

Role of Library Association in India

Amit Anand

UGC NET(Lib. Science) Part time Teacher, P.G. Department of Library & Information Science, T.M.B.U Bhagalpur, Bihar

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 15 September 2020

Keywords

Library Association, India, Education, Library & information science, Professional.

ABSTRACT

Libraries hold a special position in the development of a society. In the modern Society, Library is the brain of an institution. For the development of libraries, Library Associations have been established which play a vital role for the cooperation among libraries and its professionals. The basic assignment of a library Association is to improve, expand and the professional knowledge in the library and information institutions and research centers, to provide leadership quality among the library professions, promote and improvement of library services, to promote educational programs and other innovative programs and publications. The main role of Library association in India is to promote library, to educate, to articulate and provide for the need of the clientele to increase productivity and economy of the society. The process of developing competent library and information science professionals is directly related to the quality of LIS education imparted to these professionals. In the networked environment there is a strong need for continuing professional education and training. LIS education and training for LIS students and professionals has become crucial for meeting the challenges of 21 st century. Besides many universities and institutes, library associations also organize various training and refresher courses, orientation programmes, seminars, conferences etc. that pertaining into LIS education to overcome the challenges of 21 st century. This study covers the role of Library Associations in the arena of library and its profession.

Introduction

Education is as important as any other resource for economic and industrial development of a nation because it is the key to human resource development. Library supplements a great deal in achieving educational role and serves as a gateway for academic world [1]. Library and Information Science(LIS) education began in India in 1910, initiated taken by Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad II of Baroda. LIS education in India offers at various levels such as certificate, diploma, degree, Associateship in Information Science, M.Phil and Ph.D. Like members of other professionals, librarians have joined together in professional associations to solve common problems, to advance the profession, to support continuing education for librarians. Library associations are generally formed to look after service conditions of librarians and their professional developments. They also serve the people by promoting the culture of library services and uses in the country [2]. Almost all associations publish journals, monographs, relating to their particular areas of interest. They held conferences, seminars, lectures, training program so that library professionals may come together to develop policies and ideas.

We have historical records of early library associations in India such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), Bengal Library Association (1927) and Madras Library Association (1927). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933 [3]. The Post-independence period has witnessed an increase in the number of library associations. We have, at present, many national and state level library associations. There are also associations devoted to special categories of libraries, subjects, fields and other

special interests. For example, the Govt. of India Libraries Association, (GILA), Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Micrographic Congress of India (MIC); Society for Information Science [4]. Only a few associations are active in contributing to professional development. Professionals are generally indifferent to become members of library associations. The fact that many states have not enacted library legislation points out that our library associations have not been effective.

The Indian Library Association: It was formed on 13th September 1933 on the occasion of 1st All India Library Conference held at Calcutta (now Kolkata). The Indian Library Association is the largest professional body in the field of library and information science in the country. It is the premier national association representing the library profession in the country. The birth of the Association can be traced to the holding of an All India [5]. Library Conference at Calcutta in September 1933. All leading librarians of that period were instrumental in organising the conference, whose main aim was to form the Indian Library Association. Between 1933 and 1947, seven All- India Library Conferences were held in different parts of the country. Publications of ILA included two editions of the Directory of Indian Libraries and a quarterly journal entitled Library Bulletin, as an official organ. After Independence, the Association witnessed both hectic and lean periods of activity. Until 1983, when ILA completed fifty years, 22 more All-India Library Conferences were held. The growth over the period was steady but not spectacular. Some initiatives taken by the ILA can be said to have had an impact over library development in the country [6]. For instance in 1992, the ILA successfully organized an Indian Federation of

Library Associations (IFLA) conference at Delhi. However, the expectations of the library profession have all along been far more than what was achieved. At the present time, the library profession is keen to make ILA strong and effective and there are signs of some progress.

