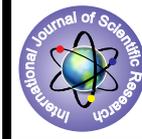


Role of National Associations and Institutions Development of Library and Information Science Professionals: A Study



Library Science

KEYWORDS : Professional Association, ILA, IASLIC, ICT

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ABSTRACT

In modern society, every human activity are organized and maintained through institutions. Every major social task, whether social and economic performance or healthcare, education or research, business or industry is institutionalized. Libraries and other similar types of institutions, associations, are those that collect, stock, process, organize, disseminate and distribute information/ knowledge recorded in documents. One person or single institution cannot possibly do much to deal with wider and far reaching issues of concerned professions. For this, a collective interested group is necessary, which can perform well by collective efforts. These collective efforts can be done by associations, which are called Professional associations. The main objective is to foster a spirit of public service among their members, promote library services, project the interests of their members and build up the image of the LIS professionals. Professional Associations form a backbone of the Professional development. In a developing country, like India, the role of library Associations in the development of LIS professionals is hardly realized. The National associations under discussion include the ILA, IASLIC. The literature of these associations offers some clues as to their role in the development of library and information professionals. This paper is focus on the role of library associations and institutions in the development of LIS professionals.

INTRODUCTION

The roles of these professional associations have been variously defined: "A group of people in a learned occupation who are entrusted with maintaining control or oversight of the legitimate practice of the occupation;" also a body acting "to safeguard the public interest;" organizations which "represent the interest of the professional practitioners," and so "act to maintain their own privileged and powerful position as a controlling body." 1

Library associations at national level are playing a vital role in the development of library and information science professionals: as by providing meeting places for professionals, helping them to exchange opinions. For example when a graduate student requires for the master's degree in library and information science studies. He or She simply does not know about the role and importance of professional associations. If the student is asked to comment about professional associations, the comments are more theoretical than meaningful. It is not about the only students but if we ask the same thing to the library professionals, they give the answer but their comments are somewhat mysterious. For that reason, the associations provide a platform, so that the students and library may participate in the activities of professional associations and active participation will likely to make smooth the progress of professional success in one's job and career.2

The days are over when professional associations and institutions aimed at self- sufficiently in their holdings. Now professional associations and institutions are realizing the fact that information regarding users' needs and its uses may or serve a sole guiding factor in defining the purpose of the system, in accessing the structure and size of the stored body of information. Even planning and execution of various information becomes a must. No doubt, Professional associations form a pivot of the professional development. In countries, like ours, in India which is a developing country, the role and importance of library associations in the development of LIS professional is hardly realised.3

HISTORICAL ASPECTS

When we talk about the history of library association, the point comes into our mind is the development of libraries in India but the fact is that the libraries are totally different from the library associations. In other countries, the development of the national library association came earlier in comparison to India. At that time, India had state level library associations, for instance The Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), The Maharashtra Library Association (1921), The Bengal Library Association

(1955), T Madras Library Association (1928) and the Punjab Library Association (1929) and these had been founded before the formation of the Indian Library Association (1933). The above mentioned Library associations are, at present, active in India and these are playing the most vital role in the development of libraries as well as the library professions.4

Before Independence5

State Level Library Associations

The State level Library Associations founded before Independence are the following:

1. Andhra Desa Library Association	1914
2. Maharashtra Library Association	1921
3. Gujrat Pustaklaya Mandal	1923
4. Bengal Library Association	1925
5. Baroda State Library Association	1926
6. Madras Library Association	1928
7. Punjab Library Association	1929
8. Karnataka Library Association	1929
9. Samastha Kerala Pustakalaya Samiti	1931
10. United Provinces Library Association	1935
11. Bombay State Library Association	1935
12. Bihar Rajya Granthalaya Sangha	1936
13. Malabar Library Association	1937
14. Assam Library Association	1938
15. Delhi Library Association	1938
16. Utkal Library Association	1944
17. Travancore Library Association	1945
18. Central Provinces and Berar Library Association	1945

National Level Library Associations

The national level Library Associations founded before Independence are the following:

1. All India Public Library Association	1919
2. Indian Library Association	1933
3. Government of India Library Association	1933
4. All India Rural Library Services Association	1933
5. All India Manuscript Library Association	1944

After Independence

State Level Library Associations

The State level Library Associations founded after Independence are the following:

1. Hyderabad Library Association	1951
2. Delhi Library Association	1953

3. Bihar Library Association	1955
4. Uttar Pradesh Library Association	1956
5. Madhya Pradesh Library Association	1957
6. Gomantak Library Association	1961
7. Karnataka Library Association	1961
8. M.P. Library Association	1962
9. Rajasthan Library Association	1962
10. Gujarat Granthalaya Sangh	1964
11. J&K Library Association	1966
12. Haryana Library Association	1969
13. Kerala Library Association	1971

National Level Library Associations

The National level Library Associations founded after Independence are the following:

1. Library Field Workers Association	1951
2. National Committee of Archives	1953
3. Indian Associations of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC)	1955
4. Academy of Library Science and Documentation	1956
5. Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists in India (AALDI)	1966
6. All India College Library Association	1966
7. Indian Association of Teacher of Library and Information Science (IATLIS)	1969
8. Indian Association of Academic Librarians (INDAAL)	1973
9. Society for Information Science	1976
10. Indian Archivists	1977
11. Medical Library Association of India (MALI)	1981
12. Micrographic Congress of India (MCI)	1982
13. Association of Government Librarians and Information Specialists (AGLIS)	1987

FEATURES OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS⁶

1. Its membership should be open to all libraries, staff of libraries and other institutions and persons having interest in libraries.
2. The main aim is to held library movement in the country to spread knowledge and information.
3. These make the people conscious towards utility of libraries, so that the people may demand their rights for accessing library services.
4. These also bring the attention of authorities to defects, distortions and abnormalities in the existing library infrastructure.
5. These works for betterment of salaries, grades, service conditions of library staff and also for improving their status in the society.
6. These also bring the vacancies' for new as well as fresher LIS professionals.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is focused on the role of national associations in the development of LIS professionals. The study covers only four national associations and institutions in India due to time period and the names of these associations are:

1. IASLIC
2. ILA

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

We studies every subject in the light of its latest knowledge for which we use have many methods. Research are been done in various branches and with the help of those we gain more knowledge. Some of them are fundamental researches which give a new ides about the subject or a new interpretation. There are certain researches that can be known as action researches, related to some through it. To know about the procedure, works methods, in certain fields we have to conduct fact tidings, which is partially possible only by the studying like survey. The study is also based on Professional Associations and Institutions.

In order to find out the role of professional institutions and associations in the development of LIS professionals, the study covers the following objectives:

1. To trace the history and its growth.
2. To study the development of the Professional Associations and Institutions.
3. To study the impact of these professional associations and institutions in the development of LIS professionals.
4. To study the Memorandum & Bye Laws of every Association which are listed in scope of the study
5. To explore their functions, objectives as well as their motto etc.

HYPOTHESIS

1. It is presumed that the Professional associations and institutions have growth certain stage to develop LIS Professionals.
2. It is presumed that some of the Professional associations and institutions are working effectively, which source the development professional associations.
3. Professional associations and institutions are helping in the development of LIS Professionals.

METHODOLOGY

The present study has followed a combination of the historical and descriptive method. Since, the topic of study needs the study of the role of professional associations and institutions in the development of LIS professionals. To analyze the activities provided by the different associations and institutions through the bye laws and memorandums of the associations were done by visiting them and collecting the data's.

1. ILA (INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION)⁷

INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION founded in 1933 Registered under the societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860).

PRESIDENT: Sh. Dharm Veer Singh

The Indian Library Association is the national association which represents those who work in or advocate for Indian libraries. ILA members work in college, university, public, special (corporate, non-profit and government) and school libraries. ILA has provided a wide variety of services and programs to its members and others in the library community since its formation in 1933. The year 1933 happens to be the most significant year in the history of Library & Information Science in India. It was September 13, 1933 when Indian Library Association was formally formed at the First All India Library Conference at Calcutta.

The Association, existing-to-develop high standards of librarianship and library and information services shall have the following objectives:

1. Promotion of library movement and improvement in Library services in all its aspects in India;
2. Promotion of library science education and the improvement in the training of libraries in India;
3. Promotion of bibliographical study and research in Library Science;
4. Improvement in the status and conditions of services of librarians;
5. Affiliation of the state and other library association with Indian Library Association and co-operation with International Organisation with same objectives;
6. Publication of bulletins periodicals, books, etc. which will tend to the realization of the objectives of the Association;
7. Establishment of libraries, documentation and information centres and assistance in their establishment and working;
8. Promotion of appropriate library legislation in India;
9. Providing a common forum to all persons engaged or interested in library and information work by holding conferences and meetings for discussion of professional, technical and organizational issues;
10. Accreditation of institutions imparting library and information science education and training;
11. Promotion as well as formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc. for management of library and information systems and services; and
12. Carrying out all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above mentioned objectives.

Work done by ILA in past few years

- Indian Library Association organized a one-day Seminar on "Paradigm Shift in Library Science-an Assessment" on 5th September 2009 at Pragati Maidan. The intellectual event was organized to coincide with theDelhi Book Fair.
- B.S.M. (P.G.) College, Roorkee (Hardwar) organized one day UGC sponsored seminar on 'Role of Information and Communication Technology in Library Science' on September 15th, 2009 at Department of Library and Information Science.
- ILA-BIMTECH 55th National Conference on Library and Information Science in Digital Era is going to be organized by Knowledge Centre, Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida during January 21-24, 2010.
- International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2010), February 23-26, 2010, New Delhi.
- Thirteen National Convention on Knowledge, Library and Information Networking (NACLIN), June 22-25, 2010, Goa.
- 8th International Convention on Automation of Libraries in Education and Research Institutions (CALIBER) on the theme "Towards Building a Knowledge Society: Library as Catalyst for Knowledge Discovery organized by INFLIBNET, from March 2, 2011 to March 4, 2011 at Goa University, Goa.
- National Seminar on Next Generation LIS, from March 26, 2011 to March 27, 2011 at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
- SLA-2011: Future Ready, June 12-15, 2011 in Philadelphia, USA

Apart from above mentioned conferences. ILA also calls for nominations for ILA Awards/Fellowships time to time almost every year.

