Library and Information Science Education in India: A Historical Perspective

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Abstract

This paper presents a historical perspective of library and information science education in India, and traces the growth and development of the subject. Library and information science education began under the patronage of the erstwhile maharaja of Baroda when he invited an American librarian to set up public libraries in the state. After independence, library associations in the country continued with the efforts of developing LIS education in India. This discipline got recognition with the introduction of various courses at the university level. It has seen periods of growth and maturation. The recommendations of National Knowledge Commissions provide an opportunity for reforms and changes in the educational system that needs to be grabbed. Describes the current status, the different patterns and levels of LIS education, as well as the research programmes being offered by various universities.

Keywords: *LIS in India, Growth of Library and Information Science (LIS), LIS Education.*

Introduction

In the early 19th century, young people learned librarianship by working under the more experienced practitioners. But, gradually the tasks performed by librarians became more complex and more depend on technology. AS a result, the study of library science has moved from the work-setting to professional schools in Universities. The first ever library school started by Melvil Dewey in USA in 1887 at Columbia college (now Columbia University).s

In 1889 the programme moved to the New York State Library in Albany when Dewey became the Director there. The success of Dewey''s training programme and the publication of Training for Library Service, a book by the economist Charles Williamson in 1923, led other universities, institutes of technology and large public libraries to establish their own professional degree progarmmes in library science.

First Course of Library Science in India

In India the existence of in service training was initiated by John Macfarlane, the first librarian of the Imperial Library(Now National Library) at Calcutta from 1901-1906, as mentioned in some reports. In subsequent years, the training programme was opened to the staff of other libraries and even those interested in librarianship who deal with books and other documents.

Baroda School

In 1911, Siyaji Rao Gaikwad (1862-1939), the ruler of Baroda state3 called the American Librarian Mr.William Allenson Borden (1853-1931), a disciple of Melvil Dewey to create a cadre of men for the newly established libraries in the state library system. In 1912, he initiated the first training school min library education in India. 1913, another training class for working librarians of town libraries was started. These classes continued even after the departure of Borden.

Certificate, Diploma, and Training Courses
Lahore School

In 1912, the Punjab University called another Librarian Mr. Asa Don Dickinson (1876-1960) from United State of America. He started the second educational course of three month duration in Library Science in the 1915. This happens to be the first University course in India. Mr. Asa Don Dickinson later become the Librarian of Panjab University, Lahore during 1915-1916.

Andhra Desa

The Andhra desa Library Association (founded in 1914) started conducting "training classes for the library workers" at Vijayawadain 1920. The class covered a module on running adult education classes in addition to library technique.

Mysore State

In 1920, a course for the training of librarians was conducted at Bangalore under the "program of Library development" initiated by the then Dewan of Mysore Mr. M. Visweswaraya.

Madras Library Association

A summer school for college librarians and lecturers in charge of college libraries in Madras was held in 1928 and repeated I n 1930. The Madras Library Association also organized a regular certificate course in library science from 1929. Then in 1931, University of Madras took up the training course of MALA in 1931 and started offering the course on a regular basis.

Andhra University

Andhra University started a certificate course in 1935, which was leter abandoned.
Imperial Library, Calcutta

The Imperials Library, Calcutta started a training class under the supervision of its librarians Mr. K. M. Asuydulah in 1935. It was full time regular Diploma course in librarianship at the Imperials Library, Calcutta (Now National Library, Kolkata). It continued till 1946.

Post Graduate Diploma
University of Madras

University of Madras, in 1937 introduced a one year Post Graduate Diploma Course in place of the certificate course of three month duration. This was the first P G Diploma in library science in India.

Banaras Hindu University

The second university to start a post graduate diploma course was the Banaras Hindu University in 1942.

Bombay University

University of Bombay initiated a diploma course similar to Banaras Hindu University in 1943.

Government of India"s in Service Training Course

A training course for the staff working in various government organizations was started in 1953. This course was recognized as equivalent to the university diploma courses.

Degree Courses
Aligarh Muslim University

In 1947, Aligarh Muslim University started B.Lib.Sc. Course for the first time in the country.

University of Delhi

University of Delhi was the first University to establish a full-fledged Department of Library Science in 1946. It also instituted the first post diploma degree course in 1948. In 1949, the structure was changed. The programme of Master Library Science was introduced as a two year course with the first year leading to Bachelor of Library Science.

In between 1959-59 six new Library information science departments were established at Aligarh Muslim University, MS University of Baroda, Nagpur University, Osmania University, Pune University and Vikram University.

University of Madras

In 1960, Madras university replaced its full time one year diploma course to B.Lib. Sc., Degree course. By mid-1960, many other universities had fallen in the line of university of madras following the recommendation of review committee report of UGC in introducing different degree courses.

Government Polytechnic for Women

The Government polytechnic for women, Ambala, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jalandhar, Rourkela started post Matric (X class) diploma courses of two years during in late 1960s.

Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC)

In 1962, Dr.S.R.Ranganathan established Documentation Research and Training Centre at Bangalore. Previously DRTC course were of 14 months duration which was later on moved to two years programme.

Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC)
Post Graduate Course

INSDOC conducted a short-term course for Asian document lists in 1963. Later in 1964, it stated a one year post graduate course in "Documentation and Reprography" leading to "Associateship in Documentation and Reprography". Now it is called "Course in information Science".

For the first time, the University of Delhi conceived two courses M.Lib.Sc. programme and Ph.D progaramme (1949) also in addition to the PG diploma in Library science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Nagpur University, Vikram University started Library science courses in 1951, 1956 and 1957 respectively.

At present there are many more Universities in India, as which are imparting different levels of course in library and information science, ranging from certificate course to Ph.D. There are also regular and exclusive Universities, which are running library and information science courses under the distance mode.

Doctoral Programme
University of Delhi

The credit for introducing the doctoral degree programme in Library Science in India goes to Dr.S.R.Ranganathan (1892-1972). In 1951, he started the same in Delhi University in 1958. The University offered first doctoral degree

in Library Science to D.B.Krishna Rao for his "Facet Analysis and Depth Classification of Agriculture" under the guidance of Dr.S.R.Ranganathan. In 1977, Panjab University, Chandigarh offered the second Ph.D. Today many more universities in India have Ph.D. research facilities.

D.Litt Programme

In 1992, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar awarded D.Litt to Dr.B.B.Shukla. It claimed to be the first such degree in Library science all over the world.

Conclusion

The Library and Information Science deals with all aspect of information and knowledge which includes acquisition of materials, classification and cataloguing, search tools, information retrieval, preservation and conservation of documents and so on. LIS programmes are designed to prepare intellectually curious students for a wide spectrum of careers in all kinds of environments – information management, systems analysis and design, online searching, information brokers, artificial intelligence, research analysis, network management, database development, marketing and the like. The programmes also lay strong emphasis on the social/ behavioral dimensions of IT and also upon a good understanding of information technologies to meet the expectations of Library/ Information managers as well as the information seekers. The Library and information science closely related to all other subjects. It forms its own foundation by taking the help of some other subjects.

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