Objectives of Library Association in India: The Association aims at establishing high standards of librarianship and library services in the country [7]. It has the following objectives:

- Promotion of library movement in the country and enactment of library legislation.
- Improvement of library services.
- Development of library science education and training and accreditation of library schools Towards maintaining proper standards of education.
- Betterment of salaries, service conditions and status of library personnel.
- Promotion of cooperation among libraries and professionals.
- Promotion of research and bibliographical studies.
- Affiliation with state and other library associations.
- Cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives.
- Publication of serials and other publications for dissemination of information[8].
- Providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings.
- Promotion and formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc., for management of library and information systems and their services.
- Establishments of libraries, documentation and information centres and assistance in their development [9]; and
- Carrying out all such other activities that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

Research Methods: This work is based on secondary data. Collections was data which will be collected by someone other than the actual user. The secondary data includes magazines, newspapers, authentic books, journals, etc. It may be either published data or unpublished data. Published data are available in various resources including-Government publications, Public records, Historical and statistical documents, Business documents, Technical and trade journals. Unpublished data includes- Diaries, Letters, Unpublished biographies, etc.

Organisational Structure of ILA: The membership of the Association comprises patrons, life and ordinary members, and institutional and associate members. The general body elects, for a three year term, a President, six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary and Council Members, up to 20, at the rate of one representative for every 100 personal members, and one representative for every 40 institutional members. There are Sectional Committees to look after professional work in different areas, such as: University Libraries, College Libraries, Government Department Libraries, School Libraries, Academic Status and Parity, Public Libraries, Library and Information Schools, Educational Projects and Consultancy, etc. These Sectional Committees consist of working librarians and experts

in the subject including teachers in library and information science [10]. The Chairmen of the Sectional Committees, one representative of each member state library association and ex- Presidents of the Association are also members of Council. An Executive Committee Consisting of the President, one Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, two Secretaries, P.R.O. and three Council Members look after routine management. While the general body meets once a year, usually at the time of All India Library Conference, the council meets at least once in a quarter and the Executive Committee meets as often as necessary [11]. The annual report and accounts of the Association are passed at the General Body Meeting.

Activities In India: An All India Library Conference is held every year at some place in the country. The host institution is a university, an institution or a local library association. National seminar, on one or more themes of importance and relevance is a part of the programme of the All India Library Conference [12]. In addition national seminars on themes of topical interest are also held from time to time. The Association arranges lectures, round table discussions and other activities in Delhi and other cities. It associates itself with libraries, other library association, institutions, etc. in the programmes generally organised during the National Library Week in November each year.

International Activities of ILA: ILA is a member of IFLA and the Commonwealth Library Association. It hosted the 1992 IFLA General Conference in Delhi. The International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy organized by ILA in November 1985 was an event of great significance. The ILA also organized the IFLA Universal Availability of -Publications (UAP) Regional Seminar in October 1985 and FID/CR Regional Seminar in November 1985 in New Delhi. ILA celebrated its 75th year in 2008 and organised an International Conference. Under the auspicious of ILA 'Unesco Public Library Manifesto' has been translated into about 15 Indian Languages [13].

Publications: The Association brings out a quarterly journal entitled ILA Bulletin as an official organ and a vehicle for publishing learned articles contributed by professionals in the library and information science field [14]. There is a scheme of awarding prizes such as PV Verghese Prize, for best article contributed to the ILA Bulletin. The Association published ILA Newsletter. every month to disseminate information of current interest to members. Since 1978, the Association has been publishing regularly the proceedings of the All India Library, Conference which includes the Seminar Papers discussed at the meeting. In the case of ad hoc seminars also, a pre-seminar volume carrying the papers is brought out. In 1985, it brought out the fourth edition of the Indian Library Directory. An ILA Members Directory was published in 1987. The Association brings out regularly its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. It is expanding its publication programme at the present time. In 1995, a database NALANDA of over 10,000 libraries (5336 Academic, 1470 Public and 3280 Special) was created [15].

Continuing Education: The Association has recently started a Continuing Education programme for the benefit of working professionals [16]. It organized during the last decade a series of workshops in different cities on Computer Application to Library and Information Activities. More such programmes are planned for the future.

Award For Excellence: ILA has instituted many awards for encouraging excellence in the professional practices [17] such as:

- ILA-Kaula Best Librarian Award
- ILA- Vendanaikkee Fellowship
- ILA-C D Sharma Award
- ILA- AG Verghese Award
- ILA-Dr. K Padma Umapathy and Dr. S K Umapathy Fellowship in Library and Information Sc.
- ILA-Dr. L M Padhya Best University Library Award
- ILA-S M Ganguly Award.

