. He felt the need of classifying and identifying the knowledge with a view to assist the scholarly class of clientele in the use of books in the "Saraswati Bhandaras" or "Granthagaras". Panini classified literature on the basis of character of creative effort producing it as under:

1. **Prokta** = Literature promulgated or ordained by Rishis or founders of the different Vedic schools or "Charnas" e.g. Brahamanas, Upnishadas, Aranayakas, Kalpas, Vedangas, Sutra works;

2. **Drishta** = Literature that is revealed or seen, i.e. Samhita of the Rigveda and Yajurveda and their division like Sukta, Adhaya, Anuvaka;

3. **Upanata** = Literature bringing to light new knowledge expounded for the first time e.g. works of such original authors as Apisati, Vyadi, Kritsana and Panini;

4. **Krita** = Ordinary works termed "Gathas" which were named after their subject matter; and

5. **Vyakhyana** = Literature of exposition and Commentaries.
The above Classification system of literature or knowledge evolved by Panini, is the first scientific system of classification of knowledge in the world. The system was presumably followed for classification of books, in the "Saraswati Bhandaras", University libraries, Monastic libraries and at famous seats of learning in India. It was without notation as it was meant for a limited number of clientele or users (Trehan: 1975).

Guha (1941) refers to the classification of knowledge of vedic period into four branches and their further subdivisions as under, while "Sarva" was "Generalia" class which covered documents of general nature:

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I  Vidya (Field of Knowledge)
   /    \
  /        \
Dharma  II  Artha   III  Kama  IV  Moksa
   |    |        |        |     |
  1-Samrati  1-Arthasastra  1-Sahitya  1-Mokasastra
2-Puran   2-Samajsastra  2-Vijnana
   |        |        |
3-Upayak Talak  Kalakausala  2-Dharmayat (faiths)
   |        |
4-Lilit Kala.
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The huge personal collections of manuscripts in the ancient India had a proper cataloguing system in order to assist the scholars to locate the required document. It was only through systematic catalogue that the scholars of
ancient period could locate and spread the message of Indian philosophy and culture, far and wide (Mookerjee: 1973:24).

As such it is clear that some system of "classification" and "cataloguing" was prevalent even during the ancient period in India, which paved way for modern technical - processing of library material.

**Buddhism, Jainism and Hindu Renaissance Period (700 BC-700 AD)**

Buddhism and Jainism assumed importance in the field of Art, Philosophy and Metaphysics, during the period 700 B.C. to 700 A.D. It was age of foreign invasions and Persian & Greek Cultures merged with Indian culture. After king Ashoka and Kanishka, Law of Buddha revived. Each and every Buddhist Vihar had a large number of books and manuscripts. The Chinese traveller to India, Fa Hien has written that Pataliputra was a great centre of learning, having more than 600 teachers. Similarly, Tiladaka sangharama had about 1,000 teachers. Other worth mentioning Buddha Viharas were: Venuvana Vihara, Milinda Vihara at Sakala, Sadvaha Sangharama, Gandharva, Bodh Gaya Vihara, Chithral and Kashmir.

According to another Chinese traveller to India, Hioen Tsang, library facilities existed in a number of centres of learning. He had made specific mention of Taksasila, which had the greatest library of pre-christian age in India. Copies of Panini's "Astadhyayi" and Kautalya's "Arthasastra" were
transcribed for this library. It had literature on "Silpas", especially on Medicine, Surgery, War, Astronomy, Astrology, Agriculture, Book Keeping, Commerce, Driving, Cattle breeding, Magic, Mineralogy, Music, Dancing & Painting (Book of Knowledge : Vol. II. p.2). Similarly, Kashi had documents on "Religious tolerance" with 1,500 priests. Kashmir was another centre of learning (University) till 11th Century. Hioen Tsang has mentioned that it was Canterbury and Oxford of India. Sarnath was another centre worth mentioning, which had a large number of priests and books on Buddhism.

Valbhi had about 6,000 students and a very rich collection in Polity, Economics and Law. It had a well organised Library. The graduates from this centre were appointed highest priests and administrators. Some of the eminent teachers of Valbhi are Gunamati and Sthiramati. Nalanda also flourished after 450 A.D. I-Tsing has written that it had 3,000 students whereas according to Hioen Tsang, the number of students in Nalanda was 10,000. Its library had 20,000 Volumes, out of which 4000 volumes were copied by I-Tsang. Bijapur had two branches, viz. Vidyapur and Nagai. Both these centres were very rich in Vedic literature and had about 600 students each. Chithral was prominent around 448 A.D. It was situated on rocky hill, having about 60 school rooms and boarding house. Vikramasila too had four establishments with 27 teachers for each discipline.
Buehler found about 30,000 manuscripts in two Jain temples at Camby and about 12,000 manuscripts at the Palace of Tanjore (Ghosh and Banerjee: 1974:8). Jain Bhandars at Pattan was very rich in collections on Jainism. Its manuscripts were sent even up to Poona and Bombay. Thus every Vihar and Jain Math was a storehouse of books. People from neighbouring countries like China, Japan, Siam etc. used to come to these centres in India in pursuit of knowledge. Kings like Ashoka, Kanishaka, Harsa, Kumarpal, Bhoja etc. gave liberal grants for setting up of libraries and their maintenance. The concept of libraries of that period was that these were meant for spreading of learning and removal of ignorance.

