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## LIS Education in India: A Brief Study

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### Abstract

The primary aim of education for Library and information science (LIS) is the training of intellect in matters pertaining to human knowledge and information and its goal is the achievement of highest wisdom in promoting the utilization of knowledge and information for the benefit mankind. Modern libraries and information centers need professionally educated and trained personnel who accepted to be scholar with love for books; a sociologist with an understanding of society to whom he/she is to serve; a scientist and researcher for further education and development of subject; an administrator with a special knowledge of scientific management.

**Keywords:** LIS, education, India, library science, course

### Introduction

Library science is an interdisciplinary field that applies the practices, perspectives, and tools of management, information technology, education, and other areas to libraries; the collection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information resources; and the political economy of information.

**LIS Education in U.S.A. (America):** The story of LIS Education in U.S. like that of medicine law and theology has evolved through definite stages and is having a plethora of ears, events phases and examination. It is the objective of this investigator to highlight, regardless of chronology those significant features of LIS Education in the U.S. which have greatly influenced the education of Library professional in other countries.

**LIS Education in U.K. (United Kingdom):** The U.K. is distinguished for its strong traditional systems for preparation of any profession by self-directed independent study under informal condition Librarianship was no less an exception. Moreover, correspondence courses, a significant development conducted by a library Assistants Association, evening classes and Weekend and vacation courses were also available.

**LIS Education in India:** India has witnessed a slow and steady growth of LIS education. The foundation of LIS education in India dates back in 1911 when W.A. Borden (1853-1931), an American disciple of Melvil Dewey, for the first time started a short term training Programme in library science at Baroda under the patronage of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda (1862-1939) four years later in 1915, another American student of Dewey, Asa Don Dickinson

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(1876-1960), the then librarian of Punjab university, Lahore (now in Pakistan) Started a three months apprentice training program for working librarians (Satija, 1993) Before independence only five universities (Andhra Banaras, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras) were offering the diploma course in library science.

After independence new colleges universities educational institutions and learned Societies were emerging and the need for professionally qualified personnel to manage their libraries was realized. As a result, the number of library science schools started to increases. Library associations which exist at various places started providing training course. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan started a certificate courses at Madras Library Association in 1929 which was taken over by the University of Madras, and in 1937 the course was converted into postgraduate (PG) Diploma in Library Science. This was the first diploma. Programmed in Library Science in India, University of Delhi was the first university to establish a full-fledged Department of Library Science just before independence in 1946 and started admitting students to the PG Diploma in 1947. In 1951, six new LIS departments were established (Mangla, 1998) at Aligarh Muslim university, M.S. University, Pune University and Vikram University. Since 1960's the number of LIS departments established has continued to increases.

### Courses and Their Objective

The LIS education in India is offered at various levels such as certificate, diploma degree, Associate ship in Information Science, M. Phil, and Ph. D. These Programme are offered on

regular basis as well as through correspondence courses or distance education.

- a) **Certificate Course:** Certificate course are mainly conducted by library associations; however, some departments in universities and affiliated colleges are also conducting course. The duration of the course varies from few months to one academic year. The courses aim to train the students for semiprofessionals or junior level jobs after high school or Senior Secondary Education.
- b) **Undergraduate Diploma Course:** The Diploma Course are conducted at two levels that is undergraduate and postgraduate levels undergraduate courses are conducted by women polytechnics as a two year courses after higher secondary or intermediate. It prepares students to be junior librarian and hold library assistant position.
- c) **Post Graduate (PG) Diploma Course:** PG courses in some selected LIS areas of specialization are offered at university level as a one year course after the Bachelor of Library and Information Science Programmed. At present, only three universities and one deemed university are offering these Programme.
- d) **Bachelor of library and Information Science (B. Lib. I. Sc.):** This is a one-year degree course conducted by Universities after student graduate with basic degree. However, in some colleges, Library Science offered as an optional subject at the Bachelor of Arts level. For this the Students opt for Library Science as one of the optional paper, along with other option papers in social sciences of the humanities student passing with this option would be considered at par with other degrees. (UGC Model Curriculum Report, 2001) Bachelor's degree prepares students for professional positions in college and university libraries or as a school librarian.
- e) **Master of Library and Information Science (M. Lib. I. Sc.):** It is a post graduate course offered after B. Lib. I. Sc. Presently, a total of 99 universities are offering M. Lib. I. Sc., 21 of them are offering two-year integrated course directly offer B. Lib. I. Sc., Many of the Universities which were initially offering B. Lib. I. Sc. and M. Lib. I. Sc. course have now switched over to a two-year integrated course. The North East Hill University (NEHU) was the first university to start the course in 1986 followed by the University of Madras in 1988 in 1989 Madras also started M. Lib. I. Sc. through distance education (Patel and Krishnan Kumar, 2001).
- f) **Associate Ship in Information Science:** Since 1964, the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC) New Delhi has been offering a two year Programme in documentation, which in 1977 the Programme was renamed as Associate ship in Information Science. (AIS) On the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, INSDOC merged with the National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) and was the renamed National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) the qualification for admission to the NISCAIR's Programme is a master's degree in any subject or a B. Lib. I. Sc. with three years' library experience. The Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) established in 1962 in bachelor's degree in library science or master's degree in any subject with minimum of two years' library experience (Singh, 2003).
- g) **Advanced Training Course in Information Systems Management and Technology:** This one-year advance training course in Information Systems Management and