Professional Issues: The Association takes up with the state governments, at every conceivable opportunity, the issue of enacting library legislation in order to develop the public library system [18]. It has been repeatedly sending a memorandum persuading the state governments to initiate action on library legislation. It has been active in pursuing with the government, with the University Grant Commission (UGC) and with other bodies management matters relating to the betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals [19]. It took initiatives in drafting a national policy for library service and held a seminar on the topic, as a result of which, the Government of India appointed a Committee to prepare a National Policy on Library and Information System [20]. During the All India Library Conference, a number of resolutions are usually passed on matters of professional interest and concern, which the Association takes up with appropriate authorities for implementation [21].

Role of library associations in India: LIS associations play an indispensable place for the growth and progress of library and its professionalism [22]. Almost in every place of the country so many reputed organizations are their libraries are there but the professionals are not getting adequate facilities like social and professional's status, proper training, research activities and proper salaries and respect. Therefore library associations should endeavor for development of library services and improve the status and condition of services of library personnel all over the India educate and update the library personnel various continuing education programmes like training courses or programmes, seminar, conference, workshop etc [23]. are taken by various library associations. Although most of these initiatives are continuing till now, some of these are discontinued. As follow-up programme, associations also publish a number of publications that also educate and update library personnel [24].

Courses offered by library associations: In India although the formal library and information science courses are offered by different universities and institutions however, short

term training courses are offered by some library associations [25]. Among these associations, some of them are still continuing their courses and some discontinued their courses. These courses help to be skilled persons for library technical work [26]. Some of these library associations that offered this type of short term training courses are discussed below :

- i. **Andhra Desa Library Association:** Andhra Desa Library Association course was started in 1920 and was the first library training course started by a library association. The course was of one month duration. The course was more oriented to the education of social workers than to that of librarians. In 1934 the syllabus of the course was modified to include more subjects on library work.
- ii. **Madras Library Association:** It conducted an annual summer course in Librarianship in 1929 and 1930. In 1931 this program was taken over by Madras University and was conducted as a certificate course for three months duration.
- iii. **Bengal Library Association:** In the 1935 Bengal Library Association arranged for a library training camp at Bansberia, a precursor to the summer course provided by the association in 1937. This summer course was later upgraded to a regular certificate course. The course is conducted in two sessions.
- iv. **Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres:** It organises short-term training courses. These courses are usually held in collaboration with University departments, specialized institutions, National Library of India and other professional bodies etc. at different parts of India.
- v. **Delhi Library Association:** It conducts training course at the certificate level since 1955. The courses are conducted in morning shifts. They also conduct a diploma course in library and information technology. The duration of most courses is one academic year. The course contents are constantly being reviewed to introduce changes for meeting the needs of the time.
- vi. **Medical Library Association of India:** It offers training course.
- vii. **Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science:** It offers training of the teachers of Library and Information Science in India.
- viii. **Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science:** It conducts training programme.
- ix. **Indian Theological Library association:** It offers library training courses for theological college library staff to build quality leadership in theological colleges.
- x. **Manipur Library Association:** It offered orientation training programme for the community library in the year 2012.
- xi. **Haryana Library Association:** It conducted a course of six months duration which changed into course of one year duration in 1981.
- xii. **Gomantak Library Association:** It offered a certificate course of two months duration in 1983.

Future Prospectives: The ILA is now firmly organised, with the confidence of the library profession assured, to carry on and expand its programmes and activities with a view to meet the hopes and aspirations of the profession and to serve

the cause of librarianship and library service in the country. We are marching towards knowledge society. In the knowledge society, creation, building and developing knowledge infrastructure, is one of the main functions of the government and others [27]. A new visionary approach for National and Regional Library Associations in India would be drawn from some of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. The Indian Library Association needs to participate actively in implementing the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, relating to libraries, such as:

- Setting up the National Commission on Libraries.
- Census of all libraries.
- LIS education and public private participation in LIS development.
- Translation of pedagogic materials.