The preceding paragraphs indicate that a very large number of centres of learning or universities were in existence during the Buddhism, Jainism and Hindu renaissance period (700 B.C. - 700 A.D.) also which had very rich collection of manuscripts on various fields of knowledge. Thus large libraries existed during this period but there is no indication of trained or qualified librarians. Hence librarianship as a professional category was not in existence in India even upto 700 A.D.

Muslim Period

With the rise of Bhakti (worship) movement during the Muslim period, a good deal of literature in Hindi, Bangali, Marathi and Urdu came into being, which was produced by persons
like Ramanuja, Ramadeva, Ramadasa, Tukaram, Jnanesvara, Chaitanya, Kabir, Tulsi, Sarda, Meera, Raskhan, Rahim etc. Some most famous literary persons from Muslim community of this period were Dand, Abul Fazl, Faizi Sirhindi, Abdul Bagi etc. The literature produced by all these religious and literary persons was duly arranged systematically and kept in close access, in the libraries maintained by kings and rich people of the society. Emperor Akbar’s "Trikh-i-Akbari" (Imperial library) is very famous for its rich collections. Akbar continued to augment the Imperial Library with notable additions of works not only on the Hindu Muslim culture but also in the field of History, Philosophy and Science.

He appointed Faizi, the great Persian poet, as librarian of the Imperial Library. Similarly Humayun was a great bibliophile and his personal library on 'world history' is famous for its precious collections. It is said that he used to take the choicest books even in the battle field. Lala Beg was the librarian of his Library. The interest of Alla-ud-Din, Jalal-ud-Din Khilji and Mohamad Tughlak for libraries is also well known. Bahamanids (1470 A.D.) started an endowment for learning. The famous College of Bihar had about 3500 volumes on different fields of knowledge. Examples of a well maintained libraries of Mughal period can be seen in Hyderabad, Golkunda and Bijapur.
The name of Qutab Shah is world famous for the cause of education and learning. Babur, Jahangir and Aurangzeb also had remarkable libraries in their times. Alamgir's chief interest was Theology. The Fatawa-i-Alamgir was prepared during his reign and was deposited in the Imperial Library. During Mughal period, most of the Libraries comprised of the personal collections of emperors, kings, noble men and rich persons of the society.

Although printing from movable type came to be in vogue in Europe from about 1440 A.D., it was in 1556 that the Portugues Jesuit Fathers established the first printing press in India, in Goa. The first book printed was "Condusoes" of Antonio de Quadros. After the establishment of East India Company, a large number of religious books were published in India. The famous Saraswati Mahal Library (Tanjore Maharaja Sarfoji Sarv Mahal Library) was founded in 1600 A.D. which had collection of ruling kings of Tanjore. It had about 50,000 valuable volumes.

As a result of invention of printing and love of Mughal emperors for books, excellent libraries were established during Mughal period. The designation "librarian" was used for the first time in India during this period only. But still librarianship was in infant stage and was not recognised as a profession at all.
Advent of Britishers

After the establishment of East India Company and arrival of foreign missionaries in India, a large number of books started publishing. Consequently a fairly good number of libraries were established. It was in 1781 that Warren Hastings founded the Calcutta Madrasah. In 1792 Benaras Sanskrit College was established which was the result of efforts of Jonathan Duncan, the British Resident at Benaras. One of the objectives of establishing these institutions was to collect and to preserve oriental manuscripts which were then becoming scattered throughout the country and exposed to the influence and hazards of time, accident and neglect. The Asiatic Society (Later Known as Asiatic Society of Bengal) was founded by Sir William Jones in 1784 at Calcutta, the headquarters of the Britishers in India. The Library attached to this society was the first "Special Library" established in India in the real sense.

Since the battle of Plassey, work of Indian Arts Antiquities and a very large number of very rare and precious oriental manuscripts were finding their way to England. On May 25, 1798, the Court of Directors of the East India Company informed the Govt. of India that the Company has decided to open a Public Repository Library in U.K., and they will be glad to receive collections of Persian and Arabic manuscripts in Sanskrit or any other ancient dialect of the Hindus for
safe preservation. Tipoo Sultan’s 2000 volumes of Arabic and Urdu manuscripts, known as "Seringapatam collection" went in the hands of British army. Similarly collection of Royal library, Delhi; Library of Adil Shah of Bijapur; and Maratha Library, Poona were sent to U.K. for "safe preservation". In return, a few English books were sent to India.

