

Responsibility of Library & Information Science Profession towards Society in ICT Environment



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Abstract

Libraries are social institutions due to relation with the society. Today's society is known as an Information Society, which require information at every step. To fulfill various types of information need of the society libraries play a very important role. It also helps for the growth and development of our society in each fields of life. Specially, purpose of library and information profession is to prepare good professionals so that professionals can contribute in the library and information centers and institutions and in the same way library and information center can contribute in the society.

Keywords: LIS Profession, Information Communication Technology, Library professionals, Librarianship.

Introduction

Library and Information Science (LIS) is a merging of the two fields like library science and information science. The term "Library and Information Science" is linked with schools of library and information science which generally developed from professional training programs to higher education institutions during the fifth decade of the 20th century. In the end of 1960s school of librarianship started with the name "information science". The first school to do this was at the University of Pittsburgh in 1964. More schools followed during the 1970s and 1980s, and by the 1990s almost all library schools in the USA had added information science to their names. The trend was more for the adoption of information technology rather than the concept of a science.

Beginning with the 21st century one tendency has been to drop the word "library" speak it as information departments. There has also been an effort to revive the concept of documentation and speak of Library, information and documentation studies. Another tendency, for example in Sweden, is to merge the fields of Archival science, Library science Museology to develop an integrated field: Archival, Library and Museum studies.

Generally the person who works in the libraries comes under library profession. The term librarianship came 100 years ago. Now it is continuously going to change as Library scientist, documentalists and information scientist. Due to growth and development in LIS profession it has been categorized in three periods, the first is Scholarly period second is vocational period and third is professional period. The changes appear due to the advancement and technological development in the profession.³ In recent years, however, attention has increasingly been given to the need to analyze the ways in which a librarian can more effectively carry out his role of making his resources available to his readers.

So it can be say that now in present scenario LIS profession is also a learned profession like medical, law, management etc. and the profession library and information playing a vital role in the society.

Code of Ethics of Librarianship

People who come in the library or who communicate with the library they may be library employe, user or other related persons. This Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct is offered as a series of ethical propositions for the guidance of individual librarians as well as other information workers, and for the consideration of Library and Information Professionals when creating or revising their own codes.

They need to share ideas and information has grown more important with the increasing complexity of society in recent centuries and this provides a rationale for libraries and the practice of librarianship.

The role of information institutions and professionals, including libraries and librarians, in modern society is to support the optimisation of the recording and representation of information and to provide access to it.

Information service in the interest of social, cultural and economic well-being is at the heart of librarianship and therefore librarians have social responsibility.

Librarians and other information workers strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing their knowledge and skills. They aim at the highest standards of service quality and thus promote the positive reputation of the profession.

Librarians and other information workers share their professional experience with colleagues and they help and guide new professionals to enter the professional community and develop their skills. They contribute to the activities of their professional association and participate in research and publication on professional matters.

Librarians and other information workers strive to earn a reputation and status based on their professionalism and ethical behaviour. They do not compete with colleagues by the use of unfair methods.

In this regard librarianship has responsibilities towards the library profession. This is Code of Ethics of Librarianship.

These are some Code of Ethics of Librarianship

1. Follow five laws of library and information science
2. Obligations to maintain Ethical Standards
3. Obligations towards library
4. Obligations towards books/documents and information resources
5. Obligations towards users
6. Obligations towards library employ
7. Obligations towards profession
8. Obligations towards laws of the land and institutions
9. Obligations towards suppliers
10. Obligations towards society

Social Responsibility of Library and Information Science Profession

Library and information science (LIS) being as a profession there are some responsibilities towards the society

To Provide Information

Library profession being as a part of information society, it helps to fulfill the information requirements of all kind of users without any discrimination.

To Aware the Society

Users who come in the library found their desired information and who are not able to come in the library, it helps through mobile library and extension service. The profession LIS play important role both in the development of formal and informal education.

For Growth and Development of Education and Research

Libraries of higher education institutions, research institutions, engineering and science institutions etc. contribute and help in research and development.

Conservation and Preservation of Documents

It's an important task of library, without conservation and preservation of documents and information one can not imagine access the resources.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

The profession also plays a very important role in the preservation of cultural heritage. The museums are doing these types of work.

Play Role as a Centre of Knowledge

Library and information center has various types of information as published and unpublished, various types of information sources like primary, secondary and tertiary and also has print and non-print format. This is the reason to know as center of knowledge.

Role of NAPLIS for the Development of Library and Information Science Profession

National Information Policy is a set of decisions taken by a government, through appropriate laws, rules and regulations, to orient the harmonious development of information transfer and dissemination activities in order to satisfy the information needs of the institution. A National Information Policy needs provision of necessary means or instruments such as financial, personnel, institutional for actual implementation.

