CHAPTER-3

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
The very purpose of any library system is to disseminate information. The term system, thus implies rhythm, organization and unbroken chain of service to the people. It is an organized scheme or method based on the philosophy that people need similar library services wherever they live either in cities or villages. According to Bellomy, ‘system is an assemblage of interdependent things and ideas necessary to achieve a set of related objectives.’[1] The concept of system, therefore, is preferred for obvious reasons because:

i). It is a co-operative and organic structure in which every unit, however small, is as rich as the whole system;

ii). It has larger funds which allow for a balance and even development of public library service over large areas, irrespective of local variations or imbalances in financial support;

iii). It is accessed to centralize purchasing of library materials, centralized catalogue, supplies and equipment;

iv). It can provide library services more efficiently and effectively because it can permit introduction of library services based on modern concepts of service and approved standards.

Public library system encompasses all public libraries including private, aided or unaided libraries. A library system provides various services and activities in economic and efficient manner through inter library cooperation in technical matters like classification, cataloguing and bibliography etc. In addition, it helps non-technical matters, such as, interlibrary loan and establishes uniform standards collectively which are beyond the physical and financial reach of individual libraries. So it is an integrated nation-wide network of public libraries giving free book service to one and all the citizens, literates or illiterates. Rao [2] states that inventory and record keeping necessary for encouraging and
facilitating interlibrary loan, exchange of bibliographic information and other auxiliary services are made possible only by a system.

**Origin of the Public Library:**
First efforts for public library movement was made in the beginning of seventeenth century by the philanthropic movement; for these had been marked out of generosities shown by the wealthy citizens interested in its aims and progress of public libraries.

The first library to have its stock readily and freely accessible to general public was founded in Coventry in 1601. Claims were made by other towns for the establishment of earlier public libraries, but the access to these was generally limited in some way. First public library was readily and freely accessible in following time and place:

- London, 1422
- Coventry, 1601
- Norwich, 1608
- Bristol, 1615
- Langley Marish, near Slough, 1623
- Leicester, 1632
- Manchester, 1653
- Interpeffray, 1680 [3]

In 1699, Rev. Lames Kirkwood Lounced his ambitious scheme in Scotland. Kirkwood believed that establishment of these libraries will have several ways advantageous to the country, for:

1. It will be a considerable Manufactory, and will maintain many people at work.
2. It will keep all that Money in the Kingdom, which now goes out for buying of books and papers.
3. It will encourage young men to follow their studies in their own country.
4. It will allure and provoke gentlemen to bestow their spare hours in readings of new books.
5. It will, in a short time, carry away the whole trade of printing from all
the rest of Europe.

At the same time as Kirkwood was pressing his cause in Scotland Dr.
Thomas Bray was abandoning his original scheme of collecting funds for
missionaries. Bray puts forward his scheme in 1697.

In 1702, Kirkwood published ‘A copy of a letter anent a project for erecting
a library in every Presbytery.’ Due to his writings three acts passed by
successive General assemblies of the Church of Scotland in 1704, 1705 and
1706.

Sixty-one libraries were founded by Dr. Thomas Bray [4] between 1704 and
his death in 1730, and more than a hundred others were established by a
society. Dr. Brays Associates for Founding Clerical Libraries and supporting
Negro Schools, in the period 1757-1807.

The beginning of the nineteenth century saw a great activity in the provision
of popular libraries in the Southeastern countries of Scotland and in the
North-East of England. The most famous of these schemes was Provost
Samuel Brown’s system of ‘itinerating libraries’ initiated in East Lothian in
1817. The principal object of the scheme was to promote the interests of
religion, and the plan was “to have a library within a mile-and-a-half of
every inhabitant of the country, if possible” and “to station a division of 50
volumes in every village and hamlet where a librarian could be found.” The
books were to be removed at the end of two years, and a general exchange
effected. The greatest number of these libraries was fifty. The success of
these libraries declined after the death of their founder. Samuel Smiles, for
instance, giving evidence in 1849, said that attempts to form public libraries
in the West Riding of Yorkshire had generally been failures. “So long as the
books in the libraries were attractive, the people generally resorted to them,
but as soon as the books become old and had been read out, they ceased to
attract the readers, and in the end they were failures.”
Edward Edwards [5] (1812-86), an assistant in the Department of Printed Books at the British Museum at the time of the 1849 Report, was guided by these failures and motivated by the following two principles:

i. The first principle involved the corollary that the new institutions and their management should stand entirely aloof from party influences in Politics or in religion.

ii. The second principle involved the corollary that the maintenance must be by rate, levied on the whole tax-paying community and administered by its elective and responsible functionaries.

The first municipal rate-supported free library in the United Kingdom was opened in November 1848 in Warrington. This was followed by the establishment of a public library in Salford in 1849. Earliest true Public Library Act came on August 14th, 1850, as the direct result of the 1849 Report, to which Edwards had two members, William Ewart and Toseph Brotherton. [6]

First 50 years history shows that movement was sponsored by members of the library profession, and by persons drew from the upper strata of society who were aware that the absence of Public-Library facilities for all classes was quite unjustifiable. By no means all the upper classes were in favour of the libraries.

Murison believes that, 'Admittedly, there is no evidence that the first public libraries were forced on the people, but there is much to indicate that the bulk of the population were antagonistic or, at the best, apathetic; and if there was a demand demonstrated by some persons it was by a vocal minority rather than by the masses. [7] In the mid nineteenth century public library owed nothing to public demand, but everything to individual initiative enthusiasm.

Rev. H. Mackenzie thought that the establishment of local reading-rooms would take the working classes away from public houses by affording them a comfortable shelter for the evening. In Scotland too it was felt that the public library be an alternative to drunkenness. John Imray reported to
include habits or order of people weakness by a missionary on the improvement of moral character of people.

