

LIBRARY: MEANING, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

India is known for its vast and precious literature and has had its literary tradition with education research as its pillars. Dr. S. Radha Krishnan, the former president of India said, "In the old days, teachers of India were themselves librarians and they held the highest esteem." Information is that power which has played a great role in the growth of human civilizations from the primitive days leading to the development of economic, political, social, occupational, and cultural and many other sectors of human society.

At one time, library was regarded as a storehouse of books and books were meant for preservation only. The librarian was supposed to be a custodian, who did not encourage the use of books. The main purpose of the library was to store the knowledge or to preserve the books. The person could read the library books in the library only. The readers were expected to use the library on their own. Libraries tended to be passive and archival institutions.

But nowadays, the libraries are considered as service institutions. They are the channels of information communication. Its aim is to enable users to make the most effective use of the resources and services of the libraries. The role of library is to develop reading habits among the users. Modern library becomes an information center. There is change in the nomenclature from librarian to cybrarian and information officer. His or her main purpose is to provide maximum satisfaction to the readers. He not only preserves or maintains library books but also provides right book to right reader at right time.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF LIBRARY

In the ancient society, there was a time when the man had no knowledge of writing. The ideas were transmitted from one person to another verbally. It was called an 'oral age'. The library had to pass through various stages which are as under-

(1) Oral age: - The thoughts were used to be faded away after sometimes as it was not possible to memorize all the materials for a long time.

(2) Manuscript age:- The time came when the civilized man learnt the art of writing. Necessity was felt to keep the graphics record of posterity. It was the manuscript age'. The religious writings were kept in temples and monasteries and official records were kept in government stores for record. For this purpose, the necessity of setting up to of libraries was realized. So, religious libraries, royal libraries and private libraries came into existence.

(3) Printing age: - In the middle of fifteenth century, printing by movable type was intended. Multiple copies of books could be produced. In the age of printing, there is innermost increase in book production. The library collections have increased many folds. In European countries, various movements like industrialization, reformation, urbanization as well as wide spread of literacy gave chances to the development of libraries. Democratic systems of government gave push to the establishment of libraries resulting in the emergence of modern library system. In order to fulfill the needs of society, the modern library system i.e. national, public, academic as well as special library system came into existence.

MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF LIBRARY

The word library is derived from the Latin word 'Libraria' which means barks of a tree (that was an early writing material). Its origin is traced to another Greek word 'Librariun' which means a book case. It gives an idea how books were kept. Library is considered as a social institution which provides free access to knowledge.

According to Richardson, library is an institution where books are acquired for use, arranged for use, served for use and it is the 'use' which is the motive of the library. Today, library is a necessary unit in the social fabric. Now the library is an institution charged with the functions of acquiring books and other reading material, of organizing them and putting them for use and to be served to those readers who need them and to inculcate the habit of reading among them with the idea of universal education. It is the trinity of books, readers and staff charged with function of providing recreation, information and inspiration to readers.

Hence, library is the collection of resources and services. It is a place where knowledge is found in the shape of books, newspapers, magazines and those who are interested to access it. These materials are arranged according to some logic and principles and can be consulted or borrowed by its members or readers.

DEFINITIONS OF LIBRARY

According to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan (Founder of Library Science) "A library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of collection of books and the duty of making them accessible to those who acquire the use of them."

This definition describes two functions of the library:

1. "The care of books" that means protecting the books or collection from enemies of books i.e. fire, water, fungus, human beings.
2. "Accessibility to user" that means making the resources accessible to right user who needs to obtain it.

According to ALA (American Library Association) glossary of library and information science "Library as a collection of materials organized to provide physical bibliographical and intellectual access to group with a staff that is trained to provide services and program related to information needs of the target group." Harrods librarian's glossary and reference book define Library as:

1. "A collection of books and other literary material kept for reading, study and consultation.
2. A place, building, rooms, set apart for the keeping and use of a collection of books etc."

