

## **CHAPTER 2**

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# **PUBLIC LIBRARY SCENARIO IN INDIA**

## **2.1 Introduction**

India is celebrating the 60 year of Independence in 2007 and taking stock of developments in various fields. It is also an important landmark in the history of public library services in India. Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekward has introduced free compulsory elementary education backed by libraries in 1883 in the district of Baroda and henceforth for the first time in India free public library services were introduced as a system in 1907 and extended to the entire state. It can, therefore, be traced out that 2007 is the centenary year of free public library services in India.

The Republic of India, *or Bharat*, is a sovereign country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country, and the largest democratic country in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west, and the Bay of Bengal on the east. India has a coastline of over 7500 kilometres. surrounded by neighbouring countries namely, Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. (India; Wikipedia encyclopedia).

The empire built by the Maurya dynasty under Emperor Ashoka united most of South Asia in the third century BC. From 180 BC, a series of invasions from Central Asia followed, including those led by the Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Indo-Parthians and Kushans in the north-western Indian Sub-continent. From the third century BC, the Gupta dynasty oversaw the period referred to as ancient India's "Golden Age." While the north had larger, fewer kingdoms, south India had several dynasties such as the Chalukyas, Cholas, Pallavas, Pandyas, and Cheras which overlapped in time and territory. Science, engineering, art, literature, astronomy, and philosophy flourished under the patronage of these kings. Following invasions from Central Asia between the tenth and twelfth centuries, much of north India came under the rule of the Delhi Sultanate, and later the Mughal dynasty. Mughal emperors gradually expanded their kingdoms to cover large parts of the subcontinent. Nevertheless, several indigenous kingdoms, such as the Vijayanagar Empire, flourished, especially in the south. In the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the Mughal supremacy declined and the Maratha Empire became the dominant power. From the sixteenth century, several European countries, including Portugal, Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom started arriving as traders and later took advantage of the fractious nature of relations between the kingdoms to establish colonies in the country.

By 1856, most of India was under the control of the British East India Company. In 1857, a nationwide insurrection of rebelling military units and kingdoms, variously referred to as the First War of Indian Independence or Sepoy Mutiny, seriously challenged British rule but eventually failed. As a consequence, India came under the direct control of the British Crown as a colony of the British Empire. During the first half of the twentieth century, a nationwide struggle for independence was launched by the Indian National Congress and other political organisations. Millions of protesters engaged in mass campaigns of Civil Disobedience with a commitment to *ahimsa* or non-violence, led by Mahatma Gandhi (**Concise Encyclopedia; 1997;455**). Finally, on 15 August 1947, India gained independence from British rule, but not before losing its Muslim-majority areas, which were carved out into the separate nation-state of Pakistan. Three years later, India became a republic, and a new constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950.

India is administratively divided into 28 states, 7 Union Territories, with National Capital Territory of Delhi. There are as much as 593 Districts, 5463 Sub-Districts, 3799 Community Development Blocks, 4378 Urban Agglomeration/Towns, 384 Urban Agglomeration, 5161 Towns, 593731 Inhabited Villages and 44656 Uninhabited Villages. The population of the country is increasing every year. The total population, according to 2001 census, is 1,028,610,328, which is the second largest population of a country next to China. Its literacy rate is 560,687,797 that is 64.8% of the total population. At the time of India's independence in 1947, its literacy rate was 12.2%. Since then, it has increased to 64.8% (53.7% for females and 75.3% for males). The state of Kerala has the highest literacy rate (91%); Bihar has the lowest (47%). The national gender ratio is 944 females per 1,000 males. India's median age is 24.9, and the population growth rate of 1.38% per annum; there are 22.01 births per 1,000 people per year. (Census of India 2001).

## 2.2 Public Libraries in India

Public library is largely regarded as the People's University. It has tremendous developments in India from the early period to till date at various stages. Most of the Indian states now have free public library services to develop the people of India at different levels, which can be stated as below briefly;

### 2.2.1 Ancient Period (before 1200 AD)

“The history of the development of the public library may be said to be as old as that of education in India”. (Ekbote;1987;2). During Vedic times, the pupils stayed in the *guru-gruha* for several years for education. Since ancient times, India is being very much pertinent in search of knowledge and wisdom. Oral communication was the best means amongst the people of India and writing was not available. “The earliest written and recorded materials found in India are the inscriptions on stone pillars of King Asoka (300 BC); these inscriptions could be called the first outside open libraries”. (Patel;2004;3). Later, *Ashrams* came into existence in India and students study under the supervision of well-known teachers. They kept many manuscripts for use of the teachers and students as well as for the visitors. Many students joined ashrams and such big ashrams were known as *vidyapeeth*, where numbers of teachers are engaged to teach the students. These educational institutions collected many different manuscripts and other materials which can help in their teaching and daily routine. They kept and preserved carefully. “The reading materials, of course, related to many subjects formed the source material for transmitting knowledge in different streams of education and culture. The collections might be likened to modern libraries since they were carefully maintained and extensively used by students and teachers alike”. (Ekbote;1987; 3). Such *ashrams* or *vidyapeeths*, where manuscripts and other reading materials were reserved, may be regarded as a kind of library as they serve information and knowledge to the students and community in different ways. Pandey S K Sharma stated that; “In India, since the ancient times libraries have been functioning as light houses for those who wanted to read and to extend the boundaries of various disciplines. References are available to prove that Nalanda University (in Bihar) had its own multistoried library in 600 AD with massive collection of

manuscripts. The collection of the library was housed in three buildings, each having nine floors and three hundred rooms. This library was opened by the then Emperor of India, King Davapal. The library was open for any body that was known scholar and took interest in reading, interpreting and even copying the documents kept in the library. Chinese traveler Whuen Sang is known to have consulted this library in the seventh century and to have taken from here hundreds of treatises to China and Japan. This library was completely destroyed by Bakhtiar Khilaji, who invaded India in 1205 AD. And burnt the library. The library kept on burning for about six months”. (Sharma;1987;97).

Libraries in ancient India also developed at other famous centers of learning, such as *Vikramshila* and *Odantapuri*. Universities of ancient India, like Taxila and Vikramshala also have valuable collection on *tantras* and manuscripts in their libraries.

### **2.2.2 Medieval Period (1200-1757 AD)**

Muslims mostly rule the Medieval Period of India. Historically, it is also known as Mughal Period. There were great changes not only in social and political, but also on education and library system during this period. The Muslim rulers made great contributions to Indian culture and libraries played a significant role in the socio-cultural development of the nation. “The period of Mughal is considered as the golden period of Indian history for its educational, literary, and library activities”. (Khursid;2004;6).

Babur, king of Kabul invaded India and annexed Delhi to his kingdom. “He established the first Mughal Imperial Library in 1526”. (Patel;2004;6). Babur inherited manuscripts from his father and kept in his library and also collected books from different sources of his kingdom. Babur died in 1530 and was succeeded by his son Humayun. (Smith;1981;321). Humayun much lived in Agra and established library in his palace. He set up a library at Agra Fort, which was managed by Lal Beg. (Sharma;1987;98). In his library, he kept books, gilded pen cases, portfolios, picture books and beautiful works of calligraphy. After the death of Humayun, his son, Akbar, succeeded him in 1356. Akbar is regarded as one of the greatest Mughal king. Akbar improved the management of library with some technical works. He

appointed Sheik Faizi to manage and control library services. Akbar was very interest in manuscripts and appointed calligraphers to copy good manuscripts. He established a separate library for women at Fatehpur Sikri and made great improvement to the library. At the time of his death in 1605, the Imperial Library has twenty-four thousand books. (Patel;2004;6). Jahangir, another rule of Mughal period, made a law that when a wealthy man died heirless, the property should be used for building and repairing schools, monasteries, libraries, and other institutions.

Some wealthy and scholars, like Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, Shaik Faizi, Gulbadan Begum and ruler of Mysore and Jaipur also have their private libraries. Some Hindu learning centers also have libraries. “The libraries of these centers contain huge collections of manuscripts on religion and philosophy as well as other subjects like medicine, science and history”. (Datta;2004;172-173). Christian missionaries have also contributed for the libraries since the coming of Vasco da Gama in India.

During the Mughal period, library technical works, viz. Accessioning, Classification and Cataloguing were also carried out in some ways. The head librarian was known as “*Nizam*” and the assistant librarian as “*Muhatin*” or “*Darogha*”. Other staff of libraries during Mughal period is Scribes, Book Illustrators, Calligraphers, Copyists, Translators, Bookbinders and Gilders. (Patel; 2004;7).

### **2.2.3 The British Period (1757-1947)**

The Britishers came to India primarily to establish trade and commerce. Some of them were very interested for the upliftment of rich cultural heritage of India. “A number of Academic institutions were established during the British period by the East India Company (the representatives of the British Empire) and by the Christian missionaries”. (Patel;2004;8). The University of Calcutta was established in 1857 and its library was opened in 1873. Other Universities, University of Bombay and University of Madras were established in 1879 and 1907 respectively. There were only nineteen Universities in India before 1947. Universities were equipped with libraries in accordance with the Indian University Act of 1904. The Bengal Royal Asiatic Society set up library in 1784, Bombay Royal Asiatic Society in 1804 and Calcutta Public Library in 1835. (Sharma;1987;99). Establishment of these libraries

enlightened the community and may be regarded as the foundation of the concept of public libraries to the Indian people. Some of the important libraries set up in 19<sup>th</sup>. Century in India are Andrews Library, Surat in 1850, Gaya Public Library, Gaya in 1855, Long Library, Rajkot in 1856, Connemara Public Library, Madras in 1860, Government Library, Janagarh in 1867, Adyar Library, Adyar in 1886 and Dahi Laxmi Library, Nadiad in 1892. (Sharma;1987;99). Apart from these, other libraries, like Gujarat Vernacular Society along with a library, in Ahmedabad 1848 and Barton Library, Bhavnagar in 1882 were also established. Some of the Indian states also established public libraries. Such as Baroda established Baroda State Library in Baroda in 1877, Cochin established Public Library and Reading Room in Trichur in 1873, Dhar established Victoria General Library in Dhar in 1856, Indore established General Library in Indore in 1852, Jaipur established Maharajah's Public Library in Jaipur in 1899. Others states also established such kind of libraries, viz. Jammu and Kashmir in 1879, Kahtiawar, in 1886, Kolhapur in 1850, Nizam's Dominion in 1891 and Travancore in 1829. (Patel;2004;9). The first significant date in the development of public libraries in India is 1808 when the Bombay Government initiated a proposal to register libraries, which were to be given copies of books published from the 'Funds for the Encouragement of Literature'. (Bhattacharjee;2002;82).

The contributions of His Highness the Maharaja Sayajirao III, Gaekwar of Baroda towards library movement in India cannot be overlooked. He is remembered today as the Father of Library Movement in India. At the age of 18, in 1881, he was entrusted with full power of the government of Baroda in the Gujarat speaking region of the Bombay Presidency and the Peninsula of Kathiawar. Baroda's population was predominantly rural, the main occupation was agriculture. The people in general were economically poor and socially backward. According to him, education was the foundation to reconstruct a new social and economic life and education should be the right of the humblest villager. He introduced free and compulsory education in his princely states. Baroda became the first territory not only among the native states but also in British India to have compulsory free primary education. (Nagar;1983;22). He opined that primary education was to be the very base and decided to preserve it by means of libraries, which were the only agencies for perpetual universal self-education. He decided to establish library as an experiment in one of the towns of a *taluka* and in order to implement his idea



immediately; he issued orders to his ministers. “In conformity to his ruler’s instructions, the Minister of Education prepared a detailed plan to open Circulating Libraries in the State, which was approved in March, 1907. Every public library instituted through the State’s financial assistance was to be named as Circulating Library”. (Nagar;1983;26). In 1906, he went to America as “an observer, a student desirous of acquiring all the knowledge and experience that could enable him to make his own State a model one in India”. (Nagar;1983;20). He was very much impressed by the library services of America for the development of the people in their social, economic and educational life. He then invited an American, William Alanson Borden, a pupil-assistant of Charles A Cutter, who is working as Librarian of the Young Men’s Institute, New Haven, Connecticut to come and established library services in India. In response to his invitation, Borden reached Baroda on November 6, 1910, and became the Director of State Libraries. It can be traced back that public library movement started since 1910 in India. Borden makes a survey of libraries in Baroda and concludes that there were over 241 libraries, holding a little over 100000 volumes. But he did not find any of those libraries adequately housed, nor did he find them shelved in such a manner as to make them most attractive to readers or convenient to those in charge. He then make proposal for the best services of libraries in the State as:

1.           Should Your Highness feel disposed to grant me the necessary authority, I propose to organize a Department of Public Libraries, to rank with the other Departments of Your State, with the necessary equipments of officers and clerks, etc. and to bring all the libraries above mentioned under its control and management;
2.           To unify all the collections of books in Baroda City into one Central library;
3.           To add to this Central library, general and technical books;
4.           To erect a suitable library building of fireproof construction, with reading rooms, study rooms, Women’s Library, Children’s library, Lecture hall, Library school, and executive offices;
5.           To make that library to be Free Public Library of Baroda City, and also the main storehouse for all the valuable historical documents and papers now in private hands in the State, but which the owners would probably be glad to have stored in a safe place;

6. To make it also the center from which traveling libraries should start and from which the books, new and old, could be distributed to the various branch libraries in the different towns, cities, and villages of the State. (Nagar;1983;38).

