

# Employability in Library and Information Science

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## **Abstract:**

*In India, The Library is perceived with a divine feeling as a "temple of knowledge" and a feeling of mystical silence will come to our mind. The book as an embodiment of recorded knowledge enjoys the status of an holy object in the hands of the Goddess Saraswati. Libraries which are considered as the storehouse of knowledge have got a new view in the modern information communication technology era. There is shift from traditional libraries' to the digital and library science education to library and information science education. An attempt is made in this paper to know the employability opportunities of Library and Information Science professionals.*

## **Introduction:**

There is rapid growth of educational institutions all over the country which has increased the necessity and importance of libraries. Industrialization, globalization, socio-economic growth etc have gave birth to many new professions. Librarianship is one among these professions. In the universe of knowledge, now it has attained the status of a separate discipline. Now information and communication technology has influenced the library science field and it is known by name "Library and Information Science".

## **Libraries in the ancient world:**

From the Tablets of Mesopotamian civilization found in Iraq and Syria (2600-1900 BC) to the Papyrus in the Takshasila(600-500 BC) and Royal Alexandria Library in Egypt (295 BC), and the

palm leaves in the Library of Nalanda (427-1193 AD), libraries have illustrious recorded history of serving the promotion of knowledge and scholarship in the ancient world. Invention of paper in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD-China and Guttenberg's printing technology almost thousand years later (1140 AD) changed the face and growth of the libraries completely to what we see today. It is irony that this history started with the tablets (clay) is now being lead again by tablets (digital), besides several other electronic media.

According to the need of the hour, as demands of the reader changes, the curriculum of library and information science changed, which brought new opportunities of employability. As the field Library and Information Science is multi-disciplinary in nature, it has many opportunities in traditional and non-traditional jobs. Variety of employment opportunities are available in Library and Information Science field.

### **Major developments in the library and information science field are**

- Emergence of new information tools such as union catalogues, abstracts, indexes, etc
- Development of information science as a discipline comprising:
  - \* Computer technology
  - \* Telecommunication technology
  - \* Reprographic and micrographic technology
- Development of International information systems and databases like INIS(BARC), AGRIS, etc
- Setting up of world system of scientific information like insist
- National information system like inset
- Development of new teaching and management techniques

These new developments in the universe of knowledge and emergence of new technology has increased the employability of library and information science professionals. Due to this there is tremendous change in library services, nomenclature of library and also nomenclature of library professionals.

## **National Knowledge Commission:**

This commission has recommended the formation for the National Library Commission to strengthen the Library Networks in India. The Department of Culture (DoC) has proposed setting up a National Mission for Libraries (NML) as a central sector of scheme. NML will cover libraries under the DoC- and the activities under it will include: National Census of Libraries; Modernization including networking of Libraries under DoC; establishing Knowledge Centre and Digital Libraries. Recently under National Mission for Libraries there is a proposal for establishing 7000 libraries having computers with internet facility across the country. It was recommended that the initial recruitment should be direct at the level of Library and Information Assistant. The qualification requirement would be graduation and BLISc and MLISc.

## **Salaries in Library and Information Science Profession:**

The salary varies depending upon the nature of the organizations. Many colleges and universities have adopted UGC scales for the library staff. The library staff in the constituent units of large establishment of the Central, Government, such as Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) enjoy salary scales similar to those applicable to scientific staff.

## **Nomenclature of Library professionals:**

- Librarian To Information Officer
- Documentation Officer To Information Scientist
- Information manager To Cybrarian

## **Nomenclature of Libraries:**

- Library To Information Centre
- Documentation Centre To Electronic Library
- E-Library To Hybrid Library

### Paradigm shift in libraries:

- |                  |    |                 |
|------------------|----|-----------------|
| • Palm leaf      | To | webpage         |
| • print          | To | Electronic      |
| • Closed access  | To | Open access     |
| • Limited access | To | Round the Clock |
| • Catalogues     | To | OPACs           |

### Conclusion:

The scope of employability in librarianship becomes brighter. Career in Library and Information Science is multidimensional, ever growing, bright and significantly enriching the knowledge base of the society for prosperity and progress.

### References:

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