Advent of the Britishers led to the establishment of a fairly good number of libraries with an emphasis on English medium books. Librarians were also appointed in large libraries although they were untrained and lacking the characteristics of professionals in the real sense. In fact they were nothing more than the educated and dignified clerks or keepers of the documents.

Libraries and Librarianship in Modern India (19th Century)

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

The history of library movement in modern India can be traced from the advent of the Britishers. In reality the British contribution to the modernisation of India was most
noteworthy. Real shape of modern library movement can be seen in the first half of the 19th century. It was during this period that Public libraries were established with the active support of the Europeans at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. During 1808, the Bombay Govt. initiated a proposal to register libraries which would receive free copies of books published from the funds for the encouragement of literature. This proposal of Bombay Govt. may be regarded as the beginning of the library movement in modern India.

During the first few years of the British rule in India, the Pandits (Hindu Priests) and Maulvis (Muslim Priests) continued to wield the political influence they formerly had in the country, and they became convenient tools for carrying the administration of the country, because they were conversant with the ancient dialects and were capable of interpreting the laws and customs of the country.

"Survey of India" was established in the Year 1800 A.D. which collected and stored a large number of books. In 1804 Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was opened which had a fine Library. The Mythic Society Library was started in 1809. The Modern Literary Society Library was instituted at Madras in 1812 which had a rich collection of literature. Hindu College at Calcutta was established in 1817 which developed its library. Perhaps this is the oldest worth mentioning college library in India. The United Services Library at Poona was started in
Another Important college library, namely, Agra College Library, Agra, was established in 1823.

In 1835 J.H. Stocquel, editor of the "Englishman" drafted a scheme for the establishment of a Public Library in Calcutta. It was opened in Esplanade in July, 1841 which had 4675 volumes. By the year 1848 it had about 20,000 volumes. Later on, in 1903 this library become the Imperial Library of India and in 1948 it was renamed as National Library of India. The year 1935 also saw the opening of Benaras Queen's College at Varanasi which had a marvelous library, while Presidency College Library at Madras came into being in 1840. Indian Copy Right Act was passed in 1847 which is a landmark in the history of Indian librarianship. The Poona City General Library was opened in 1848. Geological Survey of India Library was established in 1851 which had more than 30,000 volumes.

The famous educational despatch of Lord Dalhousie in 1854 gave incentive to the establishment of Universities in India. The Calcutta University was the first Indian University which was established on January 24, 1857. Universities of Madras and Bombay were also started in the same year. By the year 1860-61 M.A. Classes were started in Calcutta University. The library of Calcutta University was established during the year 1870 which was consulted by the faculty members, paper setters and administrative officers of the British empire.
Gaya Public Library in Bihar was started in 1855 whereas the Central College Library at Bangalore was opened in 1858. The world famous Connemara Public Library, Madras, was established as a small museum library in the year 1890, which became a large library by the year 1890. Babuji Deshmukh Vachnalya (Library), Akola, was also started in 1860, while Allahabad Public Library was established in 1864. The year 1867 saw the opening of Nilgiri Library at Ootacamund and Amravati Nagar Vachnalya (Library) at Amravati. During 1875 three libraries namely, "Meterological Office Library", "Zamia's Nizamic Library" and "Poona Albert Edward Institute & Cowasjee Dinshaw Hall and Library" were established. Indian Association of Cultivation of Science was started in 1876 which had a library too. Indian Research Association was also started in the same year. The famous Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, which was originated by Maulavi Mahammad Baksh Khan, had a collection of more than 14,000 volumes which was left by Baksh Khan at the time of his death in 1876. This library had a large number of manuscripts also. It was opened to public in 1891.

Fergusson College Library in Maharashtara, which is also known as "Bai Jerbai Wadia Library" was established in 1882. Theosophical Society Library, Madras and Bihar Hitashi Library, Patna, were instituted in 1883. Similarly, Morris College Library and Bishop College Library, Nagpur, were opened in 1885. Adyar Library, which was founded in 1886 was known as temple of all faiths. It had about 60,000
volumes and 15,000 manuscripts, including 10,000 bundles of Palm-leaf manuscripts. Adyar Library had books in Archaeology, art, history, philosophy and religion, which were in various languages such as Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Oriya, Bengali, Nepalese and Devnagri. It had a children corner also.

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

The Vizianagram Maharaja's Sanskrit College Library, founded in 1900 A.D., also had a very rich collection of books and manuscripts in Sanskrit. Although a few University libraries and a large number of Public and Special Libraries were established in India during the 19th Century, the librarians working therein were not professionally qualified. The documents of these libraries were kept under closed access while the librarians were their keepers or custodians.
A careful study of the preceding pages reveals that a good number of public libraries; college libraries; university libraries and special libraries were established during the nineteenth century. Most of these libraries were manned by part-time librarians, who were not trained in the skill of librarianship. They were more or less keepers or custodians of library material. Thus librarianship did not develop as a profession in India even during nineteenth century.

