Block

4

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Programme Design Committee

Prof. Uma Kanjilal (Chairperson)
Faculty of LIS, SOSS, IGNOU

Prof. B.K.Sen, Retired Scientist
NISCAIR, New Delhi

Prof. K.S. Raghavan, DRTC
Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore

Prof. Krishan Kumar, Retired Professor
Dept. of LIS, University of Delhi, Delhi

Prof. M.M. Kashyap, Retired Professor
Dept. of LIS, University of Delhi, Delhi

Prof. R.Satyanarayana
Retired Professor, Faculty of LIS
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Dr. R. Sevukan (Former Faculty
Member) of LIS, SOSS
IGNOU, New Delhi

Prof. S.B. Ghosh, Retired Professor
Faculty of LIS, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Prof. T. Viswanathan, Retired Director
NISCAIR, New Delhi

Dr. Zuchamo Yanthan
Faculty of LIS, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Conveners:

Dr. Jaideep Sharma
Faculty of LIS, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo
Faculty of LIS, SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Programme Coordinators

Prof. Jaideep Sharma and Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo

Course Coordinator

Prof. Jaideep Sharma

Course Preparation Team

Unit No(s)	Unit Writer(s)	Course Editor
11,12	Prof. R.S.R. Varalakshmi	Prof. Jaideep Sharma
13	Dr. Dinesh Gupta	
14	Dr. J.P. Singh	

Internal Faculty
Prof. Jaideep Sharma
Prof. Neena Talwar Kanungo

Print Production

Mr. Manjit Singh
Section Officer (Pub.)
SOSS, IGNOU, New Delhi

Secretarial Assistance

Ms. Sunita Soni
Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma
SOSS, IGNOU

Cover Design

Ms. Ruchi Sethi
Web Designer
E Gyankosh, IGNOU

BLOCK 4   LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Introduction

LIS is a profession. Like any other profession its members possess specialised knowledge and skills that they apply for the benefit of the society. They exist to serve the information needs of the public. LIS professional associations exist to guide the progress of the profession in the right direction. There are other agencies also involved in its growth and development. The Block presents a detailed discussion on all these aspects.

There are four Units in this Block.

Unit 11 **Librarianship as a Profession** presents a detailed discussion on whether LIS is a profession or not. Difference between a vocation, an occupation and a profession has been presented. It also discusses the characteristics of, and developments in the LIS profession.

Unit 12 is titled **Ethical Issues in Librarianship**. Every profession has ethics of its own that helps it to function effectively. LIS profession too has ethics formulated by its professional associations. This Unit discusses ethics promulgated by different LIS associations.

One of the important characteristic of any profession is the existence of professional associations. Professional associations exist to give the profession a direction and monitor its progress. A professional association maintains standards in the profession, gives forum to the professionals to ineract and update themselves professionally. Unit 13, **Role of Professional Associations** describes role, functions and activities of LIS associations in India, U.S.A. and U.K.

There are many organisations and institutions that work towards the development of libraries and information centres. They promote libraries and information centres and coordinate and undertake the development of their services. These range from inter-governmental to governmental to autonomous as well as voluntary organisations. Their nature varies from advisory, to those giving financial assistance, to those involved in providing services. Unit 14 **Organisations and Institutions involved in the Development of Libraries and Information Services**, dwells on some of these organisations discussing their functions, programmes and activities and role in the development of libraries and information centres.

UNIT 11   LIBRARIANSHIP AS A PROFESSION

Structure

11.0 OBJECTIVES

Library and Information Science (LIS) is a noble profession. The BLIS Programme provides students a base for entering into the profession. It is important for anyone entering the profession to know its characteristics. An awareness of the professional duties, functions and obligations would help the students to perform their roles as young professionals effectively. This Unit explains the meaning and characteristics of a profession. It discusses the difference between related concepts, 'occupation', 'vocation' and 'profession'. The Unit also dwells in brief on the evolution and developments in the LIS profession.

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- explain the concept of a profession;

- distinguish between a vocation and a profession;

- describe the characteristics of a profession;

- explain how library and information science is a profession; and

- discuss briefly the developments in LIS profession in India.

11.1 INTRODUCTION

A profession is defined as an activity/ set of activities constituting a calling. A calling is defined as an activity for which the performer has a legal and moral right to be paid reasonably whether he works in an organisation or is self-employed. All professions are callings but all callings are not professions. A profession is a specialised occupation or vocation characterised by intensive education and training in a specific field of knowledge with an intension to apply and serve the humanity. Classically there were only three professions: Divinity, Medicine, and Law. Historically, the word "profession" meant an acknowledgement or declaration and it referred to the vow or pledge taken by a cleric or monk. Later it came to be associated with the hippocratic oath taken by a physician and a similar one by a barrister. And the term thereafter came to be associated with all the activities of a religious monk or that of a physician, or a lawyer. (Butler, 1951). These classical professions followed by the coming up of Dentistry, Civil Engineering, Logistics, Architecture and Accounting. With the rise of technology and occupational specialisation in the 19th century, other bodies began to claim professional status e.g. Pharmacy, Logistics, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Teaching, Librarianship, Optometry and Social Work. All of these could claim the status of a profession by 1900. Thus, new disciplines including librarianship rose in status and power as a profession.

Every profession strives to persuade the community to sanction its authority to the profession within certain spheres by conferring upon it a series of powers and privileges. The society accords to it recognition in the form of social acceptance. The recognition is accorded to the profession due to the expertise possessed by it that is beneficial to the society.

11.2 DEFINITION

The term 'profession' has been defined differently by the various schools of thought. Some of the accepted definitions are discussed below.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, "professions involve the application of specialized knowledge of a subject, field, or science to fee-paying clientele." In other words, the professional provides service to the society on the basis of her/his specialised knowledge and skills, and in turn gets paid for it.

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a profession as "a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation". The definition mentions that appropriate education needs to be imparted for preparing professionals. It further stresses that the education should be in-depth and comprehensive. A thorough preparation of the professional would enable her/him to serve the society.

Dictionary of the Social Sciences states that "The term profession denotes occupations which demand a highly specialized knowledge and skill acquired at least in part by courses of a more or less theoretical nature and not by practice alone, tested by some form of examination either at a university or some other authorized institution, and conveying to the persons who possess them considerable authority in relation to 'clients'. The definition again differentiates a profession from an occupation by mentioning that a professional possesses theoretical knowledge acquired during a specialised programme conducted at a higher level. Sound theoretical knowledge forms the basis of the practice. It helps the individual to practice with confidence, update and evolve with changing time.

Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of the English Language defines profession as:

1) An occupation that properly involves a liberal education or its equivalent, and mental rather than manual labour; especially, one of the three learned professions, law, medicine, or theology; and

2) Any calling or occupation other than commercial, manual, etc., involving special attainments, or disciplines, such as editing, music, teaching, etc. and also the collective body of those following such vocation.

The New College Encyclopedia defines a profession as "a vocation based on long, specialized educational training that enables a particular service to be rendered, representing a high degree of thought, and is distinguished from vocations calling for technical skill alone".

It can be concluded that a profession warrants:

• A specialised body of theoretical knowledge that is scientific and scholarly;

• Intensive preparation (training) for acquiring needed skills and methods to put the knowledge to work;

• A set of principles, a social code or ethics;

• An organisation (association) that will bind all the members together for consented opinion, collective thinking and achieve high standards in performance; and

• Working with prime purpose of rendering public service.

Professionalism involves a professional character, spirit or methods and standard practices as distinguished from an amateur. An expertise is expected of

professionals with full involvement in, and commitment to those who receive services from them.

Oxford Dictionary defines professionalism as the competence or skill expected of a professional. Ward (2004) observes that professionalism is about individual modes of behaviour that command respect and build trust. It is about excellence in service as measured by recognised standards. It is about delivering services or working to standards that meet the needs and expectation of clients.

Therefore professionalism requires a focused approach towards a particular goal. A professional needs to be confident, competent, and motivated. S/he is expected to be accountable, responsible and committed to the profession.

11.3 PROFESSION VS. OCCUPATION VS. VOCATION

The terms vocation, occupation, job, business are used synonymously with the term profession. But a profession has distinct attributes and differs from a vocation and an occupation. Occupation refers to denote one's source of livelihood, being most generic lowermost in the pyramid starting from occupation, moving on to vocation and then to profession. Vocation is an occupation that demands practical skills on the part of the individual. A profession, on the other hand requires theoretical and practical skills. To clarify by an example, we may say that the job of an electrician is a vocation and that of an electrician engineer is a profession. Theoretical knowledge empowers a professional to know the reasons for the practical actions that s/he takes. It enables her/him to change the course of her/his actions in changed circumstances.

In fact the LIS profession in early stages was considered as a vocation and still, there are people who so believe it. Hence, to give a clarification on the terminology and justify the professional status of LIS the terminology is further explained here. Let us have a look into the related terms that are closely associated but are distinct in their scope.

Occupation: According to Merriam - Webster Online Dictionary, occupation means "an activity in which one engages" or "the principal business of one's life"

Vocation: Merriam - Webster Online Dictionary defines vocation as "the work in which a person is regularly employed". It involves a routine activity of some kind – physical or scholarly and needs certain or no skills.

Thus, "vocation" and "occupation" are somewhat interchangeable, although "vocation" implies more education or experience. Profession, on the other hand is generally considered related to the higher educated positions like medicine, law.

A profession differs from a vocation in the following aspects:

- A profession is mainly service based and not job based.

- The professionals acquire skills by virtue of intellectual training and not on job training.

A profession must have associations at national and state level which a vocation does not have.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write answer in the space given below

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

1) Define a profession and distinguish it from a vocation and an occupation.

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11.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROFESSION

Several authorities attempted a closer review and identified specific elements, which go to characterise a profession. Greenwood identified the following as specific elements that constitute a profession.

1) A systematic theory which delineates and supports the skills that characterise the profession;

2) A level of authority which comes from extensive education in the systematic theory;

3) Community sanction and approval of this authority as expressed in conferring on the profession of such powers as accreditation, formulation of standards of performance, and establishment of rules for admission into the profession;

4) A code of ethics which regulates relations of professional persons with clients and colleagues;

5) A professional culture sustained by formal associations, consisting of values, norms, and symbols and having at its center the career concept; and

6) A service orientation.

According to Martin a profession must have the following attributes:

1) A body of specialised complex knowledge;

2) Practice based on knowledge that must be of vital importance to the client and the society;

3) The practitioner must enjoy the respect of the community due to her/his competence;

4) The profession must be organised (professional association);

5. It must have a formal code of ethics which should be enforceable;

6) There should be evidence of formal training or education in the body of knowledge identified with the profession;

7) The organised association or other recognised body must have the right to test that knowledge and its application;

8) The interest of the client and the public must be placed above the immediate interests of the practitioner;

9) The practitioner of the profession must be paid directly for her/his services either by individuals or by a group; and

10) Admission to the practice and the right to continue in the profession must be the concern of, and in direct control of the society.

According to Ganesh Bhatttacharya, the term profession is used to denote a calling with the following attributes:

• It requires specialised knowledge and often long and intensive preparation including learning of skills and methods as well as the scientific, historical or scholarly principles underlying such skills and methods;

• It maintains by force of organisation or concerted opinion high standards or achievement and conduct; and

• A profession commits its members to continued study and to a kind of work which has for its prime purpose the rendering of public service.

A profession displays its self-consciousness in the following ways:

• Dissatisfaction with available training and education for the profession;

• Attempt to standardise practice and introduce theoretical analysis of work;

• Concern with low standards, bad workmanship, and indifferent handling of clientele;

• Attempt to establish co-ordination and co-operation among practitioners;

• Protest about lack of recognition for the occupation; and

• Belief in the emergence of a new and different discipline with wide application.

Chopra listed the following as essential characteristics of a profession:

1) Specialised knowledge (learning) and skill (practice);

2) Research and continuous in-service updating of specialised knowledge;

3) Intellectual activity;

4) Social necessity;

5) Service to the society rather than personal gains;

6) Recognition by public and status in the society;

7) Standardised terminology;

8) Closely knit professional organisation having an altruistic philosophy;

9) Stability of the profession through permanent membership (life career);

10) Code of ethics for the practitioners;

11) Autonomy of the profession; and

12) Authority for the practitioners.

We can conclude by saying that a profession has a philosophy and theory providing it a sound academic pedestal. Research in the discipline should continuously add to the base of knowledge. Professional practice should be based on the critical mass of specialised knowledge. For anyone to be called a professional, one should have gone through a rigorous programme at higher education level. The knowledge and skills should be used to serve the society which should be

uppermost for the professional. It provides a status and recognition to the professionals in the society. Ethics is another important aspect of any profession which the professionals need to practice for selfless service. It should have an association that helps a profession for its advancement and liaison with the society.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write answer in the space given below

  ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

2) List any six attributes of a profession.

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11.5 LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS) AS A PROFESSION

Librarianship is a distinct and distinguished profession in modern society. It is engaged in public service and plays an important role in national development. Librarianship today is termed as "Library and Information Profession" since the concept of librarianship has changed in view of the changing information needs of the society.

11.5.1 LIS is not a Profession

For a long time there was dilemma whether librarianship is a profession or not. One of the views is that it is not a profession, it is believed to exist between a profession and a vocation. The medical and legal professions are ancient and hence accepted as professions from time unknown but it is not so in librarianship. Different opinions have been expressed by social scientists about librarianship being a profession. There are those who do not agree with the professionalism of library services. Lancour (1962) does not consider librarianship as a profession on the following grounds.

1) It doesn't have the community sanction.

2) Librarians' services are not indispensable in the same way as that of doctors. Most of the library employees, both professionals and non-professionals, hide behind the shelves when looked upon for service. They are not able to serve the society confidently to earn their reputation.

3) They exercise no real authority with the clients.

Sills (1968) observed that "the profession of the librarianship has not been included in the long list of the professions, even in the International Encyclopedia of Social Science".

11.5.2   LIS is a Profession

A librarian conserves the cultural and intellectual heritage of mankind and acts as an agent of communication from information generation to the point of use. His services are indispensable in information transfer chain. This opinion was shared by many social and information scientists like Melvil Dewey, Butler, Greenwood, Schaffer et al and they tried to prove that librarianship is a profession as it has many attributes of a profession. Robert D Leigh wrote that librarians have accepted professional status as a goal on the following factors:

1) "They are identified with knowledge, which is prime service of occupational prestige in our society

2) They are service oriented rather than self-interested at least in certain senses.

3) Library and information professionals belong to professional association (state and national)

4) They are trained in professional schools, associated with universities.

5) They have code of ethics."

Thus, librarianship can be considered as a profession, as it possesses the following basic characteristics of a profession:

- A body of knowledge imparted in LIS schools;
- Intensive training and continued practice to gain mastery over the skills for knowledge organisation and retrieval;
- Oriented towards service to the society;
- Associations to bind the professionals;
- Standard terminology and practices; and
- Code of ethics.

Education for librarianship at middle and higher levels is imparted at post-graduate level for two years. Teaching different theoretical aspects and intensive training of skills support the view that it is a profession.

S.R.Ranganathan contributed to the development of library profession in India by developing standard terminology, theoretical principles, LIS education – from certificate to research level, and introducing specialisation and standardised practices. Library profession in India owes a lot to his contributions. To quote Ranganathan "Librarianship is a noble profession. A librarian derives his joy by seeing the dawn of joy in the face of the readers who were helped in their search for the right information at the right time."

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

3)   Why is librarianship not considered as a profession?

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11.6 EVOLUTION OF THE LIS PROFESSION

M.A.Gopinath opined that there are three distinct stages in the evolution of the LIS profession.

11.6.1 Scholarly Period

Before the middle of the 19th century the libraries were owned by kings, noblemen and monasteries. Only monasteries were interested in the collective use of libraries that were managed by scholars. Nalanda and Taxila University libraries belong to that period in India. The libraries during the period are characterised as collections with access to limited few. The books were prized possessions in view of the treasure of knowledge they represented and also the labour involved in their production.

11.6.2 Vocational Period

The next century saw the birth of librarianship. In UK and USA public libraries were started in the 19th century and managed by persons devoted to the work. This led to the development of a new vocation – librarianship – that involved the art of book selection, classification, cataloguing, and reference service. Later, programmes were designed to train librarians. The specialisation resulted into considering librarianship as a 'skilled occupation'.

11.6.3 Professional Period

Over the period librarianship developed from a vocation to a profession having a body of knowledge, laws, principles, techniques for processing information and serving the users. The application of scientific method to librarianship gave it the status of a profession. It has been six decades now but there is still a cross section of the society who like to debate on whether librarianship is a profession or not.

Librarianship as an Occupation: In ancient times, during the civilisations of Mesopotamia and Babylonia librarianship emerged as an occupation. There were libraries at Alexandria, Taxila, Nalanda and in Rome that were managed by librarians. Librarians were employed in libraries maintained by kings and monasteries. Thus the profession emerged as an occupation / employment.

Librarianship as a Vocation: In the medieval times more and more libraries were established that were managed by scholars. In the initial stages they developed special skills for organisation knowledge and recalling it as per user requirements. Many of these skills were applied on trial and error basis with no scientific foundation. This was the time when librarianship was considered as a vocation and not as a profession.

Librarianship as a Profession: With the industrial revolution and universalisation of education, knowledge production had increased. The academic institutions considered libraries as centres of knowledge activity. Further the establishment of British Museum (London), Bibliotheca Nationale (Paris) and the Library of Congress (Washington D.C) inspired for the development of public libraries and other types of libraries. The library legislation in UK that enacted Public Library Act also boosted the situation. Consequent to the increase in number of libraries and the librarians, associations were developed in USA (American Library Association) and UK (Library Association). Library science courses were offered

by universities as graduate or post graduate programmes. Library science got its own knowledge base when codes like Cutter's 'Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue' and 'Dewey Decimal Classification' were developed to achieve standardisation in the technical aspects of librarianship. Thus librarianship emerged as a profession from vocation.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

4) What are the stages in the evolution of librarianship?

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LIS Profession

The discovery of writing and media for recording accumulated knowledge resulted in the possibility of preserving recorded information for reference beyond the barriers of space and time. The invention of paper and printing opened up larger opportunities in this line. The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of various professions and librarianship is one among them. The mechanism of communication, through print, non print and electronic media and informal communication through invisible colleges has been duly institutionalised through the library. In simple terms, library is a channel of communication and librarian is the mediator of communication. Librarianship is developed both as a science (body of knowledge) and an art (the skills). The motto of the LIS profession is to meet the needs and demands of users. However the variety of sources is changing from print to digital; the services changing from traditional reference service to internet based services for online access. Librarianship today has an even more critical role to play in building up awareness among the members of the society and help them to adjust to changes in the information environment.

What is Librarianship/Library Science?

The primary purpose of LIS profession is to provide access to information pertinent to user request with great speed and thus, achieve user satisfaction. Hence it is service based. Keeping this basic purpose in view many LIS scientists define the LIS profession (librarianship) in different ways. In essence it is the science and art of managing libraries.

Harrod's Librarians' Glossary (Fifth edition) defines library science as: "A generic term for the study of libraries and information units, the role they play in society, their various component routines and processes, and their history and future development. Library science is used in the United States in preference to the British term *librarianship*"

R.L. Mittal describes librarianship "as a noble and service oriented profession which encourages all types of reading and education."

P.N. Kaula defines "Librarianship developed as practice; as a body of techniques evolved from certain adhoc assumptions about how people use books"

According to Danton "Librarianship is that branch of learning which has to do with recognition, collection, organisation, preservation and utilisation of graphic and printed material".

Mayors defines librarianship as "That branch of human knowledge which is concerned with the production, care and use of recorded human knowledge".

Dakhole characterises librarianship in the following words:

1)   "Librarianship is a branch of human knowledge

2)   It is a profession

3)   It is tool for information or knowledge

4)   It involves social service

5)   It is a department of scholars not mere a craft".

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

5)   Define librarianship/library science.

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11.7   TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIS PROFESSION

There is a profound change in theory and practice of library profession over the passage of time. The custodian librarian had to grow in to become a knowledge organiser and information transmitter. It is axiomatic that libraries and civilisation go hand in hand. The concept of librarianship has been changing according to the demands of the society and the bewildering growth of the communication media. The whole history of librarianship indicates some broad landmarks, with different phases. The first phase of librarianship comprised of the "custodianship of the resources of knowledge". From that stage it traversed to the contemporary roles of "knowledge manager" and "digital librarian".

Social institutions are affected by movements and changes in the society around them and the library is no exception. The media revolution, the computer and communication technology, the changing behaviour of user community and the increasing social responsibility of libraries have had a great impact on the LIS profession. The present librarian is vested with new responsibilities like managing information networks, and conducting online searches, managing digital preservation and development of digital libraries. The profession is more active and meaningful in the present day information world. Librarian acts as an advisor,

interpreter and mediator for user's information needs. Thus the work performed by today's information professional, seems quite different and challenging in both forms and formats than in the past. Thus, LIS profession is gaining a new identity. LIS professionals are now identified as webmasters, network administrators/managers, information literacy providers, information facilitators etc. The following paragraphs explain the stages in the evolution of LIS profession.

11.7.1 Custodian

The library custodians are keepers of culture, preservers of creation, and defenders of future. Their duty earlier was to keep the books intact rather than allow them to circulate freely among readers. Thus the first generation of librarians was mere custodians / keepers of recorded knowledge and culture.

11.7.2 Librarian

With the invention of printing in 15th century there was less need for the protective function of libraries. The librarian moved away from just being the "custodian of books" to information / knowledge collection manager. The philosophy changed, library resources were meant to be put into use, it was felt to circulate the books for better utilisation of knowledge. So the diffusion of knowledge by lending books became the predominant function of the library in 20th Century. It was also realised that the utility of library resource depends upon the skills and knowledge of people who direct, operate and manage the library. Hence a human agency, the librarian was felt necessary to provide personal assistance to users in providing relevant information and assisting them in its utilisation.

Thus the traditional librarianship started shifting from material handling to information handling. In this process of transmission of knowledge, librarian stood as mediator between the originator (author) and the end user. With the bombarding generation of information termed "information explosion" and the need for the same growing in a big way, importance of librarianship has been realised among people in the society. It was during the postwar period that the responsibilities of the librarian changed drastically, because of rapid growth in book collection and new emphasis on the 'use' of library resources. The amount of literature published in every subject grew exponentially. In addition the growth and production of secondary sources also increased significantly. Hence it became very difficult to find out specific information from this huge mass of information. Since the needs of the information seekers are varied, information is processed, preserved and disseminated according to the users' specific demands. In the process specialised services like documentation, current awareness, selective dissemination of information and translation etc. are provided.

11.7.3 Documentation Officer

With changing times, users expected specific information to be culled out from sources to be provided to them. This gave birth to the concept of documentation activities in libraries. Increasing specialisation resulted in the post of documentation officer in libraries. Documentation centres have been set up to meet the requirements of specialised users in research organisations. The job of the documentalist is to collect, organise and disseminate the information from books, monographs, serial publications and non print sources and provide information pin pointedly and precisely according to the users' requirements. Bibliographical, information

consolidation and digest type of services are provided in documentation centres to serve specific needs of users.

Documentation officer needs to be aware of the subject/area of interest of her/ his users. S/he should constantly update herself/himself in the ongoing developments in the field. S/he should have a good command over the language and skills of summarising, etc. Technology has enabled to provide these services more effectively and efficiently.