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF LIBRARY

Main objective of library is to provide ideas as well as information to the students as well as staff. It inculcates the habit of lifelong learning. Teaching learning process remains active because of the existence of library. It develops the imagination by reading a variety of materials. For education, library acts as a brain of any institution. The primary objective of a library is to

provide the right information to the right users at the right time. The other objectives of libraries are discussed below:

- **To support all educational programmes:** The library must be made the hub of all the activities planned and executed in the institution. Libraries can be used by students to prepare for their next class, home examination, information, competitions, recreation, project work, seminar and various other competitions and extra curricular activities which are organized by the institute from time to time. So to satisfy users varied needs, libraries should provide books that support all educational programme of the institute.
- **To cultivate reading habits:** The habit of reading books other than text books should be inculcated among students. If good library habits are formed at early stage, then these will continue later. Libraries contain novels, books of travels and popular magazines for meeting the recreational needs of the readers. Reading habit improves the imaginative skills and enhances the vocabulary.
- **To increase the vocabulary and knowledge :** The reading material is available in the libraries in such a way that there are various books of the same title. Such material increases the vocabulary and general knowledge of students. The students and staff gain extra knowledge more than syllabus which is beneficial for the teaching learning community.
- **To Inculcate the habit of seeking help of additional sources other than text books:** As a library is the hub of activities so student can use it for education, information, recreation, inspiration etc. Teachers should give such assignments and projects to students that direct them towards library and thus increasing the usefulness of library. A student can use it for preparatory work, parallel reading and follow up work.
- **To select good books:** The main aim of library is to select and acquire books and other reading material according to curriculum. interest, demands, level and requirements of actual and potential users. Librarian and teachers play an important role in selection of books. The selection of books must ensure a comprehensive collection according to the requirements of the reader. Books should be selected impartially and without biases. No favoritism is to be shown on any special hobbies or opinions in the selection of books.

- **To encourage lifelong education:** The Libraries provide information, inculcate ideas and develops knowledge that is so essential to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge based society. The reading material in the library goes on updating from time to time and every learner deserves to polish the knowledge which is new. For this purpose, library assists the learner in their whole life. Libraries promote literacy and disseminate useful information to the people and encourage lifelong learning. It is fundamental for libraries to equip students with lifelong learning skills through its reading materials and resources and develop in them creative thinking and imagination and enabling them to live as ideal and responsible citizens.
- **To develop self-learning skills of students:** Library develops independent reading habits of the students, improves the quality of teaching, makes the students acquainted with different library materials like dictionary, encyclopedia, catalogue cards etc. It also trains the students to a life-long self learning skill through utilization of library resources in any situation. It helps the students to be a good citizen. which ultimately supports towards national development.
- **To help teachers to improve their teaching expertise:** Books in the library are purchased for the teachers also. The teachers require further reading to keep their knowledge up to date. They also require many other items for support of teaching which are generally maintained in the libraries to create lifelong education in them and thirst for acquiring new knowledge
- **To create proper atmosphere:** There should be peaceful atmosphere in the library for reading and studying. It should be well- ventilated, clean and with perfectly calm environment. Students should maintain strict discipline, so that others are not disturbed. The atmosphere in a library should be peaceful and scholarly.
- **To break the monotony and to fresh the students:** Students need a break from the rigid class projects which a fixed timetable often creates. This break can be in the form of a library period. This will help in breaking the monotony of continuous classes.
- **To provide healthy material for recreational and entertainment purpose:** Students and teachers like to read not only for their curriculum but also for their pleasure and recreation. Therefore, the aim of library is to provide good books for entertainment

purpose also. Libraries contain fiction, nonfiction, biographies and popular magazines for recreational needs of the users.

