Proceedings of the

XXVI ALL INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

held at New Delhi

during March 6-9, 1980

edited by

KRISHAN KUMAR

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Proceedings of the following Conferences of the Indian Library Association have been published :

XXIV ALL INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

held at Bangalore from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, 1978

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held at Trivandrum from May 14-18, 1979

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Book Prices and Their Impact on Libraries

AK GUHA*, B GUHA† and PK JAYASWAL‡

Provides information on the average prices of books in different subjects and analyses the rise in prices over a period of seven years from 1971 to 1977. Discusses the impact of price rise with reference to the acquisition of books in Delhi Public Library, Indian Institute of Technology (New Delhi) and Jawaharlal Nehru University Library (New Delhi). Gives suggestions regarding collection, analysis and publication of data for prices of books. Makes out a case for formulating accepted formula for increase in library budget.

1 INTRODUCTION

10 Book prices and rise thereof is a matter which concerns all library managers irrespective of the fact they manage college, university, public, technical or special libraries. It is a common experience that prices of books are rising over the years, but few know or attempt to know to what extent prices are rising. Library managers are mostly concerned with book prices, while preparing budgets for purchasing books. Knowledge of prices becomes useful for allocating funds for different subjects. In other words, the following information, if available, would enable library budgets to be effective:

(*i*) Subjectwise average price of books published in English and regional languages.

(*ii*) Rise in average prices of books over the years.

(*iii*) Relative prices of books published in India, United Kingdom and United States of America (for books published in English)

11 An attempt has been made to collect information on the average prices of books in different subjects and analyse the rise in prices over a period of seven years from 1971 to 1977.

2 THE ATTEMPT

20 In India, unfortunately there is no authentic and comprehensive bibliography which covers subjectwise and languagewise books published in a year. The *Indian National Bibliography* by the National Library, Calcutta was the first attempt in India, to give a current and continuous list of books published in India. The bibliography, however, suffers from the defect that all books published, particularly costly books, are not necessarily

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reported to INB. Other sources available comprise *Indian Books* (An annual Bibliography by RG Prasher, Research Reprints, Delhi, Today and Tomorrow, Printers and Publishers, Delhi), *Books of India* (by RS Bansal, Bansal & Co. Delhi), *A Bibliography of English Publications in India* (*BEPI*), (DKF Trust, Delhi) and *Indian Books in Print* (SES, Delhi). It is interesting to note that none of the bibliographies are complete and available for a continuous period.

3 METHODOLOGY

30 To start with, the *Indian National Bibliography* was consulted to prepare a list of eight heads to record prices of all books published in English and regional languages on Social Sciences. Prices were noted under each head to determine the average prices. In the computations, books costing less than one rupee were eliminated. Prices were noted for the years 1971 and 1975 only.

31 Prices of social sciences books under eight major heads were noted for seven years (1971 to 1977) and averages worked out utilising *Indian Books* for 1971 to 1974, *Books of India* for 1975 and *BEPI* for 1976 and 1977. In this computation books costing less than five rupees were eliminated. The books covered in the sample were in English only.

4 ANALYSIS

40 The average price of books published in English for 1971 and 1975 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Prices of books published in English (1971 and 1975) (from INB)

Subject	1971 (100)		1975		
	No. of books covered in the sample	Average price (Rs)	No. of books covered in the sample	Average price (Rs)	Index
1 Social Science, Sociology	57	17·70	72	38·34	216
2 Political Science, Law & Public Administration	223	21·23	151	31·85	150
3 Economics, Commerce and Industry	242	14·31	237	30·17	210
4 Social Welfare	18	10·53	5	16·75	159
5 Education	52	14·91	33	30·18	202
6 Customs, Costumes, etc.	11	11·25	14	28·78	255
7 Geography	43	30·78	76	38·98	127
8 History	114	21·47	103	40·74	189
All subjects	760	18·50	652	35·60	192

Table 2

Prices of books published in regional languages

Subjects	1971 (100)		1975		
	No. of books covered by sample	Average price (Rs)	No. of books covered by sample	Average price (Rs)	Index
1 Social Science & Sociology	59	4·56	47	10·59	232
2 Political Science, Law & Public Administration	94	6·97	74	12·84	188
3 Economics, Commerce and Industry	113	6·60	105	12·66	192
4 Social Welfare	7	6·30	5	13·40	212
5 Education	82	6·52	73	12·86	197
6 Customs	23	5·87	36	8·50	145
7 Geography	94	5·49	96	9·78	178
8 History	120	8·85	88	17·80	201
All subjects	592	6·66	524	12·70	191

AVERAGE PRICES OF BOOKS

41 Average prices of books were collected for books published in regional languages also. The average prices are shown in Table 2.

42 Table 2 shows that average price of all books reported in Social Sciences in the regional languages in 1971 was Rs. 6.66 which rose to Rs. 12.70 in 1975. The rise has been phenomenal, *i.e.* 95%. In 1971, the largest number of books were reported in History, Economics and Commerce, Geography and Political Science in the order 120, 113, 94 and 94 respectively. The order was slightly changed in 1975 *e.g.*, Economics and Commerce, Geography, History, Political Science and the numbers were 105, 96, 88 and 74 respectively. Among the subjects covered the price of books in History was highest in 1971 and 1975, namely.

43 Table 3 shows that average price of books in 1971 was Rs. 24.43 which became Rs. 47.61 in 1975 having a rise of 97%. Table 1 also indicates a rise of 96%. Thus the rise of prices during 1971 and 1977 is more than double (101%).

During the seven years for which data was collected the rise was on the increase excepting the year 1976 when prices fell particularly for subjects like Public Administration, Law and Economics.

44 In 1971 books on Geography were having the highest average price (Rs. 42.41) followed by Public Administration (Rs. 29.64) and History (Rs. 28.43). In 1977, books on Geography were again having the highest average price (Rs.

Table 3

Average prices of books in social science in English (1971-1977)

S. No.	Subject	1971 (100)	1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977	
		Average price (Rs)	Average price (Rs)	Index	Average price (Rs)	Index	Average price (Rs)	Index	Average price (Rs)	Index	Average price (Rs)	Index	Average price (Rs)	Index
1	Sociology	21·38	26·17	122	27·50	129	32·06	150	42·72	200	47·39	221	45·84	214
2	Political Science	24·84	26·86	100	27·91	113	39·89	160	45·80	171	46·49	187	48·22	194
3	Public Admn.	29·64	27·52	96	28·64	97	38·41	129		154	44·20	149	46·47	157
4	Law	22·86	27·93	123	29·64	129	41·44	181	44·99	197	43·28	189	48·42	212
4	Economics	21·34	25·18	118	25·25	118	30·94	145	41·02	192	38·66	181	44·75	209
6	Education	13·63	19·51	143	20·04	147	30·15	221	30·45	223	33·76	247	35·22	258
7	Geography	42·41	37·40	88	40·80	96	61·47	145	54·09	127	56·91	134	75·97	179
8	History	28·43	29·98	105	41·32	145	49·02	172		190	54·60	192	58·01	204
	All subjects	24·43	27·05	111	29·49	127	37·71	154	47·61	194	45·56	184	48·91	202

SOURCE : Indian Books, Books of India, BEPI.

75.97) followed by History (Rs. 58.01) and Law (Rs. 48.42).

45 Among the subjects covered in the survey, books on Education showed a steep rise (129%) in their prices, from Rs. 13.63 in 1971, it went up to Rs. 35.22 in 1977. Books on Sociology also showed a steep rise from Rs. 21.38 in 1971 to Rs. 45.84 in 1975, a rise of 107%.

46 The Tables 1 and 3 mentioned above established the fact that there has been a phenomenal rise in prices between 1971 and 1977 except a fall in 1976. Between 1971 and 1977 the price rise was more than double. Books on Geography were highly priced throughout the years, followed by books on History and Political Science.

5 IMPACT OF PRICE RISE

50 Rise in book prices affects generally budgets of libraries which are inelastic. The number of acquisitions decline with rise in prices. While formulating library budgets, the knowledge of average prices of books on various subjects alongwith trends in price rise enable the library manager to make adequate provision so that the quality as well as quantity of books do not suffer. In the recent past there has been a reduction in the outlay on higher education and library grants to universities and colleges have come down remarkably.

Educational institutions are now required to adjust with a figure which is probably one fourth or one fifth of what it used to be in earlier years. From approximately Rs. 10-12 crores of book buying by the libraries the figure has come down to one quarter or so. Besides, the rise in book prices has greatly reduced the number of books purchased by the libraries.

6 PRICE OF BOOKS

60 In order to get an insight into the price of books one has to be acquainted with the economics of publishing. Book publishing is a complex economic activity which starts with selection of a manuscript, to the cost of paper and to the credit arrangements allowed to booksellers. Unfortunately, there have been no systematic studies of economics of publishing in India. The chief raw material of publishing is paper which has always been costly in India. The price of paper has risen dramatically resulting in higher prices of books. The Oxford University Press has estimated that paper costs 50 to 55 per cent of the total cost for educational and general books together and about 30 per cent of the cost of scholarly books. In India, market for books is both small and to some extent inelastic. The individual market for scholarly and general books is limited because of low literacy and low purchasing power. The only market for Indian books is the institutional market or libraries. The number of libraries being limited results in an inelastic market. In India, it is estimated that 90 per cent or more of book sales are to institutions.

61 On the question of high price of paper in India, we would like to quote some relevant observations by KC Beri from a recent paper.[4] He says, "Perhaps the rise in the rates of paper has been so high that it cannot be compared with that of other commodities". He gives the following price list of ordinary printing paper at mill rates, per kg :

1968—Rs. 1.55 to 1.70
1969—Rs. 1.95

1970—Rs. 2.06
1971—Rs. 2.40
1972—Rs. 2.45
1973—Rs. 2.45
1974—Rs. 3.52
1975—Rs. 4.85 to Rs. 6.00
1976—Rs. 3.75
1977—Rs. 4.06
1978—Rs. 4.60

"As for the present, the ordinary cream wove 12.4 kg. costs Rs. 100 per ream. In March-April 1977, the price of this quality paper was Rs. 50 per ream only. Within two and half years the rates have been doubled which is most surprising.... In 1968, JK Maplitho was available for Rs 35,000 per wagon. Today the same quality wagon costs Rs. 2.25 lakhs.... In this context of rise in the cost of paper the capacity of paper production is also to be noted. The Government claim that our paper production capacity is 12 lakh tons and just one year before, the production was 9 lakh tons. Now, in 1978 it has come down to only 8 lakh tons". KC Beri also points out that due to this high price and shortage of paper there is a fall in the production of books. The number of books published in 1977 was 21,922 and it came down to only 19,654 in 1978.

62 Indian publishers have usually priced their books at three to five times the cost of production. Some scholarly books have been priced at an even higher ratio. Philip G Atlbach in his book,[1] *Publishing in India* (Oxford University Press, 1975), after consulting a number of publishers has given a summary of the total cost of a book in the following manner :

Production costs	20%
Discounts (to wholesalers, booksellers, etc.)	35%
Royalty	15%
Overhead	20%
Net profit	10%

The direct costs for a scholarly book as estimated by Oxford University Press can be summarised as follows :

Composing and printing	40%
Paper	30%
Binding	20%
Jacket, blocks, etc.	10%

In other words, a scholarly book having a price of Rs. 100, has a production cost of Rs. 20. The production cost of Rs. 20 is divided as composing and printing Rs. 8, paper Rs. 6, binding Rs. 4 and jacket etc. Rs. 2.

63 Pricing of books, can be generally said to be a trade secret of individual publisher. Even then, for the purpose of this study we had approached a number of publishers in Delhi through a questionnaire. The questions were mainly focussed on the pricing policy of books. The response that we received from the publishers, though poor, fully collaborates the views presented in the earlier sections. It appears that a book of about 200 pages will be priced at Rs. 50 or so. Most of the publishers agree that rise in the price of books is mainly due to rise in the cost of printing, paper, binding and distribution.

64 From the analysis presented in section 61 it would appear that the book distributors get away with the lion's share. Their share is as high as 35 per cent of the price. From a panel discussion of eminent publishers and authors reported in the Hindu[3] (31 December 1979), we learn that the share of the distributor could be as high as 50 per cent,

who probably gets only 20-25 per cent of what he gets because he has to give it to retailers. In this context it would be worthwhile to get the views of the distributors on the issue.

65 It is common experience that cost of paper is rising and at the same time cost of composing and printing is going high because of costly machines and higher wage demand from labourers. Price rise has a multiplier effect and book publishing is no exception.

7 BOOK PRICES IN BRITAIN AND USA

70 The preceding figures and discussions were relating to books published in India only. It is true, rise in prices of such books should have an impact on the Indian libraries and the Indian book market. However, as is well known, most of the academic and technical libraries in India are dependent to a large extent on foreign books, specially from Britain and the USA.

Hence, the question naturally arises as to whether rise in the prices of books is a world phenomenon, especially whether prices of books have been going up at the same rate in Britain and USA during the same period.

Fortunately for us, we have reliable and continuous statistics of price rise of books in both the countries. For Britain the statistics have been taken from the *Library Association Record* and for USA the corresponding figures are from the Bowker's Annual. They are presented in Tables 4 to 6.

71 Table 4 gives an idea of the rise in book prices from 1971-72 to 1977. It can be seen that taking 1966-67 as the base year, the prices had already doubled in 1971-72. However, the prices remained below the 1971-72 level till 1974-75. It is only during the last two years of the present survey period, *i.e.* 1976 and 1977 that the price index shows a steep rise. The cost of science books has remained the highest throughout.

72 Table 5 gives an idea of the rise in prices of books in the Social Sciences (Dewey Class 300). The prices of books in this class show a tendency of steep rise during the last two years. One notable feature in the sharp rise is the price of Economics books. The average price of Economics books is now very close to that of Science and Technology books. This again adds substance to the general observation that 'knowledge' is costlier than 'entertainment'.

73 Table 6 gives only a glimpse of the rise in prices of U.S. hardcover books in four social science subjects. It is quite evident that the rise in prices has been comparatively more gradual. Here again, the rise in the price of books in Economics and Sociology group shows a higher rate of increase.

74 Through the tables presented so far it would be evident that the rise in the price of books is a world phenomena. In most cases the prices have doubled between 1971 and 1977. The rise has been particularly sharp during 1976 and 1977.