11.7.4 Information Officer/Scientist

It is the responsibility of the library to build up collection of information in anticipation of future use. The increasing information and its increasing importance have led to the evolution of libraries into library and information centres. Identification of distinct user groups and developing suitable information services like providing access to the virtual collection through a website at any time and anywhere is the responsibility of information scientist. As the use of information increases in the society, the importance of library and information centres also increases. This demands for special skills in information professionals to create, collect, communicate and consolidate the information on behalf of the clients. The speedy and radical explosion of information has greatly transformed the role of libraries and information centres. Thus, the change in the mission of librarianship has significant implication for the library profile in the 21st century. In this new environment library networks play major role in the process of global networking of information. Hence the scope of library becomes universal and the information specialist works as a disseminator of digital information, rather than the custodian of information.

Moreover the emergence of information society transforming into knowledge society has increased the complexities of information accessibility, reliability and dependability. With the advent of internet, books and journals arranged on library shelves in traditional libraries are also getting into virtual shelves in electronic libraries, thereby enabling digital seamless remote access to information for all users. This has paved way for the emergence of concepts 'digital library' and 'digital librarian'.

11.7.5   Digital Librarian

Digital libraries are electronic libraries wherein all the collections in full text are in digital form and access to the collection is through networks. The very mission of digital libraries is to create new approaches to acquisition of resources, new storage and preservation, classification and cataloguing, intensive use of electronic systems and networks. Thus the present role of digital librarian extends his services far beyond physical boundaries. They provide innovative resources and services, and play an important role as digital librarian in connecting old graphic records, to machine readable forms, and create new records of text, graphics, and sounds and multi media. They integrate all the memory institutions like libraries, archives, museums. Thus they have stemmed out of the traditional brand of gatekeepers of information, to information gateways and information skill developers. In this scenario of transformation Swarupanandan (1995) felt that "Change from the information custodian to information salesman passing through the information transmitter indicates the growth of information industry on the one hand and the proliferation of professional arenas on the other".

11.8 CATEGORIES OF LIS PROFESSIONALS

LIS professionals are generally involved in the process of acquisition, processing, organising and maintaining documents in a library and providing various types of information services based on these documents and their experience. In certain cases, say, in a small library, all these activities are performed by a single individual. In certain cases, an individual may be involved only in a single activity, say cataloguing. Generally, these personnel are trained through certain institutions like universities and associations, and are paid for the jobs they perform.

In our country, many libraries are being run by untrained persons. According to definition, these persons do not fall under the category of library professional. Similarly, accounts staff, clerical staff, class four staff like security guards, cleaners are not considered as library professional. Technical staff like binders, cameramen for microfilming, and photocopier operators are also not included in this category.

Library professionals include among others library administrators, classifiers, indexers, cataloguers, reference librarians, classificationists, teachers of library and information science, and thesaurus constructors. We can also include librametrician, bibliometrician and bibliographer in this category. The library professionals can also be categorised according to the institution they serve, e.g. school librarian, college librarian, and university librarian. Categorisation is also possible according to the subject, i.e. medical librarian, law librarian, and so on.

You are aware of the functions of many of these personnel. Hence, we shall describe them briefly in this Unit. A person in charge of a library is called a librarian. Sometimes, he/she is also termed as library manager.

11.8.1 Library Administrator

A library administrator is responsible for the administration of a library. The head of a library is usually designated as chief librarian and his/her subordinates as deputy librarian, assistant librarian, etc. Sometimes, he/she is simply called a librarian, a library manager or a director. He/She possesses expertise in planning, organisation and management of various activities and services of a library and is considered to be a good source of information in these areas.

11.8.2 Classifier

A classifier generally classifies books following certain scheme of classification, say Dewey Decimal Classification. While classifying, first of all the classifier has to ascertain the subject the book is dealing with. For this purpose, he/she has to go through the title, contents, and sometimes even through the text and index of the book. This apart, many a time he/she is to consult reference books like dictionaries, encyclopaedias, gazetteers and who's who. This process helps him/ her to learn the topography and ramifications of a number of subjects bit by bit. A classifier of a general library gradually becomes knowledgeable practically in all subjects. While classifying, sometimes he/she encounters books on subjects that do not figure in the classification schedule giving an indication that the subject may be new. Thus, the classifier becomes aware of a new subject much before its entry in a classification scheme, dictionary or an encyclopaedia. He/ She also comes to know about the word denoting the new subject. Thus, a classifier knows better than others about the books on new subjects that have entered a library because he/she has to spend more time on the book while deciding its class number. Needless to say, this process helps him/her to remember the book for a long time and turns him/her into a good source of information about books available in the library, the subjects in which the library is strong and weak.

11.8.3 Cataloguer

You all know that one who catalogues documents following a catalogue code or a set of cataloguing rules is a cataloguer. While cataloguing, a cataloguer gathers information about the title, author, collaborator, edition, imprint, collation, ISBN, price, etc. of the book. He/She also gathers information usually from the class number about the subject of the book. In the course of his/her work, a cataloguer gradually comes to know about the authors writing books, the subjects in which the library is becoming strong or weak, the publishers renowned for publishing books in particular subjects, etc. In these areas, the cataloguer becomes good source of information.

11.8.4 Classificationist

One who designs and builds up a scheme of classification on sound principles is a classificationist. For example, Melvil Dewey, S R Ranganathan, H E Bliss were all classificationists. There are two types of classificationists: general and specialist. A general classificationist builds a scheme of classification covering all subjects. On the other hand a specialist classificationist builds up a scheme on a particular subject, say education. A classificationist is an expert not only in the principles of classification but also in epistemology. He/She studies the origin, nature, growth, proliferation and limits of human knowledge; does research as to how a new subject comes into being, how it proliferates into branches and sub-branches, and how a particular subject decays. They also study the relationship of various subjects. The structuring of knowledge and fitting every component of knowledge in that structure also figure within the purview of their expertise. Expertise in all these areas makes them to be useful sources of information on different aspects of classification and knowledge.

11.8.5 Indexer

Since long, various types of indexes are being provided in documents to locate information using author's name, title of the document, key term, geographical name, chemical formula, etc. With the advent of computers, computer-aided subject indexes like KWIC, KWAC, and KWOC have also come into being requiring least human involvement.

An indexer compiles indexes based on some principles, guidelines and tools. To aid indexers standard lists of subject headings, thesauri, etc. are being developed and updated from time to time. Indexing systems like PRECIS, POPSI and Chain Indexing have also emerged. Indexing does not always prove to be a simple job. In compiling some indexes like formula index in chemistry subject knowledge becomes an essential prerequisite.

An indexer who has been continuously indexing for years knows how a subject is developing, proliferating into its various branches, and building up linkages with other subjects. He/She also becomes an expert in compiling and consulting indexes and using indexing tools like Library of Congress List of Subject Headings. Thesaurus of Engineering and Scientific Terms, etc. Such people prove to be highly useful in providing expert advice on indexing and solving various indexing problems.

11.8.6 Reference Librarian

All of you have studied reference service in the BLIS programme and learnt about the qualities, qualifications, experience and job requirements of a reference librarian.

We are not dwelling up on these aspects of a reference librarian here, but highlighting the role he/she plays as a powerful information source.

In response to the demand of users, a reference librarian has to consult more books and documents compared to other staff of the library. In this process he/she becomes more knowledgeable about the contents of books held in a library and provide answers to queries from unimaginable sources. To illustrate this point a few real examples are being cited here. In mid-1960s, B S Kesavan, the then Director of INSDOC (now NISCAIR), was interested to find out the address of an Australian librarian. Internet was non-existent in those days. Who's Whos did not provide the answer. One very young staff providing reference service basing the nucleus of National Science Library searched out the information from the Australian Library Journal! In early 1980s, a query was received from an engineering institution at the National Science Library, New Delhi as to the meaning of 'tribology'. All possible reference sources including the latest dictionaries were silent about the word. It was thought that the word might have been derived from the word 'tribes'. But the enquirer pointed out that he/she knew this much that it was an engineering topic, and had nothing to do with tribes. Finally, one senior staff of the Library ferreted out the information from a booklist informing about new books. The publication recorded a conference proceeding on the subject [probably it was the first conference on it] where the definition of tribology was given. The word connotes the science and technology of friction! These examples show that a reference librarian should be well read and well informed, person having a fair knowledge of information sources.

11.8.7 Library and Information Science Teacher

All of you have seen library and information science teachers. They take classes in various courses of library and information science and many of them guide research students. They also write textbooks, course materials, etc. In our country, a library and information science teacher generally teaches more than one subject. However, specialisation is gradually setting in. Today you may find that all library and information science teachers cannot teach bibliometrics or computer applications. Only specialist teachers are teaching those subjects.

A teacher is not only an expert in the subject he/she teaches, but also knowledgeable in various methods of teaching, and courses and curricula of various universities and institutions teaching the subject. Many of the teachers suggest the research topics to the students. In some foreign universities, e.g. University of Malaya, a teacher announces in advance the research topics in which he/she can guide the students for doing their project works. Here, a student gets a very good opportunity to select the topic of his/her choice.

11.8.8 Thesaurus Designer

A person who designs a thesaurus is called a thesaurus designer. This is a new group of professionals that emerged several decades ago especially with the advent of computers in the field of library and information science. Thesauri being developed for information retrieval purposes are different from Roget's Thesaurus. Designing and construction of these thesauri require specialised knowledge of thesaurus construction as well as the knowledge of the subject for which the thesaurus is designed. For deciding descriptors for the thought content of a particular document, and for its subsequent retrieval from a computerised database, a thesaurus provides immense help.

A thesaurus constructor knows all the essential principles and methodologies of thesaurus construction and thereby can guide or impart advice to others for the construction of a thesaurus.

11.8.9 Bibliographer

Compilation of bibliographies is one of the important library activities. Many libraries of the world, especially special libraries provide bibliographical services to its users. While preparing a project report or pursuing research work, a student is also to compile bibliographies or look for already existing bibliography on that subject. Compilation of a bibliography is an interesting job and helps the compiler to go through numerous sources, some of which might be rare, uncommon, or totally new. Thus, the process of compiling a bibliography makes the compiler an expert about the various types of sources of information available on a particular topic and also about the methodology of compilation.

11.8.10 Librametrician

An expert on librametrics is termed as a librametrician. The word 'librametrics' was coined by S R Ranganathan in 1949. Later on A Neelameghan elaborated its scope. Librametrics is a discipline that measures library activities, library collection, personnel, building, furniture, etc. Librametric studies quite often entail mathematical and statistical applications. Librametricians are the sources of information relating to quantitative studies of various library objects and activities.

11.8.11   Bibliometrician

An expert on bibliometrics is called a bibliometrician. Though the bibliometric study initiated more than a century ago, it started developing only after the World War II. Like librametrics, it also deals with measurement or quantification and involves mathematical and statistical techniques. In this case, the objects of measurement are the documents and their contents.

Bibliometricians study among others the growth of literature in a subject, scattering of literature of a subject in various types of documents, ranking of journals from various angles, ranking of authors of a subject depending on their output, active life of literature, obsolescence, and so on. They can easily find out the extent of use of various types of documents in a library, weak and strong areas in terms of collection of a library, rate of growth of a library, and so on. Bibliometric study has picked up quite well in our country. Every year a good number of papers are emanating from India.

Bibliometricians can provide answers to many queries relating to the ranking of periodicals in the world, important contributions being produced from a country, rate of growth of literature of a country, use of journals and other documents in a library, various indicators of periodicals like impact factor, immediacy index, and so on.

11.8.12   Content Developer

With the advent of Internet, engendered the idea of content development. It involves designing, creation, and deployment of the content in cyber space. Usually it includes text, sound, images, animation and provision for interaction. Suppose you want to develop a website for your institution, first of all you will have to think about the content of the website, that is, the information you intend to place in the website for your institution. Normally, you would like to include among others the following information about your institution: name, postal address, telephone no., telegraphic code, e-mail address, fax no., year of foundation, name of the head of the institution, names of various divisions and their respective heads, history, objectives, functions, achievements, special facilities available, library and the services being rendered by it, and publications. The textual matter relating to all these will have to be written by somebody and authenticated by the head or someone nominated by him/her. You may like to make your website colourful. Hence, you will also have to decide the colour of the various parts of the text. Also you are to decide the format, types of fonts, and the font size for various headings and other parts of writing. You can include pictures of your institution, various divisions, important personnel and so on. Taking care of all these, you will make the text ready. If you want to include some speeches along with the sound, you can do so. Some portion of the website can be animated. The provision for interaction can also be there. The person who has visited your website can be requested to sign and give his/her opinion about your website. Many might give their opinion and some good suggestions whereby you can improve upon your website.

The job of a content developer has been described above very briefly. There are specialised courses on content development which one may undergo to gain required knowledge about the same. Normally, a content developer is a computer

professional and he/she possesses sound knowledge about the software packages available for content development.

In many of the LIS courses 'Content Development' has been included as one of the courses.

A content developer also acts as an information source in as much as he/she can give advice about various facets of content development to the clientele.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

7)   Explain why all persons working in a library are not called library professional.

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8)   Name different categories of library professionals.

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9)   Describe for what type of information you will approach a classificationist.

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11.9 LIS PROFESSION IN INDIA

Libraries have a long existence in India. They date back to millennia before the birth of Christ. The professional development and changing trends can be attributed to the prevailing information environment. The following paragraphs present the developments under different periods.

11.9.1 Ancient Period

During the ancient period knowledge was not documented. There was no script and hence no written records. Vedic literature was preserved by scholars by word of mouth from generation to generation. The scholars were known as the "living libraries" or "walking encyclopaedias" who preserved the nation's culture and religious heritage.

With the invention of script records were made on both perishable and non-perishable materials like "bhurjapatra" (the bark of a tree) and palm leaves. The bhurjapatras were smeared together into pustaka or book. To facilitate memory and for the purpose of reference, the great Rishi's collected Vedic literature and piled it in a cottage called "Grantha Kutir". These are examples of reference libraries during the ancient period. Priests and scholars maintained those libraries. As such the profession of librarianship was not known during ancient times.

11.9.2 Medieval Period

According to Chinese travellers Fa-Hien and Hiuen Tsang, library facilities were provided under the name of "Buddhist Viharas in Pataliputra". Kings like Ashoka, Kanishka, Harsha and Bhoja maintained libraries with huge collection of literature on different subjects. This indicates that kings maintained large libraries but there was no indication of trained librarian-s managing them. As such, librarianship as a professional category did not exist during this period also.

The Mughal emperors are well known for their love for books. During their period, great poets like Tulsi Das, Kabir, Meera and Rahim produced religious literature. The literature produced by literary persons was preserved and kept in closed access. It is evident that the existence of libraries was there during this period. It was during the Delhi sultanate that many libraries were established. Sultan Jalaluddin Khilji established an imperial library and appointed "Amir Khusru" as its librarian. Babar the founder of Mughal Empire brought a treasure of rare manuscripts from his forefather's personal libraries in 1526. Thus the first Mughal Library was established in 1526. His son Humayun Khan was also fond of books. He appointed a librarian for his personal library.

Although many of the Mughal emperors had personal libraries it was in the regime of Akbar (1556-1605) that a separate department for libraries was created to look after the public libraries in the capital. Akbar maintained a library called "Trikhi-I-Akbari" which contained rich collections in the field of history, philosophy, science in addition to Hindu and Muslim culture. The other Mughal emperors like Jahangir (1605-1637) also established libraries. The Mughal kings not only maintained libraries but also kept them under management of librarians. "Faizi" a Persian poet was appointed as librarian of the imperial library of Akbar. So also the king Humayun appointed "Lal Beg" librarian for his collections.

11.9.3 British India

The British rulers brought English education to this country and rejuvenated the Indian tradition of scholarship and learning. A number of learned societies and institutions were founded by the British rulers including the three universities, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in 1857. In the beginning, scholars and bibliographers were appointed to manage the affairs in a library and gradually the profession of librarianship came into existence. One can say that the profession owes its existence to Gutenberg who brought innovation with printing technology.

11.9.4 Independent India

In the beginning of 20th century special libraries like Geological Survey of India, Indian Institute of Science etc., were established. All these were manned by part

time librarians. Librarianship on professional grounds started only during the first half of the twentieth century.

Special training for librarianship was initiated in 1911 by an American trained librarian W.A.Borden at Baroda with the initiation of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. The king was instrumental in the development of library system in the princely state of Baroda. He also undertook the training of librarians to manage these libraries.

The real feel of the profession of librarianship came when another American Asa Don Dickinson started a training programme for Indian librarians with the help of Panjab Library Primer in the year 1916. However the real sprit in the profession was noticed after India got independence when a large number of universities, college and autonomous research organisations were founded. New libraries were opened and job opportunities for librarians increased to a great extent. "Indian librarianship secured the status of a profession mainly because of the contributions and teachings of Ranganathan as a life time venture."

Ranganathan's contribution to Indian LIS profession: Indian librarianship is recognised in India and abroad due to the able leadership of Dr. Ranganathan. The development of the profession is closely associated with the development of the subject as a science with unique body of knowledge. S.R.Ranganathan through his Five Laws of Library Science, dynamic theory for knowledge organisation (Canons and Principles for Classification and Cataloguing) and introducing specialisations and special services like documentation contributed to the development of the profession in India. The development of education in library science in India is the primary contributions of Dr Ranganathan as he started BLSc, MLSc and PhD programmes. He formulised the research programme, organised seminars, inspired the formation of associations at national and state level, and advocated the need for library cooperation. He was the driving force in the establishment of Indian National Science Documentation Centre (INSDOC), now National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) and Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC).

Having had initially the powerful influence of Ranganathan to be bestowed with recognition and respectability, the library and information profession, over the years, has acquired importance for its service orientation and status of honor as purveyor of knowledge and information. The qualifications, skills and knowledge required for library and information personnel, have enabled them to get salary and service conditions and other privileges at par with academics and scientists. By and large the profession is vibrant and moving forward. The society recognises its role and contribution.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write answers in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

10)   Trace out the developments of LIS profession in pre-independent India?

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11) Mention the changes occurred in LIS profession in independent India.

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11.10 SUMMARY

A profession involves the application of specialised knowledge in a specific domain for the benefit of the society. In other words, the professional activity involves systematic knowledge and proficiency and its societal application. Librarianship is a young profession compared to other established professions like medicine, law etc.

There is subtle difference between 'occupation' that means employment or job; 'vocation' that demands some sort of skill in performing a job that can be gained as on job training; and profession that requires specialised knowledge and skills to handle a specialised field of study.

A profession has the following characteristics:

a) A professional has requisite knowledge and skills based on long and intensive preparation in an institute of higher learning, beside self-learning and self-practice;

b) The knowledge should cover the scientific, historical and scholarly principles underlying the skills practiced. Such knowledge should enable the professional to answer the 'what', 'why' and 'how' of the practice;

c) The members of the profession should maintain high standards of performance conducting themselves individually and by force of the profession;

d) The profession should ensure that its members remain constantly aware of updated in the latest developments in knowledge and skills; and

e) The professionals must provide dedicated public service based on the knowledge and skills acquired.

Besides the above listed characteristics, a profession should have the characteristics of self-consciousness by exhibiting the following behaviour:

i) Realisation of shortcomings in education and training facilities and motivation and commitment to update knowledge and skills amongst the professionals;

ii) Standardisation in the professionals tools and techniques so as to use them easily resulting in increased effectiveness and efficiency;

iii) Concerted efforts in bringing professionals together in resource sharing for professional work and service;

iv) Monitoring the professionals for maintaining standards in performance and rectification of any shortcomings in services or handling of the users;

v) Lodging appropriate protests on the lack of recognition of the profession in respect to status, working conditions, responsibilities, salary, etc. and

vi) Encouraging a scientific outlook in professionals and ensuring research and development in the foundation discipline for wider applications and maintaining it a mission- oriented discipline.

The mission of the foundation discipline of any profession is social. For medical profession, it is 'health for all', for the legal profession, it is 'justice for all' and for the library and information science profession it is 'information for all'.

Librarianship deals with handling universe of knowledge, hidden in documentary sources – print, microforms or electronic. There are views in support of and against the acceptance of library science as profession. However in the present day information environment it is being accepted as a profession.

The evolution of librarianship has a long history. Librarianship as called by the British or Library Science as termed by the Americans has struggled a lot to become a profession. In fact it started as occupation, changed to vocation and transformed to profession over centuries.

"Librarianship is that branch of learning which has to do with recognition, collection, organisation, preservation and utilisation of graphic and printed material".

The role of a librarian has transformed from being a custodian or keeper of books to librarian – to collect and keeps track of their use. However after World Wars, drastic changes occurred and special libraries were established for the industry and scientific research. The position of documentalist aiming at specialised services to specialist users emerged followed by the emergence of information scientist to serve the users using Information Communication Technologies.

The latest trend is for digital libraries and virtual libraries that interconnect the libraries at global level through internet and handle digital collections. Libraries that were judged by the collection that they possessed are judged today by the access to information that they provide.

History of librarianship in India can be divided into ancient, medieval, British and independent India. There was no librarianship in ancient times though libraries were present; Mughal Emperors contributed to the development of libraries and librarians. British India has seen the growth of academic librarianship. However the real growth of library profession in India is visible only after independence.

Therefore the growth of library profession has a long history and it has passed through several stages before attaining the status of a full fledged profession.

11.11 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

1) Profession is a specialised occupation characterised by intensive education and training in a specific field of knowledge with an intension to apply and serve the humanity.

Vocation and occupation are interchangeable. The major difference between a profession and a vocation, occupation is that a profession is mainly service

based and not job based whereas avocation and occupation is a routine activity where one engages so that the person is regularly employed. Secondly a profession acquires the skills by virtue of intellectual training not on job training but in a vocation, occupation does not require any specialised skills.

2) The profession should have the following six attributes:

1) A body of specialised complex knowledge.

2) The practitioner must enjoy the respect of the community.

3) The profession must be organised.

4) A code of ethics which regulates the relations of professional persons with clients and colleagues.

5) A professional culture sustained by formal associations consisting of norms, symbols and having at its centre the career concept.

6) A service orientation.

3) Librarianship is not considered as a profession according to some social scientists like Lancour (1962) and Sills (1968) on the grounds that it does not have community sanction and librarians services are indispensable. In their opinion a library could function without the library employees consisting of both professionals and nonprofessionals. Third factor is that library employees could not exercise any authority on the clients where as a doctor or a lawyer could command respect from their clients. Last important factor was that the profession of librarianship has not been included in the list of the professions mentioned in the International Encyclopedia of Social Science.

4) According to M.A.Gopinath there are three distinct stages in the evolution of library profession.

1) *Scholarly Period* (roughly to 1850): During the mid 19th century libraries were owned by kings, noble men and monasteries. Scholars managed the libraries that were attached to the monasteries like Nalanda and Taxsila Universities that were great centers of learning during that time period. At this point of time Librarianship was not formed completely.

2) *Vocational Period* (1850-1950): In 1950 the evolution of Public Libraries in United Kingdom and United States of America lead to the development of a new vocation Librarianship. It involved the art of book selection, classification, cataloguing and reference service. Later many training programmes were developed and finally this profession was considered as a "skilled occupation".

3) *Professional Period* (after 1950-): With the passage of time Librarianship developed from vocation to profession having a body of knowledge, laws, principles, techniques for processing and serving the users. The application of scientific method to every library technique made it a learned profession. Thus Library Profession became full fledged for managing different types of Libraries.

5) Librarianship is defined "as a noble and service oriented profession which encourages all types of reading and education". Library Science is defined

as " a generic term for the study of libraries and information units, the role they play in society, their various component routines and processes and their history and future development".(Harrold's Librarian Glossary fifth edition) The British term librarianship is referred in United States as Library Science.

6) Digital libraries are electronic libraries where in all the collections in full text are in digital form and access to the collection is through networks. The very mission of digital libraries is to create new approaches to acquisition of resources, new storage and preservation, classification and cataloguing, intensive use of electronic systems and net works.

7) A library professional is one who has been trained in library and information science. S/he is also paid for the job that he/she does. In a library all are paid for the jobs they do. However, all are not trained in library and information science. For example, a library clerk is not trained in library and information science. Hence, all persons working in a library are not library professionals.