The Maharaja apparently accepted Borden's proposals, and ordered that the whole scheme might be implemented in parts. The Library Department was created under Order No.9/19, January 30, 1911, for organizing libraries in Baroda. As the Director of state libraries, he planned a network of free public libraries consisting a state central library, four district or divisional libraries, forty-five town libraries, and more than a thousand village libraries-all integrated into one chain system. (Nagar; 1983;3). Borden played a leading role for the establishment, management and organization of public libraries in India. As a result of system, within two decades 85% of the Baroda urban and rural population had access to libraries. (Patel; 2004;10). Borden developed library classification scheme to suit Indian libraries. Another great contribution of Borden was the establishment of the first library school in India, in which he trained his own assistants and successors. Borden conducted the first formal library-training programme in India at Baroda in 1911. He was instrumental in the foundation of the Baroda Library Club and its journal, "Library Miscellany", published quarterly in three languages between 1912 and 1919.

University of Madras created the post of University Librarian in 1923 and Dr. S R Ranganathan joined the post on 4 January 1924. (Ranganathan;1957;19). Ranganathan published his Five Laws of Library Science in 1931, Colon Classification in 1933 and Classified Catalog Code in 1934. He also prepared Model Public Library Bill and drives to legislate library bill in Indian states. He made a tremendous contribution for the development of libraries in India.

Scholars, educationists and people of library bent of mind founded Calcutta Public Library in 1835 and the same was opened on 21 March 1836 for the public. In 1944, Calcutta Public Library was shifted to a new and spacious building, constructed in honor of the Governor-General of India, Lord Metcalf. Indian War of Independence broke out in 1857 resulted in to Europeans of Calcutta withdrew their support for the library management in 1899. Consequently, the management and establishment of

the library were gradually waning and by the end of the century, the activities of the library came into standstill.

Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India visited Calcutta in 1899 and found a miserable condition of Calcutta Public Library. He bought the rights of the Library from the proprietors and later merged it with the Official imperial Library consisting of government departmental libraries of the East India Company. He then declared open of a new Imperial Library of India on 30 January 1903 in the Metcalf Hall. In 1948, one year after the independence of India, Imperial Library was transformed into National library of India and was housed to the Viceroy's Palace in Calcutta, namely, the Belvedere Palace.

#### **2.2.4 Post-Independence Period (1947 onwards)**

Public libraries in India made a tremendous growth after the independence of India in 1947. The central and the state governments took a number of steps forward for the development of the nation from the point of education and considered library as essential part of it. The programs executed by provincial and central governments since 1910 for the social and adult education of the populace paved the way for the enactment of library laws and rules for grants-in-aid in the country. Hence public library became part of the education budget. (Jambhekar;1995;1). To enhance the level of literacy of 16% in 1941, the government undertook some programmes such as extension services, continuing education, social education, non-formal education and adult education. The government further initiated steps for the development of community and organized some projects in this regard. Libraries were considered to be an essential part of the Community Development Project that was launched during the first plan period. (Naidu;1990). In order to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development, the government considered public libraries to be an integral part of development projects. (Jambhekar;1995).

The Connemara Public Library in Madras became the State Central Library in 1950 under the provision of Madras Public Libraries Act 1948, and became one of the three depository libraries in 1955. Delhi Public Library was established in 1951 as the first UNESCO Public Library Pilot Project under the joint auspices of UNESCO and Government of India to adopt "Modern Techniques to Indian Conditions" and to

serve as a model public library for Asia. (Kumbar). In 1954, the Delivery of Book Act was passed to include newspaper. The act obligated every publisher in India to deposit one copy each of its publications to the National Library in Calcutta, the Asiatic Society Library in Bombay, Connemara Public Library in Madras, and Delhi Public Library in New Delhi

The Advisory Committee for Libraries as constituted in 1957 by the Government of India, with K P Sinha as the Chairman. The Committee submitted its report in 1959 with a drafted Model Library Bill. The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Public Libraries in 1964 and the Commission submitted its report in 1965 with a Model Public Libraries Act. The model bill was sent to all the states/UTs, which do not have Public Libraries Act. In 1972, the Government of India, Planning Commission constituted Working Group on Development of Public Libraries to make recommendations for library development. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, an autonomous body under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Education, was established in 1972. The main objective of the Foundation was to assist state library services in developmental works.

In 1979, a library section was established in the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Education, which section was under the charge of an Under Secretary. The objective was to promote the development of public libraries in India. (Jambhekar,1995). A Working Group on Modernization of Library Services and Informatics was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1983 and submitted its report in 1984 with the formulation of National Policy on Library Services and Informatics. Delhi Public Library became a copyright library in 1982. National Literacy Mission was adopted in 1986, which emphasized education for women and also establishment of rural libraries. Library networks and systems were strengthened at the national level institutions in the development of literature in neo-literates. Fourteen states namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Manipur, Kerala, Haryana, Mizoram, Goa, Orissa, Gujarat, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan have enacted Public Libraries Bills during 1948 to 2006.

The Government of India, Department of Culture, appointed a Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System in 1985. The National Policy on Education, 1986 states that a nationwide movement for improvement of existing libraries and the establishment of new ones will be taken up, provision will be made in all educational institutions for library facilities, and the status of librarianship improved. (Jhambekar;1995). The National Book Policy, 1986 also had an impact on libraries, as:

- 1) Provision of reading material for children by all the agencies involved;
- 2) That 10 percent of the annual education budget of the governments be used to purchase books for libraries.

These goals are to be achieved by using formal, non-formal, and open channels of learning. (Jhambekar;1995). Rural libraries should become the focal point for post-literacy and continuing educational programs. Publishers, voluntary organizations, and school library programs undertaken as part of the “Operation Blackboard Scheme” of the National Education Policy on Education, 1986 were given assistance. The following five libraries were regarded as national importance and may be stated in a very brief manner:

**1) National Library, Kolkata** was established in 1836 in the name of Calcutta Public Library. It was not a Government institution running on a proprietary basis. The then Governor General, Lord Metcalf transferred 4,675 volumes from the library of the College of Fort William to the Calcutta Public Library. This and donations of books from individuals formed the nucleus of the library. Prince Dwarkanath Tagore was the first proprietor of the Calcutta Public Library. Both the Indian and foreign books, especially from Britain, were purchased for the library. In the report of 1850 we find that the library started collecting books in Gujarati, Marathi, Pali, Ceylonese and Punjabi. The Government of Bengal and North Western Provinces regularly made by individuals as well as donations. The Calcutta Public Library had a unique position as the first public library in this part of the country. Such a well-organized and efficiently run library was rare even in Europe during the first half of the 19th century. Because of the efforts of the Calcutta Public Library, the National Library has developed rare books and journals in its collection. (<http://www.nlindia.org/history.html>)

The Imperial Library was formed in 1891 by combining a number of Secretariat libraries. Of these, the most important and interesting was the library of the Home Department, which contained many books formerly belonging to the library of East India College, Fort William and the library of the East India Board in London. But the use of the library was restricted to the superior officers of the Government. Lord Curzon, the then Governor General of India, was the person who conceived the idea of opening a library for the use of the public. He noticed both the libraries, Imperial Library and Calcutta Public Library, were under-utilized for the want of facilities or restrictions. So, he decided to amalgamate the rich collection of both of these libraries. He was successful in effecting the amalgamation of Calcutta Public Library with the then Imperial Library under certain terms.

The library, called Imperial Library, was formally opened to the public on 30th January 1903 at Metcalf Hall, Kolkata. The aims and objectives of the Imperial Library, well defined in a Notification in the 'Gazette of India' as *'It is intended that it should be a library of reference, a working place for students and a repository of material for the future historians of India, in which, so far as possible, every work written about India, at any time, can be seen and read.'*

John Macfarlane, the Asst. Librarian of the British Museum, London, was appointed as the first Librarian of the Imperial Library. After his death, the famous scholar and linguist Harinath De took over the charge of the library. After his death J. A. Chapman became the librarian. Mr. Chapman showed keen interest in the affairs of the library and worked hard to improve its status. After his retirement, Khan Bahadur M.A. Asadulla was appointed as the librarian and he continued as the librarian till July 1947. The policy of acquisition broadly adhered to by the Imperial Library was enunciated by Lord Curzon in his speech at the opening ceremony of the library, "The general idea of the whole Library is that it should contain all the books that have been written about India in popular tongues, with such additions as are required to make it a good all-round library of standard works of reference."

After the independence the Government of India changed the name of the Imperial Library as the National Library, with an enactment of the Imperial Library (change

of name) Act 1948 and the collection was shifted from the Esplanade to the present Belvedere Estate. On 1st February 1953 the National Library was opened to the public, inaugurated by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Sri B.S. Kesavan was appointed as the first librarian of the National Library.

The reviewing Committee in its report of 1969 suggested that the following should be the basic features of the National Library; Acquisition and conservation of all significant printed materials produced in the country to the exclusion of ephemera:

- Collection of printed materials concerning the country wherever published and also acquisition of photographic record of such materials that are not available within the country;
  - Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts having national importance;
  - Planned acquisition of foreign materials required by the country;
  - Rendering of bibliographical and documentation service of retrospective materials, both general and specialized;
  - Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographical activities;
  - Provision of photocopying and reprographic services; and
  - Acting as the centre for international book exchange and international loan.
- (National Library 2003).

**2) Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna** was open for the public in October 1891 with 4000 Oriental manuscripts. Maulvi Khuda Bakhsh donated his entire collection to the nation by a deed of trust. Acknowledging the immense historical and intellectual value of its rich and valued collection, the Govt. of India declared the Library as Institution of National Importance by an act of Parliament in 1969. The Library is now fully funded by the Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India). This autonomous institution is being governed by a Board with the Governor of Bihar as its ex-officio Chairman and Director is carrying the responsibility of day-to-day management of Library affairs. (<http://kblibrary.bih.nic.in/default.htm>)

**3) Rampur Raza Library, Rampur** was founded by Nawab Faizullah Khan in 1774 AD. It was brought under the management of a Trust till the Government of

India took over the library on 1 July 1975 under the Act of Parliament, which declared it as an institution of National importance. It contains very rare and valuable collection of manuscripts, historical documents, specimens of Islamic calligraphy, miniature paintings, astronomical instruments and rare illustrated works in Arabic and Persian languages besides 80,000 printed books. Nawab Faizullah Khan who ruled the state of Rampur, from 1774 to 1794, established the library with his personal modest collection kept in the Tosha Khana of his Palace. Now the Library occupies the position of an autonomous institution of national importance under Department of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by Central Government. The Library has now attained an International status of higher studies. (<http://razalibrary.gov.in/index.asp>)

**4) Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur** is one among a few medieval libraries existing in the world. It contains very rare and valuable collections of manuscripts, books, maps and paintings on all aspects of Art, Culture and Literature. The Encyclopedia Britannica in its survey of the Libraries of the world mentions this as "the most remarkable Library in India". The Library houses a rich and rare collection of manuscripts on art, culture and literature. Conceived and christened as the Royal Palace Library by the Nayak Kings of Thanjavur (1535-1675 AD). And the Maratha rulers (1676-1855) nourished it for intellectual enrichment. In 1918 this Library was made as a public Library. A body constituted by the Government and financed by the Central and State Governments now administers the library.

During the reign of Nayaks of Thanjavur (1535-1675 A.D.), "Sarasvati Bhandar"(Collection place of Manuscripts) was formed and developed. The Maratha rulers who captured Thanjavur in 1675 A.D. patronized the culture of Thanjavur and developed the Royal Palace Library till 1855 A.D. The Sarasvati Bhandar was situated within the Palace campus and the Manuscripts used for the purpose of reading by the Royal personages. Among the Maratha Kings, King Serfoji II (1798-1832), was an eminent scholar in many branches of learning and with great enthusiasm he took special steps for the enrichment of the Library. It is a fitting tribute to the great collector Serfoji that the Library is named after him. Till the survival of the last Maratha Queen, the Library was the Palace property. After that,



the Library together with the Palace properties formed the subject of litigation in Civil Courts. The Royal Family members voluntarily came forward to delete this Library from the suit properties formed an Endowment and dedicated this Library to the public with one lakh rupees for its maintenance and upkeep. Accordingly, the Government of Madras in their G.O. Ms. No.1306 Home (Education) dated 5th October 1918, took possession of the Library under the Charitable Endowment Act and framed scheme for the Library management.

In 1983, the Library was declared as an Institution of National Importance. The Government of Tamil Nadu abolished the Five Member Committee of administration and made it as a Registered Society as per G.O. 209 (EST) dated 1-2-83. The Society was constituted and got registration on 9-7-1986 under the Tamil Nadu Registered Societies Act of 1975. The Society consists of ex-officio members of Central and State Governments, nominated Scholars, Member from the Royal family and the Director of the Library. The Hon'ble Education Minister of the Government of Tamil Nadu is the ex-officio Chairman of this society. (<http://www.sarasvatimahallibrary.tn.nic.in/library/library.html>).