8 IMPACT OF PRICE RISE

80 The impact of the price rise could be expected in many areas. However, the adverse effects of it are being talked about on two organised sectors. One is the book publishing sector and the other is the library sector. So far as Indian publish-

Table 4

Rise in book prices in Britain, 1971-72 to 1977

Subjects	1971-72		1972-73		1973-74		1974-75		1976		1977	
	Average price £ P	Index (1966-67) =100	Average price £ P	Index (1966-67) =100	Average price £ P	Index (1966-67) =100	Average price £ P	Index (1974-75) =100	Average price £ P	Index (1974-75) =100	Average price £ P	Index (1974-75) =100
General Works	6·09½	117·0	5·14	98·7	4·55	87·3	5·03	100	6·23½	123·8	8·18	162·6
Philosophy	2·73½	146·6	2·94	157·6	2·88	154·4	3·60	100	5·22	145·0	5·61	155·8
Religion	4·53	349·8	2·19	169·1	2·01	155·2	2·37	100	3·06	129·1	3·18	134·2
Social Sciences	3·50½	238·4	3·71½	253·3	3·67	249·7	3·18	100	4·88	153·5	6·28	197·5
Languages	2·80	334·8	2·41½	368·7	1·96	299·2	1·80	100	2·99	166·4	3·63	201·7
Sciences	4·78½	160·3	4·97	166·5	5·60½	187·8	5·56	100	9·04	162·6	10·95	196·9
Technologies	3·89	157·5	3·89	157·5	4·03½	163·0	3·99	100	6·14	153·7	7·94	199·0
Fine Arts	3·16	132·7	3·06	128·6	3·23	135·7	3·30	100	4·68	141·6	5·57	168·8
Literature	2·38	231·1	2·13	206·8	2·23	215·5	2·47	100	3·09	125·3	3·44	139·3
History & Geography	3·11½	183·8	2·87½	169·6	3·14	185·5	3·70	100	4·53	122·4	4·54	122·7
All subjects	3·70	205·2	3·33½	187·6½	3·33	183·2	3·50	100 (194)	4·99	142·3 (277)	5·93	167·8 (328·8)

NOTE : Figures in parentheses indicate Index Numbers converted to 1966-67 base.

Table 5

Rise in prices of science books in Britain, 1972-72 to 1977

Subjects	1971-72		1972-73		1973-74		1974-75		1976		1977	
	Average price £ P	Index 1966-67 =100	Average price £ P	Index 1966-67 =100	Average price £ P	Index 1966-67 =100	Average price £ P	Index 1974-75 =100	Average price £ P	Index 1974-75 =100	Average price £ P	Index 1974-75 =100
Social Sciences	2·42½	129·3	3·03	161·6	3·34	178·1	3·46	100 (184·5)	4·80½	138·9 (255·9)	6·21	179·5 (289·4)
Politics	4·84½	263·3	5·12	278·3	4·34½	236·1	4·10½	100 (205·7)	5·85½	142·6 (293·5)	7·06	172·2 (354·2)
Economics	4·06	392·3	4·27	412·6	3·99½	385·1	3·40½	100 (328·6)	5·58	163·9 (551·0)	7·81	229·7 (771·2)
Law	5·41	198·9	5 20	191·2	4·64	170·9	2·89½	100 (106·2)	4·73½	163·6 (173·8)	4·91	169·9 (180·4)
Public Admn.	3·06	153·8	3·57	179·4	3·22½	161·7	2·81	100 (153·8)	3·69	138·4 (212·9)	5·47	194·7 (294·2)
Social Welfare	2·66	195·6	2·50	183·8	3·85½	209·9	2·56½	100 (188·2)	3·44	134·1 (252·8)	4·14	161·7 (304·2)
Education	2·02½	157·6	2·14	166·5	2·86	222·6	2·46	100 (191·9)	3·62½	147·4 (282·5)	5·13	208·5 (400·3)
Social Customs, Costumes, Folklore	2 12	130·1	2·41½	148·2	2·22	136·2	2·55	100 (156·6)	3·65	143·1 (244·1)	3·55	139·2 (217·9)

NOTE : Figures in parentheses indicate index numbers converted to 1966-67 base.

Table 6

Rise in prices of US hardcover books, 1971 to 1977

Subjects	1967-69		1971		1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977	
	Average price $	Index 1967-69 =100	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index	Average price $	Index
Education	6·58	100	7·80	108·6	10·26	155·9	9·67	147·0	10·33	157·0	10·81	164·3	12·91	196·2	12·95	196·8
History	9·95	100	12·97	130·3	14·92	149·9	15·56	156·4	15·69	167·7	21·60	141·4	16·74	168·2	17·12	172·1
Law	13·22	100	18·37	138·9	17·15	129·7	16·78	126·9	18·24	138·0	23·22	175·6	20·65	156·2	25·04	189·04
Sociology/ Economics	9·35	100	12·38	186·8	16·93	181·4	12·22	130·7	17·47	186·8	21·65	231·6	22·79	243·7	29·88	319·6
All subjects	8·77	100	13·25	151·0	12·99	148·1	12·20	139·1	14·09	160·7	16·19	184·6	17·39	198·3	19·22	219·2

ing is concerned, it is being said all around that it has now come into a period of crisis. One view of this crisis has been projected by Dr Amrik Singh in an article in the Times of India. He believes, "..that Indian publishing is at a stage of development where a setback at this juncture would put back publishing by another decade or so".[2]

81 So far as impact on libraries is concerned, every librarian knows that he is trying to do the impossible task of stretching an inelastic budget to cover an ever growing need for more reading material in this library. In fact, whatever little extra funds he is able to get for his library is getting absorbed by the rise in prices of books. This aspect can be easily shown in the allocation of book budget and the actual number of books acquired over a few years in some libraries. We are giving below the relevant figures from just three libraries to bring out this point. The libraries are the Delhi Public Library, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (Delhi), and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

Delhi Public Library (DPL) acquisitions

Year	Amount spent (Rs.)	Books purchased		Average cost as per library acquisition		Total
		Hindi	English	Hindi	English	
1971-72	2,51,265	36166	6944	3·01	18·23	5·42
1972-73	2,48,837	16418	6127	6·47	21·19	9·83
1973-74	2,65,282	26243	5782	4·77	20·45	8·40
1974-75	1,89,884	12534	3987	5·13	27·87	10·35
1975-76	4,14,856	37400	9135	5·14	19·08	8·14
1976-77	3,65,365	26259	11745	5·35	16·77	8·87
1977-78	4,35,756	24958	14219	5·56	18·70	10·35

It may be pointed out that the DPL spent Rs. 2,51,265 to acquire 46291 books in 1971-72. Their highest annual book budget was in 1977-78, which stood at Rs. 4,35,756, an increase of over 77 per cent over the 1971-72 budget. However, with this increased budget they could acquire only 42,085 volumes, which is far less than the 1971-72 acquisition figures.

82 The relevant figures for the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the last four years are as follows :

IIT Library acquisitions

Year	Book budget Rs.	No. of volumes purchased
1974-75	4,90,192	4999
1975-76	5,87,253	3769
1976-77	7,01,239	4939
1977-78	8,53,665	4813

It is quite clear that the book budget is increaseing from year to year but the number of volumes actually purchased is decreasing.

83 The correspoding figures from the JNU Library also brings out the same picture. They are as follows :

JNU Library acquisitions

Year	Book budget Rs.	No. of volumes purchased
1974-75	3,38,950	9998
1975-76	6,00,000	8285
1976-77	5,38,060	8816
1977-78	8,73,514	7916

84 The acquisition figures of the above three libraries in relation to their book budgets should give an indication of the difficult problem that they are facing due to steady rise in the price of books. In most of the academic institutions the size of the student population and also the size of the faculty is increasing. New courses and new programmes are also being introduced. All these require greater library support which can come mainly through increased budgetary provision for the library. Whatever increase is granted in the library budget, it is being completely offset by the rise in the prices of books.

9 CONCLUSION

90 The foregoing discussions establishes the fact that some knowledge of book publishing, prices of books and rise thereof and similar information must be made available to all libraries. To make available such information and adjust library budgets to the rise in prices of books, the following suggestions are offered :

(1) A national agency should be created or an existing agency should be entrusted with the task of continuously monitoring the prices of Indian books and publishing this information from time to time, at least, annually. Perhaps, the Indian National Bibliography could be entrusted with this responsibility. The book trade should also play its role in the matter.

(2) Information on book price should include detailed analysis and index both subjectwise and languagewise.

(3) Our machinery for the collection and dissemination of statistical information at the national level also should give due importance to the collection of information on book production and prices.

(4) Since most of our academic and special libraries have to acquire British and US books, it would be helpful if the national agency, suggested earlier, is given the additional responsibility of collecting and publishing book trade information from Britain and USA.

(5) We need to have an accepted formula by which library authorities or funds giving should agree to augment the year to year book budgets in direct proportion to the rise in prices of books. In other words library budgets should be directly linked with the cost of books index.

(6) The formation of a national forum also is suggested, where publishers, booksellers librarians authors and readers could meet and discuss problems relating

to book production, quality of books, availability of paper, subject matter, etc. and formulate national policies.

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Escalating Book Prices : Their Impact on Libraries

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Describes the crisis situation in libraries due to knowledge explosion and economic environment with special reference to price rise of documents. Suggests resource sharing, mechanization, and commercialization of services as possible solutions.

1 INTRODUCTION

We are living in an information age in which information—past and present—plays a vital role in all spheres of human activity. Today, the all round progress of human society depends exclusively on our achievements in scientific, technological and social research. Thus research has become a social activity involving collective endeavour. One scientist benefits from, and carries further, the achievements of the other. All this is possible in an environment of free flow and universal availability of current and retrospective knowledge. And it is here that the library comes in the picture and occupies a prestigeous position in the modern society. For, it is the library which performs the functions of identification, collection, organisation, preservation, transmission and dissemination of knowledge.

The library plays the educational and cultural role in our society. The library services facilitate the process of education and helps producing generation of men and women free from roughness and ferocity of illiteracy and ignorance. Again, the library is the conservator of the cultural heritage of mankind. Civilization advances and man rises to greatness under the impetus of the wisdom and knowledge gathered over the centuries in libraries throughout the world.

2 CRISIS IN LIBRARIES

Over the decades the library scene in the world has been experiencing some problems which have multiplied and attained the dimensions of crisis today. A detailed discussion of all these crisis is required here. A brief description about the knowledge explosion and general library economic environment would be necessary.

3 KNOWLEDGE EXPLOSION

To day the spate of research in all fields of human activity has increased tremendously, generating mountains of knowledge. The immediate byproduct of this knowledge explosion is the literature explosion.

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Available estimates indicate the existence of 50 to 100 thousand periodicals in different fields and this number is increasing day by day. Similarly, book production has increased over the years. In 1978, for example, British publishers issued a total of 38,766 titles while in 1947 the total output in that country was only 13,046. According to *Unesco Statistical Yearbook, 1975*, published in 1978, the book production in Japan, UK, USA and USSR was 34490, 35526, 85287 and 78697 respectively in 1975.

This literature explosion has created problems in bibliographical control which is a primary concern of librarianship. No library, however sound financially it may be, can ever dream of acquiring everything published in the world. The inevitable greater intake has created organisational, space and a host of other problems, and spoiled the library economy a great deal.

4 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment in libraries is looking grave today and the librarians are beset with the problems as how to allocate resources, reduced by budget cuts and inflation, to satisfy mounting demands for more responsive library services. Even the increased budgets forced by general inflation have not been able to ease the situation, because the prices of library materials seem to be increasing at a rate faster than the infiation in the economy as a whole. Consequently, despite huge budgetary provisions, libraries are able to buy proportionately less and less of the newly published literature. It may be pointed out here that in USA, university and public libraries spent $358,354,721 and $336,291,461 respectively in 1976/77.[1] Similarly the library expenditure in UK public and university libraries has increased by 13.54% and 15.82% respectively during 1967/68 and 1972/73.[2]

Despite fast increase in budgetary provisions the problems in library economics have swelled and intensified affecting all departments of library activities and operations.

Here I may point out that I wished to present at this seminar the statistics of annual finances and accessions in some Indian Universities so that the Indian picture could be made clear. But I am sorry that no such information was available either because no up-to-date statistics are maintained or, it was not made available due to one reason or the other. However, what I was able to gather from these libraries was that no standards are followed in library budget allocation. This is rather unfortunate.

5 PRICE RISE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

General price indexes all over the world reveal the rising trends in prices of all raw and finished materials and products. The price rise in library materials is not, therefore, something unique with library materials alone. The difference, however, lies in the fact that the prices of these materials have far exceeded the general rate of inflation. The prices of periodicals and secondary publications have zoomed at a tentalizing rate. Chemical Abstracts, for example, cost a $12 annual subscription in 1940. In 1978 the annual subscription rose to $4000/-. The average price of a US periodical has risen from $8.66 in 1967-68 to $27.58 in 1978

demonstrating an increase of $18.92 over a period of ten years.[3]

Similarly, prices of books have been zooming fast over the years. The US Bowker Company presents to the world the statistics of prices of books in major book producing countries in its annual.[3]

6 PRICE RISE AND LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

The libraries all over the world were preoccupied with finding solutions to their problems posed by literature explosion and its offshoots. The price hike of library materials has aggrevated the situation. The library literature is replete with statistics, statements, discussions and suggestions on all the repercussions on library development, in the wake of the skyrocketing of prices of library commodities.

7 INADEQUATE COLLECTION BUILDING

Libraries can be likened to a human body. For proper growth of all faculties. like the human body, they need continuous, regular and balanced diet. This diet for libraries is their materials in the form of books, periodicals and a host of other materials in which information is packaged for transmission and dissemination. To offer satisfactory services libraries must have a balanced collection revitalized by continuous intake of fresh materials. For, a collection that has stopped growing is a dead collection and loses its utility in due course of time. Thus the growth is inevitable, particularly when present day inventions and discoveries are flooding the world with new knowledge.

But the price hike has reduced a great deal the purchasing capacity of libraries to the point of starvation. Allredge and Atkinson have taken stock of this situation and point out that "the increased costs of library materials over the past decade have far exceeded the general rate of inflation and the result has been a steady erosion of purchasing power for libraries....At the same time the volume of annually published information has continued to expand. Thus the purchasing power is severally curtailed".[4]

8 POOR SERVICES

As the libraries fail to acquire materials they require, their services to their elientele also suffer severe setback. Readers' demands for the materials of their interest are not fulfilled as the libraries find it impossible to acquire anything and everything needed by their clients. As a consequence, the libraries fail to provide adequate services at a time when research and teaching has moved into inter-disciplinary areas of study, with a resultant increase in demand for comprehensive information and effective documentation services.

9 NO NEW LIBRARIES/BRANCH LIBRARIES

As the cost of library materials are burgeoning day by day, the library services have become expensive. Naturally establishment of new libraries or the expansion of library systems have become costly, thereby discouraging any moves in this direction.

10 AFFECT ON RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The libraries are expected to play a vital role in research and scholarship

today. But the poor library, starving on all fronts, has become ineffective to play this role effectively. The present day research is carried on smoothly in an information environment where information —past and present—is freely available and accessible. Current awareness service and selective dissemination of information are all too important today. But both these services suffer for want of fresh materials as the libraries do not have the purchasing capacity to buy everything they need. This may badly affect the research and development activities of our present day information-dependent society.

