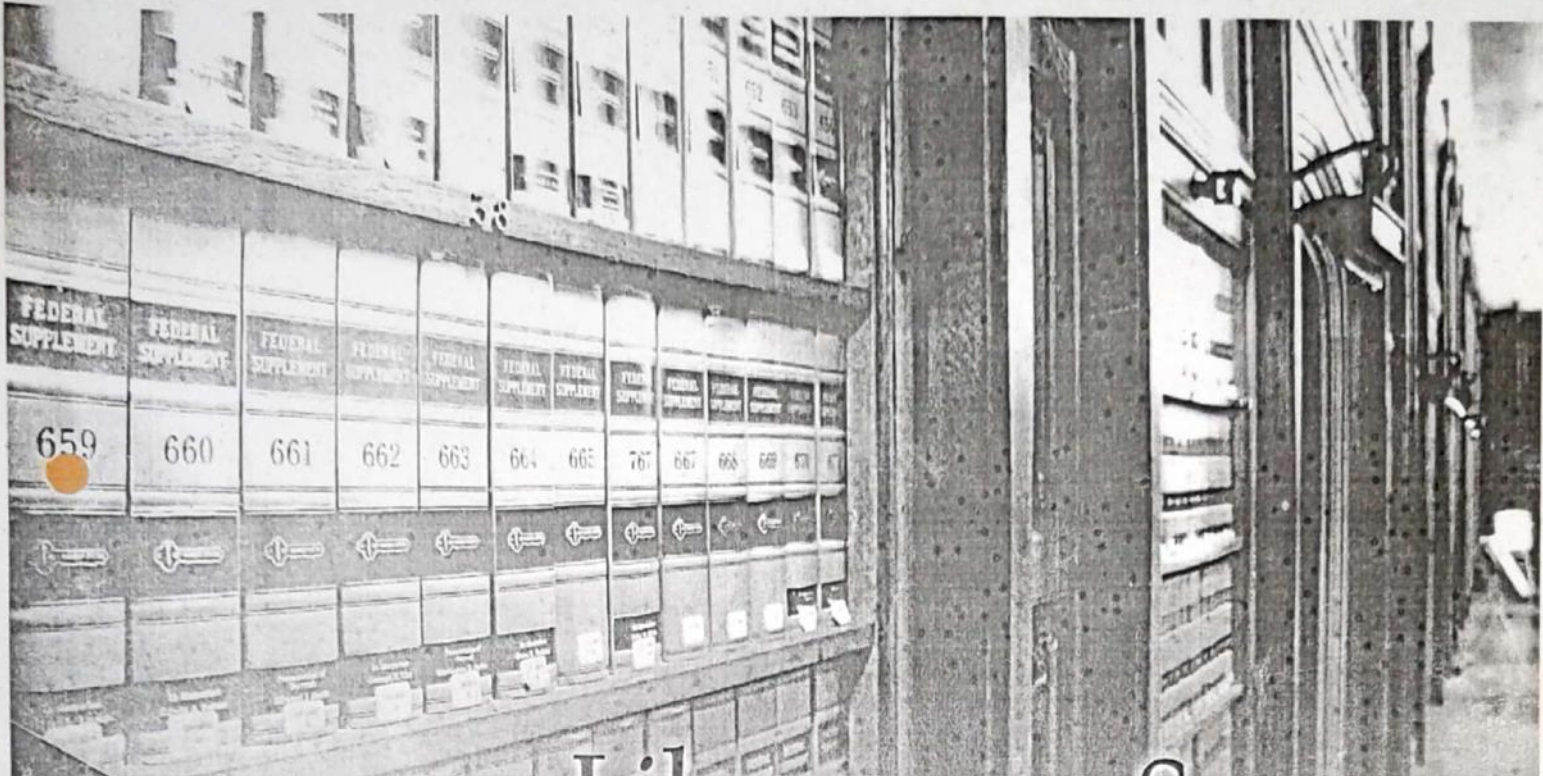


ONE DAY STATE LEVEL SEMINAR



Library as a Source of Information and Knowledge



**ORGANISED BY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF
THE SIA COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dombivli (E)