W.J. Paul, the Secretary of a Working Men’s Committee suggested that working-classes, far from demanding the public library, needed the committee to inform them of its value, benefits and to urge them to support it financially. He went on to give details of the collections of money made, and estimated that about 22,000 subscribers gave in all £ 814.

In 1866 at the opening of Manchester public library Hume Branch, the mayor, Alderman Bowker said, “When first proposed, the value of Free Libraries was little understood. The public were afraid of them and looked upon them with jealously.” This from contemporary sources it can be shown that the Manchester Public Libraries were established by some enthusiastic members of the upper classes and the spirit of generosity and interest of wealthy people.

**Public Library Movement:**

The library movement is a struggle for library development. The widening of the library service as a means of self-education as well as instrument of mass education is the hallmark of the concept of today’s library movement. For this matter it is to mobilize public opinion and persuade the Government to foster free public libraries. Library movement is the conscious establishment and maintenance of a network of libraries, to bring knowledge to people not merely to a restricted clientele as in earlier days but to one all according to need and capacity. [8] Today library movement aims at the establishment of an integrated national library system with many cultural, political, economical and educational functions. It is not satisfied with the establishment of either a few huge libraries or a myriad of small libraries.

Public library movement was first traced in England. Under the leadership of Richard Whittington there was established in London about 1422, a library for free use by the citizens, it lasted for just over a century, until the Duke of Somerset seized it in 1549.[9]
It was in the early seventeenth century that the first efforts to establish ‘popular libraries’ were more widely made in England and it is fitting that these efforts should again have been made as the result of philanthropy; for these has been no characteristic more marked in the history of library movement than the generosity of wealthy citizens interested in its aims and progress. The first library to have its stock readily and freely accessible to the general public was founded in Coventry in 1601 in England.[10] It was the idea of the British elite to start public libraries in every parish. The beginning of the 19th century saw great activities in the provision of popular libraries in England and Scotland.

Now England could proudly say about the great British Museum Library founded by Sir Hans Sloane, as one of the best libraries in the world. The development of public library movement in England helped the growth of many important public libraries in England especially the British Museum Library. [11]

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries brought a number of significant developments.

In France, the Bibliotheque National which had the origins in the collections formed by the kings of France (1350-1364) was made stronger with enormous acquisitions in the France revolution. Germany had the finest libraries of the nineteenth century and it was the forefront of library development in Europe. In this period, some other countries where libraries were developed, those were; Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and the Scandinavian countries. In England subscription libraries were created. The first public library was established at Manchester in 1852. In 1919 another public library was passed. The public library movement in the USA began about the same as in the UK. The first free tax-supported public library was established in Peterborough, New Hampshire, in 1833. The city of Boston to establish and maintain a public library in 1854. [12] The city of Boston was the first to introduce the public library system. The New York public library is now one of the greatest public library in the world.
There had been considerable development during the 20th century in Asia, Africa and Europe especially in the Scandinavian countries. One of the important developments of the century was the gradual change of many public libraries from ‘closed access’ to ‘open access’. During the centuries books had increased enormously in number. There had been also grown up inter-lending service, which enabled libraries to borrow specialized books for their readers. A notable feature of the library development in UK and elsewhere was the highly organized system of library for operation under which it was possible for a reader to ask for a book or periodical from any part of the country. There had also been considerable improvement in book provision both in quantity and quality. Public library movement in India was made by the British, who set up government public libraries in the presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in the middle of the 19th century. This was done mostly on the initiative and with the financial support of the European in these towns. By the end of the century all the provincial capitals, some of the district towns and capitals of some princely states had their public libraries. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the father of library movement denotes library movement as an organic attempt to establish a closely-knit network of libraries for the use of one and all each according to their specific needs. Kaula states that it was this movement that brought the establishment of public libraries in every nook and corner in a very well organized manner. [13]

**Public Library System in some Developed Countries:**

**Public Library System in Finland:**

Finland is a republic government by the constitution of 1st March 2000. The area of Finland is 304,473 sq. km. [14] Libraries in Finland developed slowly during the 19th century because the country remained under Russian rule until 1917 and they received no financial support from state revenues. After getting independence, Parliament tried to rectify this problem by legislating the first state grants in 1921. The majority of these libraries have
branches. There were 3573 service points in the country an average of about 1200 inhabitants to each. [15] Library Association of Finland founded in 1910, had about 2000 members. The regional central library idea was very slow in Finland and it was not until the library Act of 1961, which funds were provided for that purpose. Finish central libraries are municipal libraries, which receive a special amount of state aid to undertake special functions, such as interlibrary loans to public libraries. Even though, inter library loan is an important element in Finnish PL service. One of the reasons of the central libraries has meant that Finland does not have the sophisticated inter library loan network. The service is better developed in the town than in the rural. Public Libraries are owned by the towns, borough and rural communities and are open to all local inhabitants, free of charge, open access in general. Each community has its own independent service; there are county or regional systems and very little cooperation. In 1928, Parliament had passed the first Finnish library law. [16] This law did set up standards that the library had to meet in order to receive the grants and to help the improvement of library service. In 1948, the Govt. appointed a committee to plan a complete revision of existing library legislation. One of the recommendations was that a central library should be established in each of the ten provinces. State aid has been given on the basis of equaling the local contribution i.e., equivalent of 50% of total expenditure. To administrator state aid there was a library committee, the chairman of which was a department chief of the state school board. It operated through the state library bureau with a director and seven library inspectors. 
In 1961, a new PLs act was passed. [17] These act increased the amount of state subsidies. This law also established provincial libraries. One of the provisions of the law, which was provided for special grants and assistance in library building expenses. In 1973, the council of state setup a committee to study the PL system in Finland and make recommendations for their future. In 1976, committee made many recommendations and sent to Minister of Education among them were reforms in the state subsidy system.
The state library office was set up by law in 1921 and charged with the task of administrating the state grants. The revised PL Act, which came into force on 1 January 1999, requires each municipality to provide basic library services free of charge. The PL network is comprehensive with 989 libraries altogether. There are complemented by 199 mobile units with over 16,000 service stops. The Helsinki city library doubles as a central library in this sector. Additionally the country is divided into 19 regions with a Regional centre library providing supplementary services. In 2001, there were over 2.4 million registered borrowers, who represent 47% of the population. The number of loans issued totaled 103.4 million. [18]