8) Library professionals may be categorized as the library administrator (designated variously as chief librarian, librarian, library manager, deputy librarian, assistant librarian, etc.); classifier, cataloguer; classificationist; indexer; reference librarian; library science teacher; thesaurus designer; bibliographer; librametrician; bibliometrician; and content developer.

9) A classificationist possesses deep knowledge of the principles of classification as well as epistemology. He/She studies the origin, nature, growth, proliferation and limits of human knowledge; does research as to how a new subject comes into being, how it proliferates into branches and sub-branches and how a particular subject decays. He/She also studies the relationship of various subjects and structure of knowledge. Hence, one can approach a classificationist for any type of information discussed above.

10) The development of Library and Information Science profession in pre-independent India dates back to the establishment of the special libraries in Geological Survey of India, Indian Institute of Sciences. These libraries were managed by part time librarians. Thus librarianship on professional grounds started only during the first half of the twentieth century. Later a special training in Librarianship was initiated in 1911 by an American trained librarian W.A.Borden at Boroda under the patronage of the king Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. Another American Asa Don Dickinson started a training programme for Indians with the help of 'Punjab Library Primer' in the year 1916 at Lahore (now in Pakistan). In 1926 the most significant development is the contributions and leadership of S. R. Ranganathan who is considered as the father of Library Science. He developed Five Laws of Library Science and Normative Principle, Canons for Classification and Cataloguing. Ranganathan provided a knowledge base to LIS.

11) S.R.Ranganathan's contributions and teachings towards Indian librarianship secured a status of a profession in independent India. After India got independence a large number of universities, colleges and autonomous research organisations were established. New libraries were opened and job opportunities for librarians increased to a great extent. The qualifications,

skills and knowledge have enabled Library and Information Science profession to get salary and other privileges at par with scientists and academicians. Finally society recognises its role and contribution.

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UNIT 12 ETHICAL ISSUES IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Structure

12.0 OBJECTIVES

Professional ethics is a topic of considerable importance to determine, set and maintain acceptable standards in professional performance. This Unit explains the meaning and scope of professional ethics for librarians and information scientists. It also discusses the code of ethics for LIS professionals promulgate by American Library Association (ALA) and Library Association (LA). Views of professionals and attempts to formulate professional ethics for librarians in India have also been presented.

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of ethical values;

- appreciate ethical values which enhance quality in professional performance to ensure societal recognition and appreciation;

- realise the responsibility of being a library/information professional to work according to prescribed ethical standards; and

- discuss various ethical standards for LIS professionals.

12.1 INTRODUCTION

You have been introduced to the concept of a profession in Unit 11. One of its characteristics is that it has a code of ethics that regulate the relations of professionals with clients and colleagues. Selfless service keeping the interest of the user uppermost is the key to ethical service. Objectivity in routines and practice is essential. Service without discrimination should be the motto of professionals.

Professional performances should conform to ethical principles to give customers full satisfaction for services rendered by professionals. A set of ethics is necessary for a profession to regulate and guide its conduct in professional activities. This Unit introduces the concepts of ethics and ethical codes in library profession.

12.2 ETHICS

The word 'ethic' is derived from the Latin word 'ethicus' meaning the custom or character or attitude of community or people. Ethic is the science of moral. It is one of the branches of the subject of philosophy. Each facet of this branch is concerned with character, attitude and conduct. It deals with what is right or wrong, good or bad. Ethics is the set of moral principles that governs the person's professional conduct, behaviour, morality, values, commitment and obligation to the society / profession. When such guidelines of do's and don'ts is codified for practice it is termed as 'code of ethics'

12.2.1 General Ethics

According to the web definition (en.wiktionary.org/wiki/ethics) ethics is "The study of principles relating to right and wrong conduct; morality; the standards that govern the conduct of a person, especially a member of a profession"

The Oxford Dictionary defines ethics as "the science of morals, the department of study concerned with the principles of human duty".

Encyclopedia Britannica explains ethics "as the branch of Philosophy that is concerned with what is morally good or bad, right and wrong". A synonym for ethics is moral philosophy.

Encyclopedia of Philosophy and Psychology defines ethics as "the art to conduct, just as logic has been called the art of thinking".

Webster's International Dictionary defines Ethics as:

1) The discipline dealing with what is good and bad or right and wrong with moral duty and obligation;

2) A group of moral principles or set of values; a particular theory or system or moral values; the principles of conduct governing an individual or a profession; standards of behaviour.

3) The adjective 'Ethical' connotes conformity to professionally endorsed principles and practice or a system/philosophy of conduct and principles practiced by a person or group.

Ethics versus Morals

Ethical framework of a profession gives its members a playing field and a rule book. The mission statement guides the profession in the framing of the ethics. Ethics and morals are related terms. Moral is more generic in nature, it refers to one's own principles for what is right and what is wrong. Ethics is the guidance on what is right and what is wrong provided to an individual by her/his profession. Morals of an individual are reflected in an individual's actions which reflect her/his principles and ideals. These come from within though imbibed from one's family and society. When one has to act against one's morals s/he feels uncomfortable and pained. Morals are stable in nature though they may change with a change in one's beliefs.

Ethics are not moral or immoral, legal or illegal. They guide the members for an optimal beahviour and educate them on the values of the profession. Ethics are important when values conflict one another. In such a situation ethics guide the course of action. Ethics of a profession speak of its character. The professions established since long had strong ethical base. The source of ethics is external to an individual; one is bound to follow them to be part of the community and may have to face action on not following them. One may even be barred from the community for not following the ethics, e.g. a doctor may be expelled from the Medical Council or an advocate from the Bar Council for not acting ethically.

12.2.2 History

Ethics has been a subject of study and enquiry in philosophy which is as old as human history. There are three philosophical positions in ethical enquiry in the West, viz. monistic, relativistic and pluralistic. In Indian philosophical thought, moral behaviour is closely 'associated with religious beliefs and practices. All these ideas; thoughts and theories lead to different aspects of studies of ethics, particularly in modern societies. Some of these studies relate to personal, organisational, professional; business ethics which quite often introduce conflicts in practical applications in the real life of an individual.

In this Unit, however, we are concerned only with professional ethics, although the other aspects of ethical values are relevant and are in many ways interconnected.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of this Unit.

1) What do you understand by ethical values?

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12.3 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Every profession establishes a code of conduct to govern ethical behaviour within that profession. Professional ethics is considered as an expression of the ethos (i.e character, spirit, culture, practice) of an occupation. In other words, it should reflect or be based upon, all the basic values associated with the occupation. It should reveal what the occupation is, what the practitioners think of themselves and of their place in society. It should indicate what is distinctive about the group. The quality of service offered by them should be of a class that makes them distinguished. Very often; we refer to the quality of the work of a person being highly professional, meaning thereby that there is a near-perfection in the nature of the performance, the intellectual and/or technical expertise and her/his sense of responsibility and commitment to the clientele. So professionals carry, generally, this kind of a reputation, although there may be on occasions poor performance too. In order to sustain societal recognition and to give their best, almost every profession, attempts to evolve a code of professional behaviour to guide practitioners.

Interest in ethical behaviour of occupations, often formalised into codes, has a long history. Although rules of conduct have existed since many centuries; the modern codes had their origin in the nineteenth century. For example in the United States, the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association (AMA) was adopted in 1848 when AMA was organised.

12.3.1 Objectives

According to P.S.G. Kumar, the motto of professional ethics in library and information science is to:

- provide dedicated service;

- build up the knowledge base of the professional;

- maintain neutrality to caste, creed, religions and idealisms;

- uphold the six freedoms – study, thought, speech, press, dissemination of knowledge and instruction; and

- voice the convictions relating to library legislation, censorship etc.

12.3.2 Importance

The value of ethics can be summarised as follows, they:

- guide the professionals in decision making in professional work;

- enhance and validate the image of a profession and professional;

- help the librarians to project their practices; and

- inculcate professional zeal among the members.

P.S.G. Kumar stated that the ethics help a profession in the following ways:

- "Helps a person to know what is expected of him by the profession;

- How he should conduct himself;

- How he should prepare himself to meet the demands of the clientele;

- How to uphold the values;

- Above all to keep his profession at a higher pedestal in the eyes of the users or society in general".

According to Bob Usherwood (1981) code of ethics have a role to play in:

1) "Protection of client – as a code informs the clients of the quality of the service they have right to expect;

2) Protection for librarians – against unethical practices that may be forced on them by institutions/individuals;

3) Enhancement of the status of the profession; and

4) Enhancement of the ability of the individual professional to influence the direction of his/her organisation."

12.3.3 Professional Ethics for Librarianship

Ethics are essential elements for the profession of librarianship. Librarianship has an indispensable role in the society in collecting, preserving and disseminating knowledge. Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals have to deal with users, administration, and people in book/information trade and colleagues. There are varied expectations from different groups at different stages from the LIS professionals. To resolve these complexities while practicing the profession, certain moral guidelines or ethical norms are essential.

According to A.K.Mukherjee, "Librarianship as a vocation has evolved through the ages, allowing values to accrue to the principles observed in the long sojourn of human civilization. It has undergone certain metamorphism. The modern professional librarian displays in his principles of acquisition, organisation, utilization and ultimate dissemination of knowledge."

Broadfield, Foskett and others have provided the professional librarian with a creed and a code of ethics and it should be remembered in this context that the principles of library service, ethics of librarianship and librarian's creed are all indistinguishable features in the moral, intellectual and professional make up of the librarian.

According to IFLA professional ethics means "*A collection of professional guidelines for librarians and other library employees adopted by national library or librarians associations or implemented by government agencies*".

According to Navalani, "Professional ethics is the science of right conduct and character; the science which treats of the nature and grounds of moral obligation; the doctrine of man's duty in respect of himself and the right of others."

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

2) Discuss the concept and objectives of professional ethics.

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3) What is the role of professional ethics?

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12.4 CODE OF ETHICS FOR LIS PROFESSIONALS

Johan Bekker a leading authority on ethics in librarianship stated that "a code of ethics should be an expression of ethos of an occupation. It should reflect or be based upon all the basic values associated with occupation. It should reveal what the occupation is, what the practitioners feel and of their place in society. It should indicate what is distinctive about a group. The code should reflect the nature of library and the library like agencies as one of the functioning systems."

He has suggested a few broad principles for designing a code.

1) Librarians should exercise their best professional judgment on behalf of users. They should therefore: provide the highest level of service; not only complying with requests, but also anticipating needs; consider the needs of users the central focus of their work; assist actively in preventing incompetence and misconduct in their profession and in encouraging adherence to this code and other standards; protect each user's right to privacy.

2) Librarians should strive to improve libraries and library services. They should therefore: be active members of local and national professional associations; pursue continuing education in order to improve their skills, knowledge and qualifications; protect and enhance the reputation of libraries by exemplary professional conduct and service; involve themselves in research' and other systematic efforts to understand' and improve library service; avoid' situations that could compromise professional judgement or provide personal benefits at the expense of the library and its users.

3) Librarians should help to create and maintain conditions under which. learning and scholarship can flourish freedom of inquiry and of thought and its expression: They should therefore ensure the free flow of information between libraries; allow access to the library holdings and services to everyone in need of information; avoid bias in the acquisition and presentation in information; resist efforts to censor library materials or restrict intellectual freedom.

4) Librarians should be sensitive to the concerns of the larger society of which they are a part. They should therefore protect and preserve sources of information for future use; assure that confidential and proprietary information is safeguarded; avoid transgression into the practice of other professions; take care that the access to information provided to users is not misused to curtail the freedom of others.

This type of code attempts to present, both to those who work in libraries and to those who use libraries, an indication of what it is that librarians stand for and what should be expected of them by the public.: The implementation of such a code would depend on the ability and willingness of librarians and the public to take such statements seriously and to see that breaches of the code do not occur.

The word 'ethics' was first used in 1908 during a discussion on the topic at Boston. The results pronounced as 'Librarian's Canons of Ethics' 1909 was the first set of 'Code of Ethics' in librarianship in USA. These were revised by Botton in 1912 and published as an article in *The Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* entitled as "*The Ethics of Librarianship*". The first code of ethics from ALA was prepared in 1938 by Ms Flora B Ledington. According to IFLA on *Professional Codes of Ethics / Conduct* (http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/codes.htm) so far national bodies / libraries of 34 countries have devised code of ethics. India has *no* place in the list.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

4) What are the initial attempts made for professional ethics in library science?

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12.4.1 American Library Association Code of Ethics

Since 1939, the American Library Association has recognized the importance of codifying and making known to the public and the profession the principles which guide librarians in action and revised the same from time to time to reflect changes in the nature of the profession and its social and institutional environment. The ethical statements help when values are in conflict.

The ALA drafted the code of ethics for library professionals on the following relations:

1) the governing authority;

2) their constituency;

3) their fellow employees within the library;

4) their profession; and

5) society.

The statements of code provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

i)   We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organised resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

ii)   We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

iii)   We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

iv)   We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.

v)   We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

vi)   We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

vii)   We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.

viii) We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

(Adopted June 28, 1997, by the ALA Council; amended January 22, 2008.)

12.4.2   Library Association Code of Professional Conduct

The Library Association (UK) appointed a working party on professional ethics in 1978. The Code of Conduct indicates the standards of behaviour expected of a member of the Association. It sets out, in general terms, the standards and duties which it is reasonable to expect a professional to observe. This can be used as a point of reference when dealing with disciplinary procedures against members. This is intended to protect the profession, individual practitioners, and their clients. Some important aspects of the Code are:

1)   Members of the Association must conduct themselves in such a way that their conduct would not be reasonably regarded by their professional colleagues within the field of librarianship (including the provision of information services) as serious professional misconduct or as professional misconduct. It is by this overall test that the conduct will be judged.

2)   Members must comply with the Charter and Bye-laws of the Association and the provisions of this Code of Conduct (Details provided).

3)   Failure to comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 2, if proved before the Disciplinary Committee, be regarded as serious professional misconduct and, the member concerned is liable to be expelled or suspended.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of this Unit.

5) Give the features of the codes of ethics of ALA of USA and LA of UK?

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12.5 CODE OF ETHICS FOR LIS PROFESSION IN INDIA

In India the importance of code of professional ethics is recognised but there were no constructive attempts. It was few professionals like A.K. Mukherjee, Megnanand, R.L.Mittal, Amitabha Chatterjee, P.S.G. Kumar et al who wrote about Code of Ethics in their books. Some seminars/conferences like IASLIC (1984) addressed the issue. However these attempts are inadequate as code of ethics will have validity if devised by national professional association. Unfortunately, no ethical code has so far been adopted by the library profession in India, though such a code has become all the more necessary.

According to Megnanand, the code of ethics has to consider the following factors:

- Librarian and his committee

- Librarian and his staff

- Librarian and his book supplier

- Librarian and the book trade

- Librarian and his professional colleagues

- Librarian and his clientele

- Librarian and society

- Librarian and the state laws and nation.

A.K. Mukherjee stated that the essence of the professional is the consciousness to provide quality service to users and proposed twenty points as code of ethics. Some important points among them are:

1) Libraries have demonstrated their ability to enrich community life. The librarian should retain the belief in his/her job. One must believe that libraries are good for people and that he/ she is good for libraries. One must not expect gratitude.

2) In our cultural work all branches of learning pay them role. Librarians must be trained to know the essence of culture and do their work of promoting culture (Brodfield).

3) The librarian enjoys perfect freedom and autonomy of individual judgment. He should uphold the sanctity of six freedoms of our creed – the freedom of study, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of the circulation of knowledge and the freedom of instruction.

4) The librarian must have the conviction that libraries are indispensable to society. They should never be apologetic about their profession.

5) A good librarian must himself be an avid reader and eager to help others find their way in the collection. Techniques can be learned quickly by those keen to learn. The important factor is enthusiasm for the job. Librarians must be book men quite distinct from administrators in general.

6) The function of the library is to serve as a store of information from which each reader can draw the required information. A store requires a key so the librarian and his professional technology can only provide it.

Amitabha Chatterjee suggested the following aspects for consideration while developing code of ethics.

1) "Loyalty to one's own work, institution, fellow professionals, the society and the self;

2) Integrity of character;

3) Cooperation and team spirit in library work;

4) Service above self;

5) Devotion to duty;

6) Impartiality and fairness in dealings with staff, clientele and vendors/ suppliers;

7) Allegiance to the laws of the land."

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

7) What factors should be taken into account for LIS professional ethics?

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12.6 FACETS OF LIS CODE OF ETHICS

According to R.L. Mittal ethics of librarianship denotes the conduct and behaviour of those who adopt the profession. A library professional owes certain obligations to the library's public and its books; and to the profession in general. The Five Laws of Library Science are the basic principles for librarians in India to render their duties with morals. R.L. Mittal has suggested the ethical principles to be followed by LIS professionals as under:

- Duty to the Readers
- Duty to the Books
- Duty to the Profession
- Duties to the Staff
- Duty to Himself.

The 'Seven Lamps of Conduct' that are 'musts' for library professionals are:

1) Impersonal book selection
2) Service before self
3) Split-mind
4) Sympathetic behaviour
5) Tact
6) Industry
7) Scholarship

In 1989 Joint Council of Library Association in India (JOCLAI) had finalised a draft code of ethics. The draft covered eight aspects:

- Library and Information Science service to clientele
- Library and Information professional and their upgradation
- Library and Information professional and information resources
- Library and Information professional and professionalism
- Library and Information professional and ethical values
- Library and Information professional and timely service
- Library and Information professional and professional organisations
- Library and Information professional and cultivation of professional knowledge.

Amitabha Chatterjee (2008) recommends the following facets for code of ethics:

1) Librarian/information worker and the authority of the library/information center;
2) Librarian/information worker and his/her colleagues in the library/information center;
3) Librarian/information worker and his/her clientele;
4) Librarian/information worker and suppliers/vendors of books, journals, equipment, stationary, etc.;
5) Librarian/information worker and the resources of the library/information center;
6) Librarian/information worker and himself/herself;
7) Librarian/information worker and library and information profession;
8) Librarian/information worker and the society;
9) Librarian/information worker and the laws of the land.

Based on these facets he prepared a draft 'code of ethics' for Library and Information profession.

12.7 CODE OF ETHICS IN DIGITAL ERA

The contemporary information environment is influenced by information communication technologies. Now we have electronic collections, network based and internet based access to global information and provision of net based services round the clock (24x7). Libraries are bestowed with the responsibility of providing equal access to information and balanced services to users. There are problems with the authenticity of information on the internet and providing quality information is a challenge to libraries. They are further challenged with privacy issues as digital information can be accessed from anywhere, beyond library premises. Now the deal is not to purchases / subscribe but to get license with several terms and conditions for privacy. More over the libraries hitherto acquired copyrighted documents, but now accessing intellectual property of others under free and fee based environment. It is the accountability and responsibility of librarian to check the validity of information, protection of privacy, equal access to information and provision of services to all without discrimination of caste, creed, gender, class, social status and he has to bridge the gap in digital divide. In other words the primary issues in digital era are:

- Privacy

- Authenticity /validity

- Accuracy and timeliness

- Intellectual property

- Accessibility.

As a result the libraries commitment to users (now renamed as customers), management, information security and access, and commitment to society at large in bridging the digital divide has increased. Therefore ethical issues have a major role in the present digital era.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

8)   What are the 'Seven Lamps of Conduct'?

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9)   What are the ethical issues in digital era?

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Professional misconduct consists in the failure of a librarian to fulfill his duties. Stern action is required to control such misconduct of the professionals. For example in medicine the Medical Council of India cancels the registration of a doctor if s/he is found guilty of his professional duties. However such national council does not exist for library science in spite of several proposals and recommendations.

12.8 ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

Apart from the difficulties in designing an acceptable ethical code for professionals, there are also many other issues and problems which emerge with professional ethics. Some of these are:

1) Image of the library and information profession in society;

2) More than one professional body;

3) Authority in implementation with provisions for disciplinary action in case of violation of the ethical principles enunciated by ethical codes;

4) Expanding dimensions of the profession;

5) Consequent undefined state of the profession;

6) Quality of professional work;

7) Immigration of specialists from other disciplines and professions.

12.8.1 Professional Image

The image of the library profession, particularly in India, is not very high in society as library and information work is considered auxiliary to education, research, industrial or business development etc. As a result librarians and information workers constitute a group of specialists in their respective parental organisation and their independent image does not get the proper focus in the eyes of the public. It is only a small group of users that gets high quality of library and information service that appreciates the support given to if in to activities. Such a limited appreciation does not contribute to the image of the profession in the society as a whole. As far as Indian public libraries are concerned, there has never been any remarkable performance/ achievement that would enhance the professional image in the eyes of country.

12.8.2 Professional Bodies

In many countries, there are more than one professional body each of which may have different goals and objectives, although there may not be any serious conflicts between them. The ideal condition for effective disciplinary action in the case of violation of ethical codes enumerated by the leading American expert Bekker are:

There should be only one national occupational association;

There should be only one basic national code of ethics;

Subscriptions to the code should be a condition for the acceptance or renewal of membership;

Membership in the occupational association should be a condition for licensing to practice;

There should be only one national committee on occupational conduct.

Notwithstanding the desirability of the above stated basic approach to the design of professional codes, it is not possible in practice to have such a single central authority: But it is essential to have coordination and cooperation among the-various professional bodies in designing of a code of ethics, because all persons are basically librarians and information personnel.

12.8.3 Authority in Implementation

Even assuming a central professional authority, it is not always possible to penalise anyone who may violate professional ethical codes. There are no legal validity to these ethical codes. Conforming to ethical codes are invariably more voluntary individual effort arising out of personal belief or faith in ethical values.

12.8.4 Expanding Dimensions

The dimensions of professional activity have expanded unprecedentedly in the last quarter of 20th century. The conventional and traditional functions of a library have undergone a tremendous change. New skills are expected in library and information work and such skilled persons are to be drawn from outside the profession. Professional education and training in this changing context have, therefore, been in a state of flux. This creates numerous problems, particularly the new entrants acquire a new view of professional work and activities. This is not peculiar to the library professional alone. Other professions are too facing similar situations, for example the medical profession. But the medical profession has an established public image and hence has no such problems as faced by the library profession. What would be the stature of librarians of the future? It is difficult to predict at this stage of transition but, it is bound to be different from what it is now and what it had has been in the past.

12.8.5 Professional Quality

Today's insistence on quality assurance has been a major concern of those involved in every human activity. Consumers' societies have been asserting their right to have quality in whatever they buy and seek legal protection in consumer courts to ensure quality. Library and information products and services also have to face this problem sooner or later as pricing for library and information services is on the anvil.

12.8.6 New Entrants

Library and information activities are attracting persons with different educational and professional backgrounds and qualifications: Persons with different professional experience are migrating to the library and information fields with varied conviction, faith, world views, – and political influences. All these are affecting professional conduct and behaviour.

In the final analysis, it is important to note that it is only personal conviction, involvement, commitment and faith in library and information service that would largely, determine professional behaviour and conduct.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

10)   Enumerate the problems and issues in designing professional ethical codes for librarians.

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12.9 SUMMARY

Professional performances should conform to ethical principles to give customers full satisfaction for services rendered by professionals. Ethics is science of morals. The word is derived from Latin word 'ethicus'. A set of moral principles are necessary for a profession to regulate and guide the conduct of its members in professional activities.

The general meaning of ethics is the science of morals concerned with the principles of human duty. However in this Unit we are more concerned with professional ethics as librarianship is a profession. In order to sustain societal recognition and to give their best, almost every profession, attempts to evolve a code of professional behaviour to guide practitioners. For example in the United States, the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association (AMA) was adopted in 1848 when AMA was organised.