11 OVERALL DAMAGE

Library is basically a linking mechanism between the reading materials and their consumers. Ever since the libraries adopted this role it has been their earnest endeavour to offer every reader his/her document and see to it that every document is used by its legitmate consumer. But short of required and relevant materials, its splendid role of collection, preservation and transmission of information for education, research and development has suffered a severe setback shaking the foundations of librarianship. Allen Kent while taking stock of the libraries today, expresses the view that SR Ranganathan's famous five laws of library science can be rewritten in the following way :[5]

1 Books are for collecting;
2 To some readers their books:
3 To some books their readers;
4 Waste the time of the reader; and
5 Library is a growing mausoleum.

This is what is most tentalizing. Libraries are regarded as an important adjunct to education and research. But short of fuel, these vehicles of knowledge may come to a standstill disrupting free and full communication of knowledge. This will hold back progress, blunt efforts to improve human society and result in duplication in research.

12 SOLUTIONS

So far I have painted a grim picture of the shape of things in the field of library and information services. This became necessary as the writings on the wall warranted it. Moreover, there is no denying the fact that libraries today are in great trouble. Unless we face this challenge, we are, of course, doomed to land in more trouble when we shall not be able to stand and do anything. World library community has realised this situation and have come forward to find panacea to all our present day toothaches and bodyaches. What has evolved so far is outlined here so that they are discussed here and ascertain how far they are applicable to our situations.

13 RESOURCE SHARING

The first remedy to our aforesaid problems has been sought in the application of the principle of resource sharing—the principle that suggests pooling of library resources in men, money and materials. Drastic increase in literature output and their escalating prices have quickened this development everywhere. The work edited by Allen Kent needs a special mention here as that work is a classic in the library literature even today.[6]

The resource sharing has enabled libraries to use the collections and services of cooperating libraries. Thereby avoiding the problems they have in collecting, building and offering efficient services. The library literature is replete with instances demonstrating wonderful results. Yale University, for example, has entered into a cooperative programme with Harvard etc. in 1974. Its librarian Rutherfold reported the effectiveness of the programme in its annual report for 1976 saying that the Yale saved $70,000 through benefitting from the bibliographical centre created by cooperative libraries.[7] In the world today we have international, continental, national, regional and even local cooperative programmes which ensure free flow and universal availability of information. We are also striving for a world information system as demonstrated by the UNISIST plan.

Unfortunately, Indian librarianship has been too slow to step into this field. Of course, we have our own problems but these could be discussed and solutions sought in our own situations. The Indian Library Association should mobilize opinion in favour of this new trend so that we could also get rid of many maladies afflicting us from a long past now.[8]

14 MECHANISATION

The technologically advanced countries have successfully applied modern technology to their various library activities. In the electronic environment the information is stored electronically and made available through receiving terminals. The development of on-line information systems like the MEDLINE have been found very useful. The computor application to library operations and services has shown very good results. But despite its usefulness, developing countries can not benefit from mechanization at present due to lack of adequate technology. Still, we will do well to keep a track of all developments in this direction so that we are able to launch such programmes at the opportune time.

15 COMMERCIALISATION SERVICE

Of late there have been suggestions that libraries should raise funds for themselves by charging their clientele for the services they offer. Casper is of the opinion that at least three arguments exist in support of user fees for the library services.[9]

(*i*) User fees will generate needed revenues ;

(*ii*) User fees will ration demands; and

(*iii*) User fees will serve as a measure of value.

This school of thought suggests some positive fees, even a nominal one, may have to be charged in order to raise some finances. Others justify charging for services to eliminate the waste of library resources. Of course, charges for services may become imperative to check rough and unnecessary use of information systems. Brivik and Gibson have also edited a publication which discusses the alternatives for funding of libraries.[10]

But there are apprehensions regarding charging for services. They all have weight. It may be pointed out here that in UK proposal has been advanced for

introduction of charges for services. But the Library Association believes that "the introduction of direct charges for public services would have an irreparably damaging effect on public libraries and their users, and consequently on the cultural and educational development of the society".[11]

However, libraries shall have to find out some means of financial support. I think they can raise funds by taking up some publishing business, particularly in the field of bibliography, indexes, abstracts, etc. The library Association brings out two scientific indexes, namely, British Humanities Index and British Technology Index. There is no reason why libraries cannot take up publishing programmes of this type.

Secondly, libraries can have friends circles to raise funds on the pattern of the voluntary welfare organisations and invest such earnings in business as share-holders.

16 CONCLUSION

Libraries today are under severe stress and strain due to financial problems and skyrocketing of prices. In future these problems may create havoc. Unless librarians give a serious thought to the financial side of librarianship, these problems will remain and intensify day by day. What is needed is to devise programmes aimed at making the libraries self-supporting to some extent. Absolute dependence on government and parent institutions must go. Similarly, taxing people for library services and enhancing tax rates to fight inflation is also not a sufficient and dependable source for library finances. Recent happenings in California should serve as an eye-opener for those of us who regard that the library cess or taxing, through legislation or otherwise, is a safe and sound source of income for library services. People in California while resenting tax burden last year protested against what they called 'welfare waste'. Later they also went on strike against "unnecessary" services including library services. Following the passage of the famous Proposition 13, California city government, with large and small library systems, laid off staff en masse and closed libraries indiscriminately.

We will, however, do well to remember that the problems of libraries in developing countries differ to a great extent from those of developed countries. Developing countries have many problems foreign to the libraries in the developed countries. We in developing countries lack finances and technology and our publishing industry is at a low ebb. In developed countries the problems are entirely different. Suffice to say they have reached a stage where technology, particularly the communication technology, threatens the very existence of traditional librarianship. In a forecast of telecommunications in the year 2000, Martino visualizes that "rather than visiting a library, any individual might be able to search the library files electronically and receive a printout of specific information or a fascimile copy of a desired document."[12] They are heading towards a paperless society as stated in a recent article by Allen Kent[13]. We still suffer from book hunger and we are still busy to develop a publishing industry where books and journals could be published cheap and in abudance to fight the ghost of illiteracy and ignorance.

However, resource sharing, development of national, regional and local networks are of immense value to us. NISSAT in India offers a welcome sign in this direction. Last but not least, we must address ourselves to finding solutions to our financial problems of today and tomorrow and also see to it that some funding alternatives are designed to avoid absolute dependence on government and parent institutions for finances for ever.

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Impact of Exponential Rate of Growth of Periodicals and Their Cost on Scientific and Technical Libraries

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Makes a detailed study of the increase in subscription costs of 100 core journals subscribed at University Library of Roorkee University, a Technical Library, for the last 12 years period and correlates the effect of this increasing cost on the library budget. Results have also been deduced of the enormous increase in the subscription of selective 10 indexing and abstracting periodicals in science and technology during a span of last 12 years. Remedial measures have also been suggested to overcome the problem of increase in the growth rate of periodicals and their yearly subscription rates.

1 EXPONENTIAL RATE OF GROWTH

11 Periodicals form the bulk of the primary source literature on science and technology. Unfortunately, there are no complete international lists of all scientific periodicals that are being published in the world today. However, a rough estimate can be had from the list of scientific periodicals included in *Ulrich's International periodicals directory* according to which over 60,000 titles of periodicals are being published today in different parts of the world.

12 As it is evident from the number of titles included in the various editions of the *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*, the number of scientific and technical periodicals has increased from 10,000 in 1930 to over 60,000 in 1977-78. The following table represents the record for the last 10 years (Also shown in Graph 1) :

Table 1

(i)	13th Edition	1969-70	40,000 approx
(ii)	14th Edition	1971-72	60,000 „
(iii)	16th Edition	1975-76	57,000 „
(iv)	17th Edition	1977-78	60,000 „

13 In short we can say that while the new periodicals were appearing, on the average, at the rate of 2 periodicals per day during 1930-69, this figure has gone upto 7 periodicals per day after 1969.

14 Thus we may conclude that if the present rate of expansion were to continue for a further 100 years, new journals would be arriving at the libraries so fast that they

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would be moving along the shelves at a tremendous rate.

2 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASE IN COST OF PERIODICALS

(*i*) Science and technology is advancing steadily through more than five orders of magnitude in the past 50 years, doubling every 10 years on an accumulated basis. Further the population of scientists and engineers in the developing countries has been increasing at an average of 2.5% which is higher than the rate of growth of world population. As a result of this the output of scientific and technical literature has been increasing at a tremendous speed. Since periodicals embody the nascent thoughts on any new discovery or scientific and technological advancement and scientists as well as technologists mostly prefer to give outlet to their thoughts through the medium of articles in periodicals prior to their appearing in a consolidated form before the public in the form of a regular book, the growth in the number of periodicals as well as increase in the bulk of subject matter covered in them is quite natural. This in turn leads to increase in the cost of periodicals from year to year.

(*ii*) The cost of paper and printing is steadily increasing year after year owing to the rise in the price index of commodities throughout the world. This rise is on an average of the order of 10% per year. As a natural consequence of this factor the cost of periodicals is also increasing almost every year. The labour cost of printing, binding etc. is also increasing year to year proportionately.

(*iii*) In developing countries like India the exchange rate of foreign currencies keeps on fluctuating almost every year. The purchasing power of currencies in developing countries keeps on mostly diminishing year after year. For example the conversion rates of foreign currencies in India of some important countries like USA, Great Britain, Canada, Netherlands and France etc. has increased during a span of last 12 years period as follows :

Table 2

Average exchange rate of important foreign currencies during the last 12 years period

Year	Dollar	Pound	Dutch Guilder
1966-67	Rs. 5·00 per $	Rs. 13·40 per £	Rs. 1·32 per D.fl/D.G.
1970-71	Rs. 7·50 „	Rs. 18·00 „	Rs. 2·10 „
1974-75	Rs. 9·15 „	Rs. 19·82 „	Rs. 3·16 „
1978-79	Rs. 8·70 „	Rs. 17·60 „	Rs. 4·30 „

3 YEARLY RISE IN THE COST OF PERIODICALS

As a result of the steady rise in the cost of periodicals owing to factors stated above, lesser number of periodicals can be acquired with the same amount of money available with the libraries year after year. In other words in order to keep up the continuity of subscribing those very periodicals which a library has subscribed during a particular year more and more funds are needed year after year and its allocation of funds for periodicals must be at least doubled every year just to have an unbroken supply of journals of basic needs. Otherwise keeping in view the factors such as increase in the research activity of an institution, the appearance of new and useful periodicals in different disciplines, the recurring grants for subscription of current periodicals must be increased yearly by 3 to 4 times. A random survey of 100 core periodicals *i.e.* those periodicals which are widely used and whose continuity have not broken for the last 12 years period brings home the point that for subscribing those very periodicals in subsequent years, on an average almost every fourth year double the amount is needed from the previous year. The enclosed chart 'A' gives the increase in the subscription cost of 100 core journals at the interval of four years period and chart 'B' shows the increase in cost for subscribing 10 selective indexing and abstracting periodicals. A summary of which is given below which fully justifies the need for increasing the library grants for journals by two times at least every year.

The sharp rise in the subscription cost of periodicals by more than 2 to 3 times after every four years is all the more visible in the case of indexing and abstracting periodicals required to serve the basic needs of researchers. Chart 'C' indicating the yearly rise in the subscription cost of 5 important indexing and abstracting periodicals brings home this point more vividly.

4 THE MALADY OF THE SITUATION

41 The recurring yearly grants made available to libraries are not increased in proportion to the rise in the cost of subscriptions of periodicals and funds are not

Table 3

Amount spent on subscribing 100 core periodicals and 10 selective indexing and abstracting periodicals during the last 12 years period

S. No	Year	Expenditure on subscription of 100 core periodicals	Expenditure incurred on subscribing 10 selective indexing and abstracting periodicals
1	1966-67	Rs. 21,158	Rs. 5,979
2	1970-71	Rs. 48,798	Rs. 16,054
3	1974-75	Rs. 1,10,013	Rs. 42,240
4	1978-79	Rs. 1,97,132	Rs. 69,064

provided for meeting the cost of subscriptions for new and useful periodicals appearing in the market whose emergence is at the average rate of nearly 7 periodicals per day. This naturally leads to a very awkward situation for the libraries. Each year the periodicals are scanned and some periodicals are knocked out of the previous year's subscription lists and new titles added to the list. No definite standards or criteria are available for removing a particular periodical from the current subscription list or adding a new periodical in its place and much depends upon the flair and judgement of few selective staff members of a department. This naturally leads to disturbing the continuity of several important periodicals and long gaps in their regular supply. Further during subsequent years when the need for back numbers of the discontinued important journals arises they are again ordered and procured as back numbers at exhorbitant cost. This is really uneconomical.

42 Due to limitation of funds several very important new periodicals appearing in the market are not included in the subscription lists and later on are ordered as back numbers.

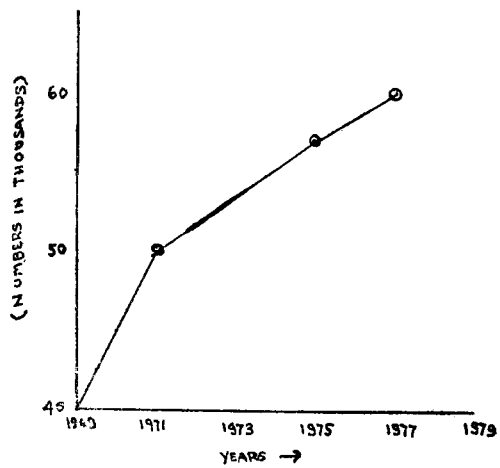
43 Even if the library somehow manages to arrange for funds for keeping up the continuity of some of their core periodicals and adding some new titles of useful periodicals appearing in the market every year, their procurement, upkeep, storage and supply to potential users are the problems which are difficult to solve. The limitation of storage space in libraries particularly in a periodical section which grows very fast compels libraries to restrict the number of periodicals within a certain limit.

5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COST OF CORE PERIODICALS & INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING PERIODICALS AND RECURRING YEALY GRANT

51 The rising cost of core journals and indexing and abstracting journals which have been randomly selected for the study, has been shown in Graph 2. Here an attempt has been made to relate the trend of Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government Recurring Grant with the rising cost of core journals and indexing and abstracting periodicals. The Graph shows the regular increasing trend in the cost of core journals which is higher than that of recurring grant sanctioned by UP Government from year to year. Also from Graph 1 we find that the journals are increasing at the average rate of 7 journals per day.

