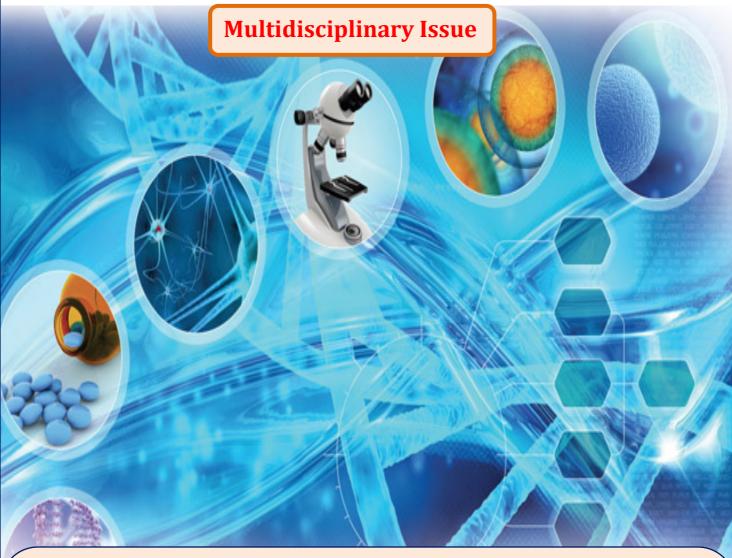
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWS ASSOCIATION'S

# **RESEARCH JOURNEY**

**International E-Research Journal** 

Peer Reviewed, Referred & Indexed Journal Issue 279 (A)



Guest Editor :
Dr. M. N. Kharde
Director,
Shirdi Sai Rural Institute's

Rahata, Tal-Rahata Dist-Ahmednagar

Chief Editor:
Prof. S. V. Lahare,
Principal,
Arts, Science and Commerce College,
Rahata.Tal-Rahata Dist- Ahmednagar

Executive Editor: Dr. D. T. Satpute (Librarian), ASC College, Rahata.

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Hon. Editor: Dr. Dhanraj T. Dhangar (Yeola)





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# Best Career Opportunities in Library & Information Science Discipline in India & Abroad

#### Mr. Kishor M. Waghmare

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#### **Abstract:**

Library science is a well-defined professional discipline that can been clearly differentiated from any of the vocational disciplines. The natural origination of professionalization of library science equally imply the same dynamics from the persons engaged in this profession as the impacts are of universal nature. The profession of librarianship envisages the further changes in the near future that demands the development of competency of the professionals in the global perspective, as the dynamics of evolution in work culture cannot be confined to a single discipline. The impacts are correlative to the other disciplines concerned. This also expects the education system to review the subject in the light of modernization

**Keywords** – professionals, education, professionalism, library science, development.

#### I. Introduction:

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. 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.

#### II. Transformation of Library Science As A 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 civilization 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, this profession is gaining a new



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identity. And professionals are now identified as webmasters, network administrators/managers, information literacy providers, information facilitators etc. This clearly demand the expertise of the librarians in the fields concerned III. LIBRARIANSHIP AS A PROFESSION With the industrial revolution and universalization of education, knowledge production had increased. The mechanism of communication, through print, non-print and electronic media and informal communication through invisible colleges has been duly institutionalised through the library. 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). The twentieth century witnessed the emergence of various professions and librarianship is one among them. 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 standardization in the technical aspects of librarianship. Thus librarianship emerged as a profession from vocation. Many scholars and particularly S.R.Ranganathan contributed to the development of library profession in India by developing standard terminology, theoretical principles, library science education – from certificate to research level, and introducing specialisation and standardized practices. Library profession in India owes a lot to his contributions. As per 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. 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 library science 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. IV. THE EFFECTS ON PROFESSIONALISATION The impacts of professionalisation in the field of library science can be viewed in two different ways. In the first place there is the changing role of librarian that has been evolved from just a custodian to digital librarian attending the intermediate stages of librarian, document officer, information officer and even scientist. The intraprofessional differentiation of librarian can be put in the second place accordingly. A. The Changing Role of Librarian 1) Librarian 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



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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. A person in charge of a library is called a librarian. Sometimes, he/she is also termed as library manager. 2) Documentation Officer With changing times, users expecte specific information to be culled out from sources to be provided to them. This germinated the concept of documentation activities in libraries. Documentation centres have been set up to meet the requirements of specialised users in research organisations. As a documentation officer, 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. 3) Information Officer and 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 anytime 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 twenty-first 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'. 4) Digital Librarian Digital libraries are e 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 multimedia. They integrate all the memory institutions like libraries, archives, museums. Thus they have stemmed out of the traditional brand of gatekeepers of information, to