Twentieth Century

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Library Association (ILA) was founded in 1933 which became a common forum for librarians in India to discuss their professional problems and find viable
solutions thereof. It struggled for development of library profession in India. Kerala University, Trivandrum, was started in 1937 which has one of the best University libraries in South India. In the year 1942, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established, which has 34 laboratories in different parts of India. The Research and Development (R & D) wings attached to these laboratories have highly specialized libraries, very rich in scientific and technical literature. Two more Universities which started before the partition of India were Utkal University, Cuttack, 1943 and Saugar University, Sagar, 1944. Anthropological Survey of India having an excellent library, was instituted in 1946. In the same year, "Special Libraries Section" of the Indian Library Association was created in its Baroda Conference (1946), which paved way for establishment of Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), in the Year 1955.

(b) National Library of India

The name "National Library of India" was given in 1948, which was earlier established in 1903 under the name "Imperial Library of India". Its history can be traced in the 19th century. In 1836 J.H. Stocquel, editor of the "Englishman", first raised the idea of a Public Library in Calcutta. F.P. Strong, Civil Surgeon of the 24-Parganas, made available the ground
floor of his house at 13, Esplanade Row, Calcutta, and the Calcutta Public Library was opened to the Public on March 21, 1836. The library moved temporarily to Fort William in July, 1841; and finally to Metcalfe Hall in June, 1844. Pyari Chand Mitra, the famous Bengali Novelist was its first librarian. In the last quarter of the century the library fell into poverty and neglect. On the other hand, a large number of secretariat libraries existed at that time which were exclusively meant for use by the senior officers of the Govt. In 1891, when Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor General of India visited these libraries, he decided to merge both types of libraries and form Imperial Library.

The Imperial Library Act was passed in 1902 and the Imperial Library opened to the Public on January 30, 1903 at Metcalfe Hall. In his inaugural speech, Lord Curzon said, "It is intended that it should be a library of reference, a working place for students and a respository of material for the future historians of India, in which, so far as possible, every work written about India at any time can be seen and read". Lord Macfarlane from the British Museum was the first qualified librarian (1903-6) of the Imperial Library of India. He arranged the holdings systematically, initiated the publication of catalogues, and improved the library services. During 1907-11, the library was headed by Harinath De, an Indian Scholar & Linguist. In 1923, the Imperial Library was shifted
from Metcalfe Hall to a portion of the Foreign and Military Secretariat Building at 5, Esplanade East, Calcutta. During the period 1911-1930, John Alexander Chapman was appointed librarian of the National Library, who took keen interest involving new technique in the preservation of library material in tropical climate. K.M. Asadullah was librarian from 1930 to 1947. He started Library Training classes in 1935. As a result of Second World war, the library was shifted to a private building in Jabakusum House in the Central Avenue, Calcutta during the period 1942 to 1947. In early 1948 the Library returned to 5, Esplanade East whereas in the late 1948 it was shifted to Belvedere.

After the independence of India in 1947, the Imperial Library (Change of name) Act was passed in 1948 and the National Library came into being. The Viceregal Lodge in the Belvedere (Calcutta) became its permanent home, where it is still housed. B.S. Kesavan was appointed its librarian from 1948 to 1963. The Golden Jubilee of the Library was celebrated on 1 February, 1953 when the "National Library" of India was formally opened to the public by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Govt. of India. Y.M. Mulay who was appointed Special Officer of the Library in 1947, became its librarian in 1963.

Since the Viceregal Lodge was found to be too small for the National Library, another nine-storey building was planned in the same campus, foundation stone of which was laid by

3 3 4 6 6 3
Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India on May 8, 1961 and the building was completed in 1966. Plans are being worked out for construction of another multi-storey building in the same campus, in order to accommodate more reading material and library users. In addition to the books in the Indian regional languages received under the Delivery of Books Act, the National Library possesses a variety of material in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and in European Languages. It has a very rich collection of the publications of U.N. and allied agencies, British Parliamentary papers, Indian Official documents, gazettes, periodicals, bound volumes of newspapers, maps, microfilms, reference collection and rare books in all fields of knowledge. The most splendid bequest is the personal collection of Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhyay consisting of about 76,000 valuable volumes covering the whole range of Humanities and Sciences, which were donated in 1949 (Nagaraj & Ghosh: 1975-41). During 1967-70 the National Library was headed by D.R. Kalia, while during 1971-82 it was looked after by its Deputy Librarians. Recently (in 1983) Mrs. Kalpana Das-Gupta has been appointed as the Director of National Library of India.