Graph 1

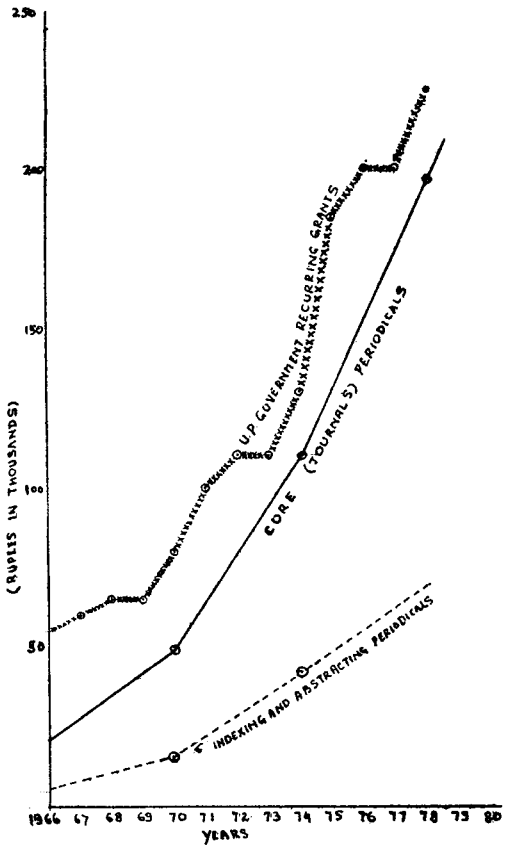
Yearly Growth Rate of Periodicals



52 Combining these two we come to the conclusion that if the present trend of

Graph 2

The Relation between the UP Government yearly Recurring Grant and Increasing Cost of 100 Core Periodicals and 5 Indexing and Abstracting Periodicals



rise in cost and of number of journals continue then shortly a time will come when the UP Government Recurring Grant will become insufficient even to meet the cost of these very core journals.

6 REMEDIAL MEASURES FOR THE SITUATION

The problem posed by factors such as limitation of funds, storage space and exponential growth rate of periodicals can be tackled in either of the following ways :

61 The libraries should restrict their subscriptions for current periodicals to basic core periodicals which are in frequent demand by library users and subscribe to all the important indexing and abstracting periodicals and reviewing periodicals covering the subject fields in which research work may be in progress in the institution. Besides this, such periodicals which publish the titles of various journals appearing in the market like Current Contents (USA), Journal Contents (Manchestar, England), Science Citation Index (USA) etc. may also be acquired. For meeting the demand of readers for articles appearing in periodicals not subscribed by the library, the reference librarian of the library may procure reprints or photocopies of the articles from the neighbourhood libraries or documentation centres like INSDOC, New Delhi, National Science Library, New Delhi, IITs, libraries of CSIR and other university libraries. Failing in the attempt of getting reprints or photocopies from local and national institutions outside agencies like the British Library, Spa., UK through British Council Library, New Delhi, NTIS (USA) through M/s Allied Publisher's (New Delhi) etc. may be tried for this purpose.

62 *Resource Sharing of Periodicals :* Under the plan of NISSAT the entire country may be divided into 4 regions and in each region a union catalogue of the holdings of periodicals in different scientific and technical libraries of the region may be maintained. Costly periodicals need not be subscribed by two closely placed libraries and important libraries may be asked to enrich their collections in

specified fields and one or two subjects may be allotted to each library on which they may acquire all the periodicals published all over the world.

Thus, there may be subject specialisation by different libraries of the region and whenever a periodical not subscribed by a library of the region is needed by any research worker of the institution, it may be obtained on inter-library-loan from the neighbourhood library or photo-copy of the articles may be procured from the library subscribing the periodical. In few rare cases when regional libraries fail to supply the desired periodical, help of National Agencies and International Agencies as suggested under section 61 above may be taken.

63 The recurring grants of libraries may be increased yearly in proportion to the rise in cost of periodicals and making an 25% increase in grant for adding some new periodicals to the list of already subscribed periodicals during previous year. This would mean that each year the grant may be increased by 2 to 3 times for each library.

64 Like the practice in China, one National Centre say at National Science Library, New Delhi may be set up where one copy of practically all the science and technology periodicals published all over the world may be procured by AIR MAIL and additional copies depending upon the need and demand of various libraries of the country may be made by a xeroxing or photocopying method. These photocopies of periodicals may be supplied to all such libraries who need these periodicals at a sufficiently reduced cost. This practice will prove very economical and time saving for developing countries like India.

65 Considering the quantum of literature appearing in over 60,000 periodicals in science and technology and tremendous increase in the wave front of knowledge as well as limitation of human capacity to absorb and assimilate all that knowledge which appears day to day in the scientific world, it seems almost humanly impossible for any scientist ro research worker to get an opportunity of even scanning the various articles appearing in periodicals of his subject field. Thus subscribing several costly journals by a library seems to be a mere waste of money as it is generally that 60% to 70% periodicals subscribed by a library hardly find users and they lie idle on library shelves. The most sensible solution of this problem appears to be the dependances on SDI (Selective Dissemination of Information Service) and CAS (Current Awareness Services) of National and International Agencies such as Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) (Philadelphia, USA), NTIS, VINITI, NISSAT, INSDOC etc. The Information officers working at reference desks operating in libraries may have readers' profile with them and keep on supplying relevant literature to scientists and research scholars according to their need and demand with the help of aforesaid National and International, SDI service agencies and forget about the wild goose chase in acquiring periodicals published all over the world in science and technology and just restrict to acquiring only a handful of periodicals to serve day to day basic needs.

7 CONCLUSION

Thus looking at the magnitude of the problems posed by the exponential growth rate of periodicals, approximately 1,000

periodicals adding each year to the existing list of periodicals and the volume of the information packed into each periodical swelling from issue to issue with a rough estimate of about 3 million documents likely to appear in 1980 and the mounting cost of periodicals doubling at the rate of two to three times at intervals of 4 to 5 years, leads to various serious situations posed before the scientific and technical libraries about continuing or dropping of less used periodicals each year from their subscription lists as well as of adding new titles of periodicals to their subscription lists. Moreover, the fact that a vast majority of periodicals subscribed by an institution (roughly 60% lie idle) are seldom used can also not be ignored. The studies reveal that the quantum of current periodicals read or scanned by scientists and engineers is between 3 and 10 with an average of 6 only. It is, therefore, felt desirable that without adopting the policy of cooperation and coordination among the libraries (i.e. sharing resources of libraries), no immediate solution to its problem is possible. At regional, national and international levels document exchange centres may be established and SDI services be introduced more vigorously in all the scientific and technical libraries.

CHART 'A'

Variation in the subscription cost of 100 core journals after every four year period in technical or scientific library

Sl. No.	Name of journal	1966/67 Cost in Rs.	1970/71 Cost in Rs.	1974/75 Cost in Rs.	1978/79 Cost in Rs.
	Library Science				
1.	Herald of Library Science	18·00	25·00	32·00	54·00
2.	Library Science with a Slant Documentation	20·00	20·00	25·00	50·00
	Mathematics				
3.	American Mathematical Monthly	50·00	112·50	164·70	243·60
4.	Quarterly Journal of Mechanics & Applied Mathematics	60·30	93·50	138·74	431·20
5.	Journal of Mechanics & Physics of Solids	234·50	360·50	428·11	909·15
6.	Astrophysical Journal	140·00	450·00	1436·55	2070·60
	Physics				
7.	Physical Society of Japan, Journal	150·00	337·50	1152 90	2236·00
8.	Journal of Physics (Pt. A-C & F)	321·60	1124·00	4459·50	9680·00
9.	Physics Letters (Pt. A-C)	237·60	638·40	4550·40	10576·92
10.	Physical Review (Pt. A-D)	265·00	1485·00	2909·70	4123·80
11.	Review of Modern Physics	40·00	97·50	237·90	461·10
12.	Physical Review Letters	105·00	326·26	640·50	913·50
13.	Physics Abstracts	335·00	1440·00	3477·00	7139·89
14.	Soviet Physics JETP	495·00	742·50	1134·60	2409·90
15.	Soviet Physics USPEKHI	240·00	360·00	530·70	1096·20
16.	Current contents, Physical & Chemical Science	250·00	750·00	1189·50	1740·00
17.	Progress of Theoretical Physics	135·66	262·50	892·13	2064·00
18.	Philosophical Magazine inc. Advances in Physics	428·80	792·00	1387·40	1654·40
	Chemistry				
19.	Chemical Abstracts	3550·00	7875·00	26535·00	37340·40
20.	Chemical Society Journal (All Parts)	554·76	308·16	5946·00	9996·80
21.	American Chemical Society Journal	147·50	371·25	658·80	1600·80
22.	Journal of Physical Chemistry	135·50	337·50	603·90	1209·30
23.	Journal of Colloid & Interface Science	198·00	711·00	1434·72	2958·00
24.	Analytical Abstracts inc. Analyst	201·00	495·00	733·34	1777·60
25.	Talents	348·40	648 (0	792·80	1566·00
26.	Analytical Chemistry	92·50	135 00	183·00	287·10
27.	Journal of Inorganic & Nuclear Chemistry	670·00	1260·00	1585·60	2892·75
28.	Chemical Reviews	107·50	176·25	393·45	626·40

(*Contd.*)

CHART 'A' (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	Name of journal	1966/67 Cost in Rs.	1970/71 Cost in Rs.	1974/75 Cost in Rs.	1978/79 Cost in Rs.
	Geology and Geophysics				
29.	Geological Society of India Journal	25·00	50·00	50·00	150·00
30.	Earth Science Reviews	62·04	103·95	293·88	666·50
31.	Geological Society of America Bulletin	125·00	315·00	484·95	783·00
32.	Engineering Geology	84·42	141·75	293·88	1307·20
33.	Chemical Geology	74·45	241·92	581·44	2614·40
34.	Mineralogical Abstracts	56·28	138·60	249·73	528·00
35.	American Mineralogists	75·00	300·00	366·00	435·00
36.	American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin	155·00	333·75	448·35	435·00
37.	Sedimentology	107·20	204·12	277·48	809·60
38.	American Geophysical Union Transactions	25·00	37·50	91·50	391·50
39.	Reviews of Geophysics	40·00	93·75	274·50	826·50
40.	Economic Geology	67·50	95·63	169·28	230·55
	Engineering				
41.	Engineering Index	625·00	1500·00	2882·25	3610·50
42.	Institution of Engineers (India) Journal (All Pts.)	82·50	90·00	90·00	144·00
43.	Indian Standards Institution (ISI)	200·00	200·00	500·00	500·00
44.	Currrent Contents in Engineering, Technology & Applied Science	—	750·00	1235·25	1740·00
45.	IEEE Transactions (All Parts)	1150·00	3510·00	5688·00	11014·20
46.	ASME Transactions (All Parts)	250·00	484·13	1733·95	3775·80
47.	ASCE Proceedings (All Parts)	150·00	450·00	1143·75	1357·20
	Civil Engineering				
48.	Institution of Civil Engineers, Proceedings	80·40	108·00	198·00	880·00
49.	ASCE Transactions	36·50	54·38	82·35	125·28
50.	Boston Society of Civil Engineers, Jl.	35·00	52·50	91·50	87·0
51.	Geotechnique	28·14	108·00	178·38	880·00
52.	American Water Works Assoc. Journal	75·00	150·50	183·00	217·50
53.	American Concrete Institute Journal	90·00	135·00	201·80	452·40
54.	TRB Publications	625·00	1125·00	1601·25	3262·50
55.	Society of Automotive Engineers, Trans.	875·00	1687·50	2859·38	3262·50
56.	Structural Engineer (UK)	56·28	180·00	198·20	556·80
57.	Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing	75·00	112·50	183·00	261·00
58.	Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineering	400·00	750·00	1555·50	2340·30

(*Contd.*)

CHART 'A' (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	Name of Journal	1966/67 Cost in Rs.	1970/71 Cost in Rs.	1974/75 Cost in Rs.	1978/79 Cost in Rs.
	Mechanical				
59.	ASHRAE Transactions	33·00	93·75	366·00	556·80
60.	Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, Bulletin	55·00	375·00	777·75	1131·00
61.	Machines and Tooling	135·68	184·50	624·33	1649·08
62.	Machine Design	50·00	262·50	320·25	435·00
63.	Int. Journal of Machine Tool Design & Research	134·00	252·00	321·08	696·00
64.	Refrigeration & Air conditioning	29·48	39·24	89·19	193·60
65.	Int. Journal of Heat & Mass Transfer	442·20	864 00	1070·28	1914·00
66.	Combustion & Flame	98·49	315·00	475·80	1000·50
67.	Solar Energy	50·00	216·00	317·12	2464·00
68.	Automation & Remote Control	400·00	1125·00	2013·00	3349·50
	Electronics				
69.	Electronics Letters	53·60	180·00	614·42	1654·40
70.	Electronics	100·00	100·00	133·33	350·93
71.	Wireless World	36·85	54·00	79·28	158·40
72.	Microwave Journal	75·00	225·00	274·50	261·00
73.	Bell System Technical Journal	30·40	82·50	109·80	182·70
74.	Electrical & Eletronics Abstracts	201·00	1170·00	1976·40	5100·00
	Electrical				
75.	Electrical India	20·00	20·00	40·00	80·00
76.	Electronics and Power	68·34	144·00	327·03	686·40
77.	Institution of Electrical Engineers, Proceedings	160·80	540·00	1010·82	2622·40
78.	Int. Journal of Electrical Engineering Education	134·00	270·00	297·30	352·00
79.	Electric Technology in USSR	536·00	864·00	713·52	1218·00
	Chemical				
80.	Theoretical Chemical Engg. Abstracts	240·00	262·80	329·01	468·16
81.	Chemical Age India	30·00	40·00	80·00	100·00
82.	Chemical Engineer inc. Trans.	93·80	217·80	515·32	904·80
83.	Canadian Journal of Chemical Engg.	150·00	300·00	370·80	464·00
84.	Chemical Engineering	200·00	200·00	300·00	438·66
85.	American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Jl. (Package Plan 'B')	680·00	1950·00	2973·75	3262·50
86.	Journal of Catalysis	750·00	876·00	1281·00	2697·00

(*Contd.*)

CHART 'A' (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	Name of Journal	1966/67 Cost in Rs.	1970/71 Cost in Rs.	1974/75 Cost in Rs.	1978/79 Cost in Rs.
	Metallurgy				
87.	Metals Abstracts	229·14	740·34	1288·30	5808·00
88.	Iron and Steel Institute of Japan, Transactions	90·00	135·00	320·25	606·30
89.	Instt. of Mining & Met. Transactions	60·00	108·00	158·56	281·60
90.	Powder Metallurgy	33·50	90·00	143·70	440·00
91.	Metal Finishing	25·00	45·00	137·25	217·50
92.	Corrosion	50·00	90·00	183·00	348·00
93.	Metallurgical Transactions (Pt. A-B)	—	262·50	585.50	687·30
	Architecture				
94.	Japan Architect	75·00	112·50	361·43	591·25
95.	Domus	97·15	228·78	290·78	522·00
96.	Architect	65·66	108·00	118·92	264·00
97.	Architectural Design	46·90	111·24	186·31	435·00
98.	Marg	26·50	45·00	49·00	100·00
99.	Progressive Architecture	50·00	150·00	274·50	304·50
100.	Interiors	60·00	112·50	274·50	382·40
	Total	21158·32	48798·74	110013·35	197132·22
	Conversion Rates	Rs. 5·00 per $ Rs. 13·40 per £ Rs. 0·67 per Sh. Rs. 1·32 per D. G. & D. fl.	Rs. 7·50 per $ Rs. 18.00 per £ Rs. 2·10 per N. fl. & D. fl.	Rs. 9·15 per $ Rs. 19·82 per £ Rs. 9·27 per Can $ Rs. 3.16 per D. fl. Rs. 0·0134 per It. lira Rs. 2·86 per Sw. fr.	Rs. 8·70 per $ Rs. 17·60 per £ Rs. 7·40 per Can $ Rs. 4·30 per D. fl. Rs. 4·30 per 100 Yen.

