

Role of the Library Associations in India for the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of the Library Profession

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Abstract

The Library serves as the organisation's intellect in contemporary society. Library organisations have crucial to the collaboration between libraries and their staff, and they were established for libraries to grow in this digital world. The primary goals of library associations are to provide leadership in the field of librarianship and to advance professional knowledge in research institutions, libraries, and informational institutions. They also work to advance other efforts, fund innovative educational initiatives, and improve library services- messages, Etc. The study's scope includes all levels of library groups in the field of libraries and their profession. This research paper based on secondary data.

Key Words: - Library Association, the Indian Library Association (ILA), The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC), Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF),

Introduction

This paper discusses the role of library associations in developing the Library Profession in India. The rapid development of modern technology is changing and expanding the situation in the Library and Information Science (LIS) professions today. Library organisation is the foundation upon which the library movement's structure can be built, and it is critical to advancing libraries and librarianship as a profession. The American Library Association was founded in 1876 in the United States. The Library Association of Great Britain was founded in 1877 in the United Kingdom. A country's library development is dependent on its Library. The Indian Library Association (ILA) was founded in Calcutta on 22nd September 1933. It is India's largest and most recent Library Professional Body in Library and Information Science.

2) The Statement of the Research

The study of Indian library literature revealed some other all-India library associations. In a transitional era, library associations in India have played an essential role in conveying useful messages

and guidelines for library development, acting as meeting places for professionals, assisting them in exchanging ideas, and promoting free access to information. Despite this level of participation, little research has been conducted on the characteristics and services that Indian library associations should provide to the entire professional community.

3) Aims and Objectives:

1. To study the objectives of professional associations involved in the Library and information sector.
2. To study the programs and activities of library institutions to achieve their objectives in the Library and information sector.
3. To study the development of library organisation in the field of the library profession.

4) Library Associations in India: - In India, many library associations have been formed to promote the development of libraries and library professionals. Some are listed below.

1. Andhra Desa Library Association - 1914
2. Maharashtra Library Association - 1921
3. Bengal Library Association - 1925
4. Baroda State Library Association - 1926
5. Madras Library Association - 1928

6. Karnataka Library Association -1929
7. Punjab Library Association - 1929
8. Indian Library Associations(ILA) - 1933
9. Government of India Library Association(GILA) - 1933
10. Bombay State Library Association- 1935
11. Bihar Library Association - 1936
12. Malabar Library Association - 1937
13. Assam Library Association - 1938
14. Utkal Library Association - 1944
15. Travancore Library Association -1945
16. Kerala Library Association - 1945
17. Hyderabad Library Association - 1951
18. Uttar Pradesh Library Association 1951
19. Delhi Library Association - 1953
20. Gujarat Library Association -1953
21. Indian Association of Special Libraries (IASL) and Information Centers (IASLIC) - 1955.
22. Madhya Pradesh Library Association - 1957
23. Rajasthan Library Association - 1962
24. Academic of Library Science and Documentation - 1965
25. Jammu & Kashmir Library Association - 1966
26. Haryana Library Association -1966
27. Tripura Library Association -1967
28. Indian Association of Teachers of Library & Information Science(IATLIS) - 1969
29. Association of Agricultural libraries and documentalists India – 1971
30. Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library foundation - 1972
31. Society for Information Science - 1976
32. Bombay Science Librarians Association - 1975
33. Medical Library Association of India - 1981
34. Indian Theological Library Association - 1985
35. Manipur Library Association - 1987
36. Mizoram Library Association -1987
37. Meghalaya Library Association - 1994
38. Nagaland Library Association -1996
39. Academic Library Association: - 1996
40. Society for Advancement of Library & Information Science- 2002
41. Central Government Library Association - 2004
42. Jharkhand Information and Library Association - 2007

In attempting to answer the question posed by the title of this paper, we have left out many associations and focused only on Three associations, and the names of these associations are:

- a) Indian Library Association (ILA)- (1930)
- b) Indian Associations of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) – (1955)
- c) Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) -1972

5) Indian Library Association (ILA)

The year 1933 is remembered as the most significant in the history of libraries and information science in India. On 13th September 1933, a Library Association was formed, i.e. The Indian Library Association was formally established at the first All India Library Conference in Calcutta. The first chairman of ILA was A.C.Woolner. It is India's largest and most prestigious library and information science professional body. This organisation has over 7000 members from all over India. In August 1964, the ILA's headquarters were relocated from Calcutta to Delhi. ILA was founded to provide a wide range of library services and to promote library movement and development in India. The Association aims to establish high standards of librarianship of Library services in the country. It has the following objectives:

- Promotion of library movement in the country.
- Improvement of library services;
- Research and bibliographical studies;
- Affiliation with State and other library associations;
- Cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives;
- Publication of serial and other publications for dissemination of information;
- Providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings;
- Promoting and formulating standards, norms, guidelines, Etc. for managing Library and information systems and their services.

The Indian Library Association (ILA) plays a leading role in the Joint Council of Library Associations (JOLAI) in India. It is evolving a coordinated approach and a common strategy on professional issues of concern to all library associations. It has good working relations with IASLIC and state library associations. ILA is a member of the IFLA and the Commonwealth Library Association. It hosted the 1992 IFLA General Conference in Delhi. The International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy, organised by ILA in November 1985, was an event of great significance.