**5) Harekrushna Mahtab State Library, Bhubaneswar** was conceived during 1<sup>st</sup> Five Year Plan under the advice of Government of India and was completed in 1959, enshrined within a beautiful land of 3 acres in a prime location of Capital City of Bhubaneswar. In 1967, it was named as Gandhi Bhawan commemorating birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. In 1987 it was renovated and entire space of the four storied building was utilized for the functioning of two Libraries i.e. State Library for the entire State of Orissa and another Public Library for Bhubaneswar City. In 1987, Government decided to rename the State Library and the Public Library as Harekrushna Mahtab State Library (in memory of Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, the builder of modern Orissa) and the Bhubaneswar Public Library respectively. The former is a Reference Library and lending of books is not permitted whereas the latter is a Lending Library for the public of Bhubaneswar City. These two Libraries have managed to function over the limited space. Total readers seats available are about 350 against the present demands of 600-700 readers per day. (<http://hkmsl.gov.in/glance.htm>).

### **2.3 Library Legislation in India**

Since the beginning, the public libraries served as the local information centers making the source of knowledge readily available to the public. The local community from the local fund or individual munificence could not achieve the services of a public library. Public leaders, scholars and learned societies have realized that the only way to establish and develop a public library system is through legislation. The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, 1972 stated that, “The public library should be established under the clear mandate of law”, which is substantiated by the IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 as;

“The public library shall in principle be free of charge. The public library is the responsibility of local and national authorities. It must be supported by specific legislation and financed by national and local government. It has to be an essential component of any long-term strategy for culture, information provision, literacy and education”.

Libraries are recorded under the Article 246 of Indian Constitution, Seventh Schedule List II of State List No.12 and the Indian Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, Section 27 reads, “Libraries, museums and other similar institutions controlled or financed by the State; ancient and historical monuments and records other than those to be of national importance”. Provision of public library service is the responsibility of the State Government as the subject matter of libraries is relatable to entry 12 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India (Trehan;1986;7).

Dr. S R Ranganathan regarded as the pioneer of library legislation in India. “The concept of legislation for libraries is a contribution of S R Ranganathan to Indian public libraries”. (Sharma; 1976;123). He made library legislation obligatory for the implementation of the second law of library science, “Every reader his/her book”. According to Ranganathan the second law can be properly carried out only by legislation. (Ranganathan;1957;160). Dr. S R Ranganathan strived a lot for library legislation and prepared different library bills for the Indian Union and constituent states; such as; Model Library Act for constituent states of India (1930); Bengal (1931); Bombay (1946); Central Province and Berar (1946); Old Madras state (1946) which later became Act in 1948; United Province (1947); Cochin (1947);

Travancore (1947); Union Government (1948); Madhya Pradesh (1950); Union and Constituent States (1950); Constituent States (1957); Union (1957); West Bengal (1958); Kerala (1959); Uttar Pradesh (1960); Mysore (1961) which became Act in 1965; Assam (1964); Gujarat (1964 and Model Library Bill (1972).

Public libraries also considered as community information centers providing access at local level to a wide range of knowledge and information for the benefit of the individual and society as a whole. To ensure sustained development and information network services public libraries should be based on legislation. "Public library legislation may be in various forms depending upon the government structure. It can be simple, allowing the establishment of public libraries but leaving standards of service to the level of government directly responsible for the library, or more complex, with specific detail on what services should be provided and to what standard". (IFLA/UNESCO;2001;15). But no British Government passed library Act for creation of public library system in Indian states. (Buragohain;1999;8). There have been different efforts to work out library legislation models in India. In the pre-independent and post-independent of India, there have been five models of public library bills suggested by experts and national level professional associations and organizations.

**1) Model Public Libraries Act of Dr. S R Ranganathan**

The first Model Public Libraries Acts was prepared by Dr. S R Ranganathan in 1930 and revised in 1957 and 1972. It was discussed at the First All Asia Educational Conference held at Banaras during 26-30 December 1930. It was introduced in West Bengal Legislature in 1931 and in Madras Legislature in 1933. The Bill could not be passed due to financial clauses on library grant, library cess etc. Salient features of final version are:

- establishment of public libraries in city, rural and other areas;
- constitution of State Library Authority i.e. Minister of Education;
- constitution of State Library Committee as an advisory body of the State Library Authority;
- Constitution of Local Library Authority for each city and one for each district;

- State Library Authority, Government and Local Library Authority may determine library rate in such a manner and may determine collection of library cess from time to time.

## 2) **Model Public Libraries Bill of Ministry of Education**

The Government of India, Ministry of Education appointed an Advisory Committee for Libraries in 1957, under the Chairmanship of Shri K P Sinha, former Director of Public Instruction, Bihar. This committee recommended the need for library legislation for each state. As a follow-up action of the Advisory Committee, the Ministry of Education, Government of India appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M D Sen. The Committee drafted Model Public Libraries Bill in the year 1963. The salient components of this Bill are:

- Constitution of State Library Authority as an apex body to advise the Government in the matter of library developments;
- Constitution of State Library Directorate for direction and controlling of library services;
- Constitution of District Library Committee in each district;
- Treatment of employees as government servant;
- Collection of library cess at the rate of 6 paise per rupee on house tax and property tax.

## 3) **Model Public Libraries Bill of the Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission, Government of India, constituted a ‘Working Group on Libraries’ in 1964 to plan and advice on the development of Libraries during the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Working Group recommended a Library Development Scheme to be implemented during the Fourth Plan period with a financial commitment of Rs.309 million, which was appended by Model Public Libraries Bill and submitted its report in 1965. Bill was not considered even by a single state. The Bill included the following features:

- Establish, maintain, develop and integrated adequate public library service in the state;

- Constitution of Committee of Experts to prescribe the standards of service;
- Constitution of State Library Council to advise the government for the promotion and development of library service;
- Establishment of State Library Directorate to control, direct and supervise library system in the state;
- Establishment of State Central Library, State Regional Libraries and District Libraries;
- Treatment of employees in the system of State Government Servants
- Government shall be the financial source and shall maintain the public library system in the state.

#### 4) **Model Public Libraries Bill of Indian Library Association**

The Indian Library Association (ILA) formed in 1933, has keen interest in library legislation. The ILA discussed library legislation at its various seminars organized in 1964, 1978 and 1981. Consequently, ILA Council at its meeting held on 23 June 1989, keeping in view of the developments and experiences gain from the existing Acts, resolved to prepare a Model Library Bill. Accordingly, as asked by ILA, Dr. Velaga Venkatappaiah, Chairman, Central Sectional Committee on Public Libraries of the ILA prepared a Model Public Library Bill. ILA accepted the draft Bill with minor changes at its National Seminar on Public Library Legislation in 1990 at the final product of the Model Public Libraries Bill was published in 1991. The Bill was circulated to all the states and union territories but few states reacted favorably to the Bill. This Model Bill was again discussed in a National Seminar on Library Legislation and revised as the Model State Public Library and Information Service Act in 1995. In view of emergence of Information Technology at all levels, the model act was again revised in 2000. The important components of this Bill are:

- State Library and Information Service, based on a State Policy;
- Constitution of State Library Authority at the apex level with Minister of Libraries as Chairman as policy making and executive body;
- Establishment of Directorate of Public Libraries for directing, controlling and supervising;

- Constitution of City, District Library Authority for rendering service from district to village level;
- Provision for network of Public Library and Information Services from state to village level;
- Constitution of State Library and Information Service;
- Collection of Library cess on house tax and property tax, entertainment tax, professional tax, vehicle tax, etc.;
- Constitution of State Boards for education, book production, co-ordination, etc.;
- Accountability of public expenditure and services.

## 5) **Model Union Library Act**

The Government of India appointed a committee to explore the possibilities to establish a National Central Library at New Delhi in 1948. Dr. S R Ranganathan, a member of the committee drafted a Library Development plan in 1950 with a 30-year programme and a draft Library Bill for the states and Union Public Library Act. This was revised in 1959 and again in 1972. However, libraries falls under the state list of the constitution and it may not be possible to pass Bill as a Union Act, unless and until the constitution is suitably amended for this purpose. The main features of this model Act are:

- Constitution of a National Library Authority;
- Establishment of national central libraries;
- Constitution of National Library Committee as an advisory body to the National library Authority;
- Constitution of National library fund;
- Amendment to the delivery of Books and Newspaper Act, 1954.

The IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994 reads that, “The public library is the local center of information, making all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users”. (IFLA/UNESCO;1994) Public libraries, to become an enthusiastic source of information and knowledge for the local community, needs certain forms of developments in terms of infrastructure, collection and the trinity of library as well. It cannot survive by the local contributions and dedication alone, but through the support of government. “The pubic library, as a democratic institution

operated by the people for the people, should be established and maintained under the clear authority of law; supported wholly or mainly from public funds; open for free use on equal terms to all members of the community regardless of occupation, creed, class or race”. (Ekbote;1987;34). Efforts have been going on well under the initiatives of professional associations and learned societies in this context. “In India, the post independence era was favorable to the establishment of public libraries based on legal basis”. (Viswanathan;2005;46).

### **2.3.1 States with Library Legislation**

During the last six decades, 14 (fourteen) Public Library Bills were enacted in different states of India, such as:

- 1) Tamil Nadu  
The Tamil Nadu (Madras) Public Libraries Act 1948;
- 2) Andhra Pradesh  
The Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960  
(previously known as The Hyderabad Public Libraries Act 1955, but renamed as a result of State Reorganization);
- 3) Karnataka  
The Karnataka (Mysore) Public Libraries Act 1965;
- 4) Maharashtra  
The Maharastra Public Libraries Act 1967  
(The Kolhapur Public Libraries Act was passed in 1945. Consequent upon the state reorganization, the state of Kolhapur was merged with Maharashtra state. Then Maharashtra Public Libraries Act came into being in 1967);
- 5) West Bengal  
The West Bengal Public Libraries Act 1979;
- 6) Manipur  
The Manipur Public Libraries Act 1988;
- 7) Kerala  
The Kerala Public Libraries Act 1989;
- 8) Haryana  
The Haryana Public Libraries Act 1989;
- 9) Mizoram

- The Mizoram Public Libraries Act 1993;
- 10) Goa  
The Goa Public Libraries Act 1993;
- 11) Orissa  
Orissa Public Libraries Act, 2001;
- 12) Gujarat  
Gujarat Public Libraries Act, 2001;
- 13) Uttaranchal  
Uttaranchal Public Libraries Act, 2005.
- 14) Rajasthan  
Rajasthan Public Libraries Act, 2006

### 1) **Tamil Nadu**

Tamil Nadu is the first state that enacted Public Libraries Act in independent India. It came into force with effect from 1 April 1950. The objectives of the Act are contained in its Preamble as, *'An act to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the province of (Madras) Tamil Nadu and the organization of comprehensive rural and urban Library Service therein'*. It has 19 sections. The salient features of this Act are given below:

- 1) This Act facilitates establishment of Public Libraries in the State.
- 2) Constitution of State Library Committee for the purpose of advising the government on such matters relating to libraries.
- 3) Provision for appointment of Director of Public Libraries to control, direct and supervise public libraries.
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authorities, one for the City of Madras and one for each district.
- 5) Every Local Library Authority shall levy in the area a library cess in the form of a surcharge on property tax or house tax at the rate of six paise per rupee.
- 6) The Government shall contribute Library Fund to each of the Local Library Authority, except the City of Madras, to the amount of library cess collected.



7) The Act amended Sec.9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, Central Act XXV of 1867 to the effect that every printer shall deliver five copies of each book to the State Government out of which four will be deposited in the State Central Library, Madras.

Tamil Nadu was very rich in public libraries. The Connemara Public Library was opened for the public in 1896 and became the State Central Library from 1 April 1950. There is a tremendous growth and development of public libraries since an enactment of Tamil Nadu Public Libraries Act 1948 being the first state in India with Library Legislation. As on March 1998, (Amudhavalli;2001;201) the state has public library service units, as – 1 State Central Library, 29 District Central Libraries, 1548 Branch Libraries, 506 Village Libraries, 649 Part-time Libraries, and 8 Mobile Libraries. The Department of Public Libraries has been offering extension services, like – Mobile Library Service, Home Delivery Service, Library Service for Children, Library Service for Police Personnel, Library Service for state workers and remote settlers in the hills, Hospital Library Service, Rural Library Service, Part-time Library Service, Library Service for Students, Library Service for research scholars and Library Service for competitions for various civil services.

## **2) Andhra Pradesh**

The state of Andhra Pradesh was formed in 1956, comprising Andhra areas of composite Madras state and Telengana area of Hyderabad area, whereas Madras Public Libraries Act in force in Andhra area. To solve administrative problems on two acts in operational in one state; both the acts were amalgamated, modified and up-to-date as Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960. It received the Governor assent on 18<sup>th</sup>. February 1960. Andhra Pradesh is the second state that has enacted Public Libraries Act in independent India. Its Preamble reads that, *“An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the establishment and maintenance of Public Libraries in the State of Andhra Pradesh and matters connected therewith”*. It has seven chapters. Important features of this Act are as below:

- 1) Constitution of ‘The Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad’, as a corporate body, having perpetual succession and power to the provisions of this Act.

- 2) Constitution of Directorate of Public Libraries to direct, supervise and control Public Library System.
- 3) Constitution of Zilla Granthalaya Samastha, one for the City of Hyderabad, one for the district of Hyderabad and one for each districts.
- 4) Provision to collect library cess by every Zilla Granthalaya Samstha in its area as surcharge on property tax or house tax up to eight paise per rupee.
- 5) The accounts of Zilla Granthalaya Samstha shall be open to inspection.
- 6) Provision of Government Grant-in-aid to private libraries.
- 7) Provision for constitution of a Library Service for the Zilla Granthalaya Samstha for the appointment of Librarians.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the leading states in India for the promotion of library services in India. It is the second in India with Public Libraries Act in 1960. The structure of public library services can be classified into three categories consisting of: (Patel;2004;156).