Librarianship though started as vocation soon became profession having a specialised body of knowledge and specialised skills to serve the users with best collections of information that are organised for easy access. Thus the librarians ought to follow standard moral principles in selection, collection, organisation and dissemination of knowledge. The basic objective of LIS code of ethics is neutrality to caste, creed, religions and idealisms; to uphold the six freedoms – study, thought, speech, press, dissemination of knowledge and instruction.

The code of ethics in librarianship has a vital role to play as it helps a professional to know what is expected of him and how he should conduct himself to meet the demands of the clientele and uphold values to keep up the profession's image. It has a role in protection clientele, librarians and enhancing the status of the profession.

Though the code of ethics for librarianship can be traced back to the publication of 'Librarian's Canons of Ethics', 1909, the ALA (USA) code of ethics, 1938 provided the base for the development of coded by the world at large. Now 34 countries have code of ethics for librarianship but not India.

A code of ethics should be an expression of ethos of an occupation, indicate what is distinctive about librarianship and should reflect the nature of library. In

India, A.K. Mukherjee, Megnanand, R.L. Mittal, Amitabha Chatterjee, P.S.G. Kumar and others discussed the issue of code of ethics and suggested model code of ethics. JOCLAI has suggested a draft code of ethics. The facets / components of code of ethics should reflect the core activities of the profession and include duty of libraries and librarians to the readers to the books, to the profession, to the staff and to him. There are, however, a number of practical difficulties in implementing a code of professional' ethics. Some of these are:

1) Image of the library and information profession in society;

2) More than one professional body;

3) Authority in implementation with provisions for disciplinary action in case of violation of the ethical principles enunciated by ethical codes;

4) Expanding dimensions of the profession;

5) Consequent undefined state of the profession;

6) Quality of professional work;

7) Immigration of specialists from other disciplines and professions.

Despite these difficulties, problems and issues, professional ethics are necessary for professional practices; to ensure quality in service and in social recognition.

12.10 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

1) The study of principles relating to right and wrong conduct; morality; the standards that govern the conduct of a person, especially a member of a profession.

2) Professional ethics means a collection of professional moral guidelines for librarians and other library employees. The basic objective of LIS code of ethics is neutrality to caste, creed, religions and idealisms; to uphold the six freedoms – study, thought, speech, press, dissemination of knowledge and instruction.

3) The code of ethics in librarianship has a vital role to play as it helps a professional to know what is expected of him how he should conduct himself to meet the demands of the clientele and uphold values to keep up the profession's image. It has a role in protection of clientele, librarians and enhancing the status of the profession.

4) The code of ethics for librarianship can be traced back to the publication of 'Librarian's Canons of Ethics' 1909 which was revised by Botton in 1912 and published as an article in *The Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* entitled as "*The Ethics of Librarianship*". The first code of ethics from ALA was prepared in 1938 by Ms Flora B Ledington that was revised several times so far. According to IFLA, now 34 countries have code of ethics for practicing librarianship.

5) The American Library Association (USA) code of ethics for library professionals followed the relations between the governing authority; their constituency; their fellow employees within the library; their profession; and society.

Library Association (UK) Code of Conduct indicates the standards of behaviour expected of a member of the Association. It sets out the standards and duties which it is reasonable to expect a professional to observe. This is intended to protect the profession, individual practitioners, and their clients.

6) According to Johan Bekker a code of ethics should be an expression of ethos of an occupation; It should reflect the basic values associated with occupation. It should reveal what the occupation is, what the practitioners feel and of their place in society. It should indicate the distinct feature or the specialty of the profession. The code should reflect the nature of library on the basis of its functions.

7) The code of ethics has to consider the commitment of the library and librarian to the library clientele; Library Committee or management; library staff; book suppliers and book trade; professional colleagues; and commitment to society in geneal.

8) The 'Seven Lamps of Conduct' that are 'musts' for library professional:

    1) Impersonal book selection

    2) Service before self

    3) Split-mind

    4) Sympathetic behaviour

    5) Tact

    6) Industry

    7) Scholarship

9) The contemporary library environment changes under the influence of information and communication technologies. Now the collections are in digital format and accessible through networks without possessing the physical unit as in case of books. This has brought in new responsibility and accountability on librarians and they have to bridge the digital divide by providing equal access to information and balanced services to all. The important issues that attract ethical values in this digital environment are:

    • Privacy

    • Authenticity /validity

    • Accuracy and timeliness

    • Intellectual property

    • Accessibility

10) The problems and issues that crop up while developing the code of ethics are: professional image; too many professional bodies; authority for implementation of ethics and body to punish the guilty; unprecedented expansion of the profession beyond the core areas of library science, embracing ICTs; quality of profession in serving the customers; people from different subjects and sectors without service motto for the profession entering the library science.

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UNIT 13   ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Structure

13.0 OBJECTIVES

After studying this Unit, you will be able to:

- elaborate the aims and objectives of a professional association in library and information science; and

- discuss the programmes and activities of associations in library and information science.

13.1 INTRODUCTION

By now you must have had a fairly good insight into the historical perspective of libraries, library development in modern society, types of libraries and their functions, categories of users and their information needs, etc. In all these types of libraries you would have discovered that there is an underlying unity of purpose, i.e. to provide effective library and information services to the users. This common goal has brought together all persons working in library and information / documentation centres to form associations and focus attention on their common objectives.

Library associations are considered as learned societies. Their role is vital to the development of the library movement in a country. They continuously strive for

better provision of library and information services. During this process, library associations also work for the advancement of the profession and the professionals.

Professional associations are established by and for the professionals. Their membership is open to librarians, library staff members, library science teachers, libraries, library associations and even users of libraries. An association is what its members make it by their active collaboration and participation in its programmes and activities. As an entrant to the profession, it is worthwhile for you to know how you can participate in the activities of a professional association to serve its ultimate cause.

After completing BLIS programme, you will be qualified to work as a library and information professional. You should know your responsibilities and obligations to the profession, i.e. striving for improvement of library and information systems and services and advancement of library and information science. After all, it is members who build up the image of a profession. Performing duties of the highest standards and adherence to ethical principles are essential to bring credibility, and to hold the status of the profession high. This Unit acquaints you with library associations in India, the USA, and the UK and their activities and programmes including their administrative and organisational structures and functions. It also offers a short account of the international associations, such as IFLA and ASLIB.

13.2 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Professional issues that have far and wide reaching concern cannot be handled by an individual or a single institution. A collective action by an interested group is necessary. Professional associations serve as a forum for collaborative and coordinated efforts of individuals and groups.

Library development is dependent upon professional planning, farsightedness, understanding and involvement. These issues can be managed effectively by library associations than by individual institutions. Hence, the solidarity of the profession is a prerequisite for working for a common cause and to achieve the desired results. In fact, the strength and effectiveness of professional associations reflect this solidarity. Library associations, if they play their part well, can help in spreading the public library movement in a country and ensure better library service and building up a good image of the profession. They, indeed, assist in development of libraries and library and information services, and also present appropriate proposals to the right quarters.

Associations and professional societies are also powerful forces representing the voice of the professional community to solve the problems related to the welfare, status, working conditions, physical facilities, education and training including the research and development activities. Although the central purpose of the associations has always been to serve the needs and to protect the interests of the community, they strive to broaden the purpose and serve the overall needs of the nation.

Associations gain significance as the society advances in science and technology, complexity and scale and hence their study is becoming the part of study of social change. In the contemporary situation, due to rapid social change,

associations are important as a means of organising people in order to achieve new ends. They are also of great significance to the professionals in that they reveal cultural values and goals that the members themself alone are unable to formulate. Another important aspect of rapid social change is the way new forms of organisations create new roles and relationships.

Library associations are established with the following aims and objectives:

- To herald the library movement in a country to spread knowledge and information and ultimately contribute to human resource development;

- To work for the enactment of public library legislation, drafting of the bills along progressive lines and based on sound principles; to make the people library conscious so that they demand the right of access to public library services; mobilise social pressure for the healthy development of library services;

- To strive for the evolution of an integrated national library and information system based on a national policy; and bring to the attention of the authorities the deficiencies, defects, etc., in the existing library infrastructure;

- To provide a common forum for library professionals for exchange of information, ideas, experience and expertise; and work for the betterment of salaries, grades, service conditions, status, etc. of library professionals;

- To hold the image of the library profession high in society; and promote cooperation among libraries and library professionals;

- To share resources and avoid duplication of efforts; and

- To contribute towards manpower development for library and information work by organising education and training programmes, and promoting research, incentives, awards and rewards, etc.

13.3 PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Library associations undertake many important programmes and activities which vary from association to association. These associations interact with concerned governments from time to time, using every conceivable opportunity for sound development of a library system in the country. These tasks are done by advising, representing and helping in drafting legislation, formulation of policy statements, guidelines, etc. Library associations undertake various activities and programmes, such as:

Conferences

Organising conferencs, seminars, lectures, etc. to offer opportunities for library professionals to meet, discuss, and exchange information, ideas, experiences and expertise. Association also helps in providing an opportunity to establish network of fellow librarians.

Library Publicity and Advocacy

Organising library week, exhibitions, book fairs, competitions, etc. for promoting library consciousness and reading and learning habits among citizens. Library associations also play a vital role in greater visibility of libraries and librarians.

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Service conditions

Taking up with the management at all levels, through appropriate means, the issues relating to improvement of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals and also help in recruitment of library personnel.

Education

LIS associations conduct training courses that are necessary to supplement university education in library and information science as well as continuing education programmes for working professionals. Associations also function as accrediting bodies to maintain standards in library and informational science education. They also institute awards and rewards to recognise outstanding performance of the professionals and library systems.

Publications

Library associations publish professional literature like professional journals and newsletters as well as adhoc publications such as proceedings, directories, catalogues, bibliographies, course manuals, textbooks, reference books and others.

Standards, Services, and Research

Library associations are involved in:

– Formulating standards, guidelines, codes and manuals with regard to practices, procedures, techniques, tools and equipment, as a step towards fostering cooperation among libraries.

– Undertaking bibliographical projects on their own and through outside contract.

– Offering advisory and consultancy services.

– Undertaking research surveys of library facilities and services, user demands, learning and reading habits, book production etc. in order to identify strengths and weaknesses so as to take necessary steps to improve the system.

Ethics

Library associations formulate codes of ethics for library professionals in order to set high values in conduct and service.

Cooperation

They establish cooperation with international and national associations of other countries having similar objectives. They maintain liaison with book and publishing trade for attending to mutual problems in library acquisitions.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

1) State the aims and objectives of library associations.

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2) List under six broad groups the programmes and activities of library associations.

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13.4 LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

We have historical records of early library associations in India such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), Bengal Library Association (1927) and Madras Library Association (1927). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933. The post-independence period has witnessed an increase in the number of library associations in the country.

We have, at present, many national and state level library associations. At the national level, we have Indian Library Association. There are also associations devoted to special categories of libraries, subjects, fields and other special interests. For example, the Government of India Library Association, (GILA), Indian Association of Teacher of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Society for informational Science (SIS), Indian Academic Library Association (IALA), Medical Library Association (MLA), Society for Advancement of Library and Information Science (SALIS) and Indian Association of Special Libraries and Informational Centres (IASLIC).

Some of the state/regional level regional library associations include:

- Bengal Library Association

- Andhra Pradesh Library Association

- Andhra Pradesh Public Library Association

- Haryana Library Association

- Karnataka Library Association

- Kerala Library Association

- Madras Library Association

- Punjab Library Association

- Rajasthan Library Association

- Uttar Pradesh Library Association

There are some library associations in India whose contributions to the development of national consciousness are immense and deserve to be remembered by the future generations of library professionals. Two associations at the national level are described in the following sections, namely, the Indian Library Association (ILA) and the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Informational Centres (IASLIC).

13.4.1 Indian Library Association (ILA)

The Indian Library Association was formed on 13th September 1933 on the occasion of 1st All India Library Conference held at Calcutta (now Kolkata). The Indian Library Association is the largest professional body in the field of library and information science in the country. It is the premier national association representing the library profession in the country.

ILA, right from its inception in right earnest has identified itself with the library movement in the country. In due course of time it has also worked for the upliftment of the professional education and cadre based status by providing the necessary training and education avenues. It has made consistent efforts to provide an opportunity for the development of library and information professionals at all levels, all over the country.

a) **Objectives**

The Association aims at establishing high standards of librarianship and library services in the country. It has the following objectives:

- Promotion of library movement in the country and enactment of library legislation;
- Improvement of library services;
- Development of library science education and training and accreditation of library schools towards maintaining proper standards of education;
- Betterment of salaries, service conditions and status of library personnel;
- Promotion of cooperation among libraries and professionals;
- Promotion of research and bibliographical studies;
- Affiliation with state and other library associations;
- Cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives;
- Publication of serials and other publications for dissemination of information;
- Providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings;
- Promotion and formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc., for management of library and information systems and their services;
- Establishments of libraries, documentation and information centres and assistance in their development; and
- Carrying out all such other activities that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

b) **Organisation**

The membership of the Association comprises patrons, life and ordinary members, and institutional and associate members.

The general body elects, for a three year term, a President, six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary and Council Members, up to 20, at the rate of one representative for every 100 personal members, and one representative for

every 40 institutional members. There are Sectional Committees to look after professional work in different areas, such as: University Libraries, College Libraries, Government Department Libraries, School Libraries, Academic Status and Parity, Public Libraries, Library and Information Schools, Educational Projects and Consultancy, etc. These Sectional Committees consist of working librarians and experts in the subject including teachers in library and information science.

The Chairmen of the Sectional Committees, one representative of each member state library association and ex- Presidents of the Association are also members of Council. An Executive Committee Consisting of the President, one Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, two Secretaries, P.R.O. and three Council Members look after routine management. While the general body meets once a year, usually at the time of All India Library Conference, the council meets at least once in a quarter and the Executive Committee meets as often as necessary. The annual report and accounts of the Association are passed at the General Body Meeting.

c) **Activities**

An All India Library Conference is held every year at some place in the country. The host institution is a university, an institution or a local library association. National seminar, on one or more themes of importance and relevance is a part of the programme of the All India Library Conference. In addition national seminars on themes of topical interest are also held from time to time.

The Association arranges lectures, round table discussions and other activities in Delhi and other cities. It associates itself with libraries, other library association, institutions, etc. in the programmes generally organised during the National Library Week in November each year.

d) **Publications**

The Association brings out a quarterly journal entitled Journal of Indian Library Association as an official organ and a vehicle for publishing learned articles contributed by professionals in the library and information science field. Another publication 'ILA Newsletter', a monthly keeps ILA members abreast with activities of the ILA and news and activities of the library profession in the country. Since 1978, the Association has been publishing regularly the proceedings of the All Indian Library Conference, which includes the seminar papers discussed at the meeting.

e) **Continuing Education**

The Association conducts need - based continuing education programmes from time to time for the benefit of working professionals.

f) **Awards for Excellence**

ILA has instituted many awards for encouraging excellence in the professional practices such as:

– ILA-Kaula Best Librarian Award

– ILA- Vendanaikee Fellowship

- ILA-C D Sharma Award
- ILA- AG Verghese Award
- ILA-Dr. K Padma Umapathy and Dr. S K Umapathy Fellowship in Library and Information Sc.
- ILA-Dr. L M Padhya Best University Library Award
- ILA-S M Ganguly Award

g) **Professional Issues**

The Association takes up with the state governments, at every conceivable opportunity, the issue of enacting library legislation in order to develop the public library system. It has been repeatedly sending a memorandum persuading the state governments to initiate action on library legislation .It has been active in pursuing with the government, with the University Grant Commission (UGC) and with other bodies management matters relating to the betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals. It took initiatives in drafting a national policy for library service and held a seminar on the topic, as a result of which, the Government of India appointed a Committee to prepare a National Policy on Library and Information System. During the All India Library Conference, a number of resolutions are usually passed on matters of professional interest and concern, which the Association takes up with appropriate authorities for implementation.

h) **Participation in Official Bodies**

The ILA represents the profession to discuss various policy level issues with the Government. The ILA is also represented on the Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation, Good Offices Committee, National Bureau of Standards, National Book Trust (NBT), World Book Fair Committee, etc.

i) **Relations with other Associations**

ILA plays a leading role in the Joint Council of Library Associations (JOCLAI) in India towards evolving a coordinated approach and a common strategy on professional issues of concern to all library associations in the country. It has good working relation with IASLIC and State Library Associations in the country.

ILA represents the professionals in India at 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 Publication (UAP) Regional Seminar in October 1985 and FID/CR Regional Seminar in November 1985 in New Delhi. ILA celebrated its 75th year in 2008 and organised an International Conference. Under the auspicious of ILA 'Unesco Public Library Manifesto' has been translated into about 15 Indian Languages.

j) **Perspectives for Future**

The ILA is now firmly organised, with the confidence of the library profession assured, to carry on and expand its programmes and activities with a view to

meet the hopes and aspirations of the profession and to serve the cause of librarianship and library service in the country. We are marching towards knowledge society. In the knowledge society, creation, building and developing knowledge infrastructure, is one of the main functions of the government and others. A new visionary approach for National and Regional Library Associations in India would be drawn from some of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission.The Indian Library Association needs to participate actively in implementing the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, relating to libraries, such as:

–   Setting up the National Commission on Libraries.

–   Census of all libraries.

–   LIS education and public private participation in LIS development.

–   Translation of pedagogic materials.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answers with the answer given at the end of this Unit.

3)   List the main activities and programmes of the Indian Library Association.

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4)   State the professional issues that were taken up by the Indian Library Association with state and centre government authorities.

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13.4.2 Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC)

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) was founded in 1955. It is a registered society with headquarters located in Kolkata. It was formed with the aim of having an association in India similar to the Association for Information Management (ASLIB) in the UK and the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in the USA.

At a largely attended meeting of librarians held at Calcutta on 25 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 was mooted. Following this initiative, another meeting held on 3 September 1955 formalised the decision to establish the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC).The spontaneous cooperation and enthusiasm shown by professionals in the formative period as well as dedicated efforts of some founding members have helped in laying a firm foundation for the association over a period of fifty years and more. IASLIC has grown in stature and in range of activities and has been contributing in many ways to the improvement of special libraries and information centres in the country. It has earned recognition for its regular and systematic work all these years.

a) **Objectives**

IASLIC has the following major objectives:

• To undertake, support and coordinate research and studies;

• To organise general and special meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences at national and regional level;

• To publish journals, monographs, manuals, newsletters, papers, proceedings and reports;

• To conduct short term training courses;

• To coordinate with other fraternal bodies in promoting the interests of the library and information profession; and

• To undertake such other activities which are incidental and conducive to the attainment of the objectives of its objectives".

b) **Organisation**

The membership of IASLIC consists of donor members, life and ordinary members and institutional members. IASLIC is a democratic body, the General Body elects for a three-year term, a President, six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, three Joint Secretaries, a librarian and 47 Governing Body Members, 6 Institutional Governing Board Members. The Council appoints from among its members the Executive and Finance Committees. The work of the Association is distributed among seven divisions with specific responsibilities assigned to them. The divisions are:

– Library Division

– Education Division

– Information Service Division

– Publication and Publicity Division

– Study Circle Division

– SIG (Special Interest Group) Division

– Serial Division

c) **Activities**

IASLIC holds biennial seminar and a conference in alternate years in different parts of the country at the venue of host organisations that are usually university libraries/departments of library and information science, institutions, associations, etc. It has Special Interest Groups (SIG) devoted

to areas like Industrial Information, Social Science Information, Computer Application, Humanities Information, Informatics, and Library and Information Science Education. The SIGs choose themes for discussion during conferences/ seminars.

Library and information professionals meet at the time of the annual conference/seminar to discuss problems of common interest. IASLIC organises from time-to-time ad hoc seminars, lectures, exhibitions, etc. In 2005, IASLIC celebrated Golden Jubilee celebration and International Conference was organised at Mumbai as a part of year-long celebration. Since 1993, it has instituted a lecture series " Ranganathan Memorial Lecture" delivered on any aspect of LIS by an eminent professional. Another annual lecture is delivered annually by an eminent person from a field or area of common interest.

It has a study circle at Kolkata. The meetings of the study circles are held every month, wherein technical issues are discussed.

d) **Publications**

The IASLIC Bulletin (started in 1956) is the official organ of the Association and is devoted to the advancement and dissemination of the fundamental and applied knowledge of library and information science in an accessible form to professional colleagues who have a common interest in the field in this country and abroad. The bulletin is issued quarterly; new volume begins with the March number every year.

The IASLIC Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Association and is aimed to inform members about the professional activities in general and IASLIC in particular. It is published monthly. Indian Library Science Abstracts (annual), another publication of the Association covers literature published in the country in the field of library and information science.

Apart from IASLIC Bulletin and Newsletter, it also publishes books, monographs, directory, conference and seminar proceedings, annual report, etc.

e) **Information Services**

The IASLIC undertakes compilation of bibliographies and English translation of documents from Russian, German, French, Chinese, Japanese, etc. and also undertakes imaging of documents for archiving. All these services are provided on non-profit basis. The Association also undertakes consultancy services like creation of computerised bibliographic databases, retrospective conversion of records, preservation and conservation of documents cataloguing, classification and stock verification in public and private organisations on non-profit basis.

f) **Awards for Excellence**

The IASLIC has instituted different awards for librarians. These are awarded to the best librarian of the year, best teacher in LIS, best young teacher in LIS, a retired librarian and the best article award.

g) **Professional Issues**

The Association strives to improve the standards of service in special libraries and information centers. In this connection, it has made attempts to evolve a

code of ethics for librarianship. It brings to the attention of authorities, issues which call for improvement and corrective measures. It concerns itself in sound planning and development of library and information systems and promotes suitable measures in this regard. It has taken measures like drafting an inter-library loan code for library cooperation. It has been quite responsive to the need for securing better salary scales, service conditions and status for library professional. It brings together library and information professionals at all levels and speaks for them as a whole on professional issues.

h) **Education and Training**

The Association in its continuing education programmes conducts short term courses, workshops, round tables, seminars etc. Organising short-term training courses in various topics is now a regular feature of the continuing education programme to improve professional competency. These courses are usually held in collaboration with university departments, specialised institutions, National Library of India and other professional bodies etc. in different parts of India.

i) **Relation with other Bodies**

IASLIC maintains a healthy relationship with the Indian Library Association and other library associations. It has taken a leading part in the formation of the Joint Council for Library Associations in India (JOCLAI). It took an active interest in implementing the common programmes of this Joint Council for Library Associations in India. IASLIC in different ways had cooperated with the erstwhile National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT).

By taking up specific assignments and projects, it is represented in Indian Standards Institution, Documentation and Information Committee (ISI/EC2) (now known as Bureau of Indian Standards). IASLIC collaborated with SLA Asian Chapter in hosting 'International Conference of Asian Special Libraries' in November 2008. Similarly, IASLIC in association with regional associations and organisations like, BLA, West Bengal Public Library Association and Raja Ram Mohun Roy Library Foundation jointly organised Librarians day on 12th Aug to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan.

j) **Perspective for Future**

IASLIC has had satisfying accomplishments in playing a leader/coordinator role in the special library and information field in the country. It is now poised for assured growth and development in the period ahead for serving the cause of special librarianship in India.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this unit.

5)   List the activities of IASLIC that distinguish its special character.

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6) Name the publications of IASLIC.

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13.5 NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN USA AND UK

Two library associations, one each of the United States of America and the United Kingdom are described in this section. These associations have a long and distinguished record of activities and service and have been pattern setters for the creation of national associations in many countries. The associations described in this section are the American Library Association and Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP, U.K.)

13.5.1 American Library Association (ALA)

The American Library Association (ALA) has the uniqueness of being the oldest and largest library association in the world .It was founded in 1876 with its headquarters at Chicago.