Conclusion: Library Associations are learned bodies which foster a spirit of public service among their members, promote library services, protect the interests of their members and build up the image of the library profession. Two major associations of India, viz. the Indian Library Association and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers have been described, with reference to their objectives, organisations activities, publications, education and training programme, consultancy service and other information services, professional issues, relation with other professional bodies, international relation and future perspectives. National associations organize seminar and conferences on latest trends and technologies time to time, different training and education programmes, study circle for knowledge upgradation. But state and regional associations work needs assessment. The professional associations like Indian Library

Association, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers, Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science, are trying continuously to revise and update the syllabus as per the current demand but still it is necessary to be properly framed, as per the global necessities. Conference, seminar, refresher course, workshop, lecture, specialized training programme at regular intervals should be organized by library association for the discussion and exchange of knowledge and ideas for specific groups on issues, topics or problems in all areas of librarianship, so that the library professionals may increase their knowledge and efficiency in the application of modern technology in their work. This will be a platform for educators and learners to expose themselves with latest trends and developments in LIS education. Library associations should maintain a publication section that should motivate scholarly output by LIS professionals. Currently LIS education is on a turning point when traditional libraries are changed into hybrid libraries to digital libraries with the advancement of modern technology application like information and communication technology in library environment. LIS education in India should undertake a sea change both in balancing tradition and technology, restructuring and incorporating the latest trends and development. The field of library science needs to change according to the need of the time. Information and communication technology has brought many new aspects for librarianship to increase their own capabilities in organizing and retrieving information in the 21st century. In the era of knowledge society, library professionals have to maintain their tradition of capturing, processing and disseminating knowledge with the help of modern technology. It is high time, library professionals should come together to overcome all shortcomings and take LIS education to greater heights.

References:

1. Ravindra N Sharma (1985) "The Indian Library Association" in Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Marcel Dekker Inc. New York. Basel. Vol. 38. (3). Page 230 et seq.
2. Jagdish Chandra Mehta. 50 Years of Indian Library Association, 1933-1983: Golden Jubilee. 1983.
3. Bansal, Neera. (2014). Knowledge environment and role of Indian state library associations, Journal of International Academic Research for Multidisciplinary, 2(2), 211-218.
4. Das Biswas, Mayuri & Biswas, Ashis. (2014). Re-evaluation and restructuring of library associations in India: a proposal to be mooted by Indian LIS professionals, International Journal of Library and Information Science, 3(1), 82-89.
5. Satpathi, J.N., Satpathi, Chitra and Ghosh, Gurudas (2012), " Role of IASLIC in Developing Computer Skills Among LIS Professionals in India " Bangladesh Journal of Library and Information Science Vol-02, No-01 (July, 2012): 39-47.
6. Rai, Additya Kumar. (2017), " Role of Library Associations in the Betterment of Librarianship in India." Library Waves Vol-03, No-01 (Jan-June, 2017): 68-73.
7. Ghosh, Maitrayee. (2006), " The emerging role of national and regional associations in library development: an Indian perspective." Library Review Vol. 55 No.-1 (2006): 45- 58.
8. Ossai-Ugbah, Ngozi Blessing. (2013), " The Role of Professional Library Associations and Institutions in Facilitating Access to Information in Africa." Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies Vol-2, No- 2 (July, 2013): 263-270.
9. Kuri, Ramesh and Palled, Savita (2019), " Bibliometrics Study of Journal of Indian Library Association (ILA)." International Journal of Digital Library Services Vol-06, Issue-01 (Jan-March, 2019): 49-57.
10. Swain, D. K., (2011), Library Philosophy and Practice, 2004-2009: A Scientometric appraisal. Library Philosophy and Practice; Available in <http://unllib.unl.edu/LPP>.
11. Gupta, S. R. (2013). Library profession at cross roads : challenges before library associations in India. In Prof . P N Kaula Memorial Lecture (pp. 1-14).
12. Vinayagamorthy, P., Singh, N., & Kumari, D. (2015). Role of library associations to promote education, research and training. Remarkings, 1(9), 10-15.
13. Kumar, Krishan. (2008). Library organization. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing.

14. [\](https://www.ilaindia.net)
15. <http://www.accel-india.com/mala> (2019)
16. <http://www.alaggoa.weebly.com> (2019)
17. <http://www.alsdhyd.wordpress.com> (2019)
18. <http://www.apla.tecra.com> (2019)
19. <http://www.autolib-india.net/salis> (2019)
20. <http://www.blacal.org> (2019)
21. <http://www.cgla.org> (2019)
22. <http://www.dlaindia.org> (2019)
23. <http://www.en.m.wikipedia.org> (2019)
24. <http://www.iaslic1955.org> (2019)
25. <http://www.ila-india.org> (2019)
26. <http://www.keralalibraryassociation.org> (2019)
27. http://www.oocities.org/itla_in (2019)