- **Government Libraries**  
1 State Central Library, 6 Regional Libraries, and 1 Mobile Library,
- **Zila Grandhalaya Samstha Libraries**  
23 District/City Central Libraries, 1448 Branch Libraries, 355 Village Libraries, 3 Mobile Libraries, and 576 Book Deposit Centers,
- **Aided Libraries**  
1238 Gram Panchayat Libraries, 37 Cooperative Society Libraries, and 680 Private Libraries.

### 3) Karnataka

Karnataka is the third state in an independent India that have enacted Public Libraries Act. The objective of this Act can be seen in its Preamble that reads, '*An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of Public Libraries and the organization of a comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of Karnataka (Mysore)*'. Important features of this Act are given below:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Authority to meet twice in a year, Minister of Public Libraries as its Chairman and State Librarian as *ex-officio* Secretary.

- 2) Provision for creation of an independent Department of Public Libraries with a profession as its head, to supervise, direct and control library services.
- 3) Provision for the establishment of State Library as apex of public library system in the state.
- 4) Constitution of Local Library Authority, City Library Authority and District Library Authority.
- 5) Provision for setting up of Advisory Library Committee for Branch and Village Library Services.
- 6) Collection of library cess on tax on lands and buildings.
- 7) Additional sections in State Central Library
  - i) State Bureau of Copyright Collection
  - ii) State Library for the Blind
  - iii) State Bureau of Inter Library Loan
  - iv) State Bibliographical Bureau
  - v) State Bureau of Technical Service.

Karnataka is the third state in India that enacted Public Library Bill in 1965. The Belgaum Native General Library, established in 1848 by M.J.D. Invararity, was regarded as the first library started in Karnataka state. There were other seven libraries or reading rooms in Belgaum, namely, Library at Chikkodi established in 1886, Nippani Library in 1875, Gokak Library in 1865, Athani Library in 1865, Sampagaon Library in 1866, Khanapur Library in 1868, and Saundatti Library in 1870. (Ijari; 2001;173-174). The existing public libraries in Karnataka are - 1 State Central Library, 1 Indira Priyadarshini Children's Library, 1 Public Technical Library, 27 District Central Library, 19 City Central Library, 14 Mobile Libraries (District & City), 490 Branch Libraries (District & City), 107 Service Stations (District & City), 31 Reading Rooms, 5766 Gram Panchayat Libraries, 21 Aided Libraries (District & City), 200 Slum Libraries and 600 Reading Rooms in Slum Areas. (Kumar).

#### **4) Maharashtra**

Consequent upon the constitution of Maharashtra state, The Maharashtra Public Libraries Act, 1967 succeed Kolhapur Public Libraries Act 1945. The fourth state in an independent India that has enacted Public Libraries Act is Maharashtra state.

Preamble of the Act read that, *“To provide for the establishment, maintenance, organization and development of public libraries in the state of Maharashtra”*.

Important features of this Act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council. Minister for Education shall be the ex-officio President of the Council. The Council will advise the State Government on all matters connected with the administration of this Act.
- 2) Constitution of a separate department of Libraries and the appointment of a professional Director;
- 3) Establishment of Maharashtra State Library Service;
- 4) Establishment of State Central library and a Divisional Library for each Division;
- 5) Constitution of District Library Committee in each of the district. Chairman of the Education Committee of a Zilla Parishad in the district shall be ex-officio President of the Committee.
- 6) Constitution of Library Fund by the State Government for carrying out the purpose of this Act. The State Government will contribute not less than a sum of twenty-five lakhs to the Library Fund every year.

The Britishers started public libraries in Maharashtra after defeating Marathas in 1818 but no Indians were allowed membership of these libraries till 1830. (Sen; 2001;240) Pioneer libraries established by Indian in Maharashtra were at Ahmednagar in 1838, Bombay in 1845, and Poona in 1848. In 1939, the government constituted a Library Development Committee to prepare a plan for public library development in the state of Bombay. The report was implemented from 1955 to 1967. After an enactment of Maharashtra Public Libraries Act 1967, public library system was developed through voluntary organizations with grants from the government. As on 1998, Maharashtra has different categories of public libraries as – 1 State Central Library, 6 Divisional Libraries, 31 District Libraries, 63 Taluka Grade A Libraries, 144 Taluka Grade B Libraries, 58 Taluka Grade C Libraries, and 3842 Recognized Libraries.

## **5) West Bengal**

The West Bengal Legislature passed this Act and assent of the President was first published in the Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1980. West Bengal enacted the Public Libraries Act in 1979 to become the fifth state of India

with library legislation. Its preamble stated that, *“An Act to provide for the establishment of Public libraries in the State of West Bengal and to regulate, guide, central, supervise and to grant recognition to the existing libraries in the State as also to provide for a comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of west Bengal”*. Some of the important salient features of this Act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council for the purpose of advising the Government on the matters of public library services. Minister-in-Charge of Library Services shall be the Chairman of the Council;
- 2) Constitution of the Department of Libraries to supervise and direct the maintenance of Public Libraries;
- 3) Constitution of Local Library Authority for each district. The District Magistrate shall be the Chairman of the Local Library Authority. Provision for constitution of Executive Committee for Local Library Authority;
- 4) The Government is empowered to appoint District Library Officers and District Librarians in districts. The Government, in consultation with the Local Library Authority may place a person in charge of a District Library to be called as District Librarian;
- 5) Financial management of local libraries rests upon the Local Library Authority. Means of augmenting funds are:
  - a) Contributions, gifts and income from endowments;
  - b) Grants from the government
  - c) Collection of Local Library Authority under the Act.

In 1780, Mr. John Andrews run a commercial library in Fort William and the first public library; Calcutta Public Library was established during the British period in 1836, which is now known as National Library. By 1900, there were 50 public libraries in Bengal. The state government took up a seven tier library development scheme, which envisaged setting up of public libraries at different levels- State Central Library; District Library; Sub-Division/Area Library; Rural Library; Village Library; and Delivery Stations/Book Deposit Centers. (Patel;2004;114) By 1996, West Bengal has one State Central Library, 22 District Libraries, 120 Sub-Divisional/Town Libraries, and 2276 Rural/Area/Primary Unit Libraries. There are also around 3000 non-governmental/non-sponsored public libraries. (Chatterjee;

2001;114-115) West Bengal is the fifth state in India with Library Legislation in 1979.

#### **6) Manipur**

Manipur is the sixth state in an independent India that has enacted Public Libraries Act in 1988. The preamble stated the objectives of this Acts as, “An Act to provide the establishment and maintenance of Public Libraries in the State of Manipur and matters connected therewith”. Salient features of this Act are given hereunder:

- 1) Constitution of a State Library Committee, to advise the State Government on all matters arising under this Act and to exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may be prescribed.
- 2) Constitution of a separate Department of Public Libraries under the Director, as its head.
- 3) Constitution of District Library Authority for each district to supervise library services in the area of its jurisdiction.
- 4) Provision to constitute Executive Committee and Sub-Committees of District Library Authority to inquire into and report or advice on any matters, which it may refer to them.
- 5) Constitution of Library fund formed mainly with the contribution of the State Government.

Manipur is the sixth state in India with Public Library Acts in 1988. Manipur Club established in 1927 was changed over into Manipur Book Club/Manipur Club Library and again changed into Jubabati Memorial Library in 1933. But the library had a setback during the Second World War. Imphal Public Library, also known as Khwai Public Library was established in 1938 but was functioning till 1960 and later it was demolished in 1994. District Library and Children’s Library-cum-Museun were merged on 26 August 1970 and came to be known as State Central library. (Vidyavati Devi;2007;53-54). There are 9 District Libraries, 1 State Central Library, and 215 Libraries organized by Voluntary Organizations. (Singh;2007;38).

#### **6) Kerala**

Kerala Public Libraries Act, 1989 is also known as Kerala Granthasala Sanghom, 1989. Kerala enacted its pubic Libraries Act in 1989 to become the seventh state in

India with library legislation. Preamble of this Act stated its objectives as, *“An Act to consolidate and unify the library laws in the State and to provide for the recognition in the entire library system in the State of Kerala with a view to the development and maintenance of comprehensive rural and urban library service and for matters connected therewith or incidental hereto”*. Important features of the Act are:

- 1) Constitution of Kerala State Library Council with Executive Committee to advise the government on all matters connected with this Act and to supervise and direct all matters relating to library service in the state;
- 2) Secretary of the State Library Council shall be the Chief Executive Authority of the State Library Council;
- 3) Constitution of District Library Council to supervise, co-ordinate and control the Library service under its jurisdiction and to promote co-operation between libraries and cultural and educational institutions in the country;
- 4) Constitution of Taluk Library Union, with the power to supervise, co-ordinate and control the library services in the Taluk and to give directions and advise to affiliated libraries in regard to their day to day function and management;
- 5) The Government may make every year a grant to the State library council with a maximum of one percent of the education budget of the State.
- 6) The State Library Council shall maintain a fund called State Library fund. Library cess collected and grants of State and Central Government will be credited to the State Library fund.
- 7) Transfer of Kerala Granthaala Sangham with its staff, assets, and liabilities to the State Library Council.
- 8) Collection of Library Cess in the form of a surcharge on the building tax or the property tax at the rate of 5 paise for the whole rupee.

Christian missionaries started libraries in Kerala during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The history of public library movement in Kerala (Bavakutty; 2001;183) started in 1829 with the establishment of Trivandrum Public Library. There are more than 5000 public libraries in Kerala now, one in every 8 square kilometers. Public libraries can be grouped into four categories, as – Libraries directly run by the Government, Libraries run by the local bodies, Grant-in-Aid libraries affiliated to the Kerala

Grandhasala Sangham, and Libraries run by the Local Library Authorities. The Kerala Grandhasala Sangham was established in 1947 and was registered under Section 9 of the Travancore Company Act, 1939 and in 1948 the Government approved it as the Central Agency of the Libraries. It plays an incredible role for the promotion, development and encouraging the people of the state through library services. Kerala enacted Public Library Bill in 1989 to become the seventh state in India with Library Legislation.

## **8) Haryana**

Haryana is the eighth state in India with library legislation. The preamble stated its objectives as, *“An Act to provide for the establishment, maintenance and development of Public Libraries in the State of Haryana and for matters ancillary thereto”*. Some of the important features of this Act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Authority to advise the Government on all matters for the promotion of library services in the State. Minister-in-charge of libraries will be the Chairman;
- 2) Establishment of State Library Directorate to execute the programmes approved by the State Library Authority;
- 3) Establishment of State Central library;
- 4) Constitution of District Library in each district and Municipal/City/Town library; Block library; Village library; and Smaller book deposit centers;
- 5) Provision for three types of library funds, such as State Library Fund, District Library Fund, and City/Town/Block/Village Library Fund;
- 6) Levy of Library cess in the form of surcharge on property tax and house tax as decided by the government from time to time;
- 7) Provision to recognize state library associations, and co-operative institutions by the State Library Authority.

Before the creation of this separate state, some public libraries were already established, Guru Gobind Singh Municipal Library (formerly Fyson Library) in 1926, Shri Parmeshwari Yuvak Librray in 1927, and Sri Bal Amar Samiti Library in 1932. A State Central Library (Jagnayak;1999;67) was started in 1967 by th4 Government of Haryana. Besides it has started 12 District Libraries, 11 Sub-Divisional Libraries and 11 Municipal Libraries. Many philanthropic trusts and local



bodies/organizations had also established public libraries, which took active role in the promotion of reading habits and library services in the state. The Haryana Library Association was founded in 1967. The Haryana Public Libraries Bill was passed in 1989 and independent Directorate of Libraries was established in January 1993. Mobile library services to reach the interior of the remote villages with reading facilities were started and the people are very much encouraged for the development of libraries at villages and panchayat levels as a social education center and community information center as well.

## 8) **Mizoram**

Mizoram is the ninth state of India to have library legislation. Preamble of this Act stated its objective as, *“An Act to provide for the establishment, maintenance and development of comprehensive public libraries system in the State of Mizoram”*. Important features of this Act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council to advise the Government on all matters relating to libraries and also in regard to promotion and development of libraries in the State;
- 2) Constitution of the Department of Public Libraries to control and supervise the public library system in the State;
- 3) Constitution of State Library, District Library, Sub-Divisional Library and Village Libraries;
- 4) Provision of grant-in-aid to recognized libraries;
- 5) No library cess. All expenses shall be made from the Government funds.

Mizoram Public Library Scenario is discussed at the next chapter in detail.

## 10) **Goa**

Goa is the tenth state to have library legislation in India. Preamble of this Act stated that, *“An Act to provide for the establishment, maintenance and development of Public Libraries in the State of Goa and for the matters ancillary hereto”*. Important salient features of this Act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council with the Minister-in-charge as the Chairman to advise the Government on all matters arising under the Act;
- 2) Constitution of State Library Directorate for controlling and directing the public library system in the State;

- 3) Organization of State Library, District Library, Taluk Library, and Village library;
- 4) Creation of Public Library employees similar to the employees of State Government;
- 5) Recognition of one State Library Association as co-operating institution;
- 6) State library fund from different sources, viz. Government contribution, Government Grants, and any other contribution from the public;
- 7) Levy of Library Cess in the form of a surcharge on Indian Made Foreign Liquor at the rate of 50 paise per bulk litre of beer.