A perusal of the preceding pages reveals that it was only the first half of the twentieth century which saw the appointment of whole-time and trained librarians in different types of libraries in India. The establishment of "Library Service Section" of the "First All Asia Educational Conference"
in 1930 and subsequently formation of Indian Library Association in 1933 are very significant. Need for library Act was also felt and initiated during the same period. Idea about the clientele oriented library service; altruistic philosophy of librarianship and facilities for training of librarianship in India also came into being only during the aforesaid period. It is, therefore, evident that librarianship as a profession in India originated only during the first half of the present century.

Post-Independence Period (1947-83)

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

Delhi Public Library was founded in Delhi in 1950 under a joint Pilot project of Unesco and Govt. of India. It was formally opened by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in October, 1951. Its objective was to provide to the people of Delhi, a public library service using modern techniques, paying special attention to book-service problem of neo-literates and less educated people. After 4 years, this project was evaluated by Gardner, Unesco Consultant, and reported to be working satisfactorily and to have achieved its objective.

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

During October 6-26, 1955, Unesco Organised a "Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Asia" in Delhi. It was the first International Seminar ever held in Asia, which had participants from Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. Some of the most important recommendations of this seminar were: to develop Public library network; to collect reading material for adults; and to increase library service for children. University Grants Commission of India came into being in 1956 which was the main instrument for development of College and University libraries in India.

In 1957, Govt. of India constituted an "Advisory Committee for Libraries", under the Chairmanship of K.P. Sinha, which made the following recommendations to the Govt. of India:

i) Enactment of a Central Library Act by the Govt. of India;

ii) Enactment of a State Library Act by each state;

iii) Authority of local bodies to Levy the Library cess as a surcharge on Property Tax;

iv) Provision of library grant by a State Govt. ultimately, equal to three times the proceeds of the Library cess; and

v) Provision of the Govt. of India grant equal to the library cess in a state.
Another "Advisory Committee on Public Libraries" was appointed by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education, which submitted its report in 1959. This committee made suitable recommendations for organizing the Public Libraries; for coordinating their activities through a pyramidal structure - state central library forming the apex and village libraries as the base. This structure of Public libraries is being followed in India even today.

The Govt. of India passed the Copyright Act in 1957 which was implemented w.e.f. January 21, 1958. The Govt. of India sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10 lacs for the establishment of Institute of Library Science in Delhi University. By this time (1958), 9 Universities in India had started Diploma Course in Library Science, which rose to 18 Universities in 1964.

During November 4-7, 1959, a "Work Flow Seminar", sponsored by the U.G.C. and organised in Delhi University, recommended the norms for College and University libraries; ratio between number of students and the books etc. By the year 1960 most of the University libraries had full-fledged librarians, while some of the Universities continued the Victorian tradition of "Professor-in-charge of Library".
During October 3-14, 1960, Unesco's "Regional Seminar on Library Development in South Asia" was organised in Delhi, in which the issues discussed were grading of staff; salary-scale, and "Status of librarians". The Seminar recommended parity in pay-scale and status for academic librarians with those of University teachers. The grading of the staff was recommended as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of staff member</th>
<th>Nature of duties</th>
<th>Equivalent to faculty/post and enjoying status of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Supervisory</td>
<td>University Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy-Librarian</td>
<td>Senior-Professional</td>
<td>University Reader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant-Librarian</td>
<td>Junior-Professional</td>
<td>University Lecturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior - Library Assistant</td>
<td>Professional-Assistant</td>
<td>Assistant Lecturer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most important recommendation of the above mentioned Unesco's seminar was as under:-

"As Librarianship is a profession for specialised training, the only way to attract and hold suitable talent for the developing of library services would be by assuring librarians appropriate status and pay. It, therefore, follows that the status, pay and hierarchy of librarians in academic institutions should correspond to those of the academic staff; of librarians in Public libraries to those of educational cadre; and librarians of Scientific and Technical Libraries (Special Libraries) to those of technical personnel."
Documentation Research & Training Centre (DRTC) was established in Bangalore, in 1962, as a part of Indian Statistical Institute. It started teaching of Documentation techniques, leading to "Associateship in Documentation". DRTC is producing Documentalists, Information Scientists and also imparting consultancy or advisory service to the Industrial Information Centres; Commercial libraries and Scientific and Technical Institutions.

During 1965, the University Grants Commission appointed a "Review Committee" under the Chairmanship of S.R. Ranganathan, to review the standards of teaching and research in Library Science in the Indian Universities. The Committee submitted its report which was published under the title "Library Science in Indian Universities". It made a survey of the existing facilities for teaching of Library Science in India and recommended the levels of training, professional contents of course, duration of the course, recruitment of students, apprenticeship, teaching staff, physical facilities and library facilities of the teaching departments, teaching methods etc. Carl M. White made a survey of the Delhi University in 1965 and gave his recommendations concerning librarians, books and library building. He suggested that 20% of the book - grant should be allowed to be spent on recruitment of temporary library staff. This was agreed to by the University Grants Commission of India.
Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) started compilation of Regional Union Catalogues of Scientific Serials. 17 such regional Union Catalogues have so far been published. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in 1969 and it has also been publishing, since, 1971, Union Catalogues of Social Science Periodicals & Serials, separately, region-wise. 32 such union catalogues and 4 union lists have so far been published.