The ILA also organised the IFLA Universal Availability of -Publications (UAP) Regional Seminar in October 1985 and FID/CR Regional Seminar in November 1985 in New Delhi. The ILA is now firmly organised, with the confidence of the library profession assured, to carry on and expand its programmes and activities to meet the hopes and aspirations of the profession and serve the cause of librarianship and library service in the country.

6) Indian Associations of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC)

It was founded in 1955. It is a registered society with headquarters located in Calcutta. It was formed to have an association in India. It was also similar to the Association for Information Management in the U.K. and the Special Libraries Association in the USA, at a largely attended meeting of librarians held at Calcutta on 25th June 1955. Under the Chairmanship of Dr S. L. Hora, the idea of starting an all-India association devoted to the progress of special libraries and information centres.

They have the following primary objectives:

- To encourage and promote the systematic acquisition, organisation and dissemination of knowledge;
- To improve the quality of Library and information services and dissemination work ;
- Coordinating activities and fostering cooperation and assistance among special libraries, information centres, etc.
- To serve as a field of active contact for libraries, information bureaus, documentation centres, etc. To improve the technical efficiency of workers in special libraries, information centres, etc., and look after their professional welfare.
- To act as a centre for Research of particular Library and documentation techniques;
- To act as a centre for information in scientific, technical and other fields.
- To take such action as may be incidental and conducive to attaining the objects of the Association.

It has recently formed special interest groups devoted to areas like Industrial Information, Social Science Information, Computer Application and Humanities.; IASLIC used to conduct training courses in foreign languages and library science at the graduate level. Now, it is engaged in a continuing education programme on topics like Computer

Applications, Indexing, and CDS/ISIS. It conducts short-term training workshops to benefit working professionals in Calcutta and other places. Every year 3-4 workshops are organised. IASLIC offers translation and bibliography compilation services to individuals and institutions on a no-profit basis. It maintains a library devoted to Library and information science literature. The serial publications of IASLIC are IASLIC Bulletin (quarterly) IASLIC maintains a healthy relationship with the Indian Library Association and other library associations. It has led to forming the Joint Council for Library Associations in India. (JOCLAI). It takes an active interest in implementing the standard programmes of this Joint Council for Library Associations in India. IASLIC is cooperating with the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) by taking up specific assignments and projects. It is represented by Indian Standards Institution, Documentation and Information Committee. IASLIC has had satisfying accomplishments in playing a leader/ coordinator role in the "Library -and information field '-country. It is now poised for assured growth and development in the period ahead for serving the cause of special librarianship in India.

7) Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)

The year 1972 was the significant year in the history of the library movement in India. It was celebrating the silver Jubilee of its independence. Emphasis was laid on promoting reading habits among the masses for the betterment of their lives.

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) functions as a promotional agency, an advisory and consultancy organisation, and a funding body for public library development in India.

The basic idea behind establishing RRRLF was to take the library movement to every town and village, in cooperation with State Govt., Union Territories Administration and Voluntary Organizations. Besides being a funding body, RRRLF also functions as a national agency for coordinating, monitoring and developing public library services in the country. RRRLF is vested with the responsibility of promoting the library movement in the country. In order to improve library facilities in the country, RRRLF has adopted some schemes of

giving matching and non-matching grants. To avail of the assistance under the matching scheme, a State Govt. or U.T. Administration has to participate in the programmes of RRRLF by contributing on a pre-determined basis. The amount varies from Rs.1.00 Lakh to Rs.3.00 Crore depending on size, population, library infrastructure and past utilisation of funds. However, the Matching Formula varies from one category of State to another. In States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal etc., where library usage has developed, it is 50:50. For other States except North Eastern, it is 60:40 where 40 is the State share, and 60 is the RRRLF 's share, and it is 90:10 for North Eastern States where 90 is RRRLF's share. Non-matching assistance is rendered partly to augment the stock of the reading material to the State central libraries and district libraries of all State Govt. and Union Territories Administration and partly to develop various sections meant for children, women, neo-literates and differently-abled groups. Non-matching assistance is also available to NGOs providing public library services for the construction of buildings, the purchase of furniture and equipment, including computers and also for the purchase of books. The Ministry of Culture identified the RRRLF as the Nodal Agency for National Mission on Libraries (NML) during the year February 2012. In view of the expanded activities, RRRLF started a Field & Monitoring Unit during the 7th Plan Period. Presently, five zonal offices are functioning from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati.

8) The finding of the research

The focus of the research is to determine the impact of library associations on the advancement of librarianship in India. With the help of the preceding discussion, we can see that each Association is performing their duties properly. ILA, IASLIC and RRRLF hold conferences and seminars almost every year, and they make an effort to cover new trends in their conferences. In addition to these, they offer short-term training courses. Both offer research programs, but after 75 years of independence, librarianship in India is not as strong as it should be. These organisations are also partly to blame for India's current poor State of librarianship. These associations simply comment on problems without taking proper action to solve them; this is why, after

75 years of independence, public libraries in many Indian states could not be administered and managed under the clear mandate of law. As a result, in some states, national development through library services is neglected, and its services are out of reach for the rural poor.

9) Conclusion:

Libraries' growth and advancement, as well as their professionalism, are aided by LIS associations. Libraries can be found in almost every part of the country, but professionals lack adequate facilities such as social and professional status, proper training, research activities, and good salaries and respect. As a result, library associations throughout India should work to expand library services and improve the status and conditions of library personnel in the country.

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