The Finnish library system is an interactive, organised network based on an extensive use of ICT and information networks. Library services in Finland are effective and accessible, efficient and cost-effective, and the lending and library use rates are high. The Finnish Government has recently invested heavily in library networking. Of library activities 97% are computerised and nine out of ten municipal libraries provide Internet facilities. The libraries also network regionally. Public libraries are open to all. Since 1928, both the use and lending of all library collections have been free of charge; nowadays this also applies to videos, CDs and DVDs.

All municipal libraries have qualified staff. The information and library field can be studied in universities, polytechnics and secondary institutions. The person responsible for a municipal library generally has a university degree which includes information and library studies. Two out of three municipal library employees have some library training. Municipal libraries, research libraries, specialist libraries and libraries at educational institutions form part of the national and international information service network. Both municipal and research libraries are open to all citizens. Students use public and research libraries side by side. Since most schools in Finland are small, it has been more cost-effective to develop the public libraries, which also serve the education system, but measures are now being taken to improve school library services as well. The Department for Cultural Policy is
responsible for matters relating to municipal libraries. The Finnish Library for the Visually Impaired is subordinate to the Ministry of Education and governed by specific statutes. The state provincial offices are the regional library authorities. A new Library Act and Library Decree came into force on 1 January 1999. There is a joint internet service catering for PLs.

Public library system in Norway:

Norway is a constitutional and hereditary monarchy. There are 19 counties. Total area is 306,253 sq.km. [19] The PL movement in Norway began in the early 19th century. It started as an idealistic movement, sponsored by Clergymen, educators and others interested in social advancement. It was first discussed in 1936 and became a reality in 1841. In 1935, Norway passed its first public and School Libraries Act. [20] The main provision of this law was to increase the amount of state aid. Norway public libraries suffered a lot during the war. The library law of 1947 is regarded as a milestone in public library history because act made it compulsory throughout Norway and stipulated a minimum local contribution of the people and also mandated the provision of school library for all elementary school in 1930s, the central library system was inaugurated throughout the Norway under the direction of Arne Kildal of state library office.[21] There are 19 central library in Norway which supplement and augment and the collections of the real libraries. The role of the central library is allotted to public library, which is already well developed. [22] In Norway public libraries do not have strong collections. Library collections are generally confined to fiction and general works to a high school level, although the bigger public library does offer a wider selection, including some foreign fiction and non-fiction at post high school levels. There are also bookmobiles, which serve not only the smaller libraries, but also individual readers. The central libraries are the backbone of the inter library, lending system, which supports the Norwegian public library. The public library inter library lending network in Norway is just emerging and therefore is not as strong and developed as Denmark and
Sweden. The central libraries have a special grant towards their additional expenses. There is a co-operation with the university library in Oslo, the Norwegian national library lends extensively to the public libraries and maintain a union catalogue. The work of public and school libraries is supervised and co-coordinated by the Norwegian library Board, which is a branch of the Department for Church and Education. It is responsible for the distribution of grants and for specifying the conditions under which they are made. Librarians are appointed by the local authorities but are subject to approval by the board. The Norway Library Association was founded in 1913 and like the associations of Greet Britain, Denmark and Sweden. [23] It is divided into three sections, for
(a) The smaller public libraries and their staff.
(b) The professional staff of public libraries and
(c) The professional staff of scientific and special libraries.

The act of 1955, contained the same fundamental directives and provision as were found in the 1947 act. The act emphasized that each county council must grant an annual sum for the central library activities. This act continued in force until a new act was passed in 1971. This act increased the state subsidies to libraries; but the amount to be contributed did not take inflation on account. The main responsibility for administering the state grants rests with the state library office and inspectorate for public and school libraries. The original library office was established by law in 1902 under the Ministry of Church and Education. [24] From 1939 to 1947 it was called the office of Adult Education. The state library office is headed by a professional Director appointed by the King.

In December 2000 the Norwegian Parliament discussed a parliamentary report concerning the future policies for the development of the archive, library and museum sectors in Norway. The parliament report treated each of the three sectors separately, but at the same time it signalised an increase in the co-operative efforts and joint initiative between them. The main goal was to improve their services to society. In order for this development to
take place it was necessary not only to strengthen each individual sector, but also promote joint initiatives for co-operation between the sectors. It was stated that some of the principal challenges will be the development within information, communication and technology field. The three organisations that will be merged are the Norwegian Museum Authority, Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries and the National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries. In order to facilitate a comprehensive, united policy and to develop a policy for the three sectors, a new coordinating, governmental appointed institution named "Archives, Libraries, Museum Authority" was established during the spring 2002. A director has been appointed and he has a working group to assist and advise in building up the new organization. The new organisation is in operation by January 1, 2003. The National Library is not a part of the new organization.

As a result of this reorganisation of the library sector the Norwegian Government is working with a revised edition of the Norwegian Library Act of 1985. This act concerns only the public libraries. In this revision the role of the county libraries and the academic/research/special libraries will be looked at. Eleven library organisations have started a working group with the mission to lobby towards the government, political organisations and politicians. These organisations represent all library fields.

