Services and its increasing use started in the twentieth century especially after the end of World War II. The key factors which have contributed to the development of services industries are new technologies, new services to meet new needs, social trends, demographic trends, more complex products. The knowledge/information is viewed both as a commodity made up of goods and services that have costs as they are created and that can be bought and sold. The services broadly include education of all kinds, R&D, libraries and information centers; entertainment and the arts, goods such as paper, pens, typewriters and computers; and that portion of such services as accounting, medicine and law that developed upon information.

Services are generally considered as activities, benefits and satisfactions which are offered for sale or are provided in connection with the sale of goods. The relationship between service providers and consumers is also changing in other ways that may have significant implications for economies. Technology now allows providers to produce a single product, which is not mass-produced, but which is capable of being mass-consumed, either on a standardized or customized basis. Such is the case with online Internet access to dictionaries, encyclopedias, newspapers, museum collections, etc. Technology is also affecting the relationship between providers and consumers in areas previously unthinkable, such as health care, where the need for personal contact to diagnose and treat ailments is becoming less essential. "Internet" banking, real estate, retail and financial services provide other examples where personal, or onsite, contact with service providers is no longer essential for the services to be performed; in many instances such services can, in fact, be provided far more efficiently via the Internet or through other remote communication modes.
Having a general awareness of the service sector and its importance as well as its crucial role in the present century it was thought of investigating the place of library and information services to the community at large. So much is talked about the essential value of information and its access to community and examining the flourishing service sectors like banks, hotels, tourism and education. It is thoughtfully planned to undertake the study of LIS sector in the contemporary context.

Present study is a kind of descriptive study where most of the information collected from the documentary sources, websites, Internet and personal observations and interaction with some important professionals in various service sectors. To examine the functioning and providing the need based services to the customers as well as to assess the role of service sectors in economic well being of the country personal interactions with some prominent professionals and observation of the activities have added much to the understanding the research problem.

The study is briefly over-viewing some flourishing service sectors and making an effort to demonstrate the Library and information sector as an essential service sector of the knowledge society.

Technological changes splintering and disembodiment of services has made many services tradable, just like manufactured goods. These services called modern impersonal progressive services include communication, banking, insurance, and business related services. Information and communication technology has given services a physical presence. They can be produced and stored in a series of ones and zeros in digital format. Banking and loan transaction can now be conducted online. This technology has made services free from time and space restrictions.

Present economy is dominated by services industry. Services are activities or benefits that one party offers to another that are essentially
intangible and do not result in the ownership. In many of the developed and
developing countries more than half the workforce is employed in service
industry nomenclating this as 'service economy'. "....today service industries
have assumed the mantle of economic leadership".

The broader service field needs a collaboration explosion that matches
the information explosion of modern times. There is need for new approach
that is more than interdisciplinary, more than multidisciplinary and more
than trans-disciplinary. To build the community that will effectively
represent a broader services field will require social networking tools that
facilitate full spectrum collaboration between academe, business and
customers making entire service field customer centered.

The service industry forms a backbone of social and economic
development of a region. India is witnessing a transition from agriculture-
based economy to a knowledge-based economy. The knowledge economy
creates, disseminates, and uses knowledge to enhance its growth and
development. The library and information sector enables information access,
communication and preservation by the development and implementation of
policies, standards, networks, products and services. The sector aims to be
both dependable and responsive to a wide diversity of information needs. The
role of librarians is not only to identify and acquire highly relevant
information, but to add value to that information by making it more useable
and to assist users to develop the capabilities to become learners for all time.

Information is electronically accessible from a wide variety of globally
distributed information repositories. Information is no longer simply text and
pictures. It is electronically in a wide variety of formats, many of which are
large, complex and often integrated. The ready availability of information on
the Internet, and its widespread use, really presents librarians with an
opportunity, not a threat. Technology savvy users realise they need help,
which librarians can provide. Librarians now face difficulties and complicity
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challenge due to trends in information access. In the present technological / Internet era the professionals have to change themselves as the information profession is being changed. Now information specialists have to work as e-information resources in which various professional groups are expected to map strategies that lead to produce, manage, maintain and service the information.

With competition from the World Wide Web, there is a sheer need for the librarians to provide a 'face-lift' to their current outlook and services. In the digital era, librarian, system persons, and record managers must be able to work with digital media as easily as they have worked with paper. They must be able to curate electronic collections, including the ability to select, acquire, describe, organize, reference, and preserve these digital works.

A modest attempt is made by the researcher to work out on the basis of the study conducted some issues, challenges and dimensions. These formulations are specific to the LIS as a service sector. Comparing to the kind of majesty of the services offered by hotels, tourism and hospitality sectors to the existing library and information services offered by different types of libraries, a huge gap is clearly visible. The basic infrastructure and facilities that are available there and in libraries makes a lot of difference. In the light of the study the researcher has listed the following points under issues, challenges and dimensions are identified and listed.