CHART 'B'

Chart showing variation in subscription rates of 10 selective indexing & abstracting periodicals in science and technology from 1966/67 to 1978/79.

Sl. No.	Name of Journal	1966/67 Cost in Rs.	1970/71 Cost in Rs.	1974/75 Cost in Rs.	1978/79 Cost in Rs.
1.	Chemical Abstracts	3550·00	7875·00	26535·00	37340·00
2.	Civil Engineering Hydraulics Abst.	Not Pub.	528·75	693·70	922·20
3.	Computer Abstracts	480·00	620·00	693·70	792·00
4.	Current Contents : Engineering Tech. & Applied Sciences	Not Pub.	750·00	1235·25	1740·00
5.	Current Contents : Physical & Chemical Sciences	250·00	750·00	1189·50	1740·00
6.	Engineering Index	625·00	1500·00	2882·34	3610·00
7.	Metals Abstracts	229·14	740·34	1288·30	5808·00
8.	Mineralogical Abstracts	56·28	138·60	249·73	528·00
9.	Science Abstracts :				
	Sec. A : Physics Abstracts	335·00	1440·00	3477·00	7139·89
	Sec. B : Electrical & Electronics Abst. Sec. C : Computers & Control Abst.	214·40	1440·00	3666·70	8976·00
	Science Abstracts Sec. A—C	549·40	2880·00	7143·70	16115·89
10.	Theoretical & Chemical Engineering Abstracts	240·00	262·80	329·01	468·16
	Total	5979·82	16045·49	42240·14	69064·75

Conversion Rates				
	Rs. 5·00 per $	Rs. 7.50 per $	Rs. 9.15 per $	Rs. 8·70 per $
	Rs. 13·40 per £	Rs. 18·00 per £	Rs. 19·82 per £	Rs. 17·60 per £

CHART 'C'

The yearly increase in the cost of indexing and abstracting periodicals.

	1966-67 1	1967-68 2	1968-69 3	1969-70 4	1970-71 5	1971-72 6	1972-73 7	1973-74 8	1974-75 9	1975-76 10	1976-77 11	1977-78 12	1978-79 13	1979-80 14
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Chemical Abstracts	3550/-	5250/-	6750/-	6750/-	7875/-	11020/-	15678/-	23744/-	26535/-	29405/-	33896/-	36493/-	37340/-	43520/-
2. Engineering Index	625/-	937/-	1312/-	1500/-	1500/-	1520/-	2131/-	2745/-	2882/-	3015/-	3373/-	3510/-	3610/-	4080/-
3. Metals Abstracts	229/-	315/-	720/-	730/-	740/-	1018/-	1045/-	1090/-	1288/-	1329/-	1920/-	2592/-	5808/-	6072/-
4. Mineralogical Abstracts	56/-	132/-	132/.	132/-	138/-	142/-	190/-	198/-	249/-	265/-	320/-	332/-	528/-	736/-
5. Theoretical & Chemical Engineering Abstracts	240/-	360/-	360/-	360/-	262/-	270/-	277/-	329/-	329/-	334/-	340/-	342/-	468/-	581/-

Conversion rate :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rs. 5/- per $	Rs. 7·50 per $	Rs. 7·50 per $	Rs. 7·50 per $	Rs. 7-50 per $	Rs. 7·60 per $	Rs. 7·75 per $	Rs. 9·15 per $	Rs. 9·15 per $	Rs. 9/- per $	Rs. 9·50 per $	Rs. 9/- per $	Rs. 8·70 per $	Rs. 8·50 per $
Rs. 13·40 per £	Rs. 18/- per £	Rs. 18/- per £	Rs. 22/- per £	Rs. 18/- per £	Rs. 18·50 per £	Rs. 19/- per £	Rs. 19·82 per £	Rs. 19·82 per £	Rs. 18·90 per £	Rs. 16/- per £	Rs.16·60 per £	Rs. 17·60 per £	Rs. 18·40 per £

Impact of Rising Prices of Reading Materials on Library Developments

NK Goil*

The abnormal escalation in the prices of reading material on one hand and the rising cost of staff for manning the library services on the other has been causing serious problems in the proper development of libraries. Enumerates the points which require immediate attention of all those who are concerned with books as commodity. Urges the publishers to reduce the prices and review the rational behind price structuring of reading material.

STATEMENTS AND POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1 The near abnormal escalation in the prices of reading material *i.e.* books, journals, newspapers etc. has been causing serious problems for the acquisition programmes and plans of the libraries throughout the world.

2 The rising cost of staff for manning the library services takes away major part of the budgetary provisions for libraries and thus leaving less amount of money for the acquisition of reading materials.

3 The budgetary provisions for libraries have not kept pace with the rise in prices of the reading materials and the cost of the library staff.

4 Due to proliferation in the litrary output in terms of new titles of books and journals every year, the libraries are required to plan for the acquisition of additional reading materials which ordinarily could have been avoided had there been less number of new titles worth acquisition.

5 In India due to historical and political reasons, the university and research libraries are required to acquire foreign published reading materials particularly in English language in much more quantities as compared to other countries acquiring the reading materials published in India.

6 Most of the Indian publishers give print order for not more than one thousand copies of a title thus adding to the increase in the per unit cost of the book.

7 The purchasing capacity of the most of the libraries in India is limited as compared to the libraries of similar nature and level in foreign countries.

8 The acquisition programmes of the university and college libraries in India are

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mostly linked with the availability of the government grants. They have limited or no resources of their own which could help in augmenting the budgetary provisions for acquisition of reading materials every year.

9 Due to lower personal disposable income available to most of the individuals in this country, they are not in a position to spare money for buying books and journals except the daily newspapers and some popular news magazines etc.

10 The prices of the per unit cost of the books of Indian publishers can be brought down if the Indian publishers make an effort to give print order for the large number of copies as compared to the present limited number of copies.

11 The prices of Indian books can be brought down if the mark-up price of these books is kept between the range of 2-3 and not 4-5 and above as is the case with many of the publishers at present.

12 The present practice of calculating the cost of the book which is as follows, needs to be reviewed:

A Preparation of the manuscript

1 Cost of obtaining the manuscript.

2 Cost of reviewing and editing.

B Cost of printing

1 Cost of art work (design and illustrations)

2 Cost of composing and printing

3 Cost of paper

4 Cost of binding

C Cost of distribution and overheads

1 Cost of distribution: (*a*) advertising and sale promotion, and (b) discount

2 Royalty

3 Overheads (excluding what has been taken into account earlier).

4 Publisher's profit

13 The cost of producing a book in India could be reduced if the publisher makes more use of the letterpress instead of other costlier methods of printing books. This is not difficult, because in most of the cases not more than thousand copies of a title are printed at a time. The cost of producing books can be further reduced if the publishers are supplied paper at the regulated prices. It is estimated that the paper input account to about 30% of the total cost of producing a book.

14 It is necessary to develop the *Price index number* for the cost of the production of books taking 1971 price level of the cost of the inputs as a base.

15 The libraries in India should try to acquire a copy each of all the publications brought out in India. This will increase the internal market for the Indian publications.

16 With a view to develop export potentialities of Indian publications, there is need to develop consortium which could plan for better and more export of Indian publications as is being done at present. For instance, many European countries including UK are doing much better export business in this context as compared to India.

17 There is need to develop a registration system for the publishers of books in the country. This will help the government in having an effective control for the supply of paper at controlled prices for the publication of books.

18 With a veiw to develop the internal resources of libraries over and above government grants for the purchase of reading material, the schools, colleges and university libraries should be encouraged to charge adequate amount of library fee from the students.

Inaugural Address at XXVI All India Library Conference

JUSTICE SHRI V.S. DESHPANDE*

This 26th session of the All India Library Conference has the most important theme for discussion, namely, "Library Services for a Developing Society". We are a welfare state and, therefore, a service state. We are often complimented by others as the largest working democracy in the world. At the same time we are a developing society. Unless we become a developed society our democracy will be to that extent internally vulnerable. The main difference between us and the developed democracies lies in the difference of education and information of our people which is far behind the education and information possessed by the peoples of developed societies. The most potent means of spreading education and information among those who most need it in our country is the supply of books, journals and newspapers to the people, particularly those in the rural areas because means of communication get attenuated farther and farther we go from our cities. The metropolitan cities of India and the elites residing there have been the radiating centres of the spirit of education and information. The all-India newspapers, journals and books originate in the cities but unfortunately they do not penetrate into the far flung rural areas. There has thus come to be two Indias, urban and rural.

The rural areas are the real country having about 80% of the population. How can the society progress when only about 20 to 30% of our people have the knowledge and information necessary for our progress and effective functioning of our democracy? For this reason it is most appropriate that library service must be developed beyond the cities into the rural areas. An individual cannot purchase all books, newspapers and magazines that he needs and again the books, magazines and newspapers have to be such that they are durable enough to be shared by a large number of people and read by them all one after the other. They are the most potent instrument of popular education and instruction.

The contents of books, newspapers and magazines also have to be such as to serve the need of our people to the maximum. What has to reach the common

*Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi.

man is the general information to make him a good citizen. The amount of such knowledge and information is not large. It is not, therefore, difficult for the libraries to feed all our needy people with such knowledge and information. They can circulate simple written books and educative journals and newspapers which will tell our people their rights and duties as citizens, the ways to cooperate in civic life, about sanitation, a proper use of conciliation, settlement and arbitration for settling disputes and the importance of electing those to the elective bodies who have really the capacity to serve the people. A scientific out-look has to be gradually created in our people in respect of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and improved methods of farming and marketing, dealing with banks and proper utilisation of the libraries giving them books, magazines and newspapers. The library units in the rural areas may be small provided the books, magazines and newspapers are circulated among as many people as possible. After the number of these units grows very large, small printing presses as domestic industries can also be established in the rural areas so that the newspapers and journals and sometime even the books can be printed and published in the heart of a rural area. This will be really an achievement. The locally published newspapers and books will really reflect the local aspirations, grievances and discuss their problems which will in turn bring social awareness among the people and also form a vigilant public opinion which will be of great help to enlighten the Government in keeping its finger on the pulse of the people. The people will also then really participate in the functioning of the Government and will be proud to have in a true sense a democracy of the people, for the people and run by the people.

There is also a need both in the urban and rural areas for libraries stocking and supplying a large number of copies of text books, reference books, dictionaries and such other material as needed by the masses of students spread over the country. Most of them cannot afford to buy all the requirements of their studies. It is essential for the development of their mind and out-look that they should be supplied with as much of this material as they need. Libraries will have to specialise in feeding the needs of the students of schools and colleges and to take special care that they are able to study as much as they like without suffering from lack of books, journals and newspapers.

Another speciality which is worthy of attention by the libraries is literature for girls and women. They are today far more backward than the male population of the country. Since their work in life is different than the work of men, their needs are also different. They should be supplied with women magazines, books about primary health, nutrition, child care, health care, cookery etc.

The young children are already included amongst the students, but nurseries, creches and such other places where young children are left by their working mothers also need the special attention of the libraries. With the development of such special and other general facilities by the libraries the library movement will attain its full stature and will achieve a place of prime importance in society which it deserves.

Library Services for a Developing Society

GL TREHAN*

Describes the place and purpose of library in a modern society. Considers the librarian as a leader of the community. States that there is need for socialization of public library. Discusses the methods of organising public library services. Calls for a total revolution in the sphere of self education, continuing education and public libraries in India.

In India the trend is towards a socialistic pattern of society which requires that even the poorest in the community should have the same library services as the richest. Our country is committed to build, brick by brick, a society which is democratic, secular and socialistic.

1 PLACE AND PURPOSE OF LIBRARY IN MODERN SOCIETY

A society is formed by people from various vocations or callings. Society consists of a wide range of people who are members of a community belonging to one or other social group, such as shop keepers, businessmen, technicians, bureaucrats, clerks, students, educationists, teachers, engineers, doctors, intellectuals, mechanics, agriculturists, farmers and labourers etc. The interest of knowledge of these different groups of people is very much varied according to human needs of general nature, academic nature or special nature. A library organises the recorded knowledge or reading materials or even non-book material making them available to every member of a community for use and dissemination of knowledge. In this way a reader who studies the subject of his vocation enriches his own professional knowledge or vocational skill and also contributes to the welfare of the society as well as humanity as a whole.

The purpose of a library in modern society is to educate the community in the widest sense. The librarian has some thing common with the editor of a news paper rather than with a school teacher. He must acquire recorded knowledge that is worthwhile, useful and significant to the specific community he serves. A library is a kind of a meadow where the thinker can graze amid grasses that have been selected not without any view point in mind, but just generally because of their quality. The informational role of the book is important in the present age which needs above all, facts and information. It is the job of the librarian working in a

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public library to provide facts which are food for mind that make men and women think for themselves. The job of the librarian is a part of the communication technology of the world (like the modern radio, the press and the television). In this view of the matter, the librarian is an agent of communication in modern society and doles out information for the benefit of the community served by the library.

India is a democratic country, which is forging ahead towards a welfare state. In view of the needs of Indian society, the librarians are now as much educators of the community through the library, as the teachers are through the school.

2 LIBRARIAN AS LEADER OF THE COMMUNITY

In the changing conception of values and objectives, the librarian will have to be competent leader of the community exhibiting strength of the character, intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, vision, forceful personality, administrative ability and freedom from bias or prejudice and tradition. He will be an interesting composite having many of the qualifications of a sociologist, psychologist, teacher, historian and bibliographer and on account of these personal qualifications he will be able to understand people as well as literature. The social influence of the library is tremendous in the context of great and rapid advancement of science and technology that is taking place all over the world including India.

3 NEED FOR SOCIALISATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library provides ample opportunity for the development of correct social attitudes and unfoldment of the personality of the group, the nation and the society at large. Socialisation of education will lead to socialisation of the masses. To achieve this objective, socialisation of the public library is also necessary as the public library represents the best opportunity for self education of majority of the adults, who do not go in for higher education beyond secondary stage. It is the social function of the library to provide book service to the community. Library is the only organised social institution which fosters the reading of books. So it is necessary to extend our library facilities to the masses, both literates, neo-literates and even illiterates, so that they get opportunity of gaining all the knowledge required to make them better citizens and exercise their right to vote properly and also to develop among themselves a modern mental and scientific outlook while at the same time retaining the basic values of our ancient culture. In this context, BS Kesavan, observes as under :

> "Library is no longer a passing institution but a dynamic institution and it has now become an integral part of society. This concept has changed the nature of the library and also the concept of library architecture. Library is now a place where one is completely at home, where the entire family comes along with the laughter of children for the enjoyment of life. Unless the libraries are built in beautiful surroundings, they cannot perform effective service in the matter of attracting readers to activate their minds"[1]

This basic concept of library has led Dr MS Randhawa, a man of vision, to remark :

> "The age of *mandirs*, *gurdwaras* and *churches* is gone. The present is the age of temples of knowledge of which the librarians are the priests."[2]

This concept of a public library as 'temples of knowledge' will certainly help in complete socialization of the public library, where people of all religions, castes and creeds will congregate and gain knowledge and enjoy reading good books and periodicals for the welfare of the society.