Technology is provided by the National Centre for Science Information (NCSI) an autonomous organization under UGC located at Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore (Dutta and Das, 2001).

- h) **Other Specialized Programmes:** The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC) and the National Archives of India also offers, specialized course, IASLIC offers one-year diploma Programme in special librarianship and the National Archives of India Offers a one-year diploma Programme in archives and related subjects (Patel and Krishnan Kumar, 2001).
- i) **M. Phil in Library and Information Science:** This is a research Programme offered by university departments after one's completion of M. Lib. I. Sc. the University of Delhi started this Programme in 1978, followed by many other Universities such as Andhra, Triupat, Annamalai, Vikram and Gulbarga etc.
- j) **Ph.D. Programme:** This is an advanced level research programmed being after the completion of M. Lib. I. Sc. or M. Phil degree in library science. The general qualification for admission is M. Lib. I. Sc. However, LIS teachers and librarians in lecturer's scale are exempted from this requirement (Singh, 2003).
- k) **D.Litt. Programme:** Two Universities Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Utkal University Bhubaneswar offers D.Litt. programmes in Library Science so far only D.Litt. degree had been awarded in India since, 1992 by Utkal University, Bhubaneswar to Dr. D. B. Shukla on the topic "The work and impact of pioneer in LIS a critical study of the works of Prithvi Nath kaula" (Kumar, 1998).

#### LIS Curricula in India

In India most of the students of Ranganthan followed the pattern of Madras school and that of the Delhi School however there were some school, which differed from these schools. This differed from these schools University of Bombay is one such example. Various committee and curriculum development committees of UGC have suggested curricula for LIS courses the latest model curricula suggested by CDC as follows:

- i). **UGC Model Curriculum (2001):** UGC Constituted a Curriculum Development Committee as per the recommendations of the subject panel in 1998 Dr. C. R. Krisiddappa was the nodal person this committee recommended as integrated 2 year (= 4 semester).
- ii). **Evaluation of Student Performance:** All library school was to evaluate a student's knowledge and understanding of the subject by holding an examination at the end of academic year. Each paper of course was generally credited at 100 points and duration if final examination for each paper or course was 3 hours. Although periodic class tests and or examinations were not counted in determining the final results.
- iii). **Teaching Faculty:** University Grants Commission (UGC) Review Committee (1965) which said, the trend over the past several decades have been gradually to employ fulltime teachers as well as department heads, in these library schools. Most of the library schools have a system of inviting senior staff members working in different types of libraries or in documentation and information centers either to offer certain courses or to deliver specialized lectures to the students.
- iv). **Accreditation:** Kent and cancour write "Accreditation refers to approval pre recognition of one party by another on the basis of some standards" (Shukla, 1992).

Accreditation defined as a process whereby an independent body evaluates a course offered by an educational institution according to set of predetermined standards Accreditation deals not only with an individual but with the institution.

### LIS Education in Maharashtra

The LIS education in Maharashtra started in the form of certificate course which are conducted department of libraries at Pune in 1947 In Bombay Maharashtra Granthalaya Sangh started for six-month duration in 1951. Vidarbha Granthalaya Sang, Nagpur started library training classes' in 1958 and, Marathwada Granthalaya Sangh, Aurangabad in 1960.

