Chapter 1

Introduction
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

Today, possession of land, labour and capital are not just enough for a country to succeed. The policies adopted by a country shall determine the nations well being. Technology has introduced many new features in storing and sharing of information. Creativity and innovation are the new drivers of the world economy. This always has greater impact in libraries and information centres. This makes libraries more vital and valuable to the countries and communities. The communities are more and more dependent upon libraries and quality sources of information that can be feasible because of technological access to the users. As computers and information technology become increasingly prominent, libraries are looking at how new areas of technology-based service can be cultivated to make and keep libraries more vital.

Technology leads the way in increasing and improving services to patrons; fulfilling the library’s function as a local source of information for all types of patrons in all formats. Realising the library’s role as an equalizer for patrons, when services are free of charge, it is essential in helping the library to attract segments of the population that are often the hardest to attract and in increasing the library’s efficiency by empowering staff, streamlining tasks, saving time and money. In the era of information age, the fundamental unit of
most products and services is information in one or another form i.e. digital or non digital form. Within the knowledge based, innovation driven economies, the intellectual property system is a dynamic tool for wealth creation providing an incentive for enterprises and individuals to create and innovate; a fertile setting for the development of, trade in, intellectual assets; and a stable environment for domestic and foreign investment.

There is a general opinion that special protection is required. This focus on library and information science (LIS) professionals require a fair knowledge on various information acts.

1.2 CONCEPT OF AWARENESS

Awareness is the state or ability to perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects or sensory patterns. In this level of consciousness, sense data can be confirmed by an observer without necessarily implying understanding. More broadly, it is the state or quality of being aware of something.

1.2.1 Characteristics of Awareness

Awareness is knowledge created through the interaction of an agent and its environment - in simple terms “knowing what is going on”. This conception of awareness involves states of knowledge as well as dynamic processes of perception and action. Four basic characteristics run through prior work on awareness (Endsley, 1995\(^1\); Adams et al., 1995\(^2\); Norman, 1993\(^3\)).
- Awareness is knowledge about the state of an environment bounded in time and space.
- Environments change over time, so awareness is knowledge that must be maintained and kept up to date.
- People interact with and explore the environment, and the maintenance of awareness is accomplished through this interaction.
- Awareness is a secondary goal in the task – that is, the overall goal is not simply to maintain awareness but to complete some task in the environment.

One can see awareness as a process: gather information from the environment and select that information most relevant to the task at hand; comprehend this information in light of the current state of the environment, and then integrate this information with our existing knowledge of the environment; anticipate changes in the environment and be able to predict how incoming information will change.

The issue of awareness has been a key topic in all field of environment. The more aware the collaborators are of others’ activities, certain information and situations they might by in, the more effective and fruitful the group activities could be. In fact, many research activities have been already conducted, focusing on awareness and technologies support to it.\textsuperscript{4-10}
1.2.2 Types of Awareness

There are a large number of types of awareness. Greenberg et al. (1996)\textsuperscript{11} identified four kinds of awareness that are maintained among people while collaborating in groups:

**Personal awareness** - information that users maintain about themselves and their roles in the group. It can be synchronous (e.g. current whereabouts within the system) or asynchronous (e.g. where the user has been within the system)\textquotedblright.

**Informal awareness** - a general sense of who’s around and what they are. Informal awareness facilitates casual interaction\textquotedblright.

**Social awareness** - information that a person maintains about others in a social or conversational context: whether a person is paying attention, their emotional state, and their level of interest. It is maintained through back-channel feedback and through non-verbal cues like eye contact, facial expression, and body language\textquotedblright.

**Group-structural awareness** - knowledge about such things as people’s roles and responsibilities, their positions on an issue, their status and group processes.

Liccardi et al. (2008)\textsuperscript{12} represent these different kinds of awareness with the following diagram, extending the work of Greenberg et al. (1996)\textsuperscript{11}: 
Figure 1.1 Types of Awareness

Source: Liccardi et al. (2008)\textsuperscript{12}

1.3 INFORMATION ACTS

Various acts enacted in India after independence that are identified as essential among LIS professionals are grouped into four broad categories as given below.