In India, the literacy is not so far universal but "we are" as said by our Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, some years back, while inaugurating the Convention of the Authors' Guild of India, "culturally the most literate; just because someone can read and write he is not a superior being." To achieve the target of cent per cent literacy, the library must ally itself very closely with the literacy campaign both with the adults and in the school by providing reading materials to the neo-literate persons. Library is the only institution which provides informal education in an informal atmosphere to the newly literate, where they feel quite at home. Industrialisation through technology in India requires continuous dissemination of the latest scientific ideas concerning knowhow among one and all of the people. The ability to read and write will certainly enable the people to be fully involved in solving their social and economic problems and make them better citizens of democracy, for a nation that reads is a nation that leads. There is also need for promotion of international understanding and world peace through books in the library. As such, public libraries have an immense contribution to make in this direction.

4 PERSONAL SERVICE

One more element that is necessary is the personal service, usually absent in traditional role, which is the key to professional activity of a librarian. The librarian's role in both the science and the arts is that he is not simply to supply information in response to a particular request, or to make available material for those who require it, or to fill in gaps, but to provide the connection. If he develops this role, he will become increasingly important as an integrating agent.[3] This is the crux of personal service. Therefore, the librarian by use of his intelligence and skill should integrate books or other reading material with readers forming useful relationship.

A librarian working in a public library has to develop a humanistic touch towards his profession of librarianship. He should better look to social realities. This attitude is a belief in the importance of total awareness both with regard to the self and the world. It implies some kind of faith that in the long run the growth of knowledge may help to modify the human conditions for better rather than for worst.[4]

5 LIBRARY EDUCATION TO HAVE SOCIAL RELEVANCE

Library Science courses will contribute much to socialisation of libraries. As such the library schools in India must be socially relevant to the society. As rightly stressed by Girja Kumar, "human activity is rooted in social reality and for that reason must have social relevance to be justifiable more so in a developing society with scarce resources, subject to alternative use". As such library science

courses must change with the advent of time and a programme of study should be so designed as to ensure that at base level all students of library science shall be required to have familiarity with public library services in India and information science.

6 METHODS OF ORGANISING PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

The need of the hour is to organise public library services in a phased programme, both in urban and rural areas, through library legislation. To meet the social needs of the society, the use of the public library is an evolutionary process. All means of extending the public library should be encouraged. Public library is an agency in the field of informal education and that library should be taken to people on the fringe of literacy or even to non-literates where possible and unless this is done, the library service is in danger of not developing according to the needs of the people. In developing India, where literacy is low and resources are limited especially in rural areas, the following methods may be adopted to introduce library services :

(1) To be most effective in small areas and in villages, library services need direction and guidance by linking them with social education movement and community development programmes started by the government.

(2) Where books are few, audio-visual and other aids should be effectively found and used in the library as other means of informal education.

(3) Group activities as an introduction to library services should be encouraged.

(4) Public libraries should be made information centres, and discussion on readings be encouraged.

(5) Educated people in the community should participate in group meetings to extend their use of books by contact with readers of similar interests.

(6) Library Associations should actively and vigorously campaign for development of a public library movement and all members should take part in activities and promote library services by means of publicity and celebrating national library week.

7 CONCLUSION

This calls for total revolution in the sphere of self-education, continuing education and public libraries in the country so badly needed for bringing nearer socialistic pattern of society. The hankering of the problem here and there will not do. It is only dynamic, radical and progressive approach that will help to overcome the present day difficulties and lead us to raise a fine edifice of public library service stucture in each State. Therefore, we must all arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved.

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New Role of Libraries in a Developing Society with Particular Reference to India

(Mrs) Kalpana Dasgupta*

Discusses the information needs in a developing society. Describes the various forms and channels of communication. Deals with libraries and the communication process. Underlines the role of libraries in educating the people at different levels. Assigns the new role for librarians.

0 INTRODUCTION

Libraries and librarians have come a long a way since the days of chained books and closed stacks. We are in an era of scientific development at its peak and a consequent information explosion. The developing countries have been able to be more effective in performing basic activities of locating, acquiring, organising and disseminating available information due to wide ranging technical developments in every field of activity and an overall consciousness about the utility of information for development.

The situation in developing countries in general and in India in particular is nowhere near this because like any other field of activity there is lack of technological development, insufficient funds and traditional attitudes which resist any change. Today's needs therefore would be to involve the people and make them aware of the developments around and thereby bring the changes in a developing society. Knowledge of information will have to be shared effectively through various channels of communication and libraries and librarians will have to play a vital role in doing so.

1 INFORMATION NEEDS IN A DEVELOPING SOCIETY

The contribution of information to development cannot be doubted any longer but its quantification is extremely difficult in different developing societies. Every developing society has its priorities and therefore it is even more difficult to define the optimum levels or resources which could be devoted to the information input at either local, regional or national level. Developing countries require information systems of their own which suit the type, capacities and the producers and users of information. The emphasis should be on knowledge most needed for social and economic development.

Access to precise and reliable information of different types at the right time, to

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the right person in a form most conveniently usable by him/her can help to minimize the wastage of resources. The well organised information system will be able to help people at various levels:

(1) "to stimulate thought and action by injection of, and interaction with, other people's ideas, knowledge, experience and achievements;

(2) to promote continuous awareness of what others are doing so that individual workers (or groups) may know of developments in their own special fields, and in wider fields such as discipline, or technology;

(3) to diminish the probability of unwitting duplication of work and to save time and effort;

(4) to provide introductory and background information for work in unfamiliar fields;

(5) to provide specific information and data needed for work in hand;

(6) to meet specific requirements."[1]

It is the communication agents who have set the wheels of change into motion. In the past communication took place largely through personal contacts and was informal. The developing countries have had along traditions of oral culture which had to give in gradually to organized media systems of communication mainly due to

(*i*) User increase

(*ii*) Distance

(*iii*) Increase in output of knowledge.

Forms and channels of communication

"Communication of information should embrace all relevant means of communication including non-documentary forms. The different forms of communication are:

Oral

One person to one person, e.g. a talk face to face or by phone.

One person to several, *e.g.* a group or committee meeting.

One person to many, *e.g.* a speech at a meeting.

One person to wide public, *e.g.* a radio talk.

Several persons to several, *e.g.* group discussion, conversation.

Documentary

Personal, *e.g.* correspondence, external and internal published, usually printed; journals, books, pamphlets, specifications, catalogues, data compilations, graphics.

Unpublished or semi-published, usually duplicated; reports, theses, circulars, etc.

Audio-visual

Exhibitions (including the one-person-to-several type of communication)

Demonstrations do

Personal observation :

Purposeful, e.g. tour of works seen by chance.

Films:

Special showing
Public showing

TV:

Purposeful, deliberately watched public showing.

Visual aids to oral and written communication."[2]

Traditional Media:

Dramas on folk themes mainly of regional origin.

Puppet plays.

Musicals etc.

The different channels vary considerably in effectiveness and in the range of audience reached e.g. oral communication may be most effective in a small audience or in a cultural group audience situation. Whereas in communication with electronic and other such media the message will be carried more effectively to the far away audiences.

2 LIBRARIES AND COMMUNICATION PROCESS

Libraries or organised collections of information exist to serve as an access point to facilitate the use of information that represents recorded knowledge for the purpose of learning. The library often has to take the teaching role, The concept of libraries as "Knowledge Resouce Centre" is fast coming up in the developed countries. With the application of the new media technologies, it is possible to give all types of information to the user. There will easily be mechanisms which will be able to identify what information is wanted or needed, what information in what forms will be most useful for using and reproducing. It can also determine how the user can interact with the information. New methods of storing and organising information can also be created to suit the needs of the user.

Today when we speak of the 'book' we are more or less using the generic idea of the book. Likewise when we make the reference to the user of information in libraries, it is meant in a much broader sense. Because the user may not just get information from one unit of the library, but one machine may interact with another machine to find a solution to a problem. Besides providing stored information, the library may also serve as a communication facilitator by taking the information from the original form and delivering it in the manner which facilitates use.

Expansion of the communication spectrum in libraries from print to audio-visual and other means of communication will certainly bring about changes in library services and also create an impact of libraries as a transmitter of information through different channels of communication.

The variety of media, other than print which may be made available are :

Motion Pictures (Films, Video-tapes, video discs);

Television (CATV—Community Anntena Television);

Sattelite Telecommunication;

Audio Recording (Phonograph discs, audio tape recording);

Models; and

Computers.

According to Wilbur Schramm, the father of Mass Communication as an academic discipline, "it is predictable that the next stage in the technology of Mass Communication will be concerned with the needs of the receiver to help him separate out what he needs from the flow of information call or recall it for use when he needs it, and establish special channels to and from other users with whom he needs to share".[3]

When we doubt whether the library and the librarian are parts of the overall communication process, then the above view should give us a lead that libraries have to play a vital role in the entire communication process of the developing society.

3 ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN EDUCATING THE PEOPLE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

In fulfilling this immense task of involving the people at different levels in economic and social change, libraries will have to change from its traditional role of store houses of books and other reading material. At all stages of economic and cultural construction the Soviet libraries have actively participated in the solution of the main tasks that the country faced: wiping out illiteracy, raising the level of professional knowledge of the workers, peasantry, etc. Therefore it is possible for the librarians to be actively involved at different levels. In most developing countries public libraries can play a vital role in all the activities to educate, inform, and entertain the people, While in a developed society people are informed and alert. In a developing society due to various historical, political, economic and social reasons the majority are not well informed even about the solutions to their immediate problems. Their participation in different development programmes cannot be automatic. They have to be drawn into and made to participate and get involved in different programmes for change through dissemination of correct and current information.

In most developing societies literacy levels are very low. Therefore only document centred library services cannot be effective. The modern concept of Information centre or Resources centre will have to replace the idea of the traditional libraries because the services should be largely information centred—preparing, supplying and explaining information to literates, neo-literates and illiterates.

In the present Indian conditions if libraries have to prove their worth as locators, organisers and disseminators of information to the right persons, at the right time in the right form this changed set up will have to be assumed. In India there are developmental programmes of various types and of different importance in the socio-economic spectrum of the country *e.g.* family planning, adult education, co-operative development etc. For making all these really successful the right information should reach the users at different levels in the right form *i.e.* within their comprehension at the right time. Information has to reach

mainly two different types of people:

(*i*) The motivators of extension/field publicity officers.

(*ii*) The people in general or the receivers and utilisers of the programme.

Effective dissemination of information at both these levels will depend largely on proper communication of worthwhile information. As mentioned earlier libraries will have to assume the form of a Resources centre or an information centre.

In the present infrastructure the public library system and the state information centres together may prove quite workable if a combination of the two can be evolved. As per available statistics, 15 states have state public libraries, and 5 union territories have central public libraries. There are 401 districts and there are 291 libraries at the district level, out of 5,027 blocks, 1,798 of them have libraries, out of 5,75,936 villages only 41,828 have a library each. Coming to government information centres, each state has a chain of information centres at the centre and district levels as well as at sub-division levels. Many of them also have a central Reference Library with books, clipping section, indexing facilities and audio-visual units.

Is not there a way by which there may be proper co-ordination between these so that the resources can be shared and used for 2 types of clientele at all levels ?

4 NEW ROLE OF THE LIBRARIAN

It is at this juncture that the active spirit of the librarian will have to find out a solution. Librarians/ Information officers of the state central library and state information centre will have to co-ordinate the working of the lower level units of both these organisations to have access to both externally and internally generated information. The librarians/ information officers at different levels should be aware of the problems and needs of the area in question, the composition and lifestyle of the community which has to be served. This is necessary to build up the right information sources both documentary and non-documentary. There has to be good rapport between the librarian/information officer and the clientele.

As mentioned earlier there will be mainly 2 types of clientele *i.e.* the motivators of extension workers and the people in general. The first category of persons will have to be made aware of the latest developments in their particular field of activity. This will have to be done by librarian/information officers at their own level. The extremely generated information will flow from the state level downwards. This can be done in following ways:

(*i*) Sending mimeographe dinformation bulletins about externally generated information specially of other areas of the country or of abroad.

(*ii*) Studies done by different organisations may be highlighted.

(*iii*) Periodical newsletters containing experience of village/district/state levels in that particular area of activity.

(*iv*) An up-to-date directory of personnel in the area handling the job. This will serve the purpose of good referral system.

(*v*) Occasional meeting of the librarian/information officer with the motivators/extension worker and publicity officer.

The information flow here has to be two way because the librarian has to keep the workers aware of the latest development and they in turn will keep the librarain aware of the internally generated information at their respective level. This information will have to flow back upwards to the state level so that an awareness is created among the policy makers as to the effectiveness of the programme.

To cater to the information needs of the next category *i.e.* the possible benefeciaries of the programme, the librarian has to change even further from its regular role and assume the role of a communicator.

The following information has to be communicated :

(*i*) Need for the programme.
(*ii*) Methods of utilizing the programme.
(*iii*) Benefits of the programme.

The channels of communication will have to be :

(*a*) Interpersonal *i.e.* talking to people.
(*b*) Visuals—posters, photos, charts, slides etc.

These should carry the message in a form which can be understood by all. The level of understanding of the people has to be taken into consideration seriously. The placement of the visuals should be at the often visited places *e.g.* post office, market place, school and village well.

(*c*) Audio-visual—short films, television programme.
(*d*) Melas, exhibitions, fairs, etc.
(*e*) Mailing simple awareness services to neo-literates.

The thrill of getting something to read may prove effective communication.

In reaching the people directly specially at the village level the librarian will have to be a co-worker of the publicity officer or extension worker. The panchayat house which is frequented by the people could be changed into a communication centre from the day to day use point of view. With the television reaching many of the our villages through the SITE, this could be a centre of activities. Newspaper reading, radio listening, television watching could be organised along with the village level extension worker. Audio visuals such as slides, need not be used only for entertainment purpose, but for getting across information. Visuals such as posters, photographs could be made to convey a lot of information by putting them at the right places *e.g.* those concerning children could be put at the village school, those mainly concerning women should be put up at the village well.

If all these sound utopian today it will not be so tomorrow. In the days to come in developing societies development programmes will continue with full impetus. All information disseminating organisations will have to gear themselves to the needs of the people at large. If librarians hope to be of any use to the semi-literates and illiterate people, the role and activities will have to change. At all levels there will have to be an attitudinal change also. We have to give up this elitist slant to education and really reach the people at different levels.