A group of 103 library activists, at a meeting held in Philadelphia in the fall of 1876 to coincide with the nation's centennial celebrations, resolved on a motion moved by Melvile Dewey, the father of librarianship, to form the American Library Association. ALA, thus born, has been a success story by dedicated efforts of eminent librarians who steered the association in its formative periods, the ALA grew in strength steadily and became even in the early part of this century the national voice for library interests. Today, with a solid foundation, wide base expanding programmes and activities and social impact, ALA plays a dynamic role to foster American library interests with great success.

a) **Objectives**

ALA is an organisation of librarians and libraries having the following objectives:

* "Increase awareness and support for libraries by increasing their visibility in a positive context and by communicating why libraries are both unique and valuable;

* Update the image of libraries, librarians and all library staff for the 21st century, sustaining and strengthening their relevance;

* Bring renewed energy to the promotion of libraries and librarians; and

* Bring library messages to a more diverse audience.

It also has the following **internal objectives**:

- "Develop a campaign that represents and is useful to all types of libraries;

- Create turnkey tools, resources and materials that could be utilised by all types of libraries;

- Provide an opportunity to share public relations/marketing/advocacy best practices within the library community;

- Tie together ALA promotions into one unified brand, reinforcing key messages;

- Quickly respond to emerging issues such as library funding cuts;

- Develop more cross-collaboration across the association to ensure that new Campaign projects and initiatives are inclusive and effective;work more closely with ALA Chapters and Affiliates to help them achieve their public awareness objectives;

- Promote the contribution of all library staff, including both librarians and support staff;

- Seek increased foundation and sponsor funding to expand Campaign activities;

- Conduct public opinion research to refine and expand Campaign messages on an ongoing basis; and

- Increase coordination with other public relations and marketing efforts, such as READ posters, National Library Week, Library Card Sign-up Month, etc".

b) **Organisation**

Any person, library, or other organisation interested in library service and librarianship may become a member of ALA upon payment of the dues provided for in the byelaws. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-elect, who shall serve as Vice-president, an Executive Director, and a Treasurer. The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the immediate Past President, and eight members selected by the Council from among the members of that body, as provided in the byelaws. It has 11 divisions such as those relating to those school librarians, collections and technical services, services to children, trustees, advocates, friends and foundations, college and research libraries, specialised and cooperative library agencies, library and information technology, library leadership and management, public library, reference and user services and young adult library services. Apart from divisions, there are offices, round tables, committees and external groups. A.L.A. offices are units that address broad interests and issues of concern to ALA members. Round Tables are membership groups and may charge dues, develop programs, issue publications (with the approval of the ALA Publications Committee), and affiliate with regional, state or local groups with the same interests.

c) **Activities**

ALA holds annual conference each June which is attended by more than 25,000 librarians, educators, writers, publishers, friends of libraries, trustees and special guests. The conference includes more than 2,000 meetings,

discussion groups, programs on various topics affecting libraries and librarians as well as tours and special events. Topics include libraries and technology, censorship and literacy. A number of pre and post-conference seminars, workshops, etc. also takes place at the time of conference. The ALA also holds an annual business meeting known as the ALA Midwinter Meeting, generally held in January.

d) **Publications**

The American Library Association develops many resources for the library and information services communities. Almost 300,000 of ALA products are purchased every year, and the proceeds help to support the ALA's general programs. The ALA Store features titles from ALA Editions, the general publishing operation of the Association, and ALA Graphics, the unit specialising in promotional products supporting libraries, literacy, and reading, as well as other products from around the Association. ALA Store purchases fund advocacy, awareness and accreditation programs for library professionals worldwide. ALA's serial publications include: American Libraries, Book List, Book Links, ALA Tech Source, Library Technology Reports, and Guide to Reference. Apart from these different divisions, offices, roundtables and sections bring out various newsletters, magazines, and journals.

e) **Awards for Excellence**

Each year, the American Library Association and its member units honour people and institutions through an awards program that recognizes distinguished service a libraries and librarianship. ALA manages its overall awards program through different divisions and offices. ALA and its member units offer a variety of grants that provide funding or material support for present or future activities. Professional recognition awards are given to individuals, groups or organisations that have shown outstanding leadership in one of the many areas of great importance to the mission and goals of the ALA. Awards are provided by ALA, Divisions, Offices, and Round Tables.

Grants may be offered to support the planning and implementation of programs, to aid in the preparation of a dissertation or other publications, and to promote research in library and information science. Grants are also given to support travel to conferences or other events that can broaden an individual's experience or education in librarianship. Grants are administered by the ALA Awards Program, as well as ALA divisions, offices, and round tables.

f) **International Activities**

International Relations Office of the ALA coordinates international activities. It acts in support of official ALA delegations to international events such as book fairs and congresses; promotes international library exchanges and partnerships; recruits international librarians to become members of ALA and attend ALA conferences; responds to international inquiries concerning library issues and activities in the United States; serves as a point of contact for ALA's routine communication with international organisations to which ALA belongs, including IFLA; and provides support for the ALA International Relations Committee (IRC) and the International Relations Round Table

(IRRT). ALA has assisted many countries through advisory services, technical assistance, fellowships and awards, travel grants, supply of reading material, etc.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

   ii)   Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

7)   List the various divisions of the American Library Association.

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8)   State the international activities of the American Library Association.

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13.5.2   Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

CILIP (The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) is the leading professional body of library and information professionals in U.K. It came into existence in 2002 with the merger of the erstwhile Library Association (U.K.) and Institute of Information Science. CILIP provides practical support for members throughout their entire careers, helping them with their academic education, professional qualifications, job hunting and continuing professional development.

a)   **Objectives**

The CILIP aims at: activism and enterprise to build its community, a strong voice to advance the profession and modern professionalism to develop the workforce. Its objectives are to:

*   set, maintain, monitor and promote standards of excellence in the creation, management, exploitation and sharing of information and knowledge resources;

*   support the principle of equality of access to information, ideas and works of the imagination which it affirms is fundamental to a thriving economy, democracy, culture and civilisation; and

*   enable its members to achieve and maintain the highest professional standards in all aspects of delivering an information service, both for the professional and the public good.

b) **Organisation**

Anyone working with knowledge, information or in library services can join CILIP. It has different categories of membership for people of different experience levels from student to fellow. The Council, set up under the Royal Charter, governs the work of CILIP. Its President and Councillors are elected by the membership in an annual election. Council is comprised of 12 Trustees elected directly by the Membership. There is a provision for co-opting up to three members.

- CILIP has special interest groups, namely:
- Academic and Research Libraries Group;
- Aerospace and Defence Librarians Group;
- Affiliated Members of CILIP;
- Branch and Mobile Libraries;
- Career Development Group;
- Cataloguing and Indexing;
- Colleges of Further and Higher Education;
- Commercial, Legal and Scientific Information Group;
- Community, Diversity and Equality Group;
- Education Librarians Group; and
- Government Information Group.

c) **Activities**

CILIP organises one-day conferences with expert speakers, demonstrations from suppliers of associated technology and unrivalled networking opportunities. It also organises managed events – two and three day conferences, often with associated exhibitions, organised on behalf of CILIP's Special Interest Groups – including the biennial Umbrella event. Apart from conferences,CILIP InForums are a series of discussion workshops where one can network with like-minded library and information professionals. InForum allows face-to-face sharing and collaboration, complimenting the online platform of the CILIP Communities.

d) **Education and Training**

Professional development underpins every successful career. CILIP members benefit from Certification, Charter ship, Fellowship, Revalidation and course accreditation to get their careers started and to make all their achievements and learning count.

CILIP Training & Development provides the widest range of training for the LIS community in the UK. With over 120 one and two-day courses running annually on around 90 different topics, training caters for all sectors and levels of experience. All the courses are tailored to meet the learning, training and developmental needs of the modern library and information community. It provides onsite courses that deliver high quality training at the convenience of members workplace – saving them both time and money. Some such programmes were done on services for beginners and researchers, e-books,

collection care, preservation policy, indexing etc. Professional Knowledge and Skills Base (PSKB) has been designed and provided by CILIP that outlines broadly the knowledge and skills required by a professional. One can use these to analyse one's own knowledge and skills set as well as demonstrate to the employees.

e) **Publications**

CILIP brings out CILIP Update magazine. It is published in print and digital formats monthly. Using state-of-the-art page turning technology, the Digital Edition has live web links and is available prior to Update's print publication date. With an internationally established list of over 200 titles, Facet Publishing is the publisher of choice for the information professions worldwide. It also publishes under the banner of CILIP directly.

f) **Awards**

CILIP promotes excellence through recognizing best practices awards. Different groups manage these awards, e.g. Publicity and Public Relations Group offers the following awards in marketing and public relations:

– International Library and Information Group Award

– PPRG Marketing Excellence Award: Rewarding excellence and innovation in libraries.

g) **Information and Advice Enquiry Services**

The Information and Advice Team provides support to members on a range of practical professional issues related to library work. It provides different services e.g. current awareness services (CAS), Employment, Law Helpline, and Information Centre Online database. CILIP gives general advice to the members on employment related subjects such as pay, job evaluation or redundancy.

If the problem is more complicated and requires more detailed advice. Individual CILIP members have the back up of The Work Foundation Employment Law Helpline to help them with confidential employment issues.

It has developed web pages to help members find the answers to practical matters relating to library and information management. Individual members also have access to a range of e-journals and online databases, which can be searched. These include:

• Emerald journals

• IRWI (Information Research Watch International)

• LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts)

• LISTA Proquest

• JOLIS (Journal of Library and Information Science)

Keeping within the Law is a new online service which will help members stay informed about protecting and respecting intellectual property rights in the most challenging area of information practice, with a particular emphasis on copyright and licensing. It will help members to manage any legal risks, assess potential hazards and to implement sound risk management policies and procedures.

h) **Policy and Advocacy**

CILIP has developed a new resource for its members to demonstrate the value of their professional skills. The Campaigning Toolkit is a resource designed by CILIP to help members create an effective grassroots action plan to demonstrate their value as a library and information professional. CILIP broadly supports proposals to extend copyright exceptions for preservation, education, and fair dealing for non-commercial research or private study but extensions to the latter must be mirrored in the library and archive copying exceptions. It also calls for legislation to confirm application of the exceptions to the digital environment and to prevent them from being overridden by contracts. As convener of Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA) and its majority stakeholder, CILIP is joined with LACA in its response. It has also brought out Equal Opportunities and Diversity Statement**.** CILIP has developed a set of Ethical Principles and a Code of Professional Practice for Library and Information Professionals. The information society is a professional policy priority area. This area of work is developing constantly.

i) **International Relations**

CILIP is an association member of the IFLA and encourages its members to involve in IFLA activities as contesting elections for the Standing Committees and other bodies. CILIP has organised IFLA conference in 2002 just after its emergence. CILIP takes up an opportunity to publicise its activities through participation in exhibition during the IFLA conferences. It brings out International News Bulletin to cover up international activities and news. CILIP also actively participates in European Information Society Initiatives. It has formal/ informal relations with EBLIDA (The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations) and UNESCO.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

9)   List the education and training activities of the CILIP.

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10) List the conference activities of the CILIP.

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13.6 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Library associations don't only operate within a country, but also operate outside the country, e.g. ASLIB members are private and public sector companies and organisations throughout the world, concerned with managing information resources efficiently. At the same time Federation of Library Association also exists, as IFLA has associational/ institutional members in more than 150 countries. In this section you will know about the activities of both these associations.

13.6.1 Association of Information Management (ASLIB)

The ASLIB (Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux) was founded in1924 with the aim of co-ordinating the activities of specialist information services in the UK. It is presently known as Association for Information Management. Its members are private and public sector companies and organisations throughout the world, concerned with managing information resources efficiently. Aslib had Special Interest Groups to cater to the needs of particular subjects/ areas. These have evolved into communities of practice. The expertise is in helping and advising organisations, from small and medium enterprises to large corporations and governments, on any of their issues and problems, information management great and small.

a) **Objectives**

The key roles of ASLIB are to:

- stimulate awareness of the benefits of good management of information resources and its value;

- represent and lobby for the interests of the information sector on matters which are of national and international importance varying from copyright and data protection to the role of scientific journals; and

- provide a range of information related products and services to meet the needs of the information society

b) **Organisation**

The Aslib Special Interest Group network provides invaluable support to members in the pursuit of their professional duties within their organisations, large and small.

One of the most important aspects of group membership is the invaluable network of contacts formed between members that creates an effective information resource as well as providing business and career opportunities.

c) **Activities**

To fulfil these roles Aslib has developed four main functions within the Association. They are consultancy, publications, training and recruitment.

Consultancy activities drawn principally from the network of leading information professionals range from giving answers to specific questions for individuals or small companies, to major studies for the British Government, and recommending policies and strategies to the People's Republic of China.

Managing Information, the association's colour magazine, is the magazine for everyone who uses information. It combines the successful print magazine with a web-based news service, doubling the impact of the publication. The magazine continues to develop its winning combination of high-calibre features, top-level interviews, analysis and practical solutions all packaged in a readable and attractive style. The news service, available at http://www.managinginformation.com, harnesses internet technologies to provide up-to-the minute news updated every weekday. It also offers chat, forum, events, reviews and opinion polls.

d) **Training**

Aslib provides training in key aspects of information work in the form of public courses, on-site training, conferences and distance learning.

Some of the areas in which training has been provided include:

–   Business and Official Information Sources

–   General Management and Communication Skills

–   Knowledge Management

–   Library and Information Management Skills (New courses)

–   Managing Internet Sites

–   Research Skills.

Aslib Training offers On-site Service, delivered on the premises to meet members needs. If one is training staff in any aspect of information and knowledge management, these are the unique advantages Aslib on-site training can provide:

–   Training tailor-made for ones requirements

–   Taught within the culture of ones organisation

–   The value of team sharing

–   In-house confidentiality

–   Key personnel remain on site

–   No travel or accommodation costs for delegates

–   Save money on public course fees

Aslib's training courses have earned a worldwide application and quality, and the Aslib Open Learning Programme provides an opportunity for anyone, anywhere to take advantage of the world's best courses in information skills.

e) **Publications**

Aslib publications are an important element in Aslib's mission of supplying practical, leading edge support in managing information and knowledge. Aslib titles are produced by Emerald and Europa Publications. Members are entitled to receive two learned journals of their choice published by Emerald. They are also entitled to receive 'Managing Information' magazine published 10 times a year. They are also entitled to receive any other publication of Emerald on a discount of 20%.

f) **Consultancy**

Aslib has a Consultancy Group that undertakes projects for organisations for information support. The projects have included IT selection and implementation, user needs surveys, business information and on-line sources.

g) **Professional Recruitment**

Over the last 50 years, Aslib Professional recruitment has established a reputation as a leading consultancy for information professionals. Aslib specialise in supplying permanent, temporary and contract staff to libraries and information departments at all levels, throughout the UK. Roles Aslib recruits for include: Librarians, Editors, Researchers, Information Scientists, Know-How Analysts, Information Officers, Library Service Managers, Archivists, Cataloguers, Indexers, Loose-Leafers, Information Analysts, Knowledge Managers , Records Managers, Intranet Content Managers, Information Specialists, Information Assistants.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

11) State the manes of special groups of Aslib.

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12) Name the broad areas of training offered by Aslib.

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13.6.2 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession.

Founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1927 at an international conference, IFLA celebrated 75th birthday at its conference in Glasgow, Scotland in 2002. IFLA now has more than 1600 Members in approximately 150 countries around the

world. IFLA was registered in the Netherlands in 1971. The Royal Library, the National Library of the Netherlands, in The Hague, generously provides the facilities for the headquarters.

a) **Objectives**

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. Its aims are:

"To promote the international support, cooperation, exchange of information, education, research, and development within the scope of the library and information services sector in general. In addition, the Foundation seeks to protect, preserve, and document written and printed cultural heritage and all that is in connection with these purposes".

In pursuing these aims IFLA embraces the following core values:

1) the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information. ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2) the belief that people, communities and organisations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being

3) the conviction that delivery of high quality library and information services helps guarantee that access

4) the commitment to enable all Members of the Federation to engage in, and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion.

b) **Organisation**

IFLA has two main categories of voting members: Association Members and Institutional Members. Associations of library and information professionals, of library and information services and of educational and research institutes, within the broad field of library and information science, are all welcome as Association Members. Institutional Membership is designed for individual library and information services, and all kinds of organisations in the library and information sector. International organisations within its sphere of interest may join as International Association Members. National Association Members, International Association Members and Institutional Members have voting rights in elections and meetings. They are entitled to nominate candidates for the post of IFLA President and for places on the Executive Committee. Individual practitioners in the field of library and information science may join as Personal Affiliates. They do not have voting rights, but they provide invaluable contributions to the work of IFLA, by serving on committees and contributing to professional programmes.

The governing structure of IFLA has been revised and came into force in 2001. The revision was necessary in order to reflect the opportunities presented by its increasingly global membership and the greater ease of worldwide communications.

The General Council of Members is the supreme governing body, consisting of delegates of voting Members. It normally meets every year during the annual conference. It elects the President and members of the Governing Board. It also considers general and professional resolutions which, if approved, are usually passed to the Executive Committee and the Professional Committee for action as appropriate.

The Governing Board is responsible for the managerial and professional direction of IFLA within guidelines approved by Council. The Board consists of the President, the President-elect, 10 directly elected Members (by postal and/or electronic ballot, every 2 years) and 9 indirectly elected members of the Professional Committee (by the professional groups through the sections and divisions); up to 3 Members may be co-opted.

The Governing Board meets at least twice per year, once at the time and place of the Annual World Library and Information Congress.

The Executive Committee has executive responsibility delegated by the Governing Board to oversee the direction of IFLA between meetings of this Board within the policies established by the Board. The Committee consists of the President, President-elect, the Treasures, the Chair of the Professional Committee, 2 members of the Governing Board, elected every 2 years by members of the Board from among its elected members, and IFLA's Secretary General, ex-officio.

It is the duty of the Professional Committee to ensure coordination of the work of all the IFLA units responsible for professional activities, policies and programmes. The Committee consists of a chair, elected by the outgoing Committee, an officer of each of IFLA's 8 Divisions plus 3 members of the Governing Board, elected by that Board from among its members.

The Professional Committee meets at least twice per year, once at the time and place of the annual IFLA General Conference.

Divisions and Sections: Sections are the primary focus for the Federation's work in a particular type of library and information service, in an aspect of library and information science or in a region. All IFLA Members are entitled to register for Sections of their choice. Once registered, voting Members have the right to nominate specialists for the Standing Committee of the Sections for which they are registered. The Standing Committee is the key group of professionals who develop and monitor the programme of the Section. Sections are grouped into eight Divisions.

Regional Activities: Three Regional Sections (Africa, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean) make up the Division of Regional Activities (Division 8). They are concerned with all aspects of library and information services in their regions. They promote IFLA activities and work closely with the IFLA Regional Offices, located in Pretoria, South Africa; Singapore and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Special Interest Groups: Discussion Groups may be set up, on a temporary and informal basis, to enable groups of Members to discuss specific professional, or social and cultural issues relating to the profession.

Discussion Groups may be established for a two-year renewable term and must be sponsored by a Section. Groups of IFLA Members, or representatives of IFLA Members, may establish Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to address emerging issues or trends or issues of continuing interest to a relatively small number of IFLA members. Special Interest Groups bring together IFLA members with common and continuing interests that they wish to discuss or explore, but which are not included in the Mission and Goals of an existing Section. Interests may cut across the concerns of multiple Sections, identify and follow an emerging issue or trend, be very specialised or narrow and be relevant to a small number of members.

During its meeting in December 2008 IFLA's Professional Committee approved the following SIGs:

–   ATINA: Access to Information Network - Africa

–   Agricultural Libraries

–   E-Learning

–   E-Metrics

–   Environmental Sustainability and Libraries

–   Indigenous Matters

–   Library History

–   LIS Education in Developing Countries

–   National Information and Library Policy

–   National Organisations and International Relations

–   New Professionals

–   Religious Libraries in Dialogue

–   RFID

–   Semantic Web

–   Women, Information and Libraries.

c)   **Activities**

IFLA General Conference and Council is held in August or early September in a different city each year. More than three thousand delegates meet to exchange experience, debate professional issues, see the latest products of the information industry, conduct the business of IFLA and experience something of the culture of the host country.

Issues common to library and information services around the world are the concern of the IFLA Core Activities. Directed by the Professional Committee, the objectives and projects of the Core Activities relate to the Federation's Programme and the priorities of the Divisions and Sections. One, ALP (Action for Development through Libraries Programme) has very wide scope, concentrating on the broad range of concerns specific to the developing world. The others cover current, internationally important issues: Preservation and Conservation (PAC), IFLA - CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS) and IFLA UNIMARC. The Core Activities are each managed by a Director, who reports to the Executive and Professional Committees.

With generous initial funding from the Danish government, the City of Copenhagen, and the Danish library community, IFLA's office for Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) was established in Copenhagen in 1998. It has a steering committee made up of professionals from around the globe. FAIFE reports to the Executive Committee. Also reporting to the Executive Committee is the Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM).

A range of professional meetings, seminars and workshops are held around the world by the professional groups and Core Activities. Use IFLANET and *IFLA Journal* to find out what is going on when and where.

d) **Publications**

The results of the programmes developed by IFLA's professional groups are recorded and disseminated in the publications. *IFLA Journal* is published four times a year. Each issue covers news of current IFLA activities and articles, selected to reflect the variety of the international information profession, ranging from freedom of information, preservation, services to the visually impaired and intellectual property. The biennial Council Report records IFLA's achievements in five key areas: access to information, the electronic environment, preservation and conservation, services and standards and professional development. The IFLA publications series, published by IFLA's publisher, K G Saur Verlag in Munich, Germany includes such titles as *Intelligent library buildings*, and *Adapting marketing to libraries in a changing worldwide environment*. The IFLA Professional Reports series feature reports of professional meetings and guidelines to best practice. Recent reports include *Proceedings of the IFLA/UNESCO pre-conference seminar on public libraries and Guidelines for easy-to-read materials*.

e) **Awards for Excellence**

IFLA offers the following awards and fellowships/ prizes:

–   Dr Shawky Salem Conference Grant

–   The MargreetWijnstroom Fund for Regional Library Development

–   Jay Jordon IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship

–   IFLA International Marketing Award

–   Guust van Wesemael Literary Prize.

f) **Resources**

Many librarians and information professionals throughout the world, who contribute their time, expertise and financial resources, make its achievements possible. About 80% of IFLA's income is derived from membership fees. Other sources of income include sales of publications, contributions in cash and kind from the corporate partners, grants from foundations and government agencies. The professional programme is supported by grants from UNESCO, several national and international funding agencies. Twenty national libraries contribute financial support for the Core Activities in addition to the six national and university libraries which, between them, host those programmes and its headquarters.

g) **IFLANET**

The web site IFLANET has rapidly become a prime source of information not only about IFLA, but also on a broad spectrum of library and information issues. It is hosted by the Institut de l'InformationScientifiqueet Technique (INIST), France.

h) **Relations with other Bodies**

IFLA has established good working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests, providing an opportunity for a regular exchange of information and views on issues of mutual concern. It has Formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In 1999, it established observer status with the World Trade Organization (WTO). In turn, IFLA has offered consultative status to a number of non-governmental organisations operating in related fields, including the International Publishers Association (IPA). All are members, along with the International Council on Archives (ICA), International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS). The mission of ICBS is to collect and disseminate information and to co-ordinate action in situations when cultural property is at risk.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answers in the space given below.

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

13)   Mention names of the IFLA core activities.

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14)   Mention in very short about IFLA publications.