- Acts Pertaining to Public Libraries
- Acts Pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights
- Acts Pertaining to Information Technology and Right to Information
- Act Pertaining to Tenders
1.3.1 Acts Pertaining to Public Libraries

A Public library is established, maintained, used and owned by the public. An institution of the public and for the public is to be maintained efficiently and permanently with uniform, pulsating and integrated library service with properly laidout network of library system. A simple executive order do not maintain sound systems however good it might be, and at the same time executive orders cannot generate finances perennially. With the ever growing needs, the task in financing in libraries will be more. It will only be possible with a proper legislation. Realising these, the state government enacted Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act and the national government enacted Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act.\textsuperscript{13-15}

1.3.1.1 Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act

Development of the Library Legislation in India after independence has made an impact on the history of libraries, their growth and development. The importance of the library legislation in India was realised and the continuous efforts were taken by Dr.S.R.Ranganathan towards the enactment of the public library acts in India. The Madras Public Libraries Act which was passed in 1948 is the first library act in India\textsuperscript{15}.

1.3.1.2 Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act

In India, with a view to developing four public libraries in different parts of the country to dissemination of knowledge, the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act was passed in 1954. The Act was amended in 1956 to
bring the newspapers within the purview of the Act so that the newspapers may also be available in these public libraries for reference and record. The publisher of every book and newspaper published in the country should deliver at his own expense a copy of the publication to these four public libraries in India. This act has made the compilation of Indian National Bibliography possible\textsuperscript{16}. The libraries benefited by this act are:

- National Library, Kolkata
- Connemara Public Library, Chennai
- Delhi Public Library, New Delhi
- Asiatic Society Library, Mumbai

1.3.2 Acts Pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights

According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)\textsuperscript{17} the Intellectual Property is a creation of the mind – inventions (products and processes), literary and artistic works, symbols, names, images, and proprietary formulas and ideas, industrial designs, and geographic indications of source, as well as literary and artistic works such as novels, films, music, architectural designs and web pages. Intellectual property protection is the key factor for economic growth and advancement in the high technology sector. They are good for business, benefit the public at large and act as catalysts for technical progress.

According the WTO\textsuperscript{18} there are seven acts pertaining to intellectual property rights. They are:
1. Copyright Act

2. Patent Act

3. Trademarks Act

4. Designs Act

5. Geographical Indications Act

6. Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Designs Act

7. Trade Secrets Act

1.3.2.1 Copyright Act

The Copyright Act gives the author of an original work exclusive right for a certain time period in relation to that work, including its publication, distribution and adaptation, after which the work is said to enter the public domain.

1.3.2.2 Patents Act

Patents Act gives right to a patentee for a fixed period from using the patented invention without the consent of the patentee. Patent is divided into two types such as process patents and product patents.

1.3.2.3 Trademarks Act

Trademarks Act gives better protection of trademarks for goods and services and for the prevention of the user of fraud marks in the market.
1.3.2.4 Designs Act

Designs Act gives rights to an individual/organisation to protect the designs which give a special appearance to a product of industry or handicraft.

1.3.2.5 Geographical Indications Act

Geographical Indications Act provides for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India. Geographical Indication originates from a definite geographical territory and it is used to identify agricultural, natural or manufactured goods.

1.3.2.6 Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Designs Act

The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design Act provides protection to semiconductor integrated circuits layout designs in accordance with the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. The Act provides exclusive rights to the registered proprietor of a layout design and also to the registered users.

1.3.2.7 Trade Secrets Act

Trade secret is a formula pattern, physical device, idea, process, compilation of information or other information that provides the owner of the information with a competitive advantage in the marketplace, and is treated in a way that can reasonably be expected to prevent the public or competitors from learning about it.
1.3.3 Acts Pertaining to Information Technology and Right to Information

The following acts are identified which are relevant to the information.

1. Information Technology Act
2. Right to Information Act

1.3.3.1 Information Technology Act

Due to the anonymous nature of the internet, people with intelligence are engaging in a variety of crimes in cyberspace. Cyber crimes involve criminal activities such as cyber terrorism, IPR violations, credit card frauds, pornography, attacking other computer by hacking, virus/worm attacks etc. The abuse of computers has also given birth to a gamut of new age crimes that are addressed by the Information Technology Act, 2000.\(^{19}\)

1.3.3.2 Right to Information Act

The Right to Information act is a law enacted in the year 2005 by the Indian government\(^5\) giving the citizens of India access to records of the central government and state governments. The Act applies to all states and union territories of India, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir - which is covered under a State-level law.\(^{20-21}\)

