

Impact of LIS Education, Training, and Research in the Digital Era

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***Abstract** - This paper discusses about the impact of LIS education, training and research in the digital era. In this digital era through LIS education, training and research the librarians/library Professional can able to reach the users up to the last corner of the world to impart the Information and information products. Librarians/Library professionals are taking active part in Data capture, data processing, data security and information transfer via library networking /email, downloading the databases, uploading the native data, subject browsing via internet, digital resources management etc.*

Keywords: Information Society, Knowledge Society, Library Networks and Consortia, Digitization

Introduction

Information plays a vital role in society and that an adequate library and information system is therefore essential. Such a system requires professional library and information personnel of high quality in sufficient numbers to plan, organize, manage and operate a wide range of libraries, information centers and services. It should be able to draw upon a theoretical foundation established by fundamental research in library and information science [LIS]. This requires skilled personnel. It is thus the objective of a higher degree programme in LIS to train graduates who are capable of undertaking these various tasks.

LIS Education is a professional education and it is a specialized area of human training. The primary aim of education for LIS should be the training of the intellect in matters pertaining to human knowledge and information. Its goal should be the achievement of the highest wisdom in promoting the utilization of knowledge and information for the benefit of mankind. Realizing the importance of professionally trained personnel to manage and run libraries effectively and efficiently, library training programmes were started at several places. On 5 January 1887 the first library school, the school of library Economy at Columbia college in New York City, USA was opened by Melvil Dewey.

In India W.A. Borden started the first training school for librarians in the year 1911 at Baroda. Later Asa Don Dickinson started a library school at Punjab University Library, Lahore in 1915. In 1929, Madras Library Association started the school of Library science and later Madras University took it over in 1931. In 1934 Dr.M.O. Thomas, Librarian, Andhra University had run a school Of Librarianship.

Research Programmes in LIS

In addition to M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes most of the University LIS departments prescribe a Dissertation for MLIS as a partial fulfillment of the degree. Besides universities, research work is also carried out by centers like DRTC and INSDOC. The DRTC has done outstanding research work under the supervision of S.R. Ranganathan.

Research work on special projects is also being undertaken by individual teachers, students, and librarians and team research funded by UGC, ICSSR, NISSAT etc. The Government of India has also realized the importance of research for national development and so established several research institutes and laboratories which function under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research [CSIR].

LIS research is also carried out at international level by professional organizations such as IFLA and FID. Besides UNESCO, International Atomic Energy Agency are also actively involved in conducting and supporting research through publications, conference, seminars, and the development of information systems, UNESCO has been particularly prominent internationally in conducting statistical and other research and in supporting the projects of other international organizations and national associations.

Continuing Education Programmes

Several continuing education programmes [seminars: workshops/refresher courses: specialized courses on year to year basis: and self directed learning are being conducted in LIS from time by various institutions and agencies in the country.

NISSAT organizing many new training programmes of short duration [about four to six weeks] with particular reference to information Technology [IT] and its application to library and information work with the active assistance of INSDOC, DRTC, DESIDOC, CSIR,ILA etc during the seventh and eighth Five year plans. All these courses are open to professionals of all cadres including teachers.

The Academic staff colleges, established by the UGC, organize refresher courses/orientation programmes to the teachers and librarians. In addition to these programmes the UGC organized a couple of summer /winter courses, workshops in the computer applications for teachers of LIS.

Ph.D.Programme:

Research studies leading to the award of doctoral degree offered by the university departments. Research at Ph.D. level was initiated by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in 1984 at the University of Delhi with the support of the then Vice- Chancellor, Sir Maurice Gwyer and the first doctorate degree was awarded in 1957 to D.B Krishna Rao. It was only after 20 years that the second Ph.D.degree was awarded by the Punjab University and the recipient was J.S. Sharma.

In the changing information and knowledge scenario library and information professionals need to understand and develop professional knowledge in order to keep themselves abreast with the latest developments that are taking place around the globe.

Information Society:

- Information society, attributes, characteristics and components
- Information Infrastructure national, Global
- Information economic, economics of information, Information as an economic resource

- National Information policy
- Information Literacy
- Right to Information etc.,

Knowledge Society:

- Definition characteristics and components
- Knowledge economy and knowledge Industry
- Knowledge Management
- National knowledge Commission
- Libraries as Gateways to knowledge etc.,

Trends and Developments

- Role of information in planning, decision making innovations and national development
- Impact of Information and knowledge society on education, training and research
- Conventional Vs web-based learning
- Recent trends and developments in LIS education and research
- Impact of ICT on societal and national development etc.,

Library Networks and Consortia

- Networks and Networking: Types, Hardware/Software requirements
- Data networks and Library and information networks
- Networked based Library and Information services
- Library Consortia
- Management of Library and Information networks and consortia

Digitization

- Digitization need, Methods and equipment
- Digital Library components, Digital Library Initiation in India, open access initiative
- Library website: Design and Maintenance
- Content Development: concept scope, content organization content Analysis web based content Development HTML, XML, HTTP, PDF acrobat
- Legal Issues: Copyright and IPR in Electronic environment.

The Librarians /Library Professionals are taking active part in Data Capture, Data Processing, Data Security , and Information Transfer via Library Networking / e-mail, downloading the Databases, Uploading the native data, Subject Browsing via Internet,Digital Resources Management, etc. Computer personnel may be involved in all the processes, but the major role will be of the Librarians / Library Professionals. Online public Access Catalogues, e-mail content Management etc. has become a must.

Conclusion

In this study we have seen impact of new technologies in communication and computer fields have a direct bearing not only on the library and information profession but also on the LIS

education. To cope with the changing environment, Paraprofessional training courses may be undertaken by appropriate agencies to ensure uniformity and quality of such training all over the country.

LIS professionals must be given every facility to refresh his/her expertise, so as to keep abreast of advancing knowledge by a planned development of continuing education programmes in the field.

There is a national need for furthering higher education and research in LIS, which may be undertaken by a National Centre to be established for the purpose.

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