- **To enable students to know the rules and regulations of library:** Each Library should have a set of rules to be followed and observed by its members. Students are made aware of rules and regulations of library so that they can use library properly and derive full benefits. The rules should be presented in such a way that they can be understood by students and do not daunt them from using the library.
- **To classify and catalogue the books:** To cater to the wide varieties of demands of students and teachers it has to judiciously select and procure books and other reading material from different sources, technically process it by making use of a standard scheme of classification, catalogue it to provide various access points, circulate the documents and disseminate the information in the manner most liked by the students and teachers.
- **To add new books:** The books in library should be added from time to time. Whenever there is a change in curriculum or increase in student's strength, news books should be added to satisfy user's needs. The list of newly purchased books should be displayed on the notice board with the heading "list of new arrivals" to make users aware of the new books.
- **To preserve newspapers clipping:** Newspapers are the most important sources of latest information. It would be most appropriate if the relevant cuttings of educational write-ups, items or events related to institute etc. are organized and stored in file or on computer for future reference in the library. Educational or informative articles should also be preserved and displayed on the bulletin board.
- **To provide reference books:** Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, yearbooks, handbooks, maps and charts and other reference books should be made available in library for use. Diversified choice of books for reading will help the users in building up emotional balance and stability and promote intellectual curiosity. Librarian should assist the users in the most effective use of the reference resources.
- **Provision of additional help other than text books:** The children in the school are assisted by the library by providing extra learning material. Such material enhances the

knowledge of students in all fields. Thus library aims to provide additional help more than text books.

- **To preserve history and past culture:** Books are the authentic proof to preserve the historical as well as cultural heritage. The students gain such knowledge and enhance their vocabulary and information.
- **For religious and spiritual upliftment:** Religious literature is preserved in the library for guidance for the future generation. By reading various stories as well as literature, the learners increase and upliftment the religious and spiritual knowledge. Various yoga asanas are also the part of such material.
- **To arrange non-printed:** Library aims to provide extra material other than books including globe, chart, toys, CDs, DVDs, maps etc. materials Library also aims to provide the facility of various film shows to the students

Library's main purpose is reading and reading inevitably increases the brain power of communities. It plays a very important role in promoting the progress of knowledge. A library is the soul of any school which provides knowledge to the readers in terms of reading material. Hence, library is the centre of intellectual as well as social activities of the school.

NECESSITY OF A LIBRARY

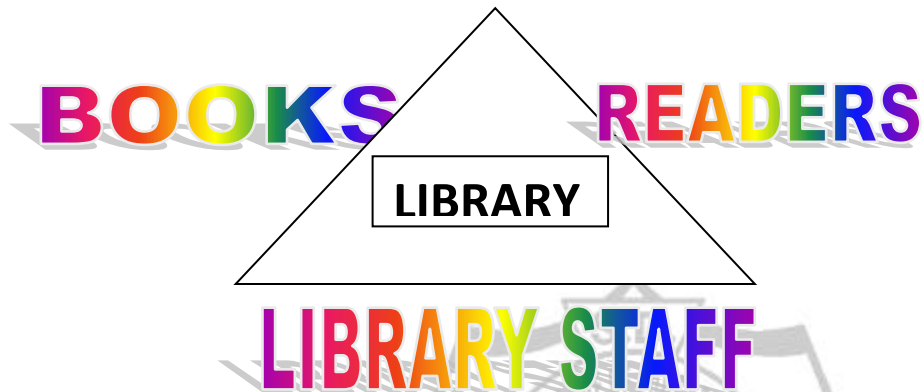
- **Huge collection of books:** The collection of library include books, manuscripts, magazines, periodicals, videos, audios, DVDs and various other formats. Wide range of books are stored in a library and well organized in book shelves. It is not possible for an individual have such a wide collection of books at home. One can get access to diverse genres of books and other resources in library.
- **Library and Cultural Activities:** A library contains book that preserve the cultural heritage of a society. It should possess and lend books that would develop creative talents of individuals. It should also organize cultural programmes to cater to public needs.
- **Costly books:** Libraries purchased costly books like reference collections i.e. encyclopedias, handbooks, competitive books etc. It is not easy for individual to buy

expensive books. It shuns the need to buy expensive books and resources. If there were no libraries many students who love to read would have been deprived of reading mostly due to financial difficulties.