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Preface

This volume contains papers and proceedings of the XXVI All-India Library Conference held at New Delhi during 6-9 March 1980. The thirteen papers presented here cover two major areas which formed themes of the Conference, namely, "Library Services for a Developing Society" and "Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries".

Libraries are a powerful instrument for social change. However, in our country, their potentiality has not been exploited fully. This could be due to the lack of recognition of their role in the society. As a result libraries have not received sufficient support, financially and otherwise.

Our vast masses live in rural areas. There is an urgent need for spread of literacy and education among rural masses. They badly need knowledge and information. In this context libraries can play an important role. However, library services hardly exist in rural areas. Urban population has also not been well served in this regard.

In view of above, the theme "Library Services for a Developing Society" for discussion was a timely one. The papers reflect the nature of the problems existing in a developing country like India. The authors have put forward a variety of useful suggestions to improve library services. It has been rightly suggested that there is an urgent need for formulating a national policy for the development of libraries in India.

Rising prices of books have upset library budgets and hampered the growth and development of libraries. There is an evergrowing demand for reading material. This has put tremendous pressure on libraries. The papers on "Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries" have brought forth a variety of valuable suggestions to meet the challenge of rising prices. A great emphasis has been put on 'resource-sharing'. We should develop a system for 'resource-sharing' at different levels.

From the deliberations of the Conference arose a set of resolutions and recommendations. Early steps need to be taken to implement these. The proper implementation of these will go a long way to improve the library situation in this country. There is every hope that with the passage of time, library situation will improve to be able to meet the needs of the users of libraries effectively.

Delhi
June 1980

KRISHAN KUMAR
CP VASHISHTH

Public Library Services in India and National Adult Education Programme : A Plea for their Integration

PN GOUR*

Describes the role of public libraries in adult education in the West. Makes out a case for public libraries in advancing adult education programmes in India. Discusses National Adult Education Programme (NAEP). Pleads for the integration of NAEP with public library services.

The purposes served by a public library are, no doubt, many and varied, and they differ in different communities, but in one essential all public libraries subscribe to a similar goal: to provide equal opportunities for access to ideas to everyone in the community, who wishes it, without any distinction of class, creed, age, sex or level of literacy and education. To make its services universal, it provides such opportunities not only through the medium of the printed materials, but through all such media which are currently used for the dissemination of knowledge and information.

1 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES AND ADULT EDUCATION IN THE WEST

In more advanced and sophisticated communities, like those of the West, the public libraries may provide opportunities for users to read the latest word on topic of current interest or to learn what the great minds of the past have had to say on the great questions of continuing importance, or to fill in gaps in formal schooling, or to increase one's own knowledge of a particular technique of skill, or to enlarge appreciation of the arts and skills of others, or to meet more effectively the demands made upon one by renewing the mind through constructive relaxation or sharpening it through intellectual discipline.

In those communities, the education of adults may, therefore mean their "Continuing Education", and the services rendered for this purpose by the public libraries as meaning "the services of an educational agency presenting apportunities and encouragement to such mature persons, mostly literates for improving themselves by acquiring new knowledge,

*197, Pataliputra Colony, Patna, Bihar-800013.

information, skills, etc., which they may need for their improvement. In other words, such services rendered by libraries would essentially mean helping mature men and women to grow in knowledge after the period of their formal education has ended.

But even in western countries where a segment of the population has had no schooling at all, and in underdeveloped and developing countries, where a vast majority of the people still remain illiterate, the public libraries are expected to stretch this service much farther to play an effective role as non-formal education of their community and commit themselves to a more positive programme to achieve this end. The public libraries have to go beyond their role as mere providers of printed materials, and even take the lead in stimulating and helping to shape the very desire to read and learn.

The public libraries in such countries in order to have greater share in the building of happier individual and a better society, must reject their passive "handmaiden" role of the past in favour of an active one in people's search for education and self-education, and must play a more effective role as adult educators and treating their participation in adult education as an integral rather than an incidental responsibility in the entire scheme of public library service itself. It is because the public libraries in the West have accepted this philosophy of service and have been working according to it, they have come to be considered as the most fundamental adult educational institution and the resources centre for all adult educational efforts.

2 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES AND ADULT EDUCATION IN INDIA

It is unfortunate that the above philosophy of public library service regarding the adult illiterates has not yet gained recognition, in principle, or acceptance in practice, in India, though vast majority of her people still remain illiterate. It is true that in early stages of public library movement in our country, the promoters of the movement, specially in Baroda and Andhra Pradesh, adopted semblance of adult educational group approach, our public libraries, by and large, have been so far concerned with providing the barest coverage of reading materials only for the literate members of our communities, leaving the illiterate masses almost unserved. Their services have usually been directed to the literate individual through learning, reference and advisory activities to the exclusion of the very considerable possibility of adult education through group approach to the individual which could have greatly raised the inherent value of the library to its community and also enhanced the status of the library and the librarian in society.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the idea of public libraries serving as effective institutions for the education of the tremendous population of adult illiterates in India, has so far failed to gain any belief in the minds of her educational administration, although they universally accept the importance of the role of libraries in national reconstruction. The general belief with them seems to be that libraries have use only for those who have ability to read, and for others, *i.e.* for illiterates, they are like "Light-poles of streets in a city of the blind". There

is an obvious force of logic in their belief. Yet, it is not wholly valid.

People are not easily persuaded to take the trouble of learning to read and write until they are convinced that the knowledge gained thereby will open up avenues of advancement in their life-condition, in their pursuing more gainful occupations. Advocates of libraries all over the world have contended that libraries can and do perform this persuasive function. A modern library does not confine its resources to books and other printed materials only. It has films, filmstrips, pictures, radio, television as part of its stock-in-trade. These latter do not require an initiation into the art of interpreting them through the use of books. They have an appeal even to unlettered and untutored minds. When the illiterate masses realise that the pictured panorama is only a part of the wonderland that lies concealed behind the letters in books, it is not unlikely that they will be induced to gain acquaintance with letters and become literate and then learn the art of assimilating the message of books. And, besides the printed materials and audio-visual aids, even in small public libraries, there is the librarian who is there to act "Like a fitter between the flood of books and the people's thirst for knowledge." In fact, apart from professional qualification, a good librarian like our preceptor's of old, should be blessed with a real passion for this noble ministry—an unbounded passion, unfailing goodwill and a keen desire to help those who are in search of the light of knowledge.

My main object, however, in presenting this paper is not to convert the non-believers in the validity of the above philosophy of public library service, their conversion will I hope, come in due course, through the demonstration of the efficacy of the services rendered by public library themselves—but to examine and evaluate our present National Adult Education Programme in the light of this philosophy.

3 NAEP (NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME)

The present National Adult Education Programme was inaugurated by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare (Government of India) on 2nd October, 1978 and its scheme is now in operation throughout the country.

The declared objective of this Programme is to organise adult education programmes, with literacy as an indispensable component, for approximately 65 million illiterate adults in 15-35 age-group within five years of the launching of this programme (*i.e.*, between 1978-79 and 1983-84).

The Government's policy statement relating to this programme says:

"Exclusion of a vast majority of the people from the process of education is a most disturbing aspect of educational and social planning...which determined efforts must be made to universalise elementary education upto the age of 14 years, educational facilities must be extended to adult population to remedy their educational deprivation and to enable them to develop their potentiality... The Government have, therefore, resolved to wage a clearly conceived well planned and relentless struggle against their illiteracy to enable the masses to play an active role in social and cultural change. Literacy ought to be recognised as an

integral part of an individual's personality."[1]

A very well meaning and laudable statement indeed.

Lest we forget that a similar high sounding a pious-wishing statement had been made earlier too in respect of an identical programme, I may be permitted to quote an extract from a Ministry of Education publication issued more than twenty years ago in 1956. The publication said this:

"Adult Education prospered in India, and may be said to have come into its own, to some extent, when in 1937-38 popular Ministry took over the reins of Government for the first time in the Provinces".[2] In 1946, the first National Government came into being. This historic event started a new ferment in the field of adult education. Educationists who had been concerned with the problems for many years, began to look for a formula which would represent this new ferment and link it up with the new national aspirations. It was in 1948, that the concept found adequate expression in term "Social Education", which deepened and vitalised the narrower concept of Adult Education which had so far held the field. Ever since adult education has been envisaged in India as " 'Social Education' with its emphasis not on literacy alone, but on better and completer living"[3]

It may be mentioned that one of the main institutions through which this social education programme was to function were the "Literacy classes", introduced with the object of achieving total literacy within a defined period of time, a responsibility which it had inherited from the preceding adult education movement. It may also be mentioned that like the present Adult Education Programme, the implementation of the Social Education Programme too was entrusted to a completely new set of functionaries and public libraries were hardly associated with the detailed working of this programme.

We all know about the ignominous fate of the Social Education Programme and how it was scrapped lock, stock and barrel unceremoniously.

It seems that our educational administrators get into fits of periodic soul-searching, resulting in the production of ad hoc formulae to cure the chronic illiteracy of the Indian masses. But the disease has proved so stubborn and persisting, that instead of getting cured, it had been getting worse. How else could one explain the stark fact that illiterates in India have arisen from 247 million in 1951 to 307 million in 1971 ! And figures do not lie.

Reverting to the current Adult Education Programme, let me briefly mention how much this programme is ultimately going to cost the national exchequer.

The total cost of the entire programme is estimated to be Rs. 686 crores—not a mean amount—which is three times more than the amount earmarked for this purpose in the Sixth Five Year Plan (which

[1]National Adult Education Programme : An outline. 1978. Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi. P 21.

[2]At that time this Adult Education Programme was labelled as 'Mass Literacy' programme.

[3]Social Education in India. 1956. Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.

is Rs. 200 crores). Evidently, the framers of the NAEP Plan are anxious to make sure that the plan does not fail for want of funds, irrespective of the burden it imposed on the poor tax-payers. Some prophets of doom were uncharitable enough to prognosticate that this colossal sum will ultimately go down the drains[4]. Supposing it did. How could the planners help, if the illiterates of India persistently refuse to be converted into literates.

Planners of NAEP[5] also took care to prepare a meticulously detailed programme of working phasing their prospective achievements in literacy yearwise, also drawing up a detailed curriculum, framming the scheme of its resources development, giving details of its implementation, the identification of its instructional agencies, its well graded administrative and supervisory staff and so on and so forth. Perhaps it was some such planning which made a wag define Planning "as writing out a plan on a piece of paper".

I have no desire to arrogate to myself the role of a critic of this well meaning programme, although my first impression was that it was overambitious and too costly. But, as a librarian, it made me feel sad to see that in the list of the implementational agencies of the programme, public libraries were conspicuous by their absence and, as of old, the planning bureacrats had treated this institution very cavalierly and with utter disregard. As if, to them public libraries, which are engaged all over the civilised world in disseminating adult education did not exist in India. In fact neither the libraries nor the librarians are mentioned anywhere in the entire blueprint of the programme—the instructional agencies named are school teachers, students, village youths, ex-servicemen and other retired personnel, field level Government and non-official institutions and voluntary social welfare agencies supported by a long list of adult educational functionaries, including project officers, organisers, supervisors, instructors and their ancillary staff—but the libraries and librarians do not find even a passing mention.

Indeed, my sense of pique was not aroused merely because the above mentioned disregard of the august institution and the noble profession which I had served with devotion all my life—in fact I took a hand in giving a start to the working of this programmes in my state myself. But after a further careful study of this programme in the light of my previous experience of similar programme, combined with some practical experience of the working of the present programme. I felt convinced that its implementation was impossible unless it was made public library based.

Let me briefly mention, serially, the arguments in support of my above conviction and also in support of my plea for the integration of the present National Adult Education Programme with public Library services:

[4]It seems that this prophecy is going to prove true because no less a person than the Union Education Minister himself is reported to have said the other day while speaking on the annual day function of the College of Vocational Studies in Delhi, that the fund allocated for adult education has been thoroughly misutilised and there had been no worthwhile work.

[5]Training of Adult Education Functionaries. Directorate of Adult Education, Government of India, New Delhi. P 61.

(*i*) The successful example of the public library based adult education programmes in the Western Countries, of which I had an opportunity of personal study and observation.

(*ii*) The universal recognition of the similarity between the aims and methods of the public library services and adult education programmes in the matter of imparting nonformal education.

(*iii*) The undeniable utility and efficacy of public library services in doing adult educational work through their extension work, mainly through audio-visual programmes, and book mobile service.

(*iv*) The public library, wherever it exists is a popular and well known educational centre and can easily be utilized as a forum for adult educational work. The adult educational functionaries in the present NAEP are left free to fend for themselves in the matter of locating the instructional centres.

(*v*) The implementational agencies named in the Programme are amorphous and unidentifiable and have to be organised while the public library is a traditional and universally recognised institution for disseminating non-formal education in the community.

(*vi*) If the public library is used as the centre for adults' instruction, they will have the additional advantage of gaining some familiarity in advance, with the printed materials they may have to use in the later stages of the programme.

(*vii*) The proximity to books in the library shall infuse into them a desire to learn. Thus begets the need for learning and the need for learning begets a need for reading.

(*viii*) Public libraries can easily be equipped to serve as resource centres for adult education programmes at various locational levels, without incurring much additional cost, as is being incurred now.

(*ix*) The training of librarians and adult educators can easily be combined to mutual advantage with slight modifications in their theoretical and practical curricula.

(*x*) If the two services—the public library and adult education services are integrated, and their financial, material and staff resources pooled together, the existing public library system in the country could be easily revamped. It may even be possible to establish new public libraries in rural areas where none exist and may be, in this way the long-cherished dream of a public library in every village come true.

4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

With all the above irrefutable advantages in favour of an integrated library-cum-adult education service, one can easily ask why the libraries were ignored and disregarded completely by the planners of NAEP.

The obvious answer is the incorrigible bureaucracy, combined with their habitual allergy to the opinion of the experts who always know better, and their chronic inability to learn from past experience, as also their time-serving approach which makes them approve of any goody-goody formula or scheme, fancied by their master that be.

But, it will be unfair to apportion all the blame for the shortcomings of the present NAEP to the educational administrators. I must be frank that the public

libraries and our professional organisations cannot be absolved from all the blame for the discomfiture caused to them on account of their being ignored completely.

Perhaps, the working of the public libraries has not been quite impressive and as such they have not been able to convince that they can play any useful role in the present programme and deliver the goods.

May be, this shortfall is due to their unremitting financial penury. One could make out a strong case for another look-over of their working at the national level (like what was done by Public Libraries Advisory Committee in 1958), to identify the shortfall in their services.

As for our national professional organisation, ILA, for whose remissness, I am humbly prepared to accept my share of the blame, it must be said with full justification that it has been guilty of culpable complaissance is not representing the case of the libraries in time, with the planners and thus letting their case go by default. Our Association has been like Rebert Brownings Poppa, who while she went about the street, sang.

God's in his heaven—All's right with the world.

I hopefully feel that it is not yet too late for the ILA to retrieve the situation. The reports from the Union Ministry of Education indicate that a fair wind is blowing and if the ILA does not set its sail leeward in time, it will do so at its peril.