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13.7 SUMMARY

Library Associations are learned bodies which foster a spirit of public service among their members, promote library services, protect the interests of their members and build up the image of the library profession. In this unit, we have dealt with the following aspects:

- The role, aim and objectives, programmes and activities of library associations at national levels in India as well as in the USA and the UK.

- Two major associations of India ,viz. the Indian Library Association and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers have been described, with reference to their objectives, organisations activities, publications, education and training programme, consultancy service and other information services, professional issues, relation with other professional bodies, international relation and future perspectives.

- The American Library Association, the CILIP and the IFLA and the Association for Information Management of UK, are described with reference to their aims and objectives, Organisations activities, publications, public library legislation, library research relations with other institutions, awards and rewards, international relation and future perspectives.

13.8 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

1) The aims and objectives of library associations are:

   a) Promote/spread Library movement in a country to disseminate knowledge:

   b) Work for enactment of public library legislation in the country;

   c) Work towards the evolution of integrated national library and informational systems;

   d) Professional development including improving service conditions for the professionals;

   e) Contributes towards manpower development.

2) The programmes and activities of a library association can be broadly grouped under the following categories:

   a) Undertaking surveys of library facilities and services;

   b) Continuing educational programmes;

   c) User studies;

   d) Organisation of conferences, seminars ,workshops, etc.

   e) Publication activities;

   f) Professional development.

3) The activities of Indian Library Association are:

   a) Holding conferences and meetings;

   b) Publication of ILA: ILA Bulletin, ILA Newsletter, Conference Proceedings, ILA members directory, Annual Reports;

c) Continuing education programmes;

d) Consultancy services; Directory of Library database;

e) Handing professional issues;

f) Participation in national library and information development;

g) Maintaining relational with other professional bodies;

h) Maintaining international relations;

i) Preparing for the future.

4) The professional issues taken by the Indian Library Association have been:

a) Enactment of library legislation with the state governments;

b) Betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals;

c) National Library and Informational Policy.

5) The activities of IASLIC that distinguished its special character are:

a) Biennial seminars and conferences in alternate years in different parts of the country;

b) Formational of interest groups devoted to area like Industrial Informational, Social Science Information:

c) Organising special lectures, exhibitions;

d) Publications special lectures, exhibitions;

d) Publications of literature in the library and informational science;

e) Support research projects getting financial assistance form funding bodies.

6) The publications of IASLIC are:

a) IASLIC Newsletters

b) Proceeding of seminars and Conferences,

c) Indian Library and Informational Science Abstracts,

d) Monographs, Manual, Codes and Glossaries etc.

7) The divisions of the American Library Association are:

a) School librarians,

b) Collections and technical services,

c) Services to children, trustees, advocates, friends and foundations,

d) College and research libraries,

e) Specialised and cooperative library agencies,

f) Library and information technology,

g) Library leadership and management,

h) Public library,

i) Reference and user services; and

j) Young adult library services.

8) ALA's International Activities include:

   a) Participation in the programmes of UNESCO, and IFLA

   b) Assistance to other countries through Advisory Services, Technical Assistance, Fellowships, travel Grants, supply of Reading Materials, etc.

9) The educational and training activities of the CILIP Include:

   a) Certification

   b) Chartership

   c) Fellowships

   d) Revalidation

   e) Accreditation

   f) Training and Development

10) Conference activities of the CILIP include:

   a) One-day conferences with expert

   a) Two and three day conferences of the SIGs

   c) InForums- series of discussions

11) ASLIB aims to facilitate the coordination and systematic use of source of Knowledge and informational in all public affairs and in industry and commerce and in all the arts and sciences. It is to increase the contribution of information to the economic, social and cultural life of the community by the promotion of effective information management.

12) Aslib mainly concentrates on info services, publications of professional literature and professional development.

13) IFLA Core Activities include:

   a) Action for Development through Libraries (ALP)

   b) Preservation and Conservation (PAC)

   c) CDNL Alliance for Bibliographical Standards (ICABS)

   d) UNIMARC

14) Some important IFLA Publications include:

   a) IFLA Journal

   b) IFLA Membership Directory

   c) International Cataloguing and Bibliographical Journal

   d) Library Statistics for the 21st Century, in IFLA Publication Series

13.9 KEYWORDS

Continuing Education : Non-Formal education for the benefit of working professionals to upgrade knowledge and skill. Ethics: Rules of conduct recognized in respect to particular group.

Forum	:	Public place for discussion of matter of common interest to a given group.
Library Movement	:	Progressive development of library towards providing the public access to knowledge and information.
Objectives	:	Specific aims, goals to be achieved.
Official Organ	:	A journal, newsletter or other publication representing a special Group.
Profession	:	Body of person engaged in an occupation, requiring an extensive education in a branch of science, arts, etc.
Programme	:	A coordinated group of thing to be done or performed.
Standard	:	Model, Guide or pattern for guidance.

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UNIT 14 ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Structure

14.0 Objectives

14.1 Introduction

14.2 International Organisations

14.3 National Organisations

14.4 Global Information Systems

14.5 National Information Systems

14.6 National Information and Documentation Centres

14.7 Summary

14.8 Answer to Self Check Exercises

14.9 Keywords

14.10 References and Further Reading

14.0 OBJECTIVES

This Unit is devoted to some of the important national and international organisations, institutions and information systems involved in development of library and information services. After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- elaborate on (a) international organisations engaged in the development of library and information services, (b) global information systems devoted to collection processing and dissemination of information, (c) national information systems in India involved in the promotion and development of information services and (d) national level information centers in India actually performing certain information functions;

- explain programmes and activities that are being undertaken by such organisations in the promotion, coordination and development of library and information services; and

- identify specifically the role played by some representative organisations and systems, such as UNESCO, UGC, RRRLF, NASSDOC, UNISIST, INIS, AGRIS, NISSAT and NISSAT sponsored library networks, NISCAIR, DESIDOC and NASSDOC.

14.1 INTRODUCTION

Many organisations, institutions and associations in India and abroad are functioning towards promotion, coordination and development of library and information services. Some of these are government funded and others are professional bodies and voluntary organisations. These are playing roles as professionals, advisory bodies, funding agencies and services providers, etc. It is difficult to cover all such kinds of national and international organisations, therefore, some of the well established ones are being described in this Unit. These include United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), University Grants Commission (UGC), Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), United Nations Information System in Science and Technology (UNISIST), International Nuclear Information System (INIS), Agricultural Information System (AGRIS), Chemical Abstract Service (CAS), Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), Developing Library Network (DELNET),– INFONET, international organisations, institutions and systems,

Library and information networks e.g. INFLIBNET, DELNET, CALIBNET, INFONET, etc. have contributed in the development of library and information services and discussed in detail in Unit 13.

14.2 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

14.2.1 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The constitution of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), signed on 16 November 1945, came into force on 4th November, 1946 after ratification by 20 countries including India. Today, UNESCO functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. It also serves as a clearinghouse – for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge – while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. UNESCO promotes international co-operation among its 193 Member States and 6 Associate Members in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. Article I Clause 1 Sub-clause (c) of its Constitution stipulated that the *"Organisation shall maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge by assuring the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of arts and monuments of history and science, and recommending the nations concerned the necessary International conventions; by encouraging cooperation among the nations in all branches of intellectual activity, including the international exchange of*

persons active in the field of education, science and culture and the exchange of publications, objects of artistic and scientific interest and other materials of information; by initiating methods of international cooperation calculated to give the people of all countries access to the printed and published materials produced by any of them".

Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information. The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. The Public Library Manifesto, adopted in 1994, proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. UNESCO, therefore, encourages national and local governments to support and actively engage in the development of public libraries. The following key missions which relate to information, literacy, education and culture should be at the core of public library services:

- creating and strengthening reading habits in children at an early age;
- supporting both individual and self-conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
- providing opportunities for personal creative development;
- stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
- promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
- providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
- fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favouring cultural diversity;
- supporting the oral tradition;
- ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
- providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
- facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
- supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes for all age groups, and initiating such activities if necessary.

The UNESCO's School Library Manifesto adopted in 1999, aims to define and advance the role of school libraries and resource centres in enabling students to acquire the learning tools and learning content that allow them to develop their full capacities; to continue to learn throughout their lives; and to make informed decisions. The following are essential to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning and culture and are core school library services:

- supporting and enhancing educational goals as outlined in the school's mission and curriculum;

- developing and sustaining in children the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning and the use of libraries throughout their lives;

- offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;

- supporting all students in learning and practising skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;

- providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities that expose learners to diverse ideas, experiences and opinions;

- organising activities that encourage cultural and social awareness and sensitivity;

- working with students, teachers, administrators and parents to achieve the mission of the school; proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;

- promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

Activities

Access to Information: UNESCO aims at helping individuals and organisations in improving access to information and knowledge. It strives to create conditions conducive to free flow of information. Universal access to information is high on its agenda. To achieve universal access to information it sets standards, creates awareness and develops management tools to strengthen libraries.

Archives: Archives are important components that help at improving information access, both for the public at large and for specialised groups. Since its creation, UNESCO has contributed to the reinforcement of these types of services. The development of information technologies and in particular the Internet, networking, cooperation and digitisation modify substantially the functions of acquiring, storing and disseminating information and knowledge. UNESCO pays special attention to the underdeveloped countries so that they do not lag behind technological advances. In the area of archives, UNESCO, through its Records and Archives Management Programme - RAMP (established in 1979) aims at:

- "making the general public and decision-makers aware of the importance of records and archives for planning and development safeguarding of the national heritage;

- assisting Member States in the establishment of efficient records and archives management infrastructures through standardization , archival legislation, training, and enhancing infrastructure (buildings and equipment);

- promoting international debates on main issues in the archival field" .

Memory of the World

UNESCO established the *Memory of the World* Programme in 1992. It provides access to the documentary heritage of the world. The programme was envisioned to protect and preserve documents that are endangered due to natural or man-made disasters.

An International Advisory Committee (IAC) was formed 1993 that formulated an action plan giving UNESCO the role of coordinator and catalyst to sensitise governments, international organisations and foundations, and foster partnerships for the implementation of projects. General Guidelines for the Programme were drafted through a contract with IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and ICA (International Council on Archives). UNESCO prepared a list of endangered library and archive holdings and a world list of national cinematic heritage through its National Commissions. Under the programme a range of pilot projects was commenced employing contemporary technology to reproduce original documentary heritage on other media. (These included, for example, a CD-ROM of the 13th Century Radzivill Chronicle, tracing the origins of the peoples of Europe, and Memoria de Iberoamerica, a joint newspaper microfilming project involving seven Latin American countries). These projects enhanced access to this documentary heritage and contributed to its preservation.

It includes the Vedas also that is one of the first produced literatures in the world.

Community Multimedia Centres: UNESCO's International Initiative for Community Multimedia Centres (CMCs) promotes community empowerment and addresses the digital divide by combining community broadcasting with the Internet and related technologies. A CMC combines community radio by local people in local languages with community telecentre facilities (computers with Internet and e-mail, phone, fax and photocopying services). The radio – which is low-cost and easy to operate – not only informs, educates and entertains, but it also empowers the community by giving a strong public voice to the voiceless, and thus encouraging greater accountability in public affairs.

Radio-browsing programmes: Presenters search the web in response to listeners' queries and discuss, on air, the contents of pre-selected websites with studio guests.

Multimedia databases for development: The CMC can gradually build up its own database of materials that meet the community's information needs.

Open learning: The CMC exists to meet development needs in such areas as education and training, health and income-generation.

E-Governance: E-governance is the use of ICT by different actors of the society with the aim to improve their access to information and to build their capacities. The principal on-going UNESCO activity in the field of e-governance is a cross-cutting project on E-Governance Capacity-Building. This project aims at promoting the use of ICT tools in municipalities to enhance good governance through the development of training modules for local decision-makers in Africa and Latin America.

Information Processing Tools: UNESCO develops, maintains and disseminates, free-of-charge, two interrelated software packages for database management (CDS/ISIS) and data mining/statistical analysis (IDAMS).

CDS/ISIS is a generalised information storage and retrieval system. The Windows version may run on a single computer or in a local area network. The JavaISIS client/server components allow remote database management over the Internet and are available for Windows, Linux and Macintosh. Furthermore, GenISIS

allows the user to produce HTML Web forms for CDS/ISIS database searching. The ISIS_DLL provides an API for developing CDS/ISIS based applications.

IDAMS is a software package for processing and analysing numerical data. It provides a great number of data manipulation and validation facilities and a wide range of classical and advanced statistical techniques. Interactive components allow for construction of multidimensional tables, graphical exploration of data and time series analysis. WinIDAMS software (IDAMS for 32-bit Windows operating system) as well as its documentation are available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

IDIS is a tool for direct data exchange between CDS/ISIS and IDAMS.

Knowledge and training in the use of information processing tools is as important as the tools themselves. At present, UNESCO offers various forms of traditional training in the use of CDS/ISIS and IDAMS. A computerised tutorial "How to work with WinIDAMS", available both on stand-alone PC configurations and in virtual courses through the Internet is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Public Domain Information: UNESCO strongly promotes access to public domain information, also known as the "information commons". The use of public domain information does not infringe any legal right or breach any other communal right (such as indigenous rights) or any obligation of confidentiality. Public domain information refers to the realm of all works or objects of related rights, which can be exploited by everybody without any authorisation, for instance because protection is not granted under national or international law, or because of the expiration of the term of protection or due to the absence of an international instrument ensuring protection in the case of foreign works or objects of related rights. UNESCO advocates that Member States should recognise and enact the right of universal online access to public and government-held records including information relevant for citizens in a modern democratic society, giving due account to confidentiality, privacy and national security concerns, as well as to intellectual property rights to the extent that they apply to the use of such information. International organisations should recognise and promulgate the right for each State to have access to essential data relating to its social or economic situation.

E-Heritage: Heritage is "our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations." A heritage is something that is, or should be, passed from generation to generation because it is valued. Examples of cultural heritage are: those sites, objects and intangible things that have cultural, historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value to groups and individuals. The concept of natural heritage is also very familiar: physical, biological and geological features; habitats of plants or animal species and areas of value on scientific or aesthetic grounds or from the point of view of conservation.

More and more of the world's cultural and educational resources are being produced, distributed and accessed in digital form. Born-digital heritage available on-line, including electronic journals, World Wide Web pages or on-line databases, is now part of the world's cultural heritage. However, digital information is subject to technical obsolescence and physical decay. The instability of the Internet is an

additional risk for knowledge accumulated in html format. The need to safeguard this relatively new form of documentary heritage calls for international consensus on its collection, preservation and dissemination which resulted in the adoption of "UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage" Guidelines accompanying the Charter adapt and extend present policies, legal frameworks and archival procedures so that this new form of heritage will not sink into silence. UNESCO's programme aims at preservation and dissemination of valuable archive holdings and library collections worldwide.

Digital Heritage is made up of computer-based materials of enduring value that should be kept for future generations. Digital heritage emanates from different communities, industries, sectors and regions. Not all digital materials are of enduring value, but those that are require active preservation approaches if continuity of digital heritage is to be maintained.

According to the UNESCO's Charter for the Preservation of Digital Heritage:

• Resources of human knowledge or expression, whether cultural, educational, scientific and administrative, or embracing technical, legal, medical and other kinds of information, are increasingly created digitally, or converted into digital form from existing analogue resources.

• Digital materials include texts, databases, still and moving images, audio, graphics, software, and web pages, among a wide and growing range of formats. They are frequently ephemeral, and require purposeful production, maintenance and management to be retained.

• Many of these resources have lasting value and significance, and therefore constitute a heritage that should be protected and preserved for current and future generations. This heritage may exist in any language, in any part of the world, and in any area of human knowledge or expression.

Using computers and related tools, humans are creating and sharing digital resources – information, creative expression, ideas, and knowledge encoded for computer processing – that they value and want to share with others over time as well as across space. This is evidence of a digital heritage. It is a heritage made of many parts, sharing many common characteristics and subject to many common threats.

General Information Programme

The General Information Programme was created bringing together two series of activities so far separately conducted by UNESCO: the UNISIST Intergovernmental Programme dealing with scientific and technical information, on the one hand and NATIS, UNESCO's concept of integrated national information concerned with documentation, libraries and archives, on the other hand. The work of the General Information Programme is guided by the Intergovernmental Council for the General Information Programme whose members are elected by UNESCO's General Conference. The Intergovernmental Council for PGI is the authority which is responsible for ensuring the continuity of past activities of UNESCO in the field of information and the future development of the General Information Programme in the interest of Education, Science, Culture and Communication.

In particular, the Council, composed of thirty-six Member States elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, is responsible for:

- "*guiding* the conception and planning of the General Information Programme of UNESCO, in particular by putting forward recommendations on the Medium-Term Plan and its revision and on the content of future programmes and budgets to be submitted to the General Conference;

- *studying* proposals concerning developments and modifications of the Programme;

- *recommending* priorities among the various activities or groups of activities constituting that Programme;

- *reviewing* the results achieved and defining the basic areas requiring international co-operation;

- *encouraging* and assisting Members States to participate in the General Information Programme of UNESCO and to co-ordinate their activities to that end;

- *reviewing* the other information activities of UNESCO and making recommendations to the Director-General for a better co-ordination of the said activities;

- *seeking* voluntary contributions, either financial or in kind, to supplement the resources available under the regular budget for the implementation of the General Information Programme".

The General Information Programme has been replaced by Information for All Programme (IFAP) since 2001. IFAP strives to overcome the digital divide in the society. It advocates for all people on the wrong side of the information divide. The programme takes special concern of the needs of women, youth and the elderly and the differently abled.

The Information for All Programme seeks to:

- "promote international reflection and debate on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society;

- promote and widen access to information in the public domain through the organisation, digitisation and preservation of information;

- support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of communication, information and informatics;

- support the production of local content and foster the availability of indigenous knowledge through basic literacy and ICT literacy training;

- promote the use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics in UNESCO's fields of competence; and

- promote information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels".

Information for Development

One of the challenges facing IFAP is to explain to governments and communities the value of information in addressing development issues. The objectives in the UN Millennium Declaration link the development and eradication of poverty to

good governance and transparency. Information Literacy is one such competency that empowers individuals to access and use information. It enables lifelong learning and decision making in all aspects of life. Information literacy in the digital world demands that individuals possess technology and media skills. IFAP promotes actions aimed at raising awareness of the importance of information literacy and supporting projects that build the literacy skills of users. Ethical use of information is an integral component of information literacy. IFAP is working to propagate ethical use of information in collaboration with its partner institutions.

Information Accessibility

"Information accessibility encompasses the many issues surrounding availability, accessibility and affordability of information, such as multilingualism, metadata, interoperability, open source software, open content, Creative Commons licences as well as addressing the special needs of people with disabilities".

Divide has been created due to unequal availability of information among the different cross-sections of the society. Economic concerns also create barriers towards free availability of information in the society. UNESCO has encouraged global efforts in this direction. Outcomes have been projects granted in the areas such as Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), Open Educational Resources (OER), etc.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

1)   Write a brief note on preservation of digital heritage.

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14.3 NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

14.3.1 University Grants Commission (UGC)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a statutory organisation established by an Act of Parliament in 1956. This is a national body for the co-ordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. The UGC serves as a vital link between the Union and state governments and the institutions of higher learning. In addition to its role of giving grants to universities and colleges; the UGC also advises union and state governments on the measures necessary for the improvement of university education. It also frames regulations such as those on the minimum standards of instruction and qualifications of teachers on the advice of subject specialists and academicians with whom it frequently interacts in connection with the formulation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes.

Section l2 of the UGC Act provided that the Commission shall, in consultation with the universities concerned, take all such steps as it may think fit for the promotion and coordination of university education and for the maintenance of standards in teaching, examination and research. Schemes/programmes are implemented by the Commission for promoting excellence and in enhancing standards of institutions of higher learning.

The Commission, being an apex body in maintaining higher education in the country, has also played a major role in promoting library and information services in these universities and colleges. Besides, it has also established and constituted a number of libraries/information centers/study centers and committees to provide quality education and service in the field of library and information activities. Some of these are :

a) Financial Assistance to University and College Libraries

b) Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) on Library and Information Science

c) Establishment of National Information Centres

d) Establishment of INFLIBNET

e) Modernisation of university libraries

f) National Review Committee on University and College Libraries

a) **Financial Assistance to University and College Libraries**

Financial assistance is given to universities and colleges including Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Government and affiliated colleges, which receive grants for building up libraries so as to meet the demands of the students, teachers and research scholars. The Commission provides substantial grants for the acquisition of books and journals.

For other infrastructural facilities also like library buildings, furniture and equipment grants are given in every five-year plan period. It also introduced a scheme of 'book bank' in colleges and universities by providing 'grants to acquire multiple copies of costly text books recommended in all the disciplines. The objective of this scheme was to provide text books to poor, needy and deserving students for home study on long term basis by charging nominal deposits. This Scheme is no longer in operation by UGC support.

b) **Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) on Library and Information Science**

The UGC constituted CDC on Library and Information Science in 1990 to restructure the courses of studies. The committee in its recommendations framed, guidelines for LIS schools, covering admission policy, students and faculty strength, instructional methodology, teaching aids, application of information technology, etc. Besides, it also constituted a committee called UGC Panel in Library and Information Science to suggest the changes to be brought in the education and training of LIS courses.

c) **Establishment of National Information Centres**

The objective of establishing National Information Centres in specialised areas is to provide improved access to information and to provide

bibliographic support to teachers and research scholars in their respective fields. Three such centers have been established and they have developed computer databases to render reference and information services, documentation services and current awareness services. These three centres are:

Name of the Centre	Disciplines Covered
1) National Centre for Science Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Physical, Applied and Natural Sciences Information
2) Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda	Social Sciences and Humanities
3) SNDT Women's University, Bombay	Social Sciences and Humanities

d) **Establishment of INFLIBNET**

The UGC established an Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Programme with headquarters at Ahemedabad as a project of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCA) Pune in April 1991. The INFLIBNET Programme aims at the establishment of a national network of libraries and information centers in institutions of higher learning including universities, colleges, R&D institutions and national organisations like CSIR, ICMR, ICSSR, ICAR, DOE, etc.

INFLBNET is a computer-communication network of libraries and bibliographical information centres. It is a co-operative network programme for pooling, sharing and optimisation of resources, facilities and services of libraries and information centres, in the university system as well as in the R&D complex. It provides access to information to students, academies and researchers in rendering various information and documentation services such as (a) catalogue based service (b) database service (c) document delivery service (d) collection development and (e) communication-based service. Details about the INFLIBNET activities and services are given in Block 3 of this course.

e) **Modernisation of University Libraries**

Recent advances in information and communication technology and its utility have forced the university libraries to computerise their services and connecting themselves to various network programmes like INFLIBNET so as to provide fast, efficient and reliable computerised information service to its users. The UGC provided special financial assistance to central university libraries (2 crore rupees) and university libraries established before independence (50 lakh rupees) during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years for updating library facilities. The main objective was to computerise the library activities and connect them to INFLIBNET programme. The utilisation of the fund provided for the purpose is to meet the following expenses:

1) Purchase of computer system, monitor, printer, terminals, software, etc.

2) Computer, furniture and electrical fittings and air conditioning.

3) Mode, telephone line and connection to nearest mode.

4) Appointment of information scientist.

5) Support for data entry work.

6) Puchase of books, journals, A/V and their processing.

7) Data entry conservation (modernisation).

8) Staff trining.

f) **National Review Committee on University and College Libraries**

The purpose of constituting such a committee is to review the utilisation of grants to central universities and some state university libraries of Rs. 2 crores and Rs.50 lakhs respectively. Secondly, to prepare a status report of university and college libraries in India and, finally to prepare a strategy plan/guideline for the future for smooth functioning of these university and college libraries.