- **Libraries and Formal Education:** Every educational institution be it a school, college or university must have a library attached to it. It must have a collection of books relevant to its courses of study and the students must be encouraged to read the books. It is through extensive reading of number of books in a subject that the student acquires in depth knowledge and becomes able to analyse and compare different viewpoints as expressed in different books. This helps to develop his/her own view point and capacity for analytical and critical thinking. Hence, the need of libraries in intellectual development of students can never be denied.
- **Libraries preserve history:** Libraries, which house centuries of learning, information, history, and truth, are important defenders in the fight against misinformation. By providing free access to educational, news, and historical resources, libraries help to keep the public informed with facts.
- **Library and Informal Education:** In informal education due to absence of teachers, the library plays a major role. The students must acquire knowledge by self-study. They may use the libraries attached to the formal institutions. The public library system plays a major role in supporting informal education.
- **Availability of rare books:** There is separate section of rare books in each library. Library preserves rare books like manuscripts that are not easily available outside. These are very helpful for researchers. They can refer and read these books in library. Library also preserves old syllabus, old questions papers, annual reports etc. that are referred by teachers and students.
- **Library and Recreation:** Libraries contain novels, books of travels and popular magazines for meeting the recreational needs of the users. Reading habit improves the imaginative skills and enhances the vocabulary. A library also organizes programmes like art competition, music competition for recreation.
- **Use of Literature and general books:** Libraries provide general books which are helpful for the students for their extra knowledge. These books help students to update their knowledge and develop reading habits among students.

- **Library and Ideological and Spiritual Upliftment:** Each library possesses some books that fulfill religious and ideological needs of the users. Biographies of eminent persons and classics inculcate high values and ideals in the users.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARY



A library is an ocean of knowledge. One can get as much as he likes or needs to obtain. The library is central to learning and plays a key role as a place for encouraging innovation, curiosity, and problem solving. Libraries make a difference to students' understanding and achievement and provide support for teaching and learning. Reading only text books is not enough for students. A student can increase his knowledge of various subjects by reading in the library during his spare time.

One can update one's knowledge by reading regularly in a library. An institute without a good library cannot inspire its students to seek higher knowledge. Both teachers and students need a good library to keep their knowledge fresh and up-to-date. Students can acquire habits by making use of the library. It creates in them a taste and love for books and reading. Biographies of noble souls help to form character of students. Poor students who cannot afford to buy their own books can get them from the library. Students who do not find congenial atmosphere in their homes can make use of the library. The library gives opportunities to make the best use of one's leisure time. Good books are the best friends of a student. So, it is very essential that they should make the best use of them and always try to increase their knowledge by reading them.

Following are the arguments which can be advanced for the importance of a library:

1. **Libraries are a means of increasing knowledge and disseminating information:** Libraries can disseminate the information presented in different forms of journals, books, audio visual system etc. These books and other documents are very voluminous and are costly. It provides materials that will enrich and support the curriculum taking in consideration the different interests, abilities of the pupil and also increase in the knowledge of the students.

2. **Libraries help in developing the study habits:** Library is the best and main means of developing the habit of studies among the students. The students do not get as much chance of silent studies in the classroom as they get in the library. It develops the habit of silent studies and the students start taking interest in self-studies.

3. **Libraries develop the personality of the students:** Library besides developing mental and intellectual aspects of the students also develops their personality. The students who start studying in the libraries, there goes a continuous increase in their knowledge and the basis of this knowledge, they become successful in having rational conversation with others and have an impact on others with their power of thinking and reflection. They consider themselves to be capable of taking more and more part in social activities. It leads to socialization. Therefore, the students besides their textbooks should also study other books which are available in school libraries.

4. **Library develops literacy, artistic and aesthetic tastes:** Library is a place in which literary and artistic materials, such as books, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and tapes are kept for reading, reference, or lending. It helps students in developing literacy, artistic and aesthetic circles of life.

5. **Library also prepares students for competitive exams:** Libraries provide books for various competitive exams. To prepare the students for different professions and occupations and to develop their skills, it produces self-learning materials, competitive exam books etc. Students perform better when they have easy access to books on competition.

6. **Library motivates for learning and thinking:** The students study silently in the library which encourages self-study and try to understand after studying whatever they learn and think.

over it. This develops their disposition of thinking. They try to find out the solution of the problems related to life.