Under the order of the Viceroy, *Dom Manuel de Portugal e Castro*, a public library, *Publica Livraria* was opened and attached to *Academia Militar* in 1832 and it was named as *Bibliotheca Nacional de Goa* in 1959 and came under the administration of Education and Health Services department. (Ramasamy;2001;220) The Government of Goa constituted a State Level Expert Committee in 1978 and State Library Advisory Board in 1983 for the development of library services in the state. The public libraries of Goa can be categorized into five levels, as State Library, Taluka Libraries, Village Libraries, Government Aided Libraries, and Municipal Libraries. Goa is the tenth state in India with Public Library Act in 1993.

## 11)

### Orissa

The establishment of Diamond Jubilee Library at Kendrapara in 1897 and at Baripada in 1898 started the development of public library and followed by establishment of other libraries in the state. (Rout;2001;95) Three Government functionaries, Department of Information and Public Relations, Department of Sports and Culture, and Department of Housing and Urban Development operated public libraries in the state for some times. In 1975, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Orissa took complete charge of Public Libraries from the Department of Education. There is one State Library, 13 District Libraries, 4 Sub-Divisional libraries, 6 Ex. District Board Libraries, and 4 Memorial Hall Libraries.

## 12) Gujarat

Objective of Gujarat Public Libraries Act provided in its preamble is to provide for the promotion and development of public libraries in the State of Gujarat and for

that purpose to constitute State Library development Council and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Important features of this act are:

- 1) Constitution of State Library Council with Minister –in-charge of Libraries as its Chairman;
- 2) Establishment of Public Library Department with Director as its head of office;
- 3) Establishment of District and Taluka Libraries at the headquarters of taluka;
- 4) Constitution of District and Taluka Library Advisory Committee;
- 5) Formation of State Library Development Fund;
- 6) Recognition of libraries run by voluntary organizations.

The first considered public library in Gujarat was called, “Himabhai Institute of Library” established in 1849 in Ahmedabad. (Ramasamy;2001;227) Other pioneer public libraries are Andrews Library established in 1850, Lang Library in 1857, Lakhajirao Pusthakalaya in 1868, Bhagavatsihji Library in 1884, State Library in 1865, Barton Library in 1882, Takhsinhi Library in 1877, and Victoria Jubilee Library in 1891. There are 2 State Central libraries, 18 District Libraries in all the districts, 45 Taluka Libraries, 129 Mahila Libraries run by voluntary organizations, more than 300 Book Service Centers and Mobile Library service.

### **13) Uttaranchal**

Uttaranchal is the 27<sup>th</sup> state of Indian Union, separated from Uttar Pradesh and coming into existence on 9.11.2000. The state comprises ten districts, namely Uttarkashi, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Nainital, Uddam Singh Nagar, Pauri Garhwal and Hardwar. Public Libraries within these districts were automatically came under the Uttaranchal administration.(Singh;2001;80). The state literacy rate is 72.28%. The state government is very interested to serve the people through public libraries and the Uttaranchal Public Libraries Bill was enacted in 2005 to become the thirteenth state in India with Library legislation. Some of the well established libraries by the state government of Uttar Pradesh were taken over while coming up into existence.

### **14) Rajasthan**

Libraries were established in Rajasthan as early as 14<sup>th</sup>. Century and maintained in the form of *Pothi-Khanas* consisting rich collections of manuscripts on different disciplines. (Tripathi;2001;57-59) Rana Kumbha's Saraswati Bhandar Library was established in 1448. Raja Man Singh established library, *Pothi-Khana* in 1592 by keeping rare and important manuscripts. Pioneer Public Libraries were established in Bharatpur in 1907, Sikar in 1908, Kota in 1910, Fatehpur in 1910, and Jodhpur in 1915. There are 5 Divisional libraries, 24 District Libraries, and 8 Tehsil Libraries with 600 Book Deposit Centers on 15 August 1956. Mobile van was also provided to Division Libraries to supervise library services in the state.

### **2.3.2 States/UTs without Library Legislation.**

Public library systems and services of Indian states and Union Territories are highlighted hereunder:

#### **1) Arunachal Pradesh**

Arunachal Pradesh, formerly known as North East Frontier Agency, introduced library service since 1950s. During the Seventh Five Year Plan period, the state government took up the scheme of developing libraries in the state and set up a number of libraries at block and circle levels. Mobile library system was introduced in the state capital. The state has six categories of library, such as – 1 State Library, 2 Branch Libraries, 13 District Libraries, 2 Sub-Divisional Libraries, 20 Block Libraries, and 45 Circle Libraries. (Das; 2001;126)

#### **2) Assam**

In 1865, George Williamson, a tea-planter of Golaghat bequeathed 10,000 pounds for the purpose of educational and set up of libraries in Assam and the government taken up as an experiment measure to established public libraries at the initiatives of British government in 1902-1903 at Dhubri, Guwahati, Nagaon, Jorhat, Tezpur, Shillong, Sibsagar, Goalpara, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, etc. and then handed over to the Local Boards. (Buragohain;2001;132-133) The people were awakened and established rural libraries in some areas. The Assam Library Association came into existence in 1938 and extended all possible help to established public libraries in different areas. The Central Library, established in 1954 at Shillong and the Assam Government Public Library established in 1903 was amalgamated in 1956 and

renamed as the State Central Library. In 1955, seven District Libraries were set up at Guwahati, Nagaon, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Dhubri and Silchar. Book Mobile Service along with 70 Deposit Centers for Circulation of Books was organized to villages in 1959. Assam is running 1 State Library, 1 Branch Library, 22 District Libraries, 14 Sub-Divisional Libraries, and 1 Children Library.

### **3) Bihar**

The ancient Educational and Cultural Centers like Nalanda, Vikramshala, Pataliputra and Taxila had magnificent libraries and Bihar Library Association was founded on 15 October 1936. The Association popularized importance of libraries and in 1937 prepared a Draft Scheme for the development of libraries in Bihar. There is one State Central Library at Patna, having seven wings, viz., State Reference Library, State Lending Library, State Library for Blind, State Bureau of Inter-Library Loan, State Bibliographical Bureau, State Bureau of Technical Service, and State Institute of Library Training and Research. (Thakur;2006). At present, there is 1 State Central Library, 6 Divisional Libraries, 7 Special Libraries, 17 District Central Libraries, 2 State Libraries, 11 Sub-Divisional Libraries, 328 Block Libraries, and 4422 Village Libraries in Bihar (Singh;2007;26) The Library service is at the government level is under the control and supervision of the Commissioner of Education. In the state of Jharkhand area, there are 5 District Libraries, 4 Sub-Divisional Libraries and other Village Libraries are under the public library sector. (Chattopadhyay;2001;84-86). The state of Jharkhand came into existence on 15 November 2000 by separating some areas of Bihar state.

### **4) Himachal Pradesh**

Under the scheme of Integrated Library Service formulated by the Union Ministry of Education, a small library system was introduced in 1952 (Sood; 2001;21). A State Central Library was established in Solan in 1959, and within two years six District Libraries were opened. The State Central Library created four departments, namely, reference, Lending, Periodicals, and Children Section for the benefit of the readers. Membership registration is free of charge to all the residents of Himachal Pradesh. It has 1 State Central Library, 11 District Libraries, 15 Community Central Public Libraries, and 101 Senior Secondary School (Public) Libraries in the state. The School Libraries are also used as public libraries after the school hours. (Jagnayak;

1999;66) Two Mobile units are set up in 1961 to cater the needs of the community particularly in the rural areas of the state.

## **5) Jharkhand**

The state of Jharkhand, separated from Bihar, is having 18(eighteen) public libraries established by the state government. These public libraries may be classified into four groups as below:

- i) Three State Public Libraries, one each at Ranchi, Chaibasa, Dhanbad and Dumka.
- ii) One Divisional Library at Hazaribagh;
- iii) Five District Libraries, one each at Gumla, Lohardaga, Daltonganj and Godda; and
- iv) Eight Sub-Divisional Libraries, one each at Garhwa, Lahetar, Pakur, Simdega, Chatra, Sahebganj, Saraikela, and Khunti.(Karn).

The library building are, generally, not functional to cater more readers at a time. Furniture is inadequate and water supply system is poor. No electricity connection was available to some of them due to non-payment of bills. Collection and subscription of periodicals/newspapers are not adequate to serve the library users as well. (Karn;2006;25).

## **6) Jammu & Kashmir**

The state is divided into 14 districts. The Christian missionaries started education. Until 1947, the state has only two public libraries, namely, Sri Pratap Singh Library in 1893 in the city of Srinagar and Sri Ranbir Singh Library in Jammu. The state government establishes the department of public Libraries in 1961 for the establishment and promotion of public library services in the state. The state has 2 Central Libraries, one each in the province of Jammu and Kashmir, 14 District Libraries, 51 Tehsil Libraries, and 18 Block Libraries. (Alvi;2001;31).

## **7) Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh**

The state of Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh lies in the heart of the country came into existence on 1 November 1956. Madhya Pradesh was divided into two states, viz., Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on 1 November 2000; hence the state

of Chhattisgarh came into existence. It has 5 Regional Libraries in Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Rewa, and Indore, 42 District Libraries, 6 Information Centers, 80 Private Public Libraries, and 15800 Gram Panchayat Libraries. The Madhya Pradesh Library Association was formed in 1957. (Singh;2001;38).

#### **8) Meghalaya**

Meghalaya has taken up the State Library of Assam established in Shillong in 1903 as its State Central Library. It has one State Central Library, four District Libraries, and Libraries run by voluntary organizations in different localities. The Meghalaya Library Association was established in 1994. (Buragohain;2001;139)

#### **9) Nagaland**

Nagaland has established a State Central Library at Kohima in 1981 functioning under the Directorate of Art and Culture. It offers computer facilities and reprographic services to its readers. There are eight District Libraries and four of them have completed computerization. 330 Rural libraries are registered under the department of Art and Culture. (Mero;2007;15-16)

#### **10) Punjab**

The first public library in Punjab, known as Punjab Public Library was established at Lahore (now in Pakistan) in 1884. Other pioneer libraries are Dyal Singh Public Library was established at Lahore in 1896 through a trust created in the name of Dyal Singh, Sir Ganga Commercial Public Library established in 1923, and Dwarka Das Public Library at Lahore in 1921. Pioneer Municipality Libraries in the state were established in Ludhiana in 1878, Lahore in 1884, Patiala in 1897, Amritsar in 1900, Kapurthala in 1904, and Sangrur in 1912. There are 2 State Central Libraries at Chandigarh (1956) and Patiala (1956), 14 District Libraries, and 97 Municipal Libraries. (Singh;2001;50-51) Dr. A.C.Wooner founded the Punjab Library Association in 1915 at Lahore. The Association organize training, seminar, conferences and also publish some library literatures.

#### **11) Sikkim**

Sikkim public libraries came into existence under the influence of academic libraries in the state. After 1975 the Government of Sikkim realized the importance of public

libraries and has started a few libraries but public libraries have not made much progress in a systematic way. (Seth;2001;104) All the four districts have a separate District Library at the district headquarters. These libraries were controlled, supervise and administered by the Cultural Department of the Government of Sikkim.

## **12) Tripura**

From the nucleus of “Ujjayanta Palace Library”, the then Maharaja Birchandra Manikya established a library in the Royal Palace in the year 1896 in Agartala was called as “Birchandra Library” and declared open to the public. (Ramasamy; 2001;147) This library was taken over by the government in 1953 and named as Birchandra Public Library and from 1977; it was designated as a State Central Library and renamed as Birchandra State Central Library. Libraries are look after by the Government of Higher and Technical Education and at present the position of public library in Tripura is – 1 State Central Library, 3 District Libraries, 7 Sub-Divisional Libraries, 10 Block Level Public Libraries, 2 Rural Libraries, and 1 Children Library. The departments of Social Education and Panchayat Raj also run some public libraries in the state.

## **13) Uttar Pradesh**

Uttaranchal state came into existence on 9 November 2000 separating some areas from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Some libraries were established in the early days, such as, Raza Library, Rampur in 1750, Allahabad Public Library (Azad Park Library), Allahabad in 1763, Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh in 1877, Bharati Bhawan Library, Allahabad in 1889 and Lyall Library, Aligarh in 1899. The state has a State Central Library at Allahabad, 69 District level libraries, 62 other prominent public libraries run by voluntary organizations. (Singh;2001;73).

## **14) Andaman and Nicobar Island**

Andaman and Nicobar Island, one of the Union Territories of India, have never experienced the services of libraries until a small library was set up in the cellular jail in the early 1930s. The prisoners were allowed to read books, newspapers and magazines in this library. The Government took initiatives in establishing school libraries. In 1957 an Information Centre was set up at Port Blair. In 1964, this



Information Centre was converted into District Library and later on considering the public interest the District Library was enlarged and reorganized into the State Library in 1977. Library service is under the Department of Education and financed by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and the department came forward with an idea of spreading education through the libraries. At present, there is 1 State Central library, 1 State Library, 2 District Libraries, 12 Zonal Libraries, and 3 Public Libraries. (Anbarasan;2001;265).