1.3.4 Tenders Act

In regard to purchases of system, equipment etc for the library a set of standard procedures are to be adopted especially in the case of purchases
involving high value, tenders are to be floated. In general, it has been mentioned that e-tender methods are to be followed in all establishments especially government organisations. In this regard the government of Tamil Nadu enacted Tenders Act.\textsuperscript{22}

1.3.4.1 Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act

Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act was enacted by the government of Tamil Nadu in the year 1998 to secure the transparency in public procurement and purchase activities.\textsuperscript{22}

1.4 NEED FOR THE STUDY

The advancement in communication technologies and increasing cost of the information lead the people to misuse the original work of an author. Further, the lack of awareness among consumers about the laws enacted by the government to secure the information results making crime in the cyberspace and make them to prefer pirated goods available for free or at much less than what one pay for licensed products. The information professionals must understand the importance of cyber security and their role in enhancing data protection and information security in their institution. They must provide their customers appropriate information and clear steps for forming and concluding online transactions. The customer’s identities must be verified to prevent and identify theft and unauthorised access. To build enduring relationship with their customers the legal issues of e-transactions need to be addressed from the onset. Promoting a secure cyberspace is the responsibility of every librarian in his library. Hence the librarian must
understand the degree of limitations on public access to the information on the net. One must gain knowledge to make protective measures to be taken against the online information with the help of technological developments. The library professionals must understand the importance of cyber security in their institution and their role in enhancing security.

The Right to Information Act has largely remained an urban phenomenon and awareness in rural areas is very low. Even in urban areas, the larger picture is a lack of awareness among the citizens on the practical aspects of using the Act. At the village level, there is a clear lack of accountability on part of the Gram Panchayat to respond to RTI petitions. Hence there is an urgent need to have awareness and look beyond RTI as being merely a tool to fight towards untoward happenings and look at it as a way to improve governance processes and make transparency in the administration.

Today the LIS profession is witnessing the advantage of web resources where users have the various opportunities of violating the rules and regulation. It is essential to have a fair amount of information on various acts.

1.5 PROPOSED RESEARCH

The global trend towards stronger intellectual property rights that has taken place in the past two decades has progressed in different dimensions. Protection has extended from invention to discovery; from mechanical devices to living organisms (Bystrom et al., 1999; Chakravarthi, 1999); from privately funded research and development to publicly funded scientific
and technological results; from information about technology to information about scientific information (David, 2000)\textsuperscript{25}; from industrial products and technological processes to services and financial and administrative methods (Lerner, 2000)\textsuperscript{26}, and from ‘brick’ to ‘click’ trademarks (Bubert and Buning, 2001\textsuperscript{27} and Forero-Pineda, 2006\textsuperscript{28}).

Geographically, the trend towards stronger protection of intellectual property rights has extended from developed to developing countries, affecting even pharmaceuticals and medical devices where, for several decades, many developing countries have imposed restrictions on patenting or simply refused to allow it. Therefore in this study an attempt has been made to identify the awareness on the above acts among LIS professionals working in higher educational institutions in and around Chennai.

1.6 STATEMENT OF THE TITLE

“AWARENESS ON INFORMATION ACTS AMONG LIS PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN AND AROUND CHENNAI”

1.6.1 Explanation of the Concepts in Title

The diagrammatic representation of statement of the study shown in Figure 1.2 provides brief methodology of approach.
Figure 1.2 Explanation of the Concepts in Title
1.6.1.1 Awareness

Awareness is categorised as learning, known and proficient. It also includes the means of acquiring information such as books, internet, friends and formal course.

1.6.1.2 Information Acts

In the case LIS it is mandatory to have a fair knowledge on certain acts such as public libraries acts, intellectual proper rights, acts pertaining to information and IT and tenders act.

1.6.1.3 LIS Professionals

The library and information science professionals working in the libraries of engineering, arts and sciences, medical sciences, polytechnic and management institutions.

1.6.1.4 Higher Educational Institutions in and around Chennai

Higher educational institutions include engineering, arts and sciences, medical sciences (medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing) and polytechnic situated in and around Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India).
1.7 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study are

1. To survey the extent of awareness regard to following information acts among LIS professionals working in higher educational institutions in and around Chennai.
   - Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act
   - Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act
   - Various Intellectual Property Rights Acts
   - Information Technology Act
   - Right to Information Act
   - Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act

2. To examine the level and depth of awareness on the facets of the above acts among LIS respondents.

3. To identify the sources and channels used for their awareness on the above acts.

4. To identify which of the above stated acts are familiar known among the professionals.

5. To identify the barriers/constraints in the awareness about the acts.
1.8 HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formed based on the objectives.