14.3.2 Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was established in May, 1972 by the Department of Culture, Government of India to spread library services all over the country in cooperation with state governments, union territory administrations and organisation working in the field. It is a central autonomous organisation established and financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It is the nodal agency of the Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country. The supreme policy-making body of RRRLF is called the Foundation. It consists of members nominated by the Government of India from amongst eminent educationists, librarians, administrators and senior officials. The Foundation has 22 members. The Minister of the Department of Culture, Government of India or his nominee is the Chairman of RRRLF. The foundation works in close association and active cooperation with different state governments and union territory administrations through a machinery called State Library Planning Committee (SLPC/SLC) set up in each state at the instance of the foundation. A state government/U.T. is required to contribute a certain amount fixed by the foundation to participate in its programmes, The headquarters of RRRLF are located at Kolkata with four zonal offices located at Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Chennai.

Objectives

RRRLF functions as a promotional agency, an advisory and consultancy organisation and a funding body for public library developement in India. Some of its significant objectives are to:

- "promote library movement in the country;

- enunciate a national library policy and to help build up a national library system;

- provide financial and technical assistance to libraries;

- provide financial assistance to organisations, regional or national engaged in the promotion of library developement;

- publish appropriate literature and to act as a clearing house of ideas and information on library developement in India and abroad;

- promote research in problems of library developement; and

- advise the government on all matters pertaining to the library developement in the country".

Programmes and Activities of RRRLF

Assistance Programmes

RRRLF provides matching and non-matching grants and books to public libraries under different schemes of assistance.

Matching assistance is provided:

- "towards building up of adequate stock of books and reading materials.

- towards development of Rural Book Deposit Centres and Mobile Library Services.

- towards organisation of seminars, workshops, training courses (orientation/ refresher), books exhibitions and library awareness programmes.

- towards purchase of storage materials, reading room furniture and library equipment, like card cabinet, fire extinguisher, etc. including photo copier.

- towards increasing accommodation to public libraries.

- to acquire computer with accessories for library application and TV, CD Player, DVD player for educational purposes for public libraries".

Assistance under these schemes are given from the resources shared on matching basis with the States/Union Territory Administrations. For developed States it has ratio of 50 : 50, developing and lagging States it has ratio of 60 : 40 and North-Eastern States this ratio is 90 : 10.

Non-Matching Assistance are provided:

- "towards building up of adequate stock of books through central selection.

- to voluntary organisations (NGOs) providing public library services.

- to children's libraries or children's section, senior citizen section, neo-literate section of general public libraries.

- to public libraries towards celebration of Golden/Diamond/Platinum, etc. Jubilee years.

- towards organising seminar/conference by professional organisation, local bodies, NGOs engaged in public library development/library movement and university departments of library science.

- towards collection and compilation of library statistics through official and non-official agencies.

- to centrally sponsored libraries.

- towards establishment of RRRLF Children Corner".

Promotion of District Youth Resource Centres (DYRCs)

The DYRCs are assisted towards:

- building up adequate stock of books.

- acquiring storage materials and library furniture.

- construction of library building.

- acquisition of computers with accessories.

Promotional Activities

RRRLF has undertaken several promotional activities for qualitative improvement of library services. It has played a major role in the preparation of National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS). It has also issued guidelines on public library systems and services. The Foundation introduced Annual Raja Rammohun Roy Award to the best contributor of an article covering the area of development of Public Library Systems and Services or suggesting measures for promotion of reading habit. It helps to disseminate innovative, new concepts and ideas for the development of Public Library System and Services in the country through research oriented activities. The Foundation has also undertaken a programme of giving seven awards annually – one for the best State Central Library and six for the best District Libraries of six regions in the country. Since 2005 the Foundation also instituted RRRLF Best Rural Library Awards – one for each State. The Foundation institutes "RRRLF Fellowship" to offer fellowship to five eminent men and women in the field of Library Services who have contributed to the library movement in the country through active involvement in the movement, organisational initiative or intellectual leadership or are dedicated to the propagation of reading habit among the masses.

Research Project

The Research Cell of RRRLF renders advisory and consultancy services whenever required, besides carrying on research projects on public library or allied subject. It has prepared and published a report on loss of books in libraries for the Government of India.

Publications

RRRLF has brought out a number of publications. The significant publications are:

• Indian Libraries : Trends and Perspectives

• Raja Rammohun Roy and the New Learning

• Directory of Indian Public Libraries

• Granthana, Indian Journal of Library Studies (bi-annual)

• RRRLF Newsletter (bi-monthly)

• Books for the Millions at their Doorsteps (Information Manual)

RRRLF Digital Library Initiative

Digitising of rare books, including pre-Independence newspapers, journals and other documents housed in public libraries will be taken up and a Digital Repository will be created for providing access to all stakeholders to digitised documents. Selected copyright-free materials, including paintings, photographs, manuscripts, etc. available in public libraries will also be digitized and will be made available to the public. This National Digital Repository will be progressively developed to contain metadata of all rare materials available in public libraries in India as well as the digital version of the copyright-free works as part of National Digital Preservation Programme. This Digital Repository will also host contents on Libraries, Library System and Services and Library Development in India.

For this purpose CDAC has already been entrusted to digitise the collection of Rabindra Bhavan, Visva-Bharati. CDAC has already digitised 8896 journals / books at Rabindra Bhavan as on 30th June, 2013. NIC authority has been approached for hosting of the Digital Library Portal.

Skill Development Programme

Training modules have been proposed to be developed for working librarians at three different levels, viz:

Level 1: The programmes would cover areas like public library of the future, strategic planning workshop, aimed at the senior officers dealing with state level public library policy and administrative matters. It is expected that 2 or 3 officials from each state will participate in this programme.

Level 2: Programmes at this level would aim at the middle level staff in the state central libraries, district libraries and large city libraries. It would include hands-on practical training focusing on ICT skills, administrative and management skills.

Level 3: It would include training on the day-to-day routines of the library, aimed at staff who interact with library users and visitors and who are responsible for the upkeep of the libraries. This will be held in different parts of each state and will be conducted by local resource persons in local language.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

2)   State the functions and type of assistance provided by RRRLF to the libraries.

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14.4 GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

14.4.1 UNISIST

The launching of UNISIST (United Nations Information System in Science and Technology), also known as World Scientific Information System programme in 1973 marked a new phase in UNESCO's work in the library, documentation and information field. UNISIST, with emphasis on scientific and technological information, is a conceptual framework and not an operating system by itself. It envisages development of international network of information services. The broad objectives are improvement of tools of system inter-connection, strengthening institutional components of information transfer chain, development of manpower for information work, evolution of national information policy by national governments and assistance to member countries to develop capability in information handling and service.

An inter-governmental council at the UNESCO Headquarters guides the implementation of the UNISIST programme. At the national level, liaison with UNESCO is ensured by a National Focal Point and a UNISIST National Committee. The action programmes of UNISIST have contributed to the creation of awareness about formulation of information policy by member countries, development of information infrastructure especially in developing countries, establishment of special information systems, facilities for training of information manpower and above all establishment of norms and standards for information work. While three major inter- governmental conferences namely, UNISIST I, NATIS and UNISIST II(1971, 1974, 1979) identified a number of recommendations, the implementation of actual programmes has been carried out in terms of UNESCO's Medium Term Plans (1977-1982,1984-1989). The activities being carried out by PGI reflect a very clear policy of practical action on behalf of member states, emphasis being laid on pilot projects, training activities, application of modern technologies, exchange of experience and know-how and, in general', activities that have a catalytic and multiplier effect.

Apart from PGI, UNESCO has been responsible for the development of some specialised database and information systems such as the Data Retrieval System for Documentation in the Social and Human Sciences (DARE), Science Policy Information System (SPINES), International Information System for Architecture, International Bureau of Education Documentation and Information System (IBEDOC) and International Information in Research in Documentation (ISORID).

The bi-monthly UNESCO Bulletin for Libraries had been a widely circulated general periodical in library and information science but it is no longer published. It has been replaced by UNISIST Newsletter, which is of informative nature and appears quarterly. Other publications of UNESCO cover monographs, manuals, handbooks, standards and guidelines, training manuals and packages, reports, seminar proceedings, project documents, etc. These are authoritative documents and make a valuable contribution to library and information science literature. India, a member of UNESCO from the beginning, takes an active part in its programmes and has also been deriving benefits. While the Indian National Commission for UNESCO is the official channel; the NISSAT in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is the focal point for UNISIST/PGI and is the Coordinating Centre for the ASTINFO programme. NASSDOC/ICSSR is the focal point for – APINESS. In India, UNESCO has supported many projects and programmes and has provided technical assistance for specific missions; it has held meetings and seminars and has conducted training programmes. UNESCO has also drawn on the expertise and experience of India and its experts for its programmes in other countries. Presently, India is taking an active part in ASTINFO and APINESS projects. On the whole, India's association with UNESCO with regard to library and information field has been rewarding.

14.4.2 International Nuclear Information System (INIS)

INIS was established in 1970 in response to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) mandate *"... to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful uses of atomic energy"*. The INIS represents a wealth of experience and an extensive pool of information in the nuclear field. The first INIS output products, the printed Atomindex and associated magnetic tapes,

were issued in April 1970. It has since grown into one of the successful and comprehensive information systems on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. INIS processes most of the world's scientific and technical literature on a wide range of subjects from nuclear engineering, safeguards and non-proliferation to applications in agriculture and health. For the past four decades, INIS has been successfully fulfilling its mission to create a reservoir of nuclear information for current and future generations; to provide quality nuclear information services to Member States and to assist with the development of a culture of information and knowledge sharing.

INIS is operated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with, at present, 128 Member States and 24 International Organisations. Active partnerships with other organisations in Member States are also developed. INIS strength is based on this international co-operation. Representation in the system is at governmental level. National INIS Centres are responsible for all related activities in a country. Collecting relevant literature and disseminating INIS output products to end-users is decentralised to National INIS Centres in Member States. This mechanism allows INIS to achieve widest coverage of national nuclear-related literature; to overcome cultural and language barriers and to give every INIS Member the right to access nuclear information of all other INIS Members.

INIS Activities

INIS Database: INIS has operated on cooperative principles since 1970 as a service to its members. It consists of a bibliographic database and a collection of non-conventional literature (NCL) and is the largest IAEA information source in nuclear science and technology. INIS continually evolves and adjusts to changes in political and technological information requirements, the needs of its user base and information management technologies. An important aspect of INIS is the high quality of its database. Every input to the INIS Database is checked by experts of the INIS Secretariat assuring the correctness of bibliographic description and subject analysis (classification, indexing and abstracting). User-friendly version of the INIS Online Database is also available. It offers direct on-line access to full-text documents of non-conventional literature in PDF format. The database can be accessed with the same user ID, password, and IP address as the previous version.

Non-Conventional Nuclear Information: INIS unique collection of 7 lakh full-text documents of non-conventional "grey" literature, available on microfiche is being upgraded to digital format and made available through the INIS Online Database to users in Member States. At present, the full-text collection which consists of microfiche and electronic version (PDF) has grown to over nine lakh documents. More than 3 million bibliographic citations and abstracts of journal articles, scientific and technical reports, conference papers, books, patents, theses, laws, regulations and standards and web documents, covering publications in 63 languages; all records include keywords and most have an abstract in English. The INIS NCL collection on microfiche is being digitised at an annual rate of about one million pages. Other IAEA publications, policy documents and full-text reports from Member States are also being digitised and made available in electronic format.

Document Delivery Service: INIS has arrangements with 72 national INIS Centres to provide document delivery services to users within their countries. Requests for individual reports produced since 1997 are referred to these Centres if they exist in the country of the requester. Orders for reports published prior to 1997 are addressed to the INIS and NKM Section. By clicking on the Document Delivery Service, user can obtain information on services, cost, types of delivery, etc. All reports published after 1997 are also available electronically in Acrobat PDF format. Some reports published prior to 1997 can also be delivered electronically depending on the size of the report or analytic requested.

INIS Multilingual Thesaurus: INIS specialists from Member States and the IAEA have developed a controlled vocabulary for indexing and searching the INIS Database. Over the years the INIS Thesaurus has evolved as a result of systematic study. It contains over 30 000 terms. The INIS Thesaurus is now available in all official languages of the IAEA: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish and in German. It represents a unique multilingual thesaurus in the nuclear field.

Capacity Building: To assist its Member States, the IAEA transfers knowledge and know-how in data collection and information processing, in particular to developing countries and new INIS Members. It also helps to establish national INIS Centres in developing countries.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

3) Describe briefly the activities of INIS.

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14.4.3 Agricultural Information System (AGRIS)

AGRIS, the international information system for the agricultural sciences and technology, was created by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1974, to facilitate information exchange and to bring together world literature dealing with all aspects of agriculture. AGRIS is a cooperative system in which participating countries input references to the literature produced within their boundaries and, in return, draw on the information provided by the other participants. At present more than 240 national, international and inter-governmental centers are participating in this programme.

AGRIS provides worldwide bibliographic coverage of agricultural science and technology literature. Assembled by the AGRIS Coordinating Centre, the FAO, AGRIS offers an international perspective on crucial agricultural research. The many aspects of agriculture, including forestry, animal husbandry, aquatic sciences and fisheries, and human nutrition from over 135 participating countries are

covered. Literature includes unique material such as unpublished scientific and technical reports, theses, conference papers, government publications and more. Approximately 130,000 records are added each year with key words in English, French and Spanish.

WEBAGRIS

WEBAGRIS is a complete, multilingual web-based system for distributed data input, processing and dissemination (through the Internet or on CD-ROM), of agricultural bibliographic information. It is based on common standards of data input and dissemination formats (XML, HTML, ISO2709), as well as subject categorisation schema and AGROVOC Thesaurus. WEBAGRIS also allows to link to documents that are available in electronic format. WEBAGRIS provides the following functionalities:

Database maintenance functions:

- Data entry and update;

- Password control;

- Creation of new records;

- Updating of existing records;

- Validation by formats;

- Display of authority data for a selection.

Information dissemination functions:

- User friendly retrieval;

- Sort;

- Print and export options;

- Searching through a number of databases;

- Result paging;

- Saving option for query history, etc.

The WEBAGRIS system can be used in multiple ways depending on the need and resources of the individual AGRIS Resource Centre. The centre can host a website for data entry, searching and/or exporting data to the central AGRIS database and/or publishing on the CD-ROMs. It can be used as a local application or in a common networked environment for join collection of information (through exporting, harvesting data, etc.). WEBAGRIS improves accessibility of information generally, through the use of multi-database searching and harvesting.

The WEBAGRIS system is based on the web technology and can be run from a standard Internet browser. It uses the WWW-ISIS software developed by the Institute for Computer and Information Engineering (ICIE), Poland with the cooperation and support of FAO for publishing CDS/ISIS databases on the Web. The interface is based on HTML forms, and has been implemented as a CGI program. The program is invoked by the web server process. The access to the CDS/ISIS databases is managed through BIREME's software ISIS-DLL , an API (Application Program Interface) for CDS/ISIS software of UNESCO in the Windows environment.

The current WEBAGRIS version 2.0 is developed by the AGRIS/CARIS and Documentation group of GILW, FAO (FAO-Agris-Caris@fao.org), in close cooperation with the Institute for Computer and Information Engineering (ICIE), Poland and IICA/CATIE, Costa Rica.

AGRIS Application Profile (AGRIS-AP)

The AGRIS-AP is a metadata standard created specifically to enhance the description, exchange and subsequent retrieval of agricultural Document-Like Information Objects (DLIOs). It is a format that allows sharing of information across dispersed bibliographic systems and is based on well-known and accepted metadata standards. The guidelines also provide recommended best practices for cataloguing and subject indexing. The AGRIS-AP is a major step towards exchanging high-quality and medium-complexity metadata in an application independent format.

Generating AGRIS-AP XML from local databases

This is a technical document mainly devoted to those libraries and institutions that wish to disseminate and export data from their local databases using the AGRIS-AP XML format, based on the AGRIS-DTD.

AGRIS-DTD

The AGRIS-DTD is a Document Type Definition that defines the legal building blocks of an AGRIS XML record. It defines the record structure with a list of legal elements for the AGRIS Application Profile and validates the XML inputs from AGRIS resource centers. A valid input meets all the requirements set out by the AGRIS AP, including cardinality and obligation.

AGRIS Metadata Elements

Metadata used in AGRIS and recommended by AgMES (the metadata standard) developed by FAO for the description and discovery of agricultural information resources.

AGROVOC Thesaurus

The AGROVOC Thesaurus was developed by FAO and the Commission of the European Communities, in the early 1980s. It is updated by AFO roughly every three months. This is a multilingual, structured and controlled vocabulary designed to cover the terminology of all subject fields in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and related domains. It consists of words or expressions (terms) in different languages and organised in relationships (e.g. "broader", "narrow", and "related") used to identify or search resources. Its main role is to standardise the indexing process in order to make searching simpler and more efficient and to provide the user with the most relevant resources.

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA)

It is a program, launched in 2003, to provide free or low cost access to major scientific journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to public institutions in developing countries. AGORA provides access to 1278 journals from the world's leading academic publishers. The goal of AGORA is to improve the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research, education and training in low-income countries and in turn to improve food security. Researchers, policy-makers, educators, students, technical workers and

extension specialists can have access to high-quality, relevant and timely agricultural information via the Internet. Access to AGORA is password controlled. Within the participating countries AGORA provides benefit not-for-profit national academic, research or government institutions in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

4) What are the functionalities provided by the WEBAGRIS?

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14.5 NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

During the past six decades, a number of special libraries, documentation centres and information centers have come up in our country under a variety of ownership and jurisdiction. When they came to be established, they sprang up piecemeal, without any coordination. There has not been much of liaison between them. There has been realisation lately that their resources and facilities need to be coordinated towards optimum utilisation and elimination of wasteful duplication. Further, the existing libraries and information centres require to be upgraded to be able to meet the growing needs of information in the context of advances in information technology. Uniformity in techniques, methods, practices, etc. has to be aimed at in order to facilitate exchange of information between different components. The action programme in this regard envisaged interlinking and coordinating a large number of subsets of sources, services and centres into versatile, articulate and integrated information systems.

14.5.1 National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT)

National Information System in Science and Technology (NISSAT) was set up in 1977 to oversee the above functions. The project was later closed in March 2002.

The increasing role of science and technology in the economic and social development of the country has generated a pressing demand for faster technology transfer to industries. Apart from access to information generated within the country, it is also necessary to draw from externally generated information to support internal efforts on research and development. Information centres that have come up to serve the needs of different industries and R&D units are therefore required to be coordinated and organised into an integrated system to avoid a haphazard growth and duplication of activities and in conformity with national and international standards.

NISSAT programme envisaged promotion and support to the development of a compatible set of information systems on science and technology and interlinking these into a network. The approach adopted was to bring the existing centres, systems and services to a higher level of operation so that the interests of the national community of information users could be better served. For this purpose, the programme also contemplates experimentation with and introduction of modern information handling tools add techniques and the development of endogenous capabilities.

1) **Objectives**

   NISSAT was established with the following objectives :

   - Development of National Information Services

   - Promotion of Existing Information Systems and Services

   - Introduction of Modern Information Handling Tools and Techniques

   - Promotion of National and International Cooperation in Information

   - Development of Indigenous Products and Services

   - Support to Education, Training and R&D in Information.

   Strategies

   - Emphasis on Contents Aspects

   - Use of Existing Infrastructural Facilities

   - Commercialisation of Information Services

   NISSAT programmes were implemented through several sub-programmes which include the following.

   - Establishment of information centres in specific sectors, subjects and products

   - Development of information resource sharing systems like library networks, union catalogues and consultative committees

   - Establishment of international database access centres

   - Promotion of application of modern information technologies

   - Development of skills in information technologies and information handling tools

   - Promotion of application of modern information technologies

   - Development of skills in information technologies and information handling tools, techniques, etc.

2) **NISSAT Information Centres**

   a) **Sectoral Information Centres**

   The major instrument for information resource development and dissemination was the information centre which provided bibliographic as well as factual and numerical information on a product, discipline or mission; a series of information centres were established to create information awareness and to meet information needs of academicians, scientists, technologists, entrepreneurs, management executives and decision makers.

These Information Centres were built around the existing information resources and facilities. They maintained extensive collections of published and unpublished documents in the form of books, periodicals, research reports, development and trade reports, etc. in the relevant subject areas. Besides providing documents and preparing bibliographies on request, they offered SDI, CAS, reprographic, micrographic, industrial and technical inquiry service, translation and other services.

NISSAT played a very important role in computerisation of libraries in the country. It was the national distribution centre of CDS/ISIS and later WINISIS software. It also developed software Sanjay and Trishna for organisations. NISSAT was also instrumental in making LIS professionals computer literate by organising variety of courses of different levels in various parts of the country.

Library networks in the country also owe their origin to NISSAT. Metropolitan Area Networks were set up with the initiative and patronage of NISSAT. Starting with CALIBNET in Calcutta and DELNET in Delhi these spread to all parts of the country.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

5)   Write a brief note on the past activties of NISSAT.

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14.6 NATIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRES

14.6.1 National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR)

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) came into existence on 30th September 2002 following the merger of two establishments of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), i.e. National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC). INSDOC was established in 1952 for providing scientific and technical information and documentation services including abstracting and indexing services, design and development of databases, translation, library automation, access to international information sources, human resource development, consultancy services in setting up modern library and information centres. NISCOM, earlier known as Publications and Information

Directorate (PID) had been involved in diverse publications in science and technology ranging from those for the common man to researchers and policy makers. It had been publishing popular journals, learned journals, books, monographs and other publications. NISCAIR has its core activities to acquire, organise, store, publish and disseminate scientific and technical information for the benefit of the society. It has the following mandate:

- "To provide formal linkages of communication among the scientific community in the form of research journals in different areas of science and technology;

- To disseminate S&T information to general public, particularly school students, to inculcate interest in science among them;

- To collect, collate and disseminate information on plant, animal and mineral wealth of the country;

- To harness information technology applications in information management with particular reference to science communication and modernizing libraries;

- To act as a facilitator in furthering the economic, social, industrial, scientific and commercial development by providing timely access to relevant and accurate information;

- To develop human resources in science communication, library, documentation and information science and scientific and technical information management systems and services;

- To collaborate with international institutions and organisations having objectives and goals similar to those of NISCAIR; and

- To engage in any other activities in consonance with the mission statement of NISCAIR".

Services and Activities of NISCAIR

National Science Library (NSL)

NISCAIR serves as a single window to provide scientific and technical information. Its role as the national information resource is fulfilled through the National Science Library (NSL) that has a comprehensive collection of S&T publications in the country. NSL acts as a referral centre and clearinghouse for the best utilisation of the existing collection in the country. It aims to acquire all the important S&T publications published in the country and strengthening its resource base for foreign periodicals. It has a rich collection of over 2,40,000 volumes including monographs, 1.2 lakhs bound volumes of journals, 1250 Indian periodicals, 300 foreign periodicals and 4256 international e-journals published by 416 publishers and 2500 open access journals. The NSL is open to public to utilise the collection in library premises. It provides on the spot photocopies of articles from its own collection, at a prescribed rate and printout from journals on CDs available in-house. The library issues out its publications to the users of other libraries in Delhi through inter-library loan service. The NSL provides free access to electronic journals from various leading international publishers.

Access to On-line Databases

NISCAIR has access to international databases. Information is sought through online searching from over 1500 international databases. NISCAIR performs

searches for research scientists and the corporate sector who use these databases for the latest R&D, commercial and market information.

Access to E-journals

NISCAIR is the nodal agency for the e-journals consortium of CSIR and DST known as "National Knowledge Resource Centre (NKRC)". The activity ranges from creation to monitoring of the access facility of scientific periodicals published by leading international institutions. The objectives of e-journals consortia are to strengthen the pooling, sharing and electronically accessing the CSIR library resources; to provide access to world S&T literature to CSIR laboratories and establishments; and to nucleate the culture of electronic access resulting into evolution of digital libraries. Under this scheme, CSIR scientists can access these journals and download materials for their use.