#### **15) Dadra and Nagar Haveli**

In the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, there is a State Central Library at the capital city Silvassa and Public Library, known as Central Libariy at Naroli, Kanvel, Randha, Kilvani, Dapido, Amoli, Dushni and Mandoni. The Central Library at Silvassa and Naroli were established in 1954 and 1965 respectively. Central Libraries at Silvassa, Dadra and Kanvel are functioning in their own buildings whereas the remaining libraries were in a rented building and primary schools. There are no public libraries run by voluntary organizations in this Union Territory. The library services were under the control and supervision of the Director of Education. (Anbarasan;2001;266).

#### **16) Daman and Diu**

The Assistant Director of Education under the control of the Department of Education supervises library services in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. There are 3 Municipal Libraries at Moti Daman, Nani Daman, and Diu. Establishment of a Central library, 2 District libraries, and 1 Mobile Library is under consideration. (Anbarasan;2001;267).

#### **17) Lakshadweep**

There was no library service in this Union Territory before independence. The first public library was established at Karavati in 1951. However, the island has the apex library of this Union Territory established in 1958 as Freedom Fighters Central Library, which was subsequently named as Lakshadweep Central Library. It has well organized public library system in which Lakshadweep Central Library serves as the State Central Library and each of the ten constituent inhabited islands Androtti, Amini, Agatti, Bitta, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Karavatti, Kilton, and

Minicoy is provided with a public library by the Administration of Lakshadweep. These libraries were earlier known as Reading Room-cum-Library. Library services are looked after by a Library Development Officer who performs the supervision function under the overall control of the Director of Social Welfare and Culture. To develop and sustain library movement, the administration has constituted a state level committee known as 'Lakshadweep State Library Committee' in 1994 comprising 10 members including Library Development. (Anbarasan;2001;270).

### **18) Pondicherry**

The history of Library in Pondicherry began with the establishment of a '*Bibliothèque Publique*' (Public Library) in 1827 with a modest stock of books collected from several Government establishments functioning in this region. The British Indian Government also donated some books to this library from time to time. (Anbarasan2001;272) It was renamed as '*Romain Rolland Library*' in 1967 after the French scholar Romain Rolland. The General Assembly, in 1892, authorized the opening of the library at Karaikal and constituted a Commission to advise the administration on measures to be taken for the development of the Library. The Library was originally named as '*Bibliothèque Coloniale*'. This library was renamed as '*Bibliothèque Publique*' in 1952 and subsequently categorized as Regional Library and called as Government Public Library. The first library was actually started by the 'Association of Old Students' in 1918 at Mahe. The Old Boys Association donated all the books and furniture of Mahe Public Library. In 1964, the Union Territory Administration has evolved a policy of opening Branch Libraries at rural areas of the territory and the number of Branch Libraries opened in four regions are, 46 in Pondicherry region, 14 in Karaikal region, 3 in Mahe region, and 2 in Yanam region. The Director of Education from 1954 to 1991 controlled the library services. Since 1991, Director of Art and Culture is the head of the Library services. There are three Assistant Library and Information Officers to look after the library services under the Director of Art and Culture. (Anbarasan;2001;274).

### **19) National Capital Territory of New Delhi**

Before the independence, Delhi was very poor in library services, particularly in public libraries, due to political structures, lack of educational facilities, and attitude of the authorities. Harding Library was established in 1862 and housed in a portion

of the Town Hall. In 1942, Delhi Municipal Committee changed the name of the library to the Harding Municipal Public Library, which was further rechristened in 1970 as the Hardayal Municipal Public Library after the famous freedom fighter and intellectual Lala Hardayal. The British Council Library and American Information resource Centre are also being developed for the public and function with the latest technology which enrich public library services in Delhi. Marwari Seth Kedar Nath Goenka in the Chandi Chawk area of Delhi set up the Marwari Library, the first of any type founded through community awareness in Modern India, in 1915.

Under the UNESCO's Pilot Project, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, founded Delhi Public Library in 1951. It was very much developed and became one of the depository libraries in India. The Delhi Public Library consists of the Central Library, Zonal Libraries, Branch Libraries, and Sub-Branch Libraries in addition to the Community libraries, Resettlement Colonies libraries, Sports libraries, and an adequately good network of Mobile Library Services to link up the remote urban and rural areas spread over the Union Territory of Delhi. (Bhatt;2001;5).

## **2.4 Contribution of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation**

1972 was a significant year in the history of library movement in India. The country was celebrating the silver jubilee of its independence from the British Administration in 1972. Coincidentally it was an International Book Year with the slogan of 'Books For All' emphasizing promotion of reading habits among the masses. Not only that, it was the auspicious occasion of the bicentennial birth anniversary of an Indian social reformer, who stressed the need of modern education for the development of the nation. In this august year, Raja Rammohun Roy Library (RRRLF) came into being in May 1972 (RRRLF;1997;1). It is the nodal agency of Government of India to support public library services and systems and promote public library movement in the country. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is an autonomous organization, established and sponsored by the Department of Culture, Government of India. It is registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. Its headquarters is located at Kolkata. In view of the expanding activities, the Foundation has opened zonal offices under the Assistant

Field Officers for monitoring the impact and implementation of the assistance rendered by the Foundation such as-Eastern Zonal Office at Calcutta; Northern Zonal Office at New Delhi; Southern Zonal Office at Chennai and Western Zonal Office at Mumbai.

#### **2.4.1 Objectives**

Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation is a national agency for the promotion of library services in general and public library services in particular (Jayaswal; 1997;223). The main objective of the Foundation (RRRLF;1997;1) is to promote and support public library movement in the country by providing adequate library services and by developing reading habits all over the country with the active co-operation of State Government and Union Territories and of Voluntary Organizations operating in the field of library services, cultural activities, adult education and the like. Objectives of the Foundation may be listed as below:

- To promote library movement in the country;
  - To enunciate a national library policy and to help build up a national library system;
  - To provide financial and technical assistance to libraries;
  - To provide financial assistance to organizations, regional or national engaged in the promotion of library development;
  - To publish appropriate literature and to act as a clearing house of ideas and information on library development in India and abroad;
  - To promote research in problems of library development;
  - To advise the government on all matters pertaining to the library development in the country; and
  - To propagate the adoption of library legislation in the country.
- (RRRLF/Objectives).

#### **2.4.2 Assistance Programme**

The Foundation promotes public library services rendering book and financial assistance to the public libraries under different schemes of assistance. The scheme of assistance is of two types, viz., Matching and Non-Matching schemes.

### **1) Matching Schemes**

Assistance under Matching Scheme is given from the resources shared on matching basis with the States/Union Territory Administrations on the basis of developed states 50;50; developing and lagging states 60;40 and North-Eastern States 90;10. This revised matching scheme is effective from 2005. The Matching assistance can be given to achieve its main objectives for:

- Assistance towards building up of adequate stock of books and reading materials.
- Assistance towards development of rural book deposit centers and mobile library services.
- Assistance towards organization of seminars, workshops, training courses (orientation/refresher) and book exhibition.
- Assistance towards storage and display of books including reading room furniture.
- Assistance to public libraries below district level for increasing accommodation.
- Assistance to public libraries below State Central Libraries to acquire TV-cum-VCP sets for educational purposes/Computer for library application (networking of Public Libraries below State Central Libraries).
- Assistance towards Networking of Public Libraries. (RRRLF/Activities)

### **2) Non-Matching Schemes**

The Foundation fully gives assistance under this scheme from his own resources to implement its objectives for:

- Assistance towards building up of adequate stock of books through central selection.
- Assistance to voluntary organizations (NGOs) providing public library services

- Assistance to children libraries or children's section of general public libraries including women section and senior citizen section.
- Assistance to public libraries toward celebration of 50 years, 100 years and 125 years.
- Assistance towards collection and compilation of library statistics through official and non-official agencies.
- Assistance to centrally sponsored libraries.
- Assistance towards organization of seminars/conferences by national level library organizations.
- Assistance towards establishment of children's corner. (RRRLF/Activities)

### **3) Promotion of District Youth Resource Centres (DYRCs)**

The development of DYRCs is being made commensurate with the decision of the inter Ministerial Steering Committee constitutes for the purpose with the representative from Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Raja Rammohun Roy Library foundation and Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sanghatana. The DYRCs are assisted for the following purpose:

- Towards building up adequate stock of books.
- Towards acquiring storage materials and library furniture.
- Towards construction of library building.
- Towards acquisition of computers with accessories. (RRRLF/Activities)

#### **2.4.3 Promotional Activities**

RRRLF has undertaken a number of promotional activities for qualitative improvement of library services. It is associated and interacts with different national and international library professional associations like IFLA, ILA, IASLIC and different state level library associations. Some of the promotional activities taken up by the Foundation for the qualitative improvement of library services may be given as below:

- It organizes seminars and conferences on the topics related to the development of public libraries in India.

- It plays a major role in the preparation of National Policy on Library & Information Systems and also issued guidelines on public library systems and services.
- It instituted 'RRRLF Fellowship' to eminent men and women in the field of library services who have contributed significantly to the library movement particularly, public library movement in the country through active involvement in the movement, organizational initiative, intellectual leadership or are dedicated to the propagation of the reading habit among the mass. Fellowship carries a cash award of Rs.25, 000/- besides a plaque and a citation detailing the services rendered by the Fellow in the country.
- 'RRRLF Best Library Award' for the Best State Central Library in India. The Award carries a Citation and a cash incentive of Rs. 1 lakh.
- 'RRRLF Best District Library Award' in each of the six regions. The Award carries a Citation and cash incentive of Rs.50, 000/-.
- The Foundation instituted 'RRRLF Best Rural Library Awards' one for each state since 2005.
- 'Raja Rammohun Roy Award' was introduced annually to the best contributor of an article covering the area of development of Public Library Systems and Services or suggesting measures for the promotion of reading habits. (RRRLF/Activities).

#### **2.4.4 Research Cell and Special Library**

A research cell along with a special library on Library & Information Science and statistics unit supported by a computer unit are providing necessary input to its various activities. About 5000 important books and journals on Library & Information Science and allied fields have been acquired in the library. Besides carrying on Research Projects on public library or allied subject, the Research Cell renders advisory and consultancy services whenever required. It has prepared and published a report on loss of books in libraries for the Government of India. (RRRLF; 2004).

#### **2.4.5 Publications**

The Foundation has brought out many useful publications for the promotion and development of public library services in the country. Some of its significant publications are;

- Indian Libraries; Trends and Perspectives
- Raja Rammohun Roy and the New Learning
- Directory of Indian Public Libraries
- RRRLF Newsletter (quarterly)
- Granthana- Indian Journal of Library Studies (Bi-annual)
- Annual Report
- Books for the Millions at their Doorsteps (Information Manual). (RRRLF/Activities).

#### **2.4.6 Modernization Programme**

The Foundation is taking steps to meet the new technologies of information for the promotion of library services. It has a Computer Section for building-up data bank of Public Libraries for the country. This section is planned to give information storage, retrieval and data processing support for all the application areas. (RRRLF/Activities). It has keen interest with enthusiasm to computerized state libraries in India. It gave computers to the state and district libraries to carry out Foundations' zeal to computerize such libraries. The work is going on to computerized shortly.

#### **2.4.7 Achievement**

The Foundation has taken pains in promoting and developing library services in the country since its inception. Central Government's grant allotment is increasing over the last years and state contributions for matching scheme is also increasing as well. This increased shows that the works carried out by the Foundation is growing and the State Government gives emphasis for the promotion of public libraries through

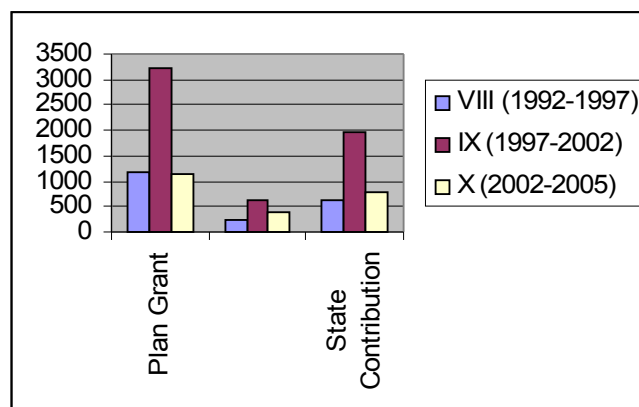


the Foundation. During the VIII Five Year Plan period (1992-1997) the total plan grant from the Government of India was Rs.1175.50 lakhs with an average annual plan grant of Rs.235.10 lakhs and contribution of States under matching scheme reaches Rs.645.97 lakhs. The Government of India allotted an amount of Rs.3233 lakhs as plan grant during IX Five Year Plan period (1997-2002). The annual average plan grant was Rs.646.60 lakhs and the state contribution reaches Rs.1977 lakhs. During the last three years of the X Five Year Plan period (2002-2005), the plan grant stepped up to Rs.1150.21 lakhs including a special grant of Rs.150.21 lakhs for North-Eastern States and contributions received from various state governments also reaches Rs.769.59 lakhs. Plan grants and State contribution of matching scheme may be given in Table 2.1 and Graph 2(1) as below:

*Rupees in lakhs.*

| <i>Five Year Plan</i> | <i>Plan Grant</i> | <i>Average Annual Plan Grant</i> | <i>State Contribution</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| VIII (1992-1997)      | 1175.70           | 235.10                           | 645.97                    |
| IX (1997-2002)        | 3233.00           | 646.60                           | 1977.00                   |
| X (2002-2005)         | 1150.21           | 383.40                           | 769.59                    |