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Library as a Source of Information and Knowledge

Edited by

Dr. (Mrs.) Padmaja Arvind



Organised by Library Association of The SIA College
of Higher Education

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Evolution of Library Organism as Source of Information and Knowledge

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Abstract

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan was not only great library professional but also library pioneer of Indian library system. Above all this he was great library philosopher and library scientist. His innovations of Colon Classification System and Classified Catalogue Code were, no doubt, very systematic, beneficial and example of his basic foresight. But 'Five Laws of Library Science' is his best contribution to Library Science, especially the fifth law 'Library is growing organism'. According to my belief, all the essence of library system lies in this law. This law gives library system liveliness and the recent appearance of libraries is evidence of this.

Introduction

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan has stipulated following five laws of library science:

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader has his/her book
3. Every book its reader
4. Save the time of the reader
5. Library is a growing organism (Ranganathan, 1931)

These are the set of norms guides to good practice in librarianship. These principles tell what should be done in the field of library science to make library organisation, management and operation become efficient and to flourish its services. Not only that, these laws constitute the philosophical basis for all library work, programmemes and services and bestows library work a shape of science.

Among these five laws, the fifth law give the gist of philosophy what Dr. Ranganathan wanted to tell about overall library world.

This law states that 'Library is a growing organism'. Dr. Ranganathan had not chosen the word organisation or institution for library. He told it organism i.e. the living thing and gave liveliness to library. As he told it 'growing' organism, this article uses terms and ideas derived from Darwin's theory of evolution with this fifth law of library science.

Relation of Theory of Evolution and Fifth Law

According to Darwin, evolution has no plan or purpose. Primary differences between organisms are accidental and those who happen to be more adapted to their environment survive and expand. However sometimes the environment changes at a quicker pace than the living organism can adapt itself. In those cases the organism becomes extinct.

Secondly Darwin assumed that organisms differ and these differences are allowed to offspring. Those differences have an impact on the ability of the offspring that are more environmentally adapted are the ones that produce more offspring, they have the attributes that are best suited to the environment. (Darwin, 1996)

As Dr. Ranganathan put library as an organism, it has to change with the speed of changing environment. It should be careful for, if it does not change fast enough, it will become extinct.

Second thought of Darwin also suits libra organisation structure for an academic library or its services. It differs from one place to another based on wants, capabilities and categories of users. As Dr. Ranganathan saw library as growing organism, library has to change and adapt itself with pace of time so that it can give new, developed, best services and systems those who need it.

Changes in Library with Respect to Environment

We can see that needs or demands of users, various resources or documents getting published, different types of technologies such as computers, internet, communication, technology etc. are the components of environment to library.

As there is vast growth and changes in this environment, we can see, day by day libraries must change and adapt according to new environment.

Information resources of library, building or storage place of library, users of library, staff of library, technical support and other systems helping library are components of library. All these get affect with new environment around them and need to change accordingly to survive.

Information Resources in Library

As we all know in ancient times libraries are only repositories. But when technique of printing and publication industry starts flourishing libraries also change their attitude. Now most of the libraries become free reading centres for all its users. Various types of information resources such as books, journals, encyclopaedias, patents present in libraries to give first hand or second hand information and latest as well as historic information to users. CDs, DVDs are also forms of resources present in today's libraries to serve users.

Because information and technology is playing important role in everyday life libraries must take benefit of this technology. E-books, E-journals, E-databases should be involved in the resources of libraries to preserve and distribute knowledge. There are some open access journals available on internet publishing research papers for knowledge society. Academic libraries can give access of this directory to research students.