2. IASLIC (INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES)⁸

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES founded in 1955. Registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act XXI of 1961 having Registration No. 22706 of 1955-56 dated 17.10.1956.

The mark of nineteenth century brought the development of many special libraries in India. By beginning of twentieth century a need was felt to develop an association of such special libraries to have better co-operation among these libraries across the country. An attempt was made in 1949 to set up a special library association as a wing of the Indian Library Association. IASLIC was established on 3 September 1955 as a non profit making national as well as professional body to foster mutual cooperation and assistance among the special libraries.

PRESIDENT: Dr. J. N. SATPATHI

OBJECTIVES

1. To undertake, support and co-ordinate research and studies.
2. Organize general and special meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences at regional and national level.
3. Publish journals, monographs, manuals, newsletters, papers, proceedings and reports
4. Conduct short-term training courses
5. Collaborate with other fraternal bodies in promoting the interests of the library and information profession
6. Undertake such other activities which are incidental and conducive to the attainment of its objects

Work done by IASLIC in past few years

- IASLIC National Conference at Dehradun 15th- 18th Dec, 2003
- IASLIC National Conference inaugurated at KIIT 02 June 2010 College Name: KIIT School Of Management (KSOM), Bhubaneswar

- Chennai 26th – 29th Dec, 2005 IIT Madras, Chennai LIS Profession in India: Vision for 2010
- IASLIC XXIV National Seminar 18-21 December, 2010 Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gorakhpur University Civil Lines, Gorakhpur (U.P.)-273009 India
- IASLIC XXVIII ALL INDIA CONFERENCE On Library Vision 2020 October 10-13, 2011 Organised by: Allama Iqbal Library, (ISO 9001: 2008 Certified Library) University of Kashmir Hazratbal, Srinagar, (J&K) India 190006
- IASLIC 25th National Seminar 2012 will be held in Pondicherry University in December 2012.

Apart from above mentioned conferences. IASLIC also calls for nominations for Best LIS Teacher Award, Best Young Teacher Award, and Award for Retired Librarian, The Librarian of the Year and The Best Article Award almost every year.

FINDINGS

I have taken two national associations in India i.e. ILA, IASLIC. Among these two associations each one of these has their own website. The associations require being stronger financially and having more impact in pursuing and meeting the objectives and goals of the members of association. Each associations and institutions are playing their role in a proper way ILA and IASLIC conduct conferences, seminar almost in every year and try to cover the new trends in their conferences. Apart from they also conduct short term training courses. Both are also providing research programmers' as well.

ILA and IASLIC have paved the way for new professional outlook and consequently the formation of new associations and societies for the development, promotion and application of information technology in day to day activities, both of these have a wider membership base. They have done a lot of work for the development of the public library movement. But if we compare among these two associations, ILA is more active in the field of public library movement.

Apart from that, the above mentioned associations and institutions in India are playing an important role in the betterment of the professionals of library. Apart from it, these convey messages and guidelines for library development, acting in this transitional era as meeting places for professionals and helping them exchange opinions and promoting free access to information while also facing a series of structural, political, cultural and financial challenges. 12

The hypotheses I have taken that the Professional associations and institutions have growth certain stage to develop LIS Professionals and some of the Professional associations and institutions are working effectively, which source the development professional associations and they are helping in the development of LIS Professionals hence proved.

STEPS HOW ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGE THE LIS PROFESSIONALS FOR THEIR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT⁹

The first and the most important step are to offer training courses on a regularly scheduled basis for their members. These provide the opportunity for attendees to learn current theory and practice, and to discuss issues with their colleagues.

The second one is that these offer annual training conferences that allow members to work cooperatively with each other. Most importantly, these conferences offer informal opportunities for practitioners in the same geographic area or functional specialty to "network" with other.

The third one is that to provide other services to individual organizational members. These may include publications, technical assistance, newsletters, legal updates, and other information of interest to practitioners.

The last but not the least step is that increasing importance in the Internet era is their ability to extend information, publications and internal communications available to members through their leisters and Internet sites.

CONCLUSIONS

In this way I conclude that the professional associations are the organization of learned people, which promote a spirit of public services among the members. The associations also build up the image of the library profession in the society. Apart from that it also provides a common platform for the development of professionals. On the other hand it also awakes the reading habits in the people of the society.

I think that Library associations, never doubt they a playing a vital role but somehow they are suffering from the financial assistance both from the professionals as well as government. But they have made very marginal progress. Time is ripe and the new millennium demands that the appropriate action be taken by the association in India in this regard.

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