Table 2.1: Plan grant and state contributions

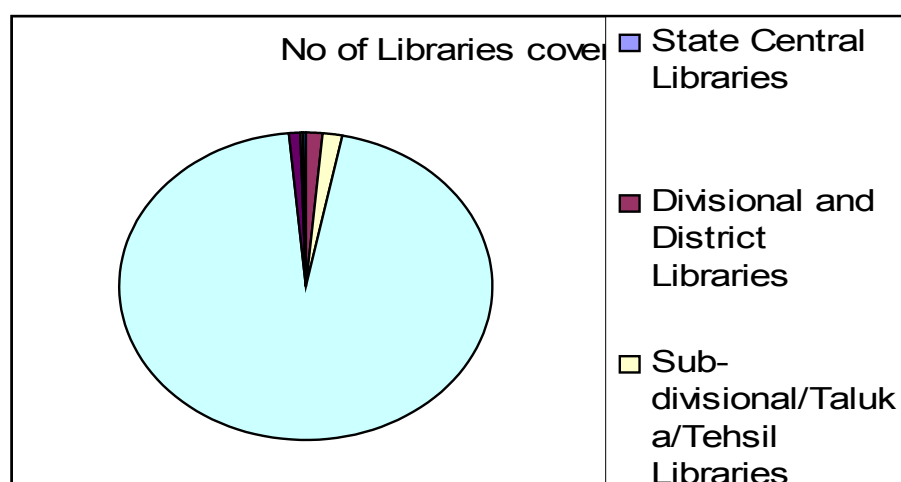


Graph 2(1): Plan grant and state contributions

Over the last thirty-two years, the Foundation has covered about a little thirty-one thousand libraries at different levels for assistance. The RRRLF assistance to libraries/kendras is illustrated in Table 2.2 and Graph 2(2) as below:

| <i>Category of Libraries/Kendras, etc.</i> | <i>No of Libraries covered</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| State Central Libraries                    | 28                             |
| Divisional and District Libraries          | 451                            |
| Sub-divisional/Taluka/Tehsil Libraries     | 501                            |
| Towns and Rural Libraries                  | 30134                          |
| Nehru Yuvak Kendras                        | 272                            |
| Jawahar Bal Bhavans                        | 49                             |
| Others                                     | 128                            |
| Total                                      | 31563                          |

Table 2.2: Assistance to libraries cover by RRRLF. (RRRLF/Activities)



Graph 2(2): Assistance to libraries cover by RRRLF.

#### 2.4.8 State Library Committee

The Foundation (RRRLF; 1997;10-11) renders matching as well as non-matching assistance to support and promote public library services in the States and Union Territories in accordance with rules and procedures. Every State/Union Territory Administration are advised to set up State Library Committee (SLC) consisting of the following members and will meet at least twice a year:

- Secretary/Director or person nominated by the Department controlling library services - Chairman
- Director or Officer-in-Charge of the Department, if he is not the Chairman
- Director of the Foundation or his representative
- Nominee of the Chairman of the Foundation;
- President or Secretary of the State Library Association;

- A representative of the Education Department, if library service is controlled by a separate department;
- An educationist or an author or a person representing the state level organization connected with book production to be nominated by the State Government; and
- Librarian of the State Central Library or any other public library nominated by the State Government shall be the Convener of the State Library Committee. Where this is not feasible, the State Government will nominate a suitable official looking after library service as the Convener.

The functions of the State Library Committee shall be:

- to prepare perspective and annual plan of library services in the State with particular reference to the assistance programmes of the Foundation;
- to ensure payment of State Government/UT Administration contribution and availing of the matching grant from the Foundation;
- to select books according to the felt need of the community and in conformity with the guidelines prescribed by the Foundation;
- to scrutinize and recommend proposals for other schemes of assistance to the Foundation;
- to ensure proper utilization of assistance by the Foundation; and
- to perform any other activity conducive to the development of library in the State or Union Territory.

Foundation's assistance is available for all categories of public libraries, viz., State Central Library, Regional/Divisional Libraries, District Central Libraries, Sub-divisional Libraries, Tehsil Libraries, Taluka Libraries, Block Libraries, Branch Libraries, Municipal Libraries, Town Libraries, Rural Libraries, Panchayat Libraries, Village Libraries, etc. directly maintained or aided or recognized by the State Government. State Library Committee will decide number and categories of libraries for assistance under different schemes and consolidated list of books for different categories of libraries. However, Textbooks, costly books and foreign publications should not ordinarily be selected. The maxim "the best reading for the largest number at the least cost" should be the guiding principle for selection of

books. The Foundation buys books at a graded rate of discount as mentioned below; (RRRLF;1997;16):

|     |           |            |   |              |
|-----|-----------|------------|---|--------------|
| 1   | to        | 10 copies  | - | 10% discount |
| 11  | to        | 25 copies  | - | 15% discount |
| 26  | to        | 100 copies | - | 20% discount |
| 101 | to        | 200 copies | - | 25% discount |
| 201 | to        | 500 copies | - | 30% discount |
| 501 | and above |            | - | 35% discount |

The Foundation also gives assistance to Public Libraries to acquire new computer or upgrade as the case may be for either of the following items, with accessories for educational purposes once in 10(ten) years:

- I One TV-cum-VCP sets with accessories together with five educational videocassettes
- II Computer System
  - A One Server
  - B Three (3) clients, nine (9) clients for State Central Library
  - C UPS in capacity rage of 0.5KVA to 3 KVA
  - D One Laser Printer and one Dot Matrix Printer; one Laser Printer, one Inkjet Printer and two Dot Matrix Printer for State Central Library.
  - E Library Software
  - F Network Equipments
  - G Others;
    - 1) One Web Camera
    - 2) Two Barcode Reader
  - 3) Two Speaker
  - 4) One CD-Writer
  - 5) One Scanner
  - H Cost of power cabling and installation of LAN
  - I Cost of Retro Conversion of total holdings (books). (RRRLF/State Library Planning Committee)

Assistance is also given to both Government and Non-government libraries for construction of a new building or extension of the existing building. Maximum amount given to District Level Library is Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 8 lakh for Sub. Division/Town Level Library once in ten years. For other libraries Rs. 4 lakh can be given for construction of library building.

## **2.5 National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS)**

John Martin said, “Policy is a statement of a specific goal or goals which are to be achieved, or to be pursued; a statement of the means by which realization of the goals will be brought about; an assignment of the responsibilities for implementation of the means, and a set of rules or guidelines regulating the activity”. (Hill;1989;20) According to P.B.Mangla, National Policy on Library and Information Science is to “provide a framework for properly planned and co-coordinated development of library and information structure in a country, resulting thereby in an enhanced and user-oriented information services to its user population”. (Mangla;2001).

The need for the formulation of National Policy on Library and Information Systems (NAPLIS) was brought to the notice of the Government of India by Indian library profession since 1950s by Dr. S.R.Ranganathan and in the recommendations of the Library Advisory Committee Report, 1958. Afterwards, professional organizations, like RRRLF, NISSAT and National Library urged upon the Government the necessity of enunciating such policy. The matter was discussed in the annual conference of IASLIC in 1979 at Roorkee and ILA in 1984 at Jaipur. Consequently, Indian Library Association submitted a draft policy statement to the Government in 1985. The Planning Commission Working Group in its report *Modernization of Library Services and Informatics for the 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (1985-1990)* emphasized the need of such policy. The Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation, after nine years of its inception, took up the task in 1981 and after careful deliberations submitted a Draft National policy on Library and Information Systems to the government in July 1984.

On the basis of the draft policy submitted by the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and Indian Library Association, the Government of India, Ministry of Human resources Development, Department of Culture, set up a Committee in October 1985 under the Chairmanship of Professor D.P.Chattopadhyaya for the

formulation of a National Policy on Library and Information Systems and the final report was submitted in May 1986 which includes:

- The Public Library system;
- The Academic Library System;
- Special Libraries and Information Systems;
- The National Library System and the Bibliographical Services;
- Manpower Development and Professional Status; and
- Modernization of Library and Information Systems.

Though the government has not adopted the recommendations as the official policy, but it serves as suggestive model for the development of libraries as a whole. The recommendations under the Public Library System are as follows: (India;1986).

- The most important task before the government is to establish, maintain and strengthen the free public libraries in the country and enable them to work as a system.
- The main thrust in this area should go to the rural public library. A village or a village cluster with an adequate population should have a community library, which will also serve as an information center. Resources of different agencies engaged in the work of public health, adult education, local self-government and such others may be pooled to build up this composite center.
- An important link should be established between the community library of the village and the village primary school. If the school does not have a library of its own, the community library should provide the children with an adequate book-corner.
- The community library should also importantly cater for adult education and make adequate audio-visual aids available to attract the illiterate villagers.
- The district library should serve as an apex library for each district with public libraries at city, town and village levels constituting important components in the district library system. In addition to the usual services to be rendered by it, it should also provide for learning facilities and recreation for the handicapped. Wherever possible, district libraries and comparable city public libraries should provide literature in Braille. The district library and branch libraries should also arrange mobile and circulating library

services within its area wherever it is necessary and feasible. Special services should be rendered to hospitals, prisons, and the infirm in their homes.

- Libraries for special groups should be built in areas of tribal concentration or minority communities to develop their distinctive cultures. The government will provide all encouragement for such communities to develop their own libraries through voluntary effort.
- Each public library should have a section for children and, in addition, separate libraries for children with attractive books and audio-visual supporting materials should be established wherever possible.
- The district library will take the leadership in establishing linkages between all other public libraries of the district and work towards resource sharing within the area.
- The key role of public libraries as chief sustaining agencies of distance education should be recognized and they should be adequately equipped with the relevant resources for this purpose.
- All the libraries within a state should form part of a network extending from the community library of the village through intermediary levels to the district and to the State Central Library. This State network should eventually connect with the national level.
- The role of the State Central Library is crucial in networking and the establishment of uniform library procedures within the States. The State Central Library/Directorate of Public Libraries has to perform as the coordinating agency for public libraries in the State.
- To bring about the development of the public libraries in a State it is vital that each State enact its own library legislation. The Central Government should revise the Model Public Library Bill, which it has already prepared, in the light of experience gained in recent years and urge upon the States the importance of enacting such legislation. Finances for library development should be found by each State either from its general revenues or from local taxation.
- The Central Government should assist the State in the development of public libraries in a larger way than it has done so far. The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation as the national agency for co-coordinating and assisting

the development of public libraries be suitably strengthened enabling it to discharge its responsibilities effectively.

## **2.6 National Knowledge Commission**

National Knowledge Commission was set up by the Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh to prepare a blueprint to tap into the enormous reservoir of our knowledge base so that our people can confidently face challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century. The Commission has a designated time frame of three years from 2<sup>nd</sup>. October 2005 to 2<sup>nd</sup>. October 2008. The Commissions' Terms of References are:

- Build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup>. century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge.
- Promote creation of knowledge in Science & Technology laboratories.
- Improve the management of institutions engaged in Intellectual Property Rights.
- Promote knowledge applications in Agriculture and Industry.
- Promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit. (NKC; 2007).

The Commission headed by Mr. Sam Pitroda as its Chairman and there are other 5(five) members, who are renowned persons in different fields of knowledge. It is a high-level advisory body to the Prime Minister of India, with a mandate to guide policy and generate reforms. The Commission is the world's first body of its kind.

The prime focus of the Commission is on five key areas of the knowledge paradigm, such as –

- Access
  - Literacy
  - Language
  - Translation
  - **Libraries**



- Networks
- Portals
- Concepts
  - School Education
  - Vocational Education
  - Higher Education
  - Medical Education
  - Legal Education
  - Management Education
  - Engineering Education
  - Open and Distance Education
- Creation
  - Science and Technology
  - Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)
  - Innovation
  - Entrepreneurship
- Application
  - Traditional knowledge
  - Agriculture
- Services
  - E-governance

Besides the Working Group on Libraries, other four Committees were set up with specialists and professionals in different areas of Libraries under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Kalpana Dasgupta. Such Committees are:

- 1) Committee on database creation and networking;
- 2) Committee on private collections;
- 3) Committee to set standards and modalities for collection development, systems and services;
- 4) Committee on staffing pattern and staff requirement of libraries.

Terms of References of the Working Group on Libraries are given below:

- 1) To redefine the objectives of the country's Library and Information Service sector;
- 2) To identify constraints, problems and challenges relating to the sector;
- 3) To recommend changes and reforms to address the problems and challenges to ensure a holistic development of information services in all areas of national activity;
- 4) To take necessary steps to mobilize and upgrade the existing library and information systems and services, taking advantage of the latest advances in Information Community Technology (ICT);
- 5) To explore possibilities for innovation and initiate new programmes relevant to our national needs, especially to bridge the gap between the information rich and the information poor within society;
- 6) To suggest means of raising standards and promoting excellence in Library and Information Science education including re-orientation and training of working professionals;
- 7) To assist in setting up facilities to preserve and access to indigenous knowledge and the nation's cultural heritage;
- 8) To set up adequate mechanisms to monitor activities for securing the benefits of acquisition and application of knowledge for the people of India;
- 9) To examine any other issues that may be relevant in this context. (NKC; Libraries;2007;6).