**Public library system in Sweden:**

Sweden has a representative & parliamentary democracy. The king is head of the State. The country is divided into 29 constituencies (constitutional monarchy) & 24 counties. The total area of Sweden is 449,964 sq.km. & population is 8,940,788 [25] The first library in the country lending books to the general public was founded in about 1800. The Elementary School Act was passed in 1842, which setup parish libraries. [26] After many libraries were established at first in the cities and later in rural districts. State aid has been given on an increasing scale since 1905. In 1912, an act was passed in order to supervise and carryout the implementing of state aid and the
department of public libraries. The first county library was established in 1930. [27] The county libraries were the main coordinating unit in the public library system and the backbone of the interlibrary lending system. These libraries were the forerunners of the present public libraries. Libraries continued to develop in Sweden. But they were hampered for a long time by the large number of local communes. In each county there was a county library whose duty was to assist the local libraries. The county libraries have a two-fold task: one they serve both their home and their county. Four of these county libraries are managed by the state and 20 by the municipal authorities. The county libraries provide individuals and libraries within their areas with books free of charge. The county libraries also guide the smaller local libraries, both communes and study circle, in book selection, reference and other technical areas. The county libraries are the cornerstone of the Swedish interlibrary loan system. In Sweden as a whole there are about 130 books for every 100 of population. It is considered financially possible for communes with a population of about 8,000 to employ a full-time librarian. Library services to children are offended partly by school libraries and partly by children’s departments in the public libraries. Most cities of over 25,000 populations have branch libraries and some also employ bookmobiles to reach outlying areas. Sweden offers some of the finest examples of public library architecture to be seen anywhere even on Denmark grants are made to communal libraries, which confirmed to certain basic conditions. The government exercises its controlling and advisory powers over grant-supported libraries through the library section of the Board of Education.

In 1930 act which increased the maximum amount of state act available to public libraries created the county library system in order to assist the rural community library. In 1947 an amendment of this act was passed. In 1955, a new library act was passed which increase the amount of state aid. [28] According to law it should receive state aid and it must also receive financial support from its local communes. This act was abandoned in 1966. In the
late 1960s the county libraries began to participate in the ABC plan, which added another dimension to the services provided by the county libraries and to the area of inter-library loan. In 1962, another library was added to the inter-library loan pyramid and this was the first regional inter-library loan centers at Malmo. By 1968, three regional inter-library loan centers existed in the Stockholm, Umea and Malmo. [29] These inter-library loan centers were introduced into the public library inter-library loan network to relieve the University and research libraries of the heavy burden of providing specialized materials for the public libraries of Sweden. In the year 1960, another law passed which came as a stock to libraries because it removed state aid to the individual libraries and placed the burden of the financial support of the local communes. In 1972, a bill was presented to the parliament requesting a review of the status of public libraries with a view to compulsory library system. In 1974, the library section of the National Board of Education was incorporated into a new state body, the National Cultural Council. In 1975, Sweden implemented a new system of state support for literature and libraries. There were no major changes in the area of public libraries. In 2002, there were 329 public libraries, one national library & 31 special libraries. [30]

There arc PLs in all 288 municipalities in Sweden. The municipalities are responsible for the PLs, both in terms of activities and financially. There are also 24 county libraries, four loan centres and one deposit library, which assist the public libraries with remote loans and book deposits. All libraries are part of a network which co-operates to give citizens free access to books and information. The task of the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs (Statens kulturråd) is to support and stimulate library activities, among other things to increase the libraries' chances of reaching new groups of library visitors and to develop new methods and forms of operation. The new Library Act (Government Bill 1996/97:3) sets out national goals and guidelines in the area of libraries. All citizens shall have access to PL. From PLs, users can borrow literature free of charge, in every municipality.
The task of the public libraries is to promote interest in reading and literature, information, enlightenment and education as well as cultural activities. The bill also specifies that the PLs shall work to make computer-based information available to all citizens. One of the sections concerns children's and young people's access to books and other media. Young people as well as disabled persons and immigrants are to be given access to information technology and media adapted to their needs.

Almost all of the country's 288 PL systems have automated their functions. About a half of all public libraries provide Internet to library visitors, and even more offer CD-ROM. Many libraries have or are working on their own home pages. The Swedish Royal Library has the task to develop and run an IT based national library system, based on LIBRIS. Funds are allocated to an upgrade and extension of the university and higher education system's joint computer network, SUNET. The Riksdag has established goals and guidelines for a national strategy for the new information technology. In the programme of action for the next few years it is emphasized that education, the legal system and public information must be adapted to the new information technology.

**Public Library System in Denmark:**

The present constitution is founded upon the Basic Law of 5 June, 1953. The legislative power lies with the Queen & the Folketing jointly. The executive power is vested in the monarch, who exercises authority through the ministers. The area of Denmark is 43,098 sq. km. [31] PLs of a kind started in the late eighteenth century. By the end of the 19th century there were approximately 1100 libraries in the 1697 communities of the country. [32]

According to the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, the origins of the Danish public libraries are found in the parish libraries and reading clubs that developed during the 19th century. In 1882, the Danish government recognized their funds plight and began to make small and scattered state grants towards the operation of libraries. In 1897-98, Govt.
increase the amount of money for granting and establishing the state committee for the support of develop public libraries. [33]

In 1909, the idea of central libraries was first proposed by the H.O. Lange of the Royal library. [34] Lange suggested that in each county a central library should be established, which should serve the needs of the country capital.