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information gateways and information skill developers. In this scenario of transformation, 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, as Swarupanandan comments. B. Intra-professional Differentiation Library professionals include among others library administrators, classifiers, indexers, cataloguers, reference librarians, and classificationists, teachers of library and information science, and thesaurus constructors. Others like librametrician, bibliometrician and bibliographer can also be included in this category. The library professionals can also be categorised according to the institution they serve, exempli gratia school librarian, college librarian, and university librarian. Categorisation is also possible according to the subject, i.e. medical librarian, law librarian, and so on. 1) Administrator of 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. A library administrator is responsible for the administration of a library. S/he has to possess 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. 2) Classifier of Book 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. 3) Cataloguer of the Documents A cataloguer is one who catalogues documents following a catalogue code or a set of cataloguing rules. While cataloguing, a cataloguer gathers information about the title, author, collaborator, edition, imprint, collation, ISBN, price, etc. of the book. S/he 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. 4) Classificationist A classificationist designs and builds up a scheme of classification on sound principles. There are two types of classificationists. a) General Classificationist builds a scheme of classification covering all subjects. b) 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. S/he studies the origin, nature, growth, proliferation and limits of human



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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. 5) Indexer of Sources The 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. S/he 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. 6) Reference Librarian 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 s/he becomes more knowledgeable about the contents of books held in a library and provide answers to queries from unimaginable sources. Who's-who need not to provide the answer to search every time. The real time queries show that a reference librarian should be well read and well informed, person having a fair knowledge of information sources. 7) Library and Information Science Teacher They lecture classes in various courses of library and information science and many of them guide research students. They also write textbooks, course materials, etc. In developing countries like India, a library and information science teacher generally teaches more than one subject. However, specialisation is gradually setting in. In fact all library and information science teachers cannot teach bibliometrics or computer applications. Only specialist teachers have expertise to deal with the computational subjects. A teacher is not only an expert in the subject s/he 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, a teacher announces in advance the research topics in which s/he can guide the students for doing their project works. A student gets a very good opportunity to select the topic of own choice, as appositive side of the scene. 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 computerized database, a thesaurus provides immense help. A thesaurus constructor knows all the essential principles and methodologies of thesaurus



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construction and thereby can guide or impart advice to others for the construction of a thesaurus. 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. 10) Librametrician An expert on librametrics is termed as a librametrician. The word 'librametrics' was coined by S R Ranganathan in late forties of twentieth century, elaborated in scope in later decades. 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) Bibliometrician to Queries 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. Bibliometricians has to 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 the list is not exhaustive. 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. If one wants to develop a website for an institution, first of all one will have to think about the content of the website, that is, the information one does intend to place in the website for the institution. Normally, the content writer would like to include among others the following information about the institution, such as 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. One may like to make the website colourful. Hence, one will also have to decide the colour of the various parts of the text. Also one has to decide the format, types of fonts, and the font size for various headings and other parts of writing. One can include pictures of your institution, various divisions and important personnel and so on. Taking care of all these, you will make the text ready. If one does want to include some speeches along with the sound, can be done. Some portion of the website can be animated. The provision for interaction can also be there. The person who has visited the website can be



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requested to sign and give his/her opinion about the website. Many might give their opinion and some good suggestions whereby one can improve upon the website. 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 library science 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. V. CONCLUSION The call for modernization is prevalent in every domain of life. And the field of library science is not an exception. The profession of librarianship is changing fast with the advent of new technologies like internet that led to the conception of innovative ways of learning and research. On the other hand, the new generation clientele are expecting better and more from the librarian. This put the profession of a librarian to the new tests of professionalisation that compelled her/him to get updated to be more professional. The role of a librarian is not confined to just a custodian of the books but s/he has to play a multidisciplinary role to cope up with demand of profession espoused. With the passage of time the demand of the profession is likely to be more challenging and more differential as compared to the present phase which is definitely more complex as compared to the past. It is expected from those who are in this profession to be competitive rather than critical of the domain undergoing changes that are inevitable. A well-equipped librarian can surely face the challenge imposed by the transition of professionalisation of library science from a vocational field. It will be truer to say that the assumption of being segregated to a particular field of expertise is not of use in the current ever transitory space but a professional ought to be as much dynamic as this field does demand to handle the effects of professionalisation competently.

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