1. The LIS professionals have fair knowledge on the Public Library Acts such Tamil Nadu Public Library Act and the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act. There is significant difference on awareness with respect to gender, domain and nature of management of institutions.

2. The library professionals have fair amount of knowledge on the IPR issues. There is a significant difference in awareness on various acts under IPR with respect to gender, domain and nature of management of institutions.

3. The library professionals have fair amount of knowledge on the Information Technology Act and the Right to Information Act. The level of significance on the awareness on various aspects of the acts among the LIS professionals depends upon the gender, domain and nature of management of institutions in which they are employed.

4. The LIS professionals have less knowledge on Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act when compared to other acts.

5. Number of barriers are experienced by the LIS professionals in the proper awareness of various information acts.

6. There exists scope for the conduct of information literacy programmes on the awareness of various information acts.
1.9 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

1. This study covers the higher educational institutions located in Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts which are in close proximity to Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India).

2. Higher educational institutions include colleges and universities in engineering, arts and sciences, medical sciences (medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing) and polytechnic. A total of 348 higher educational institutions are functioning in these disciplines.

3. The management studies institutions are included in the domain ‘arts and sciences’ since the number of institutions are minimal i.e. only 4 and the number of respondents are only 8 professionals.

4. The study covers 647 LIS professionals working in the libraries of these institutions.

1.10 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The major significances of the study are

- Identifies various acts which are relevant to LIS profession
- Highlights on the awareness on various acts among the respondents.
1.11 METHODOLOGY

The investigator has adopted the following methodology in this study.

Step 1: Review of Literature

The literature on various acts relevant to LIS have been studied and reviewed which facilitated the construction of questionnaire.

Step 2: Questionnaire Construction

Based on the review of literature, a structured questionnaire (Appendix - A) has been designed to collect data from the LIS professionals working in higher educational institutions in and around Chennai. Questionnaire covers the following sections.

- Level of general awareness on various acts
- Medium of sources which plays important role in providing awareness
- Awareness on Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act
- Awareness on Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act
- Awareness on Copyright Act
- Awareness on Patents Act
- Awareness on Trademarks Act
- Awareness on Designs Act
• Awareness on Geographical Indications Act
• Awareness on Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act
• Awareness on Information Technology Act
• Awareness on Right to Information Act
• Awareness on Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act
• Level of importance of acts to the LIS profession
• Barriers in acquiring awareness on acts

**Step 2.1: General Information about the Respondents**

Elicits information pertaining to the respondent’s name, gender, age, qualification, designation, experience, domain and nature of management of institutions.

**Step 3: Questionnaire Survey**

**Step 3.1: Pilot Study**

A pilot study was conducted with a sample of 50 respondents working in various institutions and the results were tested. Based on the study, the questionnaire was further modified and developed to suit the stated objectives. Accordingly, revised questionnaire was finally constructed.
Step 3.2: Administration of the Questionnaire

The revised questionnaire was administrated among 647 respondents working in 127 engineering, 118 arts and sciences, 44 medical sciences and 59 polytechnic institutions in and around Chennai. A total of 459 have responded and response rate is 70.94%.

Step 4: Data Analysis

The data collected from the questionnaire has been analysed to the hypotheses framed and fulfill the stated objectives. For this purposes, SPSS software package has been used. Statistical analysis techniques such as frequency distribution, percentage analysis, weighted arithmetic mean and standard deviation have been employed depending on the nature of the data collected from the respondents.

1.12 CONSPECTUS

The thesis has been presented in five chapters.

Chapter 1 highlights the need, proposed research, objectives, hypothesis, limitations, significance of the study and methodology adopted in the data collection and analysis.

Chapter 2 deals with the review of related literature.

Chapter 3 presents a brief note on various acts pertaining to the Library and Information Science.
Chapter 4 deals with the analysis of data and discusses the results of the analysis of the data and inferences.

The last Chapter provides the summary of the major findings and observations in the study. Offers suggestions and recommendations and provides direction for further research.

The thesis concludes with a list of bibliographic references and appendices.
REFERENCES