In 1902, Aarhus state library was founded to serve as a central library. In 1909, the state library commission became an independent institutions, in place of the former committee. At the same time Denmark Government had passed a law establishing the office of the Government Adviser on Public Library. The first pioneer central libraries were setup by law in 1914. The central library is a local institution, which serves its own municipality, and assists other libraries in the country. In addition to the regular state grant of municipalities, the central libraries receive a special state grand. In 1918, a state library school was established in 1920, the first Danish PL act was passed. [35] The law permitted the establishment of central library, set up fixed rules of state aid, although this act permitted the establishment of central libraries.

The inter-library lending system in Denmark is based on a hierarchal arrangement. If a local public library does not have a book it will first turn to its central library. If the central library does not possess required the book, it will pass the request on another central library. National loan center runs by the state as a joint service organization for libraries. For many years the research libraries in Denmark had provided the bulk of the public library needs for the specialized literature. This cooperation from the research library has been essential for the functioning of the PLs. The Danish county library is a municipal library, which gives a certain service, to the Paris libraries and individual readers within its area. The county councils do not provide libraries but are required to make some financial contribution to the county library. Additional library legislation was passed by the Danish parliament in 1923, 1931, 1936, 1946, 1950, 1956, 1959, 1964 and 1975. [36] In 1931, the act included children library in the legislation. In 1936, the
act dealing with government supported libraries. The 1946 amendment of
the library act setup two special funds. A new library act was passed in 1950
and amended in 1959. This law had stated that the communes had financial
obligation to existing public libraries. It is also indicated that after 1960,
Paris libraries must be provided on the demand of the electors. The head of
the library inspectorate is the library Director, who is also head of the library
council formed to advise the Minister of Education on matters of general
policy. To administrating state grants and inspection the library inspectorate
has three important activities, it maintains: an information office,
Bibliographical office and a library school. During the 1960s, Denmark
created a Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the library Director and library
staffs are responsible to this ministry. The public library act of 1964 was the
introduction of compulsory library service in Denmark. In 1975, the 1964
public library act was extended until 1978. The Library Association of
Denmark unites both practicing librarians and representatives of library
authorities and it does comprises all types of libraries such as public, special,
learned etc. and their staffs. In 2001, there were 797 PLs, one National
Library. [37]
The Danish Parliament passed a new Library Act on May, 4th in 2000. The
Danish Library Community is thrilled by the content of the Library Act and
calls it the most visionary in the history of libraries in Denmark. Through
many years library institutions and local PLs in Denmark have worked
together in creating a total Electronic National Bibliography, called DanBib.
This essential bibliography contains the library holdings from almost every
national, research and public library in the country, books as well as
pictures, maps, sound, music, reviews, articles and periodicals. The
bibliography also states which library posses which material and hereby
offers the possibility of an on-line requirement service.
This Bibliography has up until now been a professional tool for the
librarians. Through the new Library Act money is given to bring the
bibliography on the Internet for the public to use free of charge. This means
a great step forward for the virtual/digital library. The public is able to sit at home and search for information and materials in the total Danish Library system, and require materials on-line to be delivered through their local library. Today, the public is forces to visit the libraries' on-line catalogues one by one. The New Library Act indeed gives Danish libraries the means of being a foundation stone in creating the Knowledge society.

**Public Libraries in Greece:**

Greece has a Presidential parliamentary democracy. A new constitution was introduced in June 1975. It has 13 regions divided into 51 departments. The area of Greece is 131,957 sq.km. According to census 2001, the population was 10,964,020. [38] There are PLs in Greece financed and supported by the Greek Ministry of Education. The libraries are located in main cities across the country. Twenty-six of these libraries are characterized as “Central” offering services through bookmobiles, to the whole prefecture that they belong to. Bookmobiles visit remote areas and small rural and island communities. The 32 bookmobiles travel across the country serving approximately one thousand small rural communities. The book mobile project has been financed by E.U and the national budget. [39]

As Greek PLs developed the need to modernize legislation and expand scope and services arose. As a result, Greece had issued a new Library legislation in June 2003, which addressed the PLs role in the information society, the use of new technologies and the importance of services to the community. A new set of “Guidelines” for Public Libraries followed that emphasized the importance of Children’s departments, multimedia sections and library’s involvement in the cultural and community programs.

As part of library development and restructuring, three projects were put into action: a) the creation of electronic information stations within libraries. There are offering Internet access to the public; also they provide information on educational, cultural, business, sports and entertainment issues at local, prefecture and national level. b) the creation of a web portal
where around 60 public libraries (state and municipal) will have section providing information about their institutions, the local community and government information and c) the wireless network between central libraries and Mobile libraries, which at the moment are visiting remote areas. In that way, people who are using those services will get also access to Internet and new technologies. All three projects are financed by the E.U. “Information Society Program”.

That program is the main vehicle though which library image is changing: from a traditional institution to a dynamic information organization. In 1997, there were 829 PLs, & 2 National libraries [40]

**Public library system in UK:**
The United Kingdom consisting of Great Britain (England, Wales & Scotland) & North Ireland. The total area is 244,820 sq. km. The population is 60,441,457. [41] United Kingdom (Britain) is credited with having the most extrusive and the finest library system in the world both in its variety of libraries and their coverage, but Britain’s available PL system has directly emerged from its library legislation. The library development in the UK can be traced to ancient Greece and Rome where libraries sprung up first Oxford and Cambridge had libraries in the 14th century. Great Britain has had a chequered history of PL movement in the world beginning from the 15th century, which worked as an antidote to all social evils and was the panacea for moral, social, educational and economic upliftment. [42] Beginning with such history free libraries as those in London (1422), Conventry (1601), Norwich (1608), Bristol (1615), Langley Marish (1623), Leicester (1632), Manchester (1653) and Innerpeffray (1680), it has developed today such unique modern public libraries as those in Birmingham, Herfordshire, Lancashire, Manchester, Kent, Glasgow, Westminster, Edinburgh and the like-crime, depravity and destitution were rampant in the society of Great Britain, till mid 19th century. The establishment of the British Museum in 1753 constituted the first important step towards the library development in
England. In 1823 and 1834 some other Universities established libraries of their own. In UK there were a number of other forerunners of the PL, there were the Parish libraries of reverend Thomas Bray, which provided collections for laymen as well as for clerics. [43] Also a forerunner of public library was the social library both proprietary and subscription. Towards the middle of the 19th century the modern public library moved closer to reality by the passage of the Museum Act of 1845, primarily the work of William Ewart, who had been a member of parliament for Liverpool (1830-1837). The story of the library movement actually starts after the enactment of the PL Act of 1850.