To overcome the problem of budget constraint, libraries have to participate in resource sharing programme to get essential journal or databases. They can also have membership of concern consortia or likewise programme such as N-List programme of UGC. Library Consortium is an Association of a group of libraries to achieve mutually the common objective. The concept of E-Journals consortia can work well the libraries without requiring additional fees to access the e-journal. (Yernagula and Kelkar)

Academic libraries must have its role not only in preservation, administration and distribution of information and knowledge but also in making of new knowledge. Academic libraries can take active part in creation of knowledge as distributor and publisher of new contributions to the body of knowledge, whether through repositories or through co-publishing of electronic journals. The opportunity is formed by the need to develop a computerized network environment, capable of storing and providing access to full-text scientific information to their consumers, a development that is infrastructure for repositories – those institutional or disciplinary archives of research products. (Kennan and Wilson, 2006)

Library Building or Place of Library

In ancient times, library resources were big stones, earth bricks, palm leaves, birch barks or even metal sheets also. These were taking more space in library. After the invention of paper books and printing machine publication of books and other resources on paper had knew no bounds. Also consciousness about education and knowledge in overall society, rise of interdisciplinary subjects are growing day by day.

To store, manage and distribute more resources in libraries, they must have planning for the place which can be extend to give more stack rooms, separate periodic section, easy access of e-resources etc. The changing environment of information technology gives facility of e-resources which need very small place. A single room could serve as a library due to the emergence of electronic library resources or digital library resources. (Oshilalu, 2011)

Digital libraries are called one can use these 'libraries anywhere and anytime.

Users of Library

Academic libraries have students, lecturers, professors, research students as their users. The needs of these users are also changing with the changing environment and life style. Now a day everybody wants various types of information on his/her tip of finger. Here computerisation of library and library OPAC link on website will work effectively. Even mobile library application can give to users on their demand. In foreign countries, growing number of libraries are creating mobile versions of their websites for their patrons to access on-the-go. They are offering information about library services and collections, providing access to library catalogue search, portable exhibit information, subject guides, e-journals, and library hours, all formatted for the small screen. (Kroski Ellyssa, 2008)

Staff of Library and Technical and Other Supportive Works

In ancient times, library staff has to work as if care taker of books and other resources. As consciousness and research in the field of library science flourish, the works and duties of library workers get changed.

In recent days library workers have to check new arrivals, access, classify, catalogue them and give information of them to users. They have to issue and submit the resources to users and to make different reports accordingly.

A good library automation software can do most of these works with very less efforts. It can take all information and give chance to edit it according to your library. The library automation software can give powerful search of catalogue as well as details of users. Such software can record circulation of library resources, make catalogues, barcodes and various reports on demand. It can also give intimation to users about library rules, late fees and various events via e-mail. Thus library staff can manage its various growing works and responsibilities with the help of library management software. Various open source softwares such as KOHA will fulfil expectations of users from libraries. To work out with these various types of technologies, the librarian and library staff must be open minded. They

should be eager to get training of new technical supports such as library management software, content management software, digital library software, internet surfing, searching for e-resources etc. Library staff or librarians should undergo a radical change in their outlook as well as knowledge of technology by self-education and self-motivation or with external help (Thomas, 2010).

They must be up-to-date with new waves in library science as well as new technology with the help of orientation or refresher programmes, conference and seminars, membership of librarian's such as library associations forum online or study group circles.

The topic of growth of library will not be complete without advertisement of library and library services as well as facilities. For this libraries have to communicate with their suppliers, users and other well-wishers with the help of recent technology.

Libraries must have their own email-id and website through which they can connect with the word known as well as unknown to them. Also libraries can make group of their users on social networking sites for introducing reference services and other library activities creatively. The social net is a great place for popping the urgent questions and needs, a comfortable place for young users to collaborate in an environment they use on daily basis. (Barner, 2011)

Conclusion

Recent environment is full of information, knowledge and new generations of technologies. If libraries want to survive, they can't be.

They have to change and adapt it with technologies to expand their boundaries. Libraries have to strengthen their components with the pace of time and need of users. With the help of information and communication technology libraries can play a vital role in information environment as an important aid in creation and distribution of academic information and knowledge.

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