The Notional Knowledge Commission's Working Group on Libraries, after consultations of more than 20 state representatives and NGOs and many more interest groups and professionals in the field, ready its first recommendations (*Appendix -3*) for submission to the nation. Moreover, the Commission submitted its first recommendations to the Prime Minister in December 2006 on the following areas:

- Libraries
- Translation
- Language
- Knowledge Networks

- Right to Education
- Vocational education
- Higher Education
- National Science and Social science Foundation
- E-governance. (NKC;2007;25).

The Commission argued Libraries as Gateways to knowledge and continued that a “Library is not a building stacked with books - it is a repository and source of information and ideas, a place for learning and enquiry, and for the generation of thought and the creation of new knowledge. Public libraries in particular have the potential to bridge the gap between the ‘information poor’ and the ‘information rich’ by ensuring that people from all sectors and settings of society and the community across India have easy access to knowledge seek”. (NKC;2007;5).

The Commission clearly incorporated roadmap for the execution of its recommendations on libraries under different points of consideration. It gave a Library Charter that is incorporated below: (NKC;2007;18). Recognising that the library’s objectives are to:

- Disseminate knowledge as widely as possible;
- Serve as a major vehicle to facilitate creation of new knowledge;
  - Facilitate optimal use of knowledge by all sectors, such a government, industry, rural sector and civil society;
  - Ensure that people from all sectors and all parts of the country have easy access to knowledge relevant to their needs, in their own language.

The library undertakes to:

- Serve as local center of information and a gateway to national and global knowledge providing fair access to knowledge and information to as many as users as possible;
- Offer an inviting and attractive physical space with clean drinking water and toilet facilities;
- Offer proactive services to its user communities;
  - Ensure that users are treated with courtesy and respect by library staff;

- Pay attention to the needs of children, women, senior citizens and the physically challenged;
- Optimize its potential to provide access to information and knowledge to all;
- Help users developed information skills to make optimum use of resources;
- Improve its collections and services on continuing basis in consultation with users;
- To work more effectively and efficiently by undertaking every activity in a professional manner;
- To bridge the gap between the information poor and the information rich.

The Commission is organizing discussion forum at different areas for the preparation of its final report, which is expected to be submit to the nation within its stipulated time.

## **2.7 Library Associations**

The term ‘association’ is used to denote a group or body of individuals or institutions associated with a common purpose revolving generally for the two main purposes, viz.,

- (1) advancement of the service oriented goals of the association, and
- (2) protection of the interests of the members.

Association may be of different kinds with different objectives and categories, professional or non-professional. However, by considering its nature, Pandey S.K.Sharma defined library associations as ‘a group or body of libraries or librarians and users of libraries formed with the common purpose of advancement of library profession including service and also for protection of interests of the members including raising their capabilities to serve more effectively’. (Sharma;1985;16)

There are more than seventy professional organizations and associations at state level in India. William A Borden went to Baroda in 1910 at the invitation of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwar of Baroda and organized the first professional

organization of librarians in the country, the Baroda Library Club in 1912. (Patel; 2004;199) Other professional associations came up afterwards and some of the national level associations worth to be mentioned for their contributions in public library developments in the country.

### **2.7.1 The Indian Library Association (ILA)**

The Indian Library Association (ILA) was founded on 13 September 1933 at Calcutta at the First All India Library Conference attended by a galaxy of intellectuals, educationists, librarians, and eminent citizens of Calcutta. (Khanna; 1987;319). A.C.Woolner, Vice Chancellor of Punjab University and K M Asadullah, Librarian of Imperial Library was the first Chairman and Secretary of the association respectively. The headquarters of ILA was shifted to Delhi in August 1964 and at present is housed in its own flat. It was decided that the Association would work for development of libraries and library movement, improvement of status of librarians and stressing for better training for librarians. (Sharma;1987;144). It can therefore, be traced that ILA will work as representatives of Indian librarians and libraries for the cause of libraries.

#### **1) Objectives**

The objectives of the Association laid down in the constitution are:

- a) Promotion of library movement and improvement in library service in all its aspects in India;
- b) Promotion of library science education and the improvement in the training of librarians in India;
- c) Promotion of bibliographical study and research in library science;
- d) Improvement in the state and conditions of service of librarians;
- e) Affiliation of the state and other library associations with Indian Library Association and co-operation with international organization with similar objectives;
- f) Publication of bulletins, periodicals, books, etc. which will help in the realization of the objectives of the Association;
- g) Establishment of libraries, documentation centers and assistance in their establishing and working;
- h) Promotion of appropriate library legislation in India;

- i) Providing a common forum to all persons engaged or interested in library and information work by holding conferences and meetings for discussion of professional, technical and organizational issues;
- j) Accreditation of institutions imparting library and information science education and training;
- k) Promotion as well as formulation of standards, norms, guiding for management of library and information systems and services; and
- l) Carrying out all such other activities as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above-mentioned objectives.

## **2) Organization**

The ILA has a president, six vice presidents, a general secretary and an executive committee. It is organized to operate through the following twenty-two Central Sectional Committees:

- Agricultural Libraries
- Government Department Libraries
- Engineering and Technology Libraries
- Health Science Libraries
- Education in Library & Information Science
- University Libraries
- Library Legislation
- Libraries & Information technology
- Adult Education & Neo-Literates
- Status & Pay scales of Library Professionals
- Oriental Libraries
- Public Libraries
- School Libraries
- Copyright & Intellectual; Property Right
- Special Libraries
- College Libraries
- Library History
- Documentation & Information Services

- Preservation & Conservation
- Women in Library & Information Services
- Libraries for Special groups
- Distance Learning in Library & Information Science
- Training & Development Programmes

### **3) Activities**

All India Library Conference is organized every year at some places in the country hosted by either a university or an institution or a local library association. Other important activities include organization of workshop, seminars, convention and other activities, which can promote libraries and librarianship in India. Some the topics in such activities include *Library Legislation; School Children Libraries; Library cooperation/Resource Sharing; Library Personnel; Reading Materials/Collection Development; Bibliography and Documentation; University Libraries - Their Functions and Problems; Research Libraries in the Country; National Pay Policy for Libraries and Information Centers; National Information System; Computerization and Library Networks; Library Research; and Library Education*. (Vashishth;1991).

The Indian Library Association is a member of International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA). The association hosted IFLA Conference of 1992 in New Delhi. The Association also drafted Model Public Library Bill and arranged advanced training and internship for Indian librarians with the British Library Association in London.

### **4) Publications**

The Association started publishing Library Bulletin since 1942, though its publication was suspended in 1946 and was published again as ABGILA from 1949 to 1953. This title was changed to the Journal of the Indian Library Association in 1955, the Indian Library Association in Bulletin in 1965, and ILA Bulletin in 1975 till today. (Patel;2004;183). The bulletin is published quarterly, which includes professional articles on different topics on library and information science and

librarianship as a whole. The Association also published ILA Newsletter every month to disseminate current information about the latest trends in the field of library and information science. Another important publications includes *the proceedings of the All India Library Conferences since 1978, Indian Library Directory, A Survey of Public Library Services in India, Year's Work on Indian Librarianship, 50 Years of Indian Library Association; 1933-1983 and others.*

### **2.7.2 The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centre (IASLIC)**

The IASLIC was founded on 3 September 1955 at the lecture hall of the Indian Museum, Calcutta on initiatives and inspirations of librarians, documentalists, information scientists, scientists and technologists. It is much recognized by professionals in the field.

#### **1) Objectives**

Keeping in view the importance of inter-communication of facts and ideas among scientists, technologists and research workers, and of the collection of specialized information among them, IASLIC formulated the following objectives: (Sharma; 1987;145-146).

- 1) to encourage and promote the systematic acquisition, organization, and dissemination of knowledge;
- 2) to improve the quality of library and information science services and documentation work;
- 3) to co-ordinate the activities of an co-operation and assistance among special libraries, scientific, technological and research institutions, and learned societies, commercial organizations, industrial research establishments, as well as other information centers to the fullest extent;
- 4) to serve as a field of active contact for libraries, information bureaus, documentation centers, specialists, and other having common interests;
- 5) to improve the technical efficiency of the workers in special libraries, information and documentation centers, and to look after their professional welfare;
- 6) to act as a centre of research in special library and documentation technique;



- 7) to act as a centre of information in scientific, technical and other fields;
- 8) to take such action as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the association, or any of them;
- 9) to act as a nucleus of research in special librarianship and documentation techniques, and to provide forum for libraries in India.

## **2) Organization**

The General Body of the Association elects a President, six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, two Joint Secretaries, two Assistant Secretaries, a Librarian, and 25 Council Members for a period of two years. The Association is organized in six divisions, namely, Documentation Service, Education, Publications and Publicity, Library Services, Documentation Reproduction and Translation, and Cooperation and Coordination of Libraries. It has formed four special interest groups, such as, Special Interest Group on Industrial Information, Special Interest Group on Social Science Information, Special Interest Group on Computer Application, and Special Interest group on Humanities.

## **3) Activities**

IASLIC has been organizing seminars and conferences at different parts of the country, which are usually, hosted by university libraries, department of library and information science, institutions, associations, and other information centers. Discussions in the seminars and conferences included different areas of current issues on *Mechanization of Library Services, Training of Special Librarianship in India, Rendering of Indic Names, Bibliographical Control of Special Libraries, Methods of Scientific Communication, Decentralization of Library and Information Services, Users and Library and Information Services, Education for Librarianship in India, General versus Special Classification Scheme, Bibliometric Studies, Marketing of Library and Information Services in India, Document and Data Processing, Problems and Prospects of Library Associations in India, Indexing and Abstracting Services in India, Translation Services, and others.*

The Association also provided a program titled, "Training in Special Librarianship and Documentation" from 1964 to 1970. The Association also conducted language courses in German, French, and Russian from 1958 to 1963 for translators for

special libraries. (Patel; 2004;187). The Association is affiliated with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) and plays an important role for the international cooperation of the two federations.

#### **4) Publications**

The IASLIC Bulletin, its official organ, has been published quarterly since 1956 and 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 IASLIC Newsletter has been a bimonthly publication of the association since 1966 carrying important information and news about the activities of library and information services. Other important publications includes, *Directory of Special and Research Libraries in India*, *Glossary of Cataloguing Terms in (Indian) regional Languages*, *Education for Librarianship in India; A Survey*, *Draft General Code for Interlibrary Loan*, *Methods of Scientific Communication*, *IASLIC; Perspective, Performance, and Promise-A Silver Jubilee Commemorative Volume*, *Indexing Systems*, and *Library Architecture*.

#### **2.7.3 Other Associations**

India is one of the most advanced countries in the world in the field of knowledge and information sciences. Many national and regional associations are coming up in the field of library and information sciences. All-India Public Library Association, being the first national level association in the field came into being in 1920 following the result of the first All-India Public Library Conference held in Madras in November 1919 under the sponsorship of Andhradesa Library Association, the first state library association in the country established in 1914. (Patel; 2004;193) Many professional associations have come up at the national and regional level and now all the states have established state library associations. These professional associations organized seminar, workshops, training and other important activities for the advancement and development of public libraries in the country.

Some of the national and state level professional associations that have contributed for the cause and development of public libraries are:

### **1) National Level Library Associations**

There are different library associations at the national level. The main objectives of these national level library associations are to develop and maintain library services in their area of operations. Some of the national level library associations are:

- 1) All India Public Library Association, 1919;
- 2) Indian Library Association, 1933;
- 3) Government of India Library Association, 1933;
- 4) All India Rural Library Service Association, 1933;
- 5) All India Manuscript Library Association, 1944;
- 6) Library Field Worker Association, 1951;
- 7) Indian Association of Special Libraries and information Centers, 1955; and others.

### **2) State Level Library Associations**

Most of the states in India have their own state library association having objectives to work and develop library services within their states. Some of such associations are:

- 1) Andhra Pradesh Library Association, 1914;
- 2) Maharashtra Library Association, 1921;
- 6) Bengal Library Association, 1925;
- 7) Madras Library Association, 1928;
- 8) Karnataka Library Association, 1929;
- 9) Punjab Library Association, 1929;
- 10) Samastha Kerala Pustakalaya Samiti, 1931;
- 11) Bihar Library Association, 1936;
- 12) Assam Library Association, 1938;
- 13) Utkal Library Association, 1944;
- 14) Kerala Library Association, 1945;
- 15) Hyderabad Library Association, 1951;
- 16) U.P. Library Association, 1951;
- 17) Delhi Library Association, 1953;
- 18) Gujarat library Association, 1953;
- 19) Madhya Bharat Library Association, 1957;

- 20) Gomantak Library Association, 1961;
- 21) Rajasthan Library Association, 1962;
- 22) Jammu & Kashmir Library Association, 1966
- 23) Tripura Library Association, 1967;
- 24) Manipur Library Association, 1987;
- 25) Mizoram Library Association, 1987;
- 26) Meghalaya Library Association, 1994;
- 27) Nagaland Library Association, 1996; and others.

## **2.8 Conclusion**

India now has become one of the most developing countries in the world. It spreads in various fields of knowledge and disseminates its resources to the world.

It has also established public libraries and community information centers to give and help local community to acquire information from various agencies. Public library services have been expanded to serve the local people, but after 60 years of independence India, public libraries could not be administered and managed with the clear mandate of law in many states of India. As such, the development of the nation through library services is neglected in some states, and its services are beyond the reach of the rural poor. The next chapter describes about the public library scenario in Mizoram that is an important study to take up this research work.

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