The real forerunners of the public library were the Private Subscription Libraries and the Mechanics Institute Libraries. [44] In 1982, the first children library was established. Between 1880 to 1898 all the authorities adopted the act. In 1957, a white paper on Local Government was published. It was related mostly to the distribution of their function. In 1957, itself the Minister of Education carried out his promise to appoint a committee under the chairmanship Sydney Roberts to suggest what changes, if any, should be made in the administrative arrangement with regards to the relationship of public libraries with other libraries. Some libraries were established in UK, which are as follow:

1. Monastic Libraries: Libraries were established mainly for the use of the Clergy. Collection in these libraries contains books on religion and philosophy.

2. Cathedral and Parochial Libraries: These libraries were closed at the time of Henry VIII. Some libraries were damaged and destroyed during the civil war in the 17th century.

3. Parochial Libraries: Dr. Thomas Bray started establishing Parochial Libraries. Though these libraries were mainly intended for the Clergy, they were made open to the respectable persons of the place. During the 18th century, there were Cathedral libraries and libraries in large Churches.
4. Precipitarian Libraries: The general assembly of the Church of Scotland established a system of Precipitarian libraries intended for the use of ministers, schoolteachers and students. Rev Kirkwood induced the general assembly for their establishment.

5. Sunday Schools: It established in the late 18th and early 19th centuries had much to do with spread of education in England. The aims of Sunday Schools were spread of education, especially for the poor. Formation of Sunday school union in 1809.


7. Subscription and circulating libraries: These libraries originated in the 18th century. People used to contribute to a common fund from which books were purchased for circulation. These were supported mainly by the middle class merchants, manufactures and professionals.

8. Commercial Circulating Libraries: Some of the booksellers opened these libraries with profit motive.

9. Mechanics Institutes Libraries: The development of mechanic institute is mainly due to George Birkbeck in 1776. These institutes had a library attached mainly with scientific and technical books. These libraries later formed the nucleus of many public libraries in their respective places. Mechanics Institute library gained momentum in 1840s and reached their peak around 1860. These libraries were given concentration in industrial areas of North England, Midlands, South Wales and Central Scotland.

The PL system in Britain costs about £1 billion per year, the vast bulk of which is provided by local authorities who must deliver an efficient and comprehensive service in their areas. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, acting through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and in partnership with many others—has responsibility for the oversight of the service and the promotion of its quality. After some casting about, the
Department has now settled on a system whereby libraries are measured against ten national standards. However, we believe that this list represents rather limited ambitions, which, even so, are not being fulfilled. The top ten standards do not refer to extended opening hours, book loans, access or material for people with disabilities, value for money from the service or free access to the internet (all of which we regard as important). In addition, crucially, the standards that are in place are not backed up with effective mechanisms for ensuring continuous improvement or even simple compliance.

It was through the PL movement in UK, launched by the philanthropists, librarians, educationists and political leaders that the social evils could be eradicated and highly civilized society established. In 1890, to 1910 was a boom period for British public libraries. “Andrew Carnegie gave £ 8000 to his native Dunfermline in 1879. The library was opened in 1883. In 1913, he founded the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust with a capital of 2 million pounds.” [45] Another great library benefactor was Passmore Edwards. Both donors gave fillip to PL development in Great Britain. In 1964, PLs and Museum Act was passed. This act replaced all previous library legislation. [46]

The secretary of state for Education and Science appointed the National Library Committee under the chairmanship of Fred Dainton in 1967, to report on the functioning of British Museum, National Central Library and the Science Museum library. Dainton’s report in 1969 suggested for integration among the National Libraries. On the basis of the report, the British Library Act was passed in 1972. The newly created British library system has three separate divisions: (i) Reference Division, (ii) Lending Division and (iii) Bibliography Service Division. The above narration gives the commitment of the British Government for the development of PLs. In fact, British system became models to many other countries. In 1997, there were 5183 Public libraries & 18 National Libraries. [47] In 1997 & 2002, the Audit Commission carried out studies of PLs in UK. Both studies found
that people generally have a high opinion of their libraries. They also identified that some aspects of the service such as audio-visual materials & IT services are on the rise. They also found that there are some serious issues facing PLs. Annual library plans were introduced in England 1998 & in Wales in 2002. The plan, which must be submitted to central govt. in September of each year, reviews the performance of the library service during the previous year and identifies strength & areas of weakness. This is followed by a more detailed action plan for the next year. This plan is required to show exactly how the service is addressing issues of social inclusion & access for all, based on national policy & guidance. The PI standards were introduced in 2001 of the following extensive consultation:

[48]

- Every library authority has three years to meet the standards;
- Progress is reported each year in the Annual Library Plan, along with targets for meeting the standards within the required timescale;
- These cover key areas of service delivery, including access opening hours, website use-usage, the quality & quantity of stock. User satisfaction, staff training etc.