Role of Libraries in Developing Countries for Rural Uplift

CV SUBBA RAO*

Analyses the data regarding relevant factors (libraries, educational institutions, publications, mass communication media and effect on rural societies for development) for five countries from each category of developed, developing and underdeveloped countries. Concludes that libraries as a source of mass social change are far outnumbered by other effective methods such as radio, cinema and village level worker but adds that libraries have an indirect role to educate educators.

1 CONJECTURES

To grasp the expanse of the problem, data on the relevant factors about 'Developed', 'Developing' and 'Under-developed' countries is to be analysed. The classification is applied at the level of United Nations itself. The factors relevant are Educational Institutions, Libraries, Publications, Mass Communication Media and Effect on Rural Societies for Development.

11 EXPECTATIONS

The plan initially is to establish a range for the Factors in the Type of country. When the gap is established, basing on the Economic/Social History of development, to arrive at money, manpower, method and time equivalents. There could only be a broad-frame work, showing direction to success *i.e.* macro-level planning.

2 EDUCATION TABLES

The Pupil/Teacher ratio is an important determinant, to measure what message on rural development or illiteracy the rural teacher could carry, and how effective could be such a channel. In overcrowded classes, the transfer of knowledge from teacher to pupil is subject to loss, and sub-standard pupils come out of such schooling. To invest more responsibilities of communication on such a system will be counter production.

21 WHEN OF USE

But, if the teacher-pupil ratio indicates optimal pressure, the additional responsibility could be vested and the capacity to penetrate into the rural masses measured and planned, for 'developed' and 'developing' countries.

22 DATA REVELATIONS

It is unfortunate that 'under-developed' countries have great gaps in data, that

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defeat the basis of planning. Still the available data shows that there are some significent factors which are noticeable between "Developed" and "Developing" countries.

221 *Range of Teacher-Pupil Ratio*

Below 20 ratio for Teacher-pupil relationship, at all stages, (Elementary, High school, University) seems desirable. Almost all countries are upto the mark at the university level. But at Elementary and High School Levels the "Developed" and "Developing" countries part company. The ratio is above 30 or 40 at Elementary level and is on the borders of 30 for High School, which means over-worked teachers and oversized classes, and loss in transfer of knowledge through teaching.

222 *Wise Planning in "Developing" Countries*

In spite of being "Developing countries", Brazil and Hungary, have almost the same range as "Developed" countries. Per-capita income and illiteracy load are not scuttling criteria, and wise planning can take place in the field of education. The countries need be studied in detail to discover the methods employed.

2221 *Sliding In "Developed" Countries.*

The case of Japan, which had an enviable system of high standard seems to be losing the grip, if the ratio is viewed at Elementary and High School levels. There is need to reform Elementary Education in Japan.

2222 *"Developing" but "Under-Developed Cases*

Egypt, Iran and India are "Developing" by category, but do not seem to pay much attention to Educational Planning at Elementary/High School levels. Indications for the future are lower standards of attainment which would at as a deterrent to progress.

23 SOLUTION

The solution lies in reducing the Teacher-pupil ratio at Elementary and High School levels. More schools, more teachers and hence more training colleges are called for. The case of USSR seems ideal and balanced, as it is a totally planned economy among the "Developed countries", but other "Developed countries" are equally close to the ideal.

3 ILLITERACY TABLES

The Rural problem in "Developing" and "Under-developed" countries is befogged by illiteracy. The "Printed word" as the method of communication loses its position. Visual, audio and audio-visual methods are essential, and the conventional library, comes only afterwards. Microforms and print-outs are not the answer. It is the radio, cinema, television, which can be used to transfer knowledge and information. If knowledge/information transfer is done properly, literacy does not stand in the way of development of a country. In spite of illiteracy, low per capita income, a sophisticated democracy can be worked out by the wise exercise of franchise, and change of governments by counting votes, not losing heads.

31 GENERAL OBSERVATION

Illiteracy has been wiped out in "Developed" countries. 'Developing'

and "Under-developed" countries have a heavy load to carry. Hungary and Chile seem to be exceptions, which have comparatively lighter weight of 2% and 12% respectively.

32 Cinema

321 *Seating Capacity*

Hungary has the best, 53 per thousand, Chile, Sri Lanka and Brazil are in double figures. The position of India, Iraq and Egypt with 7, 5 and 4 respectively per thousand, underlines inadequacy.

322 *Cinema Habit*

As revealed by attendance annually and per head ratio, India stands next to USSR in attendance. Brazil and Burma seemed to have an upward swing, though inadequate, per inhabitant, USSR has the highest (18), Burma (8), Hungary (7) and India (4) per year attendance. In India, if cinema is used to approach illiterate population, by wise planned education programmes, it can prove to be extremely effective. The other countries "developing" and "under-developed", have not given sufficient attention, though the problem of illiteracy is staggering.

33 Radio

In the group of "developing" and "under-developed" countries, India joins "under-developed" countries (24), while Chile joins "developing" countries, (298) per thousand. In India for every 15 illiterates, a radio is available. If radio sets are doubled and cheapened it would be ideal to gather 6 or 7 around a radio, to listen to well planned educative programmes. Most of the "developed" and "developing" countries have taken to Radio as a Mass Media, except for under-developed countries and India.

34 Television

Brazil and Hungary are ahead of the countries in the group, Chile and Iraq have a long way to go. Rest are just starters. As a medium of communication, obviously, TV does not have much weight at present. Radio and TV as a combination are better equipped to carry message to people in countries of "developed" and "developing" groups, except for India and Egypt.

35 Conclusion

Radio and cinema seem to be effective media in India, to be exploited for educational purposes of communication.

4 RELIANCE ON SOURCES OF INFORMATION

In a rural community, even if information is communicated, habits of the people to seek the source and the reliance they place on the source, have a wide impact on the results. Singh (IB) and Sahay (BN) have tabulated useful information in "Communication behaviour and social change", which are quoted, in the rest of the article.

41 Main Sources

Village level worker (63.76%), Radio (71.01%), Neighbour (44.92%) and village Elders (30%), occupy the pride of place as sources in a progressive village. Village level worker (VLW) (70%), Village

Elders (77%), Demonstration (33%), and Radio (32%) are the sources sought with the weightage in a non-progressive village.

441 Comments

VLW seems to be a key figure and overshadows the highly paid scientific community in the field of Agriculture. After development takes place, Radio takes over, as the most sought source. Village elders and neighbours are an influence, though less prominent. The pattern does not get altered in the agricultural community, for high yielding varieties either by, extent of use of information or first source of information.

42 Results of Economic Programmes

The factor that 'increase in literacy" is sought by 40%, alongwith rise in comforts of life (40%), is a sign of intelligence and forward looking peasantry.

43 Conclusion

If Radio, cinema and village level workers are combined wisely, the transfer of knowledge/information is not that difficult. Literacy is only one of the methods of transference of knowledge, through printed word medium.

5 CONCLUSION

Libraries as a source of mass social change, are far outnumbered by more effective methods, of radio, cinema and village level worker in an illiterate setting. Transference of knowledge or information is direct in the audio-visual media. Libraries have their pride of place in helping spread of knowledge, after literacy, through public and school libraries. But the duty of literacy spreading and mass communication is not that of a librarian, but of a social worker. In the context of having over-loaded educational institutions, radio and cinema lessons, multiply a million fold, a teacher's contribution. The selection of broadcasting teachers, planning lessons, programming the radio by exclusively devoting a wave band could be effective. With documentaries, cinema could be a long way to eradicate illiteracy. VLW with slides and slide projector, could spread literacy speedier with less efforts.

51 Role of Libraries

Libraries have an indirect role, to educate the educators. Let libraries and librarians know that they are not intended to be direct communicators. If research is solidly backed by public, school, college, university and special libraries to solve the problem of communication through planned programmes, lessons and training, its job is done.

52 Limitations

To observe essential factors and to know the direction five countries from each group are selected. Unfortunately lack of data has prevented observations on under development. The issues raised should spur readers to furthur work and more precise solutions based on a firm bed of facts. It is a faltering first step.

Table 1

Education

S. No.	Region	Level	Education			Population Millions
			Students	Teachers	Students Teachers	
1	Africa	1st level	41843	1049	42	
		2nd level	7410	311	25	
		3rd level	799	51	16	
			50052	1411 Over all	35	401
2	North America	1st level	29703	1336	24	
		2nd level	22312	1204	18	
		3rd level	10930	677	17	
			62945	3217	20	237
3	Latin America	1st level	55391	1990	23	
		2nd level	11487	784	14	
		3rd level	3093	253	13	
			69971	3027	23	324
	AMERICA	TOTAL	132916	6244	21	561
4	Asia	1st level	149076	4330	35	
		2nd level	56808	3027	19	
		3rd level	6905	458	15	
			21278	7815	28	2256
5	Europe	1st level	51325	2337	23	
		2nd level	32341	2303	14	
		3rd level	6494	581	12	
			90160	5221	17	473

NOTE : Students and Teachers are given in thousands.

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook, 1977*, UNESCO.

Table 2

Education

	PRE Students (in 1000)	Primary Teachers (in 1000)	Level I Students (in 1000)	Primary Teachers (in 1000)	Level II Students (in 1000)	Secondary Teachers (in 1000)	Level III Students (in 1000)	Univ. Teachers (in 1000)	Proportion by levels Pre-pri.	Primary	Sec.	Univ.
USA	4858	6	26846	1354	20546	1109	111859	670	—	19	19	16·7
UK	50	108	5386	242	4230	3125	547	—	28	23	13	—
FRG	1567	—	6425	—	3815	—	836	104	—	—	—	8·3
Japan	2292	94	10365	417	9125	512	2249	192	25	25	18	12
USSR (+9)	8403	731	35961	2399	10738	—	4854	317	11·5	15	6	15
Egypt (+10)	42	—	4121	118	2108	79	403	19	—	37	26	20
Brazil	566	26	19287	887	1682	156	955	64	22	22	11	14
Iraq	175	7	4468	152	2183	82	135	12	25	30	23	11
Hungary	330	31	1051	67	372	22	103	12	15	16	17	9
India	445	—	64708	1559	—	—	2230	—	—	62	—	—
Sri Lanka	—	—	1385	—	1089	—	15	2	—	—	—	8
Ethiopia	—	—	959	—	191	7	6	0.5	—	—	27	12
Nigeria	—	—	4890	—	568	—	33	51	—	—	—	7
Chile	93	3	2243	—	466	—	150	11	31	—	—	14
Burma	—	—	3476	—	—	—	561	—	—	—	—	—

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook 1977.* UNESCO.

Table 3

Illiteracy and mass communication

	Country	Illiteracy		Cinema				Radio receivers		Television receivers	
		15 years of age & above Illiterates		Seat capacity		Annual attendance					
		(Thousands)	Per cent	Total thousand	Per 1000	Total million	Per Inhabitant	Number 1000 units	Per 1000 Inhabitants	Number 1000 units	Per 1000 Inhabitants
A	1 USA	1435	1·0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2 UK	—	—	879	16	116	2	42000	750	17641	315
	3 Germany (FRG)	—	—	895	15	121	2	20909	388	18920	306
	4 Japan	310	2·2	1107	10	186	—	51620	465	26030	235
	5 USSR (9+)	439	0·3	—	—	4497	18	116000	465	52500	208
B	1 Egypt (10+)	15611	56·5	141	4	65	2	5120	138	620	17
	2 Brazil	18147	33·8	1027	10	275	3	16380	158	10680	100
	3 Iraq	30895	75·8	54	5	—	—	1250	116	350	37
	4 Hungary	194	2·0	562	53	74	7	2541	243	2296	219
	5 India	211639	66·6	3955	7	2260	4	14075	24	275	0·5
C	1 Sri Lanka	17363	22·4	184	13	56	4	530	38	—	—
	2 Ethiopia	11670	94.0	26	1	—	—	200	7	20	0·7
	3 Nigeria	17980	84·6	60	1	—	0·5	5000	82	110	1·8
	4 Chile	629	11·9	186	18	—	—	3100	298	750	72
	5 Burma	5448	40·3	303	11	223	8	659	22	—	—

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook, 1977.* UNESCO.

Table 4

Credibility of source of information as perceived by the farmers

S. No.	Source of Information	Progressive Village (Jagani) N=69			Non-Progressive Village (Mirganj) N=66		
		Number ranked	Per cent	Rank order	Number ranked	Per cent	Rank order
1	Neighbours	31	44·92	III	20	28·98	V
2	Relatives	14	20·28	VI	16	24·24	VI
3	Village Leaders	27	39·13	IV	53	76·81	I
4	Village Level Workers (VLW)	44	63·76	II	48	69·56	II
5	AEO	8	11·59	VIII	8	12·12	VII
6	PEO	7	10·14	VIII	3	4·54	X
7	Cooperative	1	1·44	X	6	9·09	VIII
8	Radio	49	71·01	I	22	31·88	IV
9	Demonstration	20	28·98	V	23	33·33	III
10	Self Experience	6	8·69	IX	1	1·51	IX

SOURCE : *Communication behaviour & social change* by IB Singh & BN Sahay, p. 52-53, Tables 7 & 8.

Table 5

Extent of utilization of sources of information about high-yielding of crops

S. No.	Source of Information	Progressive Village (Jagani) N=69			Non-Progressive Village (Mirganj) N=66		
		Paddy %	Wheat %	Maize %	Paddy %	Wheat %	Maize %
	PERSONAL LOCALITE						
1	Neighbours	18·84	23·18	—	16·66	16·66	3·03
2	Relatives	4·34	4·34	—	4·54	9·09	1·51
3	Friends	—	—	—	7·57	10·66	—
4	Village Leaders	15·94	14·49	2·89	27·27	22·72	4·54
	PERSONAL COSMOPOLITE						
5	Village Level Workers (VLW)	26·08	24·63	5·79	31·81	28·78	10·60
6	Agricultural Extension Officer (AEC)	1·44	1·44	1·44	16·66	19·69	7·57
7	Project Executive Officer (PEO)	5·79	13·02	—	7·57	10·66	5·54
8	Panchyat	1·44	2·89	—	—	—	—
9	Cooperative	4·34	11·59	—	1·51	3·03	—
	MASS MEDIA						
10	Radio	2 ·73	28·98	4·34	15·15	16·66	3·03
11	Demonstration	13·04	14·19	4·34	9·09	7·57	—
12	Exhibition	2·89	2·89	—	—	—	—
13	Printed Materials	4·34	10·14	—	1·51	3·03	—
14	Self Experience	8·69	7·24	—	10·60	10·60	1·51

Note : Percentage add up to more than 100 since cultivators used more than one source.

SOURCE : *Communication behaviour & social change* by IB Singh & BN Sahay, p. 49-50, Table 6.

Table 6

First source of information about high-yielding varieties of crops

S. No.	Source of Information	Progressive Village (Jagani) N=69			Non-Progressive Village (Mirganj) N=66		
		