Development of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

TKDL was a collaborative project between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy- (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. An inter-disciplinary team of Traditional Medicine (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga) experts, patent examiners, IT experts, scientists and technical officers were involved in creation of TKDL for Indian Systems of Medicine. TKDL would provide information on traditional knowledge existing in the country, in languages and format understandable by patent examiners at International Patent Offices (IPOs), so as to prevent the grant of wrong patents. TKDL would thus, act as a bridge between the traditional knowledge information existing in local languages and the patent examiners at IPOs. The project TKDL involved documentation of the knowledge available in public domain on traditional knowledge from the existing literature related to Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga, in digitised format in five international languages which are English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish. As of June 2013, it provides access to 150 books in traditional medicine comprising 75 in Ayurveda, 50 in Siddha, 15 in Yoga and 10 in Unani system of medicine.

National Science Digital Library

NSDL is a learning repository developed by NISCAIR. It provides access to course material for under graduate students in different areas of science and technology. The material has been authored by faculties and validated by senior experts in the fields.

Information Services

National Centre for ISSN

International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is a global code to identify serials. It is used by publishers, suppliers, libraries, information services, bar coding systems, union catalogues, etc. for citation and retrieval of serials. NISCAIR is the national centre of ISSN International Centre for assigning ISSN to serials published in India.

Bibliometric Services

NISCAIR carries out the following bibliometric services for studying growth, development and spread of any area of research and also for identifying centres of excellence, influential authors, etc.

1) *Citation Analysis* to check how many times and where a given paper has been cited in world literature.

2) *Impact Factor of a Journal* implies the frequency with which the average article of the journal has been cited in a particular year.

3) *Multifaceted Bibliometric Analysis* to calculate author's productivity, journal preferences, impact factor analysis, subject growth trend analysis, etc.

4) *Bibliometric Analysis* of research papers published by institutions, groups of scientists, individual scientists, etc. in comparison with other similar research.

Literature Search Service

Literature search is an important service for researchers. NISCAIR provides this service and compiles bibliographies on demand from indigenous as well as from international databases in the areas of science, technology, engineering, industry, etc.

Foreign Language Translation and Interpretation Service

Translation of S&T documents from 20 foreign languages into English is being provided by NISCAIR. The languages include Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Swedish, etc. NISCAIR provides reverse translation (English into foreign language) also. It also undertakes interpretation and consultancy assignments in Japanese language.

Contents, Abstract and Photocopy Service (CAPS)

It is a current awareness personalised information service provided by NISCAIR. One can choose from 7000 core journals in science and technology. Table of contents are provided monthly from the identified journals. After going through the table of contents, one can obtain the abstract or full-text of desired articles from NISCAIR.

Document Copy Supply Service (DCSS)

DCSS is an important service provided by NISCAIR. It supplies copies of articles from Indian and foreign journals available in NISCAIR as well as outside at prescribed charges. Copies of Indian and foreign patents and standards are also provided.

Indian Patents on CD-ROM

INPAT on CD-ROM is a bibliographic database that provides information on more than 52,600 patents granted in India since 1975. The information on a patent in the database comprises patent title, applicant(s) and inventor(s) names, patent and application numbers, application and publication dates, International Classification Code and country. The database can be searched by variety of parameters including keywords from title, applicant(s) and inventor(s) names, patent number, application number, application date, publication date, International Classification Code and subject.

Publications

NISCAIR regularly brings out 18 primary journals, 2 secondary journals, monographs and other popular publications. These are accessible full- text through the National Online Periodical Repository (NOPR).

Primary Journals

1) *Annals of Library and Information Studies (Quarterly)*

2) *Bhartiya Vaigyanik evam Audyogik Anusandhan Patrika (Hindi) (Half-yearly)*

3) *Indian Journal of Biochemistry & Biophysics (Monthly)*

4) *Indian Journal of Biotechnology (Quarterly)*

5) *Indian Journal of Chemical Technology (Bi-monthly)*

6) *Indian Journal of Chemistry "A" (Monthly)*

7) *Indian Journal of Chemistry "B" (Monthly)*

8) *Indian Journal of Engineering & Material Sciences (Monthly)*

9) *Indian Journal of Experimental Biology (Monthly)*

10) *Indian Journal of Fibre & Textile Research (Quarterly)*

11) *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences (Quarterly)*

12) *Indian Journal of National Products and Resources (Bi-monthly)*

13) *Indian Journal of Pure & Applied Physics (Monthly)*

14) *Indian Journal of Radio & Space Physics (Bi-monthly)*

15) *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge (Quarterly)*

16) *Journal of Intellectual Property Rights (Bi-monthly)*

17) *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research (JSIR, Monthly)*

18) *Journal of Scientific Temper*

Secondary Journals

1) *Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts (MAPA, Bi-monthly):* It covers global current literature on all aspects of medicinal, aromatic and allied plants. It is brought out by scanning, selecting and abstracting relevant papers from about 600 primary journals published from about 65 countries and in 25 languages, research reports, conference proceedings and patents. Each issue and volume of MAPA is supported by a keyword index. From 1988 onwards, MAPA is available on CD-ROM also.

2) *Indian Science Abstracts (ISA, Fortnightly):*It reports scientific work done in India since 1965. Original research articles, short communications, review articles and informative articles published in current scientific and technical periodicals, proceedings of conferences and symposia, monographs and other publications, as well as patents, standards and theses are reported in ISA. Its CD-ROM version is a cumulative database of nearly 0.2 million Indian science abstracts covering the period from January 1990 to December 1999. The database is searchable by a variety of parameters such as keyword, author, corporate author, ISA issue number and year of publication, source journal and type of document.

CSIR News and CSIR Samachar

Fortnightly issues of CSIR News (in English) and monthly issues of CSIR Samachar (in Hindi) serve as an effective link between various CSIR constituents and users of information on various R&D programmes and other activities of CSIR, other R&D organisations, university departments and industry. R&D programmes include new processes and products developed, programmes undertaken, collaborative projects, sponsored projects and consultancies. In addition, news on technology demonstrations, marketing, transfer of technology, IPR, etc. are also covered.

Popular Science Publications

NISCAIR publishes popular science magazines in three languages to keep the masses aware of the latest scientific developments. Science Reporter (English) and Vigyan Pragati (Hindi) are brought out monthly, whereas Science Ki Duniya (Urdu) is a quarterly publication. NISCAIR also brings out large number of popular science books in various areas that includes fundamental science, contemporary areas of science, and science entertainment.

Wealth of India and Bharat Ki Sampada

It is an encyclopaedic series on India's raw material resources of plants, animals and minerals, details their occurrence, distribution, description, composition, utilisation and trade. The series is the quintessence of information scattered in a wide range of information sources. Each resource profile is a monographic presentation beginning with the correct nomenclature, the known names in vernacular, gives a brief description, chief areas of distribution in India, broad parameters of cultivation in case of plants, pathological problems in case of plants and animals, chemical constituents, products, utilisation, production, consumption (in case of minerals) and trade data.

Bharat Ki Sampada is the Hindi version of *The Wealth of India - Raw Material. Bharat Ki Sampada - Prakritik Padarth* is an encyclopaedia on Indian raw materials based on flora, fauna and minerals, in which the entries appear in Devnagari alphabetical order. The articles in *Bharat Ki Sampada* series cover those plants, animals and minerals which render medicines, food products, beverages, fruits, nuts, spices and condiments, fats and oils, essential oils, masticatory, fumigatory, fibre, pulp, wood and forest products, etc.

National Union Catalogue of Scientific Serials in India (NUCSSI)

This indigenous database of NISCAIR serves as an access tool for serials holdings information. It contains over 45,439 unique journal titles with 2.64 lakhs holdings data of 560 libraries of major universities, S&T institutions, R&D units of industries, higher institutions, like IISc, IITs and professional institutions in S&T disciplines within the country. The database provides information on the availability of journal titles in libraries enabling to locate a particular journal. This is integrated with e-mail for routing library/user request information. This is kept updated with the cooperation and support of the participating libraries so that updated information can be available to users regularly free of cost.

Directory of STM Journals

NISCAIR produces a directory of Indian science and technology journals in the fields of science, technology and medicine. It covers over 2,000 Indian print and

electronic scientific publications including primary and secondary journals, bulletins of learned bodies, government departments magazines and journals and reports.

Human Resource Development

NISCAIR develops human resources in library and information science and documentation particularly in contemporary areas of information science, technology and computer applications by conducting two year masters level academic course in information science (one course every year); short-term training courses in computer applications in library and information activities (10-12 courses per year); attachment training programmes; and on-site training programmes. It also develops human resource in the area of science communication by organising short-term training programmes in science writing and human resource in herbarium techniques by conducting training programmes.

Consultancy Services

NISCAIR provides the following consultancy services:

- Automation, modernisation and reorganisation of libraries and information centres.

- Design and development of specialised databases for organisations on turnkey basis.

- Editing, designing, production and printing.

Herbarium and Museum

NISCAIR has set up a Herbarium and Museum housing economically important raw materials of plant, animal and mineral origin from India at one place, to cater to the needs of scientists, researchers, industrialists students and the public. The Herbarium houses over 6000 specimen of economic and medicinal plants of India and the Museum comprises over 2500 samples of crude-drugs, animal and mineral specimens. The herbarium provides information on folk-lore, ethnomedicine and traditional medicine and is a source of knowledge for development of new herbal medicines.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i)   Write your answer in the space given below.

ii)   Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit**.**

6)   Discuss the mandate of NISCAIR.

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14.6.2 National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC)

NASSDOC was established in 1969 as a division of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Its objective is to provide library and information support services to researchers in social sciences working in academic institutions, autonomous research organisations, policy making, planning and research units of government departments, business and industry, etc. Its functions include:

- providing guidance to libraries of ICSSR Regional Centres and ICSSR supported Research Institutes;

- providing study grant to doctoral students for collection of research material from various libraries located in different parts of India;

- rendering financial assistance for taking up bibliographical and documentation projects;

- providing document delivery service by procuring books and journals on inter-library loan or by photocopying the documents; and

- organising short-term training courses for the research scholars, social scientists, librarians and IT professionals to acquaint them with the latest information and communication technology.

It has a rich collection of reference sources, bibliographies, doctoral theses, research project reports (funded by the ICSSR) and books and other documents. The library keeps priced and non-priced publications of ICSSR including those, for which, the Council has provided publication grants. Documents are available for consultation in the library premises only. Borrowing facility is extended to registered members only. It subscribes to about 450 current Indian/ foreign periodicals, including ICSSR journals and other abstracting and indexing journals in social sciences. The library has over 11,000 bound volumes of periodicals, census reports and other government publications. The following services are being provided by the library of NASSDOC.

Consultation Facility: Research scholars visiting NASSDOC for their research work can access various on-line databases, International Political Science Abstracts, Socio file, Psycinfo, etc.

Reference Service: Reference queries received in person, via e-mail, telephone, fax, are answered to by staff.

Referral Service: In case of non-availability of material in the library, research scholars are referred to other institutions/ libraries.

Literature Search: NASSDOC has a good collection of bibliographic data, both in printed as well as in digital format, including online and CD-ROM databases. It also has created its own databases, both in printed and in electronic format. These databases are used for conducting literature search on various topics.

Document Delivery Service: NASSDOC provides copies of research materials from its library and other libraries and institutions in India and abroad.

Bibliographic Service: Bibliographic service is provided on demand. This service is provided in two formats, namely bibliographical references and the other

bibliographical reference along with abstract or description of the thought content of the document.

Union Catalogue of Social Science Periodicals and Serials in India: The union catalogue work was undertaken in 1970 by NASSDOC. The complete database was published in 32 volumes, having details of holding records of 31,125 journals in 550 libraries, in 17 states and two union territories. There is a separate volume on National Library, Kolkata.

Union Catalogue of CD-ROM Databases in Social Science Libraries in India: This catalogue covers information of about 132 CD-ROM databases available in 40 major libraries and information centres in India. It provides information about the title of CD-ROM database, frequency, brief annotation, the producer/vendor and the holdings data.

Directory of Social Science Libraries and Information Centres in India: The Directory provides details of libraries and information centres attached to government agencies, research and training institutes under various ministries, universities and autonomous bodies, banks, industry and trade, etc. in the field of social science and allied disciplines. Libraries having independent name, are provided references from their parent institutions. Each entry provides address of the library, e-mail, strength of the staff, type of collection, budget, subject coverage, computerisation details, facilities and services provided like photocopying, bibliography services, inter-library loan, online databases, literature search, translation, etc. The data contained in the directory facilitates cooperation and resource sharing among Indian libraries and information centres. The dietary covers 447 institutions.

Directory of Social Science Research and Training Institutions in India: The Directory provides a comprehensive list of about 450 social science institutions engaged in research and training in India. It contains details, on areas of research, important achievements, special facilities, current research projects, publications, type of staff, library collection and services, relations with national and international organisations, and complete address with telephone, telex, fax and e-mail.

Directory of Asian Social Science Research and Training Institutes/Organisations in India: It is a directory of teaching and research institutes on Asian Studies in India. These are 42 in number. Each entry provides information about the name, address of the institution, type of the organisation, type of staff, aims and objectives, activities, parent organisation, publications, name and level of training courses, library collection and services and facilities provided by the institution.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

    ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

7) Discuss briefly the library and information services rendered by NASSDOC.

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14.6.3 Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC)

DESIDOC started functioning in 1958 as Scientific Information Bureau (SIB). It was a division of the Defence Science Laboratory (DSL) later on which became as Defence Science Centre. In 1967 SIB was reorganised with augmented activities and named as Defence Scientific Information and Documentation Centre (DESIDOC). It became a self-accounting unit and one of the laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 29 July 1970. It provides scientific and technical information, based on its library and other information resources, to the DRDO Headquarters and its various laboratories located all over the country. Today, DESIDOC is functioning as a central information resource for DRDO laboratories which are deeply engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, combat vehicles, engineering systems, instrumentation, missiles, advanced computing and simulation, special materials, naval systems, life sciences, training, information systems and agriculture. The main objectives of DESIDOC are to:

- function as a central resource for providing scientific and technical information, documentation, library, reprographic, translation to DRDO HQrs, laboratories, establishments and to coordinate their scientific information programmes;

- develop an information system for Defence Science and Technology;

- provide training and user education programmes in the field of scientific information;

- provide consultancy and referral service; and

- publish scientific and technical journals, books and monographs of DRDO.

Its various activities are discussed below:

Defence Science Library (DSL)

DSL is a unique specialised library caters to the information needs of researchers in defence science and technology. It has a rich collection on defence science and technology which includes micro and macro subjects. It provides a unique environment of traditional as well as modern library setup. It has books, journals and their bound volumes, technical reports, microfilms, microfiches, charts, atlases, slides, films, video tapes, sound recordings, etc. In the ever-expanding scenario of Information and Communication Technology, Internet/Intranet, Online, CD-ROM/DVD appliances occupy the centre stage of a modern library. DSL also reaching new heights with its digital library projects.

Training Programmes

Short term training programmes and workshops are being conducted by DESIDOC every year for DRDO personnel, mainly in the areas of library automation, Internet use, DTP, multimedia development, communication skills, stress management, etc.

Database Development

DESIDOC has developed and maintaining bibliographic databases of books, conference proceedings, technical reports acquired by the Defence Science Library.

Multimedia Service

This facility has been created to facilitate multimedia authoring, designing and presentation facilities to scientists and technologists.

Printing Service

DESIDOC has a full-fledged high quality printing facility including designing, layout, typesetting, DTP processing, printing for publication of in-house journals.

e-Journals

This service is available only at DESIDOC premises, DRDO users visit DESIDOC to avail this facility. The user directly access full-text content of the e-journals by selecting Title, Subject and Publisher wise.

Publications

DESIDOC functions as the publication wing of DRDO, providing scientific and technical information via specialised publications, monographs, technical bulletins, online journals and popular science publications. These cover current developments in Indian Defence R&D. The publications are unclassified and available free of charge online. Monographs and other publications are available on payment. The periodicals published are:

- Defence Science Journal – A bi-monthly research periodical.

- Technology Focus – A bi-monthly periodical focusing on the technologies, products, processes, and systems developed by DRDO.

- DRDO Newsletter – Monthly Newsletter with house bulletins of DRDO activities.

- DRDO Samachar – Monthly Newsletter with house bulletins of DRDO activities. Published in Hindi

- DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology (DJLIT) (formerly known as Bulletin of Information Technology (DBIT)) – A bi-monthly publication bringing out the current developments in library and information technology.

Self Check Exercise

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of the Unit.

8) What are the main objectives of DESIDOC?

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14.7 SUMMARY

Information is a vital resource for socio-economic, industrial, cultural, educational, scientific and technological development of a country. Countries, optimally utilising this vital resource, are progressing towards fast development and strong national economy. Libraries, information centers are organising information resources, retrieving and dissemination right information and furnishing to the actual users within the available infrastructure and facilities. Developed countries have strengthened their information base as they have long back realised the role of information in national development. Many developing countries, like India, are also making efforts to create sound information base within the country. Many organisations, associations, professional bodies are contributing in this task. International organisations have rich experiences are being associated in information related activities to share their experiences and technical expertise. This may reduce the gap between demand and supply of information up to some extent.

14.8 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

1) Digital Heritage is made up of computer-based materials of enduring value that should be kept for future generations. It includes:

   • Resources of human knowledge or expression, whether cultural, educational, scientific and administrative, or embracing technical, legal, medical and other kinds of information, are increasingly created digitally, or converted into digital form from existing analogue resources.

   • Digital materials include texts, databases, still and moving images, audio, graphics, software, and web pages, among a wide and growing range of formats. They are frequently ephemeral, and require purposeful production, maintenance and management to be retained.

   • Many of these resources have lasting value and significance, and therefore constitute a heritage that should be protected and preserved for current and future generations. This heritage may exist in any language, in any part of the world, and in any area of human knowledge or expression.

2) RRRLF provides financial assistance to the public libraries under the schemes of matching and non-matching assistance.

   Matching Assistance are provided towards building up of adequate stock of books and reading materials; development of Rural Book Deposit Centres and Mobile Library Services; organisation of seminars, workshops, training courses (orientation/refresher), books exhibitions and library awareness programmes; purchase of storage materials, reading room furniture and library equipment; increasing accommodation to public libraries; to acquire computer with accessories for library applications and audio/visual equipment for educational purposes.

   Non-Matching Assistance are provided towards building up of adequate stock of books through central selection; to voluntary organisations (NGOs) providing public library services; to children's libraries or children's section,

senior citizen section, neo-literate section of general public libraries; to public libraries towards celebration of Golden/ Diamond/Platinum, etc Jubilee years; organising seminar/conference by professional organisation, local bodies, NGOs engaged in public library development/library movement and university departments of library science; collection and compilation of library statistics through official and non-official agencies; to centrally sponsored libraries; establishment of RRRLF Children Corner.

3) INIS activities include creation of INIS Database of non-conventional literature (NCL). Every input to the INIS Database is checked by experts of the INIS Secretariat assuring the correctness of bibliographic description and subject analysis (classification, indexing and abstracting). User-friendly version of the INIS Online Database is also available. INIS has arrangements with 72 national INIS Centres to provide document delivery services to users within their countries. INIS specialists from Member States and the IAEA have developed a controlled vocabulary for indexing and searching the INIS Database. Over the years the INIS Thesaurus has evolved as a result of systematic study. It contains over 30 000 terms. The INIS Thesaurus is now available in all official languages of the IAEA. To assist its Member States, the IAEA transfers knowledge and know-how in data collection and information processing, in particular to developing countries and new INIS Members. It also helps to establish national INIS Centres in developing countries.

4) WEBAGRIS provides the following functionalities:

Database maintenance functions:

- Data entry and update;
- Password control;
- Creation of new records;
- Updating of existing records;
- Validation by formats;
- Display of authority data for a selection.

Information dissemination functions:

- User friendly retrieval;
- Sort;
- Print and export options;
- Searching through a number of databases;
- Result paging;
- Saving option for query history, etc.

5) NISSAT undertook the following activities:

- Establishment of information centres in specific sectors, subjects and products.
- Development of information resource sharing systems like library network, union catalogues and consultative committees.

- Establishment of international database access centres.

- Promotion of application of modern information technologies.

- Development of skills in information technologies and information handling tools.

- Promotion of application of modern information technologies

- Development of skills in information technologies and information handling tools, techniques and so on.

The Sectoral Information Centres provided bibliographic as well as factual and numerical information on a product, discipline or mission. They were built around the then existing information resources and facilities. Besides providing documents and preparing bibliographies on request, they offered SDI, CAS; reprographic, micrographic, industrial and technical inquiry service; translation and other services.

NISSAT played a very important role in computerisation of libraries and spreading computer awareness among LIS professionals in the country. Library network in the country also owe their orging to NISSAT. Metropolitan Area Network were set up with the initiative and patronage of NISSAT.

6) NISCAIR has the following mandate:

- To provide formal linkages of communication among the scientific community in the form of research journals in different areas of science and technology.

- To disseminate S&T information to general public, particularly school students, to inculcate interest in science among them.

- To collect, collate and disseminate information on plant, animal and mineral wealth of the country.

- To harness information technology applications in information management with particular reference to science communication and modernizing libraries.

- To act as a facilitator in furthering the economic, social, industrial, scientific and commercial development by providing timely access to relevant and accurate information.

- To develop human resources in science communication, library, documentation and information science and scientific and technical information management systems and services.

- To collaborate with international institutions and organisations having objectives and goals similar to those of NISCAIR.

7) Library and information services provided by the NASSDOC are:

- Consultation Service

- Reference Service

- Referral Service

- Literature Search Service

- Document Delivery Services

- Bibliographic Service
- Compilation of Union Catalogue of Social Science Periodicals and Serials in India.
- Compilation of:
  - ➤ Union Catalogue of CD-ROM Databases in Social Science Libraries in India
  - ➤ Directory of Social Science Libraries and Information Centres in India
  - ➤ Directory of Social Science Research and Training Institutions in India
  - ➤ Directory of Asian Social Science Research and Training Institutes/ Organisations in India.

8) The main objectives of DESIDOC are:

- To function as a central resource for providing scientific and technical information, documentation, library, reprographic, translation to DRDO HQrs, laboratories, establishments and to coordinate their scientific information programmes.
- To develop an information system for Defence Science and Technology.
- To provide training and user education programmes in the field of scientific information.
- To provide consultancy and referral service.
- To publish scientific and technical journals, books and monographs of DRDO.

14.9 KEYWORDS

AGORA	:	Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) is a program to provide free or low cost access to major scientific journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to public institutions in developing countries.
AGRIS	:	Agricultural Information System is an international information system for the agricultural sciences and technology.
DELNET	:	Developing Library Network
E-governance	:	Use of ICT by different actors of the society with the aim to improve their access to information and to build their capacities.
IAEA	:	International Atomic Energy Agency.
INIS	:	International Nuclear Information System.
ISI	:	Institute for Scientific Information.
NISSAT	:	National Information System for Science and Technology.

RRRLF	:	Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, a promotional agency, an advisory and consultancy organisation and a funding body for public library developement in India.
SOUL	:	A library management software developed by the INFLIBNET.
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WEBAGRIS	:	It is a complete, multilingual Web-based system for distributed data input, processing and dissemination of agricultural bibliographic information.

14.10   REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

<http://www.isinet.com>.

<http://www.niscair.org>.

<http://www.drdo.nic.in>.

<http://www.fao.org>.

<http://www.unesco.org>.

<http://www.knowledgegateway.org>.