Since 1850 the UK government has taken lot of development works which are as follows:

1850- The Public Libraries Act.
2001- Public Library Standards.
2002- Public Library statements (replacing Annual Library Plans)
2003- Framework for the Future (National Strategy)
2004. Public Library Service Standards 9replacing Public Libraries position statements and the original Public Library standards)

One of the hallmarks of public libraries in Great Britain is the reason of their autonomous nature. wherein; one may find non-interference and non-
disturbance in the affairs of the working of these library systems by their governmental machinery.

Public Library system in USA:
The total area of USA is 664,707 sq. km. & population is 290,810,000. [49] The United States of America is very famous for library activities in the world today. It is called the “Land of libraries.” In this country number of states and federal laws relating to library and library services are available. Even though, the public libraries come under the States, the Federal Government has been providing sufficient funds and facilities for the growth of development of libraries in the country. Provisions of library services in USA are a state subject and each state has its own library act. There is no uniform pattern in the organization of public libraries in USA. It varies from state to state and even within a single state. In general five types of public libraries are found in USA viz.

i. Municipal library: Public library setup by the law of a city or any other municipal unit. There is no uniform system of financial support.

ii. Public library in a School District: Public library whose unit of support and service is a school district. The financial support is by a cess on property or by an appropriation from the general fund.

iii. County library: These are the libraries established under library acts of states.

iv. Endowment library: Library established by financial support from private endowments but their services being open to the public.

v. State library: A central public library established in each state. [50] Almost from the beginning, the public library has been viewed as an agency that could not function effectively as an isolated, totally independent unit. A comprehensive plan has developed throughout the country over the years to reorganize library patterns into larger units of services or library systems.

According to Nelson Associates the system as follows:
i) Access, ii) collection, iii) circulation, iv) services, v) finance and vi) professionalism.

Gregory and Stoffel summarize the advantages of systems development:

i) Create a greater depth and range of resources.
ii) Open avenues for the use of the resources.
iii) Equalize library service
iv) Raise the level of personnel expertise.
v) Offer the newer types of communication media.
vi) Take advantage of the new technology.
vii) Experiment and innovate. [51]

In 1833, the first free tax supported public library was established in Peterborough, New Hampshire but the credit of passing first library law goes to the state of Massachusetts. Government took positive steps for encouraging the establishment, improvement of public libraries in under developed areas. State Governments helped these libraries by giving grant-in-aid or direct support of books. Leading states were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Connecticut. The grant-in-aid given by state Government establish, develop promote libraries were following forms:

1) Establishment Grant, 2) Continuation Grant, 3) Incentive Grant, 4) Per capita Grant, 5) Area Grant, 6) Equilisation Grant, 7) Integration Grant, 8) Restricted and non-restricted Grant, 9) Personal Grant and 10) Scholarship Grant.

Due to help of the state governments there were approximately 8000 public library system in the United States, but almost 17,000 stationary service outlets and approximately 900 books-mobile serve the people who do not have library accessible to them. Though the Library Science was the part of the state government, the Federal Government of USA was helping those locations and areas where the library was very poor. In 1848, the city of Boston was empowered to establish and maintain a tax supported free public library. It opened its doors to all inhabitants over sixteen years of age. “The opening of the reading room of the Boston PL at the Adams house in 1854,
is regarded as an important event in the story of PL movement in USA.”

Edward Everett and George Ticknor have taken effort for opening the reading room. [52] The USA created the illustrious New York PL in 1895. Though started as a reference library, it achieved its circulation function in 1901.

In the second half of the 19th century, PLs in the modern sense began to be established through local legislation. Boston PL served as model to these. These were supported by taxation or voluntary gifts. “The PL movement in the latter part of 19th century was stimulated by contributions made by philanthropists John Jacob Astor in his will set aside $ 4,00,000 for the establishment of a PL in 1839. James Lenox founded second reference library in 1870 in New York City. The prince benefactors of libraries were of course Andrew Carnegie. He donated $56,156,622 to construct 2509 library buildings in English speaking world between 1886 to 1919. [53] In 1876 is a great remarkable year in the history of Library Science. At the turn of the nineteenth century, there was an increasing interest in PLs, in the extension of library services on local level, county level, state level and in the training of personnel to operate libraries. The first county library was set in Ohio in 1898.

The PL of USA becomes activity involved in continuing education. The dawn of the twentieth century saw the publication of UDC, Book mobile service was floated in 1905 by the county library. The PLs in USA from 1960s onwards have moved activity to take reading materials and services to the people. Special attention has been given to minorities and disadvantaged persons as well as Reference and Information services have been improved. The important factors of USA in PL development were the development of standards for public libraries in 1933, 1943, 1956 and 1966 by American Library Association. In 1966, minimum standards for PL systems describes the least services, the citizen has a right to except from his PL. The PL in USA, in 1970s moved actively to take documents and programmes to the very door of the people who were not habituated to visiting the libraries.
As the PL approached the last quarter of the 20th century it was beset with a number of different problems. The principal one continues to be that of adequate financial support. It must be admitted that American PL has alone a tremendous service to the American society. From the beginning it has been committed to the goals of serving the community and it has done the job well. It has been alive to the challenges faced by the society. No doubt that the PL system of the United State of America is under going a very rapid. The USA Government presents variety of features. The important feature of the library movement in USA is the proliferation libraries of various categories, which accounts for its influence on the library development in the other part of the world.

**Public Library System in India:**

India has wide variations in geographical, historical, political, economical, cultural and educational back of its component state. Due to this, the pattern of public library differs from state to state. There are 29 states & 6 Union Territories. Total area is 3.29 million sq. km. & population is 1,080,264,388 (2005 est.)

The development of libraries in any country is closely related with the cultural, social, political development of that particular country. The libraries were attached to Buddhist monasteries and universities such as Nalanda and Takshasila, which were main study, centers for not only Indians but also for foreigners. The 13th century India was ruled by Muslim power. The rulers gave considerable importance to the libraries. The scholars were appointed as librarians and they were honoured. The tradition was continued till the king Akbar. During help of the 18th century Mughal Empire declined and that was set back to the library development.