In 1972, Govt. of India established "Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation" with the sole aim of strengthening the Public library movement in the country and invested an amount of Rs 50 lacs, with the sanction of special grants from year to year. But this programme is on the whole haphazard and unplanned (Dalai & Limaya:1981:2). Since 1982, the U.G.C. has been organising Refresher Courses; In-service Training Courses; Summer/Winter schools; Short-term Training Courses; and workshops for librarians in different parts of the country. Thus a long awaited demand has been fulfilled.

The faculty status granted to the librarians of the academic institutions during the 3rd Five-Year Plan (1961/62-1965/66) was undone during 1973. The same has now again been restored by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education, vide its circular letter No. F.2-1/82-U.I, dated December 15, 1982 (Appendix "F") which is operative with retrospective effect i.e. with effect from April 1980.
Govt. of India Planned the development activities of India in phased programme, in the form of Five-Year Plans. The First Plan period was during the financial years 1951-56 in which in addition to other things, it was stressed to improve the library services in India. National Central Library was established in Delhi. In addition to this, State Central Libraries in 9 states, namely Assam, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Pepsu, Panjab, Rajasthan, Swarashtra, Vindhya Pradesh and West Bengal were instituted. Network of District libraries was chalked out. 1025 new Colleges were started while the number of the Universities also increased from 28 to 32 during this period. The most important development in the field of library profession in India during the First Five-Year Plan was passing of "Delivery of Books Act" by the Indian Parliament in 1952 (Subsequently amended in 1954), which provided for free and compulsory delivery of one copy each of the books published in India, to four selected libraries in India, namely, The National Library, Calcutta; The Connemara Public Library, Madras; The Library of the Asiatic Society of Bombay (Central Library, Bombay); and the Parliament Library, New Delhi.

During the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), a sum of Rs 140 lacs was earmarked by the Govt. of India for development of libraries in India. During this period 320 District
libraries were established. An additional amount of Rs 10 lacs was provided for setting up Institute of Library Science in Delhi University. Number of Colleges increased from 1025 to 1542, while that of Universities increased from 32 to 45. It was during Second Five-Year Plan that Sinha Committee Report (1958) recommended and planned "Integrated Library Service - 25 Years". The University Grants Commission (U.G.C.) came into being in 1956 and it sanctioned huge grants for construction of library buildings and for setting up of libraries in the Colleges and Universities.

Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66) is very significant as during this period the University Grants Commission revised the pay-scales of librarians/library staff working in Colleges and Universities and granted them parity (in status and pay-scales) with teachers. Four National libraries at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were developed. The number of Colleges increased from 1542 to 2400 while that of Universities increased from 45 to 85. In addition to these, a large number of libraries at District, Taluka and Village level were also started. Mobile libraries were introduced. Above all, training facilities for library personnel got a boost as a number of Universities started Post-graduate Diploma Course in Library Science in order to comply with the requirements of the University Grants Commission and to cope with the increasing demand for the trained librarians.
During the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74), Planning Commission of India appointed a "Working Group on Libraries" under the Chairmanship of V.K.R.V. Rao, in order to chalk out a sound programme for library development in India. An amount of ₹ 20 crores was provided for improvement of library facilities in India. The number of Colleges in India increased from 2,400 to 3,600 while that of Universities increased from 85 to 92.

During the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79) it was proposed to expand the network of libraries so that all the districts in the country are covered. A large outlay had been proposed for the establishment of more libraries at village level so that many more million people are able to have access to books. It was also proposed to establish some regional libraries. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Foundation, which was instituted by the Govt. of India during 1972 in Calcutta, undertook various projects during the 5th Plan period to develop public libraries in different parts of the country. This foundation purchased a very large number of books and made them available in some selected public libraries, under the scheme formulated for the purpose. During this period, the number of colleges increased from 3,600 to 4,460, while that of universities increased from 92 to 118. All these educational institutions were equipped with libraries from Govt. funds as ₹ 292 crores were provided for university and higher education during this plan period.
Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85) is considered to be significant for development of libraries in India. Out of a total grant of ₹2524 crores earmarked for "Education", ₹485.75 Crores are meant for university and higher education. Each and every College and university has a library, getting financial support from the Govt. of India. It is expected that by the end of the current plan period, almost every district and a large number of cities shall have public libraries. Restoration of parity in pay-scales of college and university librarians with teachers (with effect from April 1, 1980) is another landmark in the history of library profession in India.