"A Policy is a statement of commitment to a generic course of action necessary for the attainment of a goal which in our case is library development. A policy is conditioned on the political, economic, social, and cultural milieu. Policies are value in a number of ways such as they standardize activities, facilitate decision making, minimize confusion, coordinate the activities of various units, conserve time in training etc. Policy statements are to be formulated at the institutional, regional, state, national and international level. It comprehends a set of basic issues which are infrastructure development, information services development, utilization of latest technologies, human resource development and other general recommendations. Many countries have adopted a library policy which helped them undertake library growth and development with a certain commitment and assurance. Policies in certain sectors of the national economy have also had their implications for library development.

The progress of libraries is not going well because of the following factors:

1. Neglect of library services during the British period.
2. Resource constraint in the post-Independence era
3. Sole dependence on Government funds for library development".

Role of National Knowledge Commission for the development of Library and Information Science Profession

Due to advancement of science and technology as well as information demand, keeping this in view India has set up a National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in the year 2005 under the chairman ship of Sam Pitroda, who brought telecommunication revolution in India. The NKC has made recommendations in such areas including higher education, library and library and information science profession. In this way certainly LIS education in India would also be influenced by government policies and procedures for growth, addition and quality improvement of higher education.

Keeping views in mind the “National Knowledge Commission has set up a Working Group on Libraries with the following broad terms of reference:

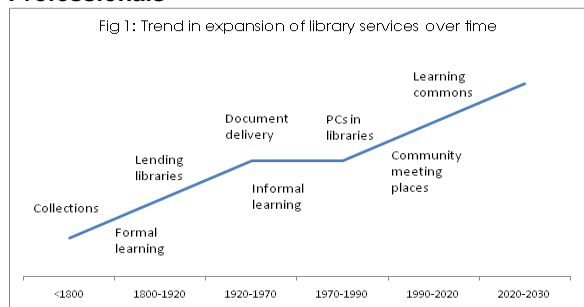
1. Reassess the objectives of the country’s Library and Information Services (LIS) sector.
2. Find out present problems, constraints and challenges relating to the Library and information science field.
3. Recommend changes and reforms to address the problems and challenges relating to the LIS sector, to ensure a holistic development of information services in all areas of national activity.”
4. To make popular Library and information science field as in creation, dissemination and use of information source and services.
5. To promote the utilization of information and knowledge in the society.
6. Promote Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all Libraries.
7. Take necessary action to mobilize and upgrade the existing Library and Information Systems and Services.

Role of Library Associations

Library Associations was enacted for the growth and development of libraries and library and information science profession. For continues improvement and betterment Library Associations was enact at various levels as state level (UPLA, DLA), national level (ILA, IASLIC) and international level (IFLA).

These all associations were developed for complete solution of the libraries and LIS profession. Due to some reasons like lack of interest of Government, and unawareness of LIS professionals library associations are not working properly. If we see in Indian context only in 19 states Library Act have passed out of 35 (states and national territories).

Role of Libraries and Information Science Professionals



The Role of Libraries and Library and Information Professionals

Role of various types of libraries as public, school, academic and special has expanded over time-the above figure shows the trend line—but they have always connected people with information, knowledge and thoughts:

1. Library and information science professionals playing role in acquiring, managing and also in preserving of hand written material, books, manuscripts, documents and in digital content.
2. Now in present time LIS professionals are playing role as information scientist, information and Sybrarian due enhancement in information technology.

3. In the past purpose of the library was to preserve information sources and to provide information to only special persons but in present context the concept of the libraries have become change now they are working as information centers and working for whole community.
4. Libraries are helping through resource sharing for the improvement of research and study, now users can access the resources any time and also from remote access.
5. Library provides of reading materials for users who cannot afford to purchase and store all the resources they need.

Conclusion

Library and information science profession is becoming popular like other professions. For decades, LIS Professionals have been creatively managing the information and research resources of their firms on behalf of attorneys and clients. The evaluation, acquisition, organization, sharing and distribution of information in all formats, including books, periodicals, online services such as Lexis and Westlaw, internal work product documents and database resources, is an integral part of their expertise. Similarly, providing comprehensive research services utilizing a wealth of legal and non-legal resources is a service of long standing. In addition, law firm librarians have extensive experience in training attorneys and paralegals in the use of the full range of information resources to minimize the amount of time involved and maximize the quality of the result.

Now libraries are not only store house of information, these have become change in information and knowledge center. In present era documentary sources are converting in digital format for preservation and global access.

Now in present scenario every of the country, community, even a person have need for information. So libraries may helpful in information dissemination at every step.

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