The genesis of PL development observe from the year 1908.

The origin of PL system in modern sense can be traced to the first state Baroda. Baroda had developed a library network in the state. Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaikwad-III who traveled all over world and was impressed by role of PLs in promotion of education in United State. In 1910, he invited a
American expert, William Alson Borden to organize PL system in India. The system he developed consists of central library at the apex, many branch libraries and traveling libraries with special provision for women and children and also audio-visual section for the semi literates. The PL development in Baroda was glorious one but it was not a trend, because no such development occurred in the other part of the country.

Bombay Government appointment the library development committee under the chairmanship of A.A.A. Fyzee in 1940. The committee recommended that the establishment of district libraries, taluka libraries, town libraries and village libraries in several stages to create library services to all sections of the people.

After independent number of significant developments have been taken place for expansion of PL system in the country. The first step was towards the enactment of library legislation. The credit for providing first public libraries act goes to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan and city of Madras. The second important phase was inclusion of scheme of library movement services in the first five-year plan (1951-56). The main feature of the scheme was to establish state central libraries and district libraries in each state. In 1952, the community development programme was developed. In 1948, the National library act was passed, with the provision of the national library act; the name of the imperial library was changed to National Library. The delivery of books act 1954 was passed and also amended for newspaper in the year 1956. The provision of act 1954, made the publisher obligatory to provide free of cost four copies of each publication to national library and other three libraries within the 30 days from the date of publication.

Establishment of Delhi public library, participation of union government in public library movement and enactment of library laws are main factors, which contributed the improvement of public libraries after independence. Delhi public library is treated as significant development in public library movement. In 1951, Delhi public library started as the first Unesco public library project under the auspicious of Unesco and Government of India. It
is established as a model PL in India. In 1981, government has designated the Delhi PL as the fourth recipient depository library under Deliver of Books Act 1954. The Delhi PL is entirely financed by the Department of Cultural Government of India and it is administrated as autonomous institution under the Delhi PL Board, established under a special resolution of the erstwhile Union Ministry of Education. The library provides references services, inter-library loan and reprography service. Its loan transaction is 10,000 per day. Adult learning, social education promotional activities are other important activities of the library. [57] The purpose of this library was to adopt “Modern techniques to Indian conditions” and to serve PL model for Asia.

The library development programme for second five-year plan (1956-64) motivated three objectives:

i) State and district libraries would be created in each state.

ii) Library services should be organized on the basis of carefully drafted legislation.

iii) The district library would be linked to village libraries as well as state and the national library.

An advisory committee was setup under the chairmanship of K.P. Sihna, it looked into the problems of public libraries and recommended extension of public library services to the Block, Panchayat and villages committee also recommended that the library services was to be adopted on the foundation of library legislation and library less. A Planning commissions setup a working group of libraries in 1964. It recommended the establishment of libraries at every block and every village having the population of five thousand. Another significant development in the fourth five-year plan was establishment of Raja Ramhohan Roy Library Foundation in 1972. It is an autonomous body having full financial support from Ministry of Education and Cultural, government of India. The main objective of foundation is to support and develop the library services in the country with the help of State Government and Union Territories and other organizations working in the
field. In 1976, the Government of Andhra Pradesh appointed a committee to review the working of Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 under the chairmanship of Justice Gopal Rao Ekbote. Review committee recommended strengthening the existing network of branch libraries, village libraries, book deposit centers, mobile libraries with review to take the library services to doorstep of the people. [58]

If one goes back to trace the genesis of the PL system in the country, it is observed that as far back as in 1957, the Sinha Committee was appointed by the govt. of India to review the PL system and suggest measures for its future development. It appears that PL system prevailing in the four southern states and in the State of Goa in the West and Haryana in the north part of the country follows one pattern, rather one system, i.e. library cess to meet the expenditure. Under this system, there is a hierarchical set up in the administrative structure framed on the basis of the library legislation of the concerned state. As states differ in size, population, literacy rate, status of books produced in regional languages, economic growth, PL system also differs from state to state so far as its infrastructural facilities and patterns are concerned. The library scenario is not uniform in the country. In Madya Pradesh, three Govt. Departments are promoting and supporting PL services in rural areas, whereas in Haryana several libraries are run by the Public Relation Departments. Aided libraries in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala have been grouped into different categories on the basis of size, resources and strength of library whether located urban or village centre. The village libraries in Bihar and Orissa are part-time subscription libraries, which have given a paltry sum as aid. Experiments are being made in some states like Himachal Pradesh, Madya Pradesh and Gujarat to combine rural libraries with school libraries. In many parts of the country, including the north-east, rural libraries are established and maintained by local clubs and voluntary organizations. Thus there are different types of rural libraries prevailing in different parts of the country. They differ not only in size and nomenclature but also in the type of management and level of financial support even
within the same state. The PL scenario in the state of Bihar is not at all encouraging. In the state of Andhra Pradesh the PL services are rendered through the provisions of the act, which has been amended to as the Andhra Pradesh Gramthalaya. Besides the State Central Library, there are Govt. libraries, District libraries, Village libraries, Branch libraries, Model libraries and Book Deposit centres. PLs in India generally provide lending & reading room services. Mobile library services are limited to a few cities. They do not normally stock textbook for students. Audio-visual services through TV-cum-VCRs are being arranged in limited libraries under the assistance programme of the RRRLF. Services to the handicapped and disadvantaged are scantily rendered & information services are hardly provided. Dual use of libraries (school-cum-libraries) has been experimented in Himachal Pradesh and tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh.

The next chapter covers the development of Public Libraries in Bangladesh.
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