7. **Library preserves our cultural heritage:** Culture is closely related to social life. A library contains books that preserve the cultural heritage of a society. It is passed from generation to generation either through personal contacts or through recorded knowledge. The students come to know of their own culture and civilizations as well as those of other countries.

8. **Library is a source of pleasure:** Books are man's best friends. They give him company equally in times of happiness as well as in times of distress. They are one of the main sources of knowledge. The best place for easy access to books is a library. Library subscribes different magazines, newspapers, journals; students can read these papers in the library. So library is the best place for students to spend their leisure time. A student or a reader can increase his knowledge of various subjects by reading in the library during his spare time.

9. **It helps in research:** A library plays a vital role in research work. It disseminates existing knowledge and information and also newly generated information through various journals, research reports and other similar types of publications. Library provide us rare books, journals and these kinds of books are of great value to scholars as well as to teachers who are doing research.

10. **Libraries update our knowledge:** One can update one's knowledge by reading regularly in a library. It is through extensive reading of number of books in a subject that the student acquires in depth knowledge and becomes able to analyse and compare different viewpoints as expressed in different books. This helps to develop his/ her own view point and capacity for analytical and critical thinking. Both teachers and students need a good library to keep their knowledge fresh and up-to-date.

11. **Library supplements classroom teaching:** There are many other related things that are not fully elucidated in the textbooks. Therefore, in order to get sufficient and broad knowledge users have to depend on libraries. Sometimes a teacher suggests studying other books related to the subject. So libraries should provide such books that supplement and enhance their classroom experiences, to learn skills in locating sources of information and to develop good reading and study habits.

12. **Library develops habit of reading:** One of the most important tasks of the Library is to inculcate reading habits among the young generation. Books are the mute entities; their application does not come automatically. It always requires some human agency that can induce the value of books among the students. This human agency is Librarian or Teachers. To achieve this, there must be close coordination between classroom teaching and use of Library resources. Libraries develop reading ability and interest, and inculcate love, enjoyment and pleasure of reading amongst the students. Libraries should arrange reading sessions of popular books and magazines and talks by the celebrity authors. By extra reading, they can develop the potential of self study and learning independently.

13. **Library helps in co-curricular activities:** It becomes necessary for the students to fall back upon library books as much knowledge related to co-curricular activities is not found in the textbooks. The material for debates, declamation contests, poetical recitation, dramas and quiz is available from various books that are available in the library. Therefore, it can be said that libraries prove very helpful for the execution of co-curricular activities in a well mannered way.

14. **Libraries are Helpful for News Archives:** Libraries continue to subscribe to and stock a vast list of newspapers, academic journals, and trade publications, and archive the back issues. This effort may seem humble alongside the lengthy lists of online news aggregators and instantaneous access to articles published within the minute.

15. **Library is source of religious information:** Each library possesses some books that fulfil religious and ideological needs of the users. Biographies of eminent persons and classics inculcate high values and ideals in the users.

16. **Libraries are best means of proper use of time:** Modern age is the age of science. By making many inventions and discoveries. Science has made our life easier and more comfortable. The work that took days to finish, can be done in hours now and the work which could be finished in hours, now takes only a few minutes. This is the reason that a man has enough leisure time. Library seems to be such a best means where he gets an opportunity of utilizing his leisure time creatively and profitably and moreover it would also lead to increase his knowledge. Therefore, to well utilize spare time, students and teachers should go to the libraries and study there.

The importance of libraries is countless as they play a vital role in helping people by providing access to information, knowledge and entertainment resources. Libraries play a vital role in encouraging and promoting the process of learning and gaining knowledge. People who love reading can have access to a wide range of books and resources. Libraries provide educational resources to everyone. Reading improves social skills, knowledge, mental health, academic performance and offers numerous other benefits. Library is a common platform for people with diverse reading interests and capacities. People get an opportunity to learn and progress as per their interests and capabilities. Library is the best place to spend leisure time wisely that leads to the overall development and well-being of an individual.