**Library Legislation in India**

Library Legislation provides a systematic planning and organisation of library services of various levels, to various sections and groups of the society. It also ensures the source of income required for the library services to be provided in Public libraries. According to Unesco (1965: 84), a Public library is one "which is authorised by Legislation, open to the public without charge, and financed out of public funds".

Library Legislation in United Kingdoms was passed as early as in 1850, while that in Japan was passed in 1899. Some of the other countries where Library Legislation was passed during the first half of the twentieth Century are: Mexico (1917); Czechoslovakia (1919); Denmark (1920); Belgium (1921); U.S.S.R. (1921); South Africa (1928); Bulgaria (1928); Sweden (1930);
Australia (1939); Poland (1946), etc. In U.S.A. there is no uniform system of library legislation in its different states, while in Canada library legislation has been passed in several states from time to time. Library legislation is very essential for each and every country of the world in order to develop proper public library system.

It is much more important in a democratic country like India for quenching the thirst for knowledge and for dispelling the dark clouds of literacy and ignorance amongst its people. Keeping this factor in mind, S.R. Ranganathan had drafted a Model Library Act as early as in 1930 and put for discussion at the "All Asia Educational Conference" held at Benaras (Varanasi). Later on he made untiring efforts for library legislation in Madras state. Efforts were also made in Bengal and C.P. & Berar. Finally in 1948, the Madras state had passed a Library Act. This will remain for ever as a land-mark in the progress of the independent India as this Act has brought free library service through Public Funds. Thereafter Hyderabad (1955), Andhra Pradesh (1960), Mysore (1965), Maharashtra (1967) and West Bengal (1981) enacted Library Acts for providing free library service for all. Now Hyderabad has been merged in Andhra Pradesh. Thus only 5 states in India have so far codified the so called Public Library Act, and the remaining 17 States and 9 Union Territories have no Library Act. We have not achieved the target of establishing the District Public Libraries for all the Districts of our country. At present about 100 District
libraries do not have even the so-called 'district libraries'. On the one hand, amendments to the existing Library Acts are essential, while on the other hand, the codification of Public Library Act for the other Indian States is equally essential. In 1960, the Govt. of India appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of D.M. Sen, for drafting the library bill. The draft was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Law, Govt. of India, in 1963. Thereafter, the fate of the draft is not known.

Training For Librarianship In India

The first formal teaching of librarianship was started in India in the year 1911 by William Alanson Borden at Baroda. Asa Don Dickinson, a famous American Librarian, when appointed Librarian of the Panjab University, Lahore, started another training school at Lahore. Dickinson also wrote a book entitled "Panjab Library Primer" in 1916. Then came S.R. Ranganathan on the scene in 1924. On his return to India after getting training in librarianship from United Kingdoms, he all alone changed the face of librarianship in India and wrote profusely on every aspect of it. He propounded new theories, namely "Colon Classification Scheme" and "Classified Catalogue Code". There are about 2000 papers and 65 books authored by him (Das-Gupta: 1967:405) with his novel approach, he endowed Library Science with an academic status and a new spirit, not only in India but the World over.
The first university training course for Library Science was started by S.R. Ranganathan at the Madras University in 1931 as an undergraduate course (Certificate in Library Science), which was raised to a Post-graduate Diploma in Library Science in 1937. The Imperial Library (now called National Library), Calcutta opened Library Training Class in 1935 due to the efforts of K.M. Asadullah. The duration of this course was 6 months and the classes were held in alternate years till 1945-46. The Andhra University at Waltair started an undergraduate Diploma Course in 1935 and continued till 1958. Bengal Library Association also started a Summer Course in 1937. Banaras Hindu University instituted Post-graduate Diploma in Library Science in 1942, followed by Bombay University in 1943, Calcutta University in 1946 and Delhi University in 1947. The situation got accelerated after independence and a number of Universities started Post-graduate Diploma in Library Science Course on the same model. Later on, this course was re-designated as Bachelor of Library Science (B.Lib.Sc.) or Bachelor of Library and Information Science (B.Lib. & Inf. Sc.). At present there are 48 Universities in India imparting training leading to B.Lib.Sc./B.Lib. & Inf. Sc. degree (Appendix "E")

In 1948, S.R. Ranganathan had moved to Delhi where he was responsible for starting advanced Training in Librarianship leading to Master of Library Science (M.Lib.Sc.) degree. Delhi University had the distinction of being the first University in
the entire Commonwealth of nations for providing training leading to M.Lib.Sc. degree till 1963. In the year 1965, Banaras Hindu University started the same course, followed by Panjab University (1970), Vikram University, Karnataka University and so on. At present there are 18 Universities which have facilities for advanced level training in librarianship leading to M.Lib.Sc. or M. Lib. & Inf. Sc. degree. Delhi University was the first Indian University to have started Ph.D. in Library Science in 1951, which was followed by 10 other Universities having provision for research programme leading to Ph.D in Library Science like any other discipline.