### LIS Education in Maharashtra University-Wise

- i). **Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University:** The department of LIS started during 1986-87. M.L.I.Sc. course started in 1993-94. Doctoral studies were initiated in 1996 there is full-time faculty. Librarian is ex-officio HOD. (Kumar, 2008).
- ii). **Bharathi Vidyapeeth, Pune:** Bharti vidyapeeth B. Lib. I. Sc. Course started in 1997. M. Lib. I. Sc. started in 2004-05. Also offers the M.Phil., Ph.D.
- iii). **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University:** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University introduced the Post Graduate Diploma in Library Science Course during June 1968, with the persistent efforts of the University Librarian Late Shri. N. A. Gore. During the year 1969, in all Universities in India the nomenclature of the course was changed from Diploma in Library Science to Bachelor of Library Science, hence the examination of the course was conducted as Bachelor of Library Science in March/April, 1969. Department started facilities leading to Ph.D. degree from the year 1996. From the year 2002 the University introduced 2-year integrated M. Lib. I. Sc., course with semester pattern. The course is of 16 modules with 64 credits. (<http://www.bamu.net>).
- iv). **R.T.M. Nagpur University:** R. T. M. Nagpur University, Nagpur is one of the oldest departments of library science in the country. Library science department was started on 20 August 1956. Nagpur remained the capital of Central Province & Berar till 1956. That time, there was no university in the state offering a postgraduate diploma course in Library Science. Starting in the year 1956 with a diploma course in Library and Information Science it has come a long way upgrading the diploma to B. Lib. I. Sc., starting M. Lib. I. Sc., of one year courses and M. Lib. I. Sc., (Integrated two years course) as per UGC guide lines in the year 2003. The department proposes to start M. Phil Program (one-year regular course) from the academic session 2007-08. The department also has to its credit Ph. D. program from 1987 onwards. Library Science Department is Located on the first floor of RTMNU Main library building, ([www.nagpuruniversity.org](http://www.nagpuruniversity.org))
- v). **North Maharashtra University Jalgaon:** The Department of Library and Information Science is one of the Departments in North Maharashtra University. This Department of Library and Information Science was established on year 2000. ([www.nmu.ac.in](http://www.nmu.ac.in))

- vi). **Shivaji University, Kolhapur:** The department of LIS was started in 1965. Department in lib. Sc. course was started in 1965-66 which was re-designated as B. Lib. I. Sc. In 1968-69. This course now called B. Lib. I. Sc. since 1978 M. Lib. I. Sc. was started in 1988 (Kumar, 2008)
- vii). **SNDT Women's University:** A pioneering tradition has characterized the S. H. P. T. School of Library Science, ever since. Its founding in 1961 as a constituent unit of the SNDT Women's University. (<https://www.sndt.ac.in>)
- viii). **Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada University, Nanded:** This University is relatively new one. Library and information science is one of the first few courses started by this university. This university started M. L. I. Sc. Programme from 2000. (kumar,2008)
- ix). **Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune:** This University started a department in 1984 with the introduction of B. Lib. I. Sc. Course. The course is part-time and the classes are held in the evening between 4.00 and 7.30 P.M. (Kumar, 2008)
- x). **University of Mumbai:** The Department of Library Science started by providing training leading to a Diploma in Librarianship. In the year 1964 a full-fledged Department providing instruction leading to Bachelor of Library Science (B. Lib. I. Sc.) was established. In the year 1967 Master's Degree Course leading to M. Lib. I. Sc. Degree was introduced. The Department also offers Ph. D. Programme in Library Science. (Kumar 2008)
- xi). **University of Pune:** Training in Library Science was instituted at the University in 1958 and the first Diploma Course in Library Science was introduced in 1958-59. Diploma Course was converted into the Bachelors Degree in 1965. So far over 1500 students have completed their Bachelor Degree & training in Library Science from the University of Pune. The Department of Library and Information Science was established under the faculty of Mental Moral and Social Sciences in 1978 and the Board of Studies in Library & Information Science was constituted. Also in conformity with the national policy and the directives from the University Grants Commission, two years integrated M. Lib. I. Sc. course was introduced from 2002. The department is also conducting M. Phil. And Ph. D programmes. ([www.unipune.ernet.in](http://www.unipune.ernet.in))
- xii). **Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik:** YCMOU, Nasik started B. Lib. I. Sc. Through open system of learning in 1996. The response to these courses is very good. (Kumar,2008)

### Conclusion

From this all data analyzed various aspect of library science education in every university have potential to develop and showing from this data. There must be every university focus on update curriculum and sanctioned faculty for imparting better LIS education. And more departments go for research project in future.

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