At present, Delhi University is the only University in India to have instituted M.Phil. in Library & Information Science, in order to produce teachers of Library and Information Science in India.

As a result of advent of Documentation the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) was set up in Bangalore in 1962 which started training course leading to "Associationship in Documentation". The purpose of this training is to produce Documentalists and Information Scientists for Industrial Libraries, Information Centres and other categories of special libraries. DRTC is linked with Indian Statistical Institute which is "Deemed to be a University".
Similarly Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDDC), Delhi, started specialised training programme in documentation, reprography and information technology in 1964, in order to train personnel for documentation & information work in Govt. and Non-Govt. institutions and organisations in the country.

Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Calcutta also started a similar training in documentation techniques in 1965. But it had to be discontinued subsequently for want of recognition by the Govt. of India or other Indian Universities. The responsibility for training of junior level librarians, at semi-professional level has been left to the professional associations at national and state level. They are running Post-matric certificate course in library science and diploma course in library science of duration varying from 2 weeks to 1 year. 6 Govt. polytechnics for women are running a 2-year post-matric diploma in library science, exclusively for women. Two universities namely Rajasthan University, Jaipur, and Punjabi University, Patiala, are running certificate/diploma in library science by correspondence courses.

In 1961, the University Grants Commission appointed a review committee on library science headed by S.R. Ranganathan. This committee, in its report, laid down detailed pattern for library and information science education in India. This
report entitled "Library Science in Indian Universities" was published by U.G.C. in 1965, which elaborated the objectives, levels of courses, teacher-students ratio, course-contents, examination, evaluation method & other related issues.

A few more U.G.C. sponsored All India Seminars on Library & Information Science education were also organised and appropriate necessary decisions taken. Some of the important seminars/symposia organised in this respect are:

(i) "Seminar on Teaching of Library Science" held in the Department of Library & Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi (June 5, 1966).

(ii) "All India Seminar on Library and Information Science Education" held in the Department of Library & Information Science, University of Delhi, Delhi (October 3-8, 1977).

(iii) "Panel on Library and Information Science" held in the University Grants Commission Office, Delhi (December 17-18, 1979).

(iv) "All India Seminar on Relevance of Library & Information Science Education to the changing Needs of the Country" held in the Department of Library & Information Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (March 13-18, 1981).
(v) "Symposium on Restructuring of Library and Information Science Education", held in the Department of Library & Information Science, S.V. University, Tirupati (August 11-12, 1981).

(vi) "All India Seminar on National Policy for Library and Information Science Education" held in the Department of Library & Information Science, Nagpur University, Nagpur (September 23-26, 1983).

Since 1981 U.G.C. has been sanctioning funds for Summer/Winter Schools and refresher courses for College librarians, which is an important step towards continuing education for librarians in India.

Current Trends And Future Of Librarianship

As a result of literature explosion, technological changes and need of the society, the concept of librarianship has altogether been changed. The word "Library Science" has been replaced by "Library and Information Science", "Documentation" etc. Bibliographical control of huge literature has posed a very big problem. Our civilization is moving towards a new development, the "Electronic Cottage". Individuals are bringing computers in their homes like never before. Extremely versatile microprocessors are available for less than $1 lac ($1,000) and the number of home computer users in the western
countries is increasing (Dowlin: 1980:2265). Many programmes for home computers can be purchased for less than Rs 250 ($ 25) and their availability will increase with the passage of time. Taylor (1979: 1871) has said that libraries are a part of a large information infrastructure. During the last few years, we have witnessed a tremendous change in the technological landscape of information and communication. It will affect all institutions and activities concerned with communication and information, including libraries and librarianship. Consequently, there is a dire need for change of curriculum for professional education in order to keep pace with the fast changing information environment.

Assessment

An over-all view of the present chapter reveals that although libraries existed in ancient India also, yet these were meant only for a few privileged persons and not for the society in general. As a result of invention of printing, growth of literature and development of education, the number of different types of libraries also grew from time to time. But these were manned by part-time librarians who did not possess any training in librarianship. Till the end of nineteenth century, the so called librarians were nothing but keepers or custodians of books. It was only during the first half of the twentieth century that training courses in librarianship were started in India; library service
was considered to be a social necessity and provided clientele oriented; Indian Library Association was established and steps were taken for enacting library legislation in various states in India. As such, the emergence of librarianship as a profession in India can be traced only in the first half of the twentieth century.

After the independence of India in 1947, a large number of schools of librarianship have been established, various specialised library associations have been set up at different levels, and provisions have been made for organising in-service training courses, refresher courses, workshops, seminars etc. for updating of specialised knowledge in the field of librarianship. Now, especially since 1960, librarianship has emerged as a profession and developing very fast to attain maturity to be at par with other recognised professions. But librarianship in India has yet to acquire certain characteristics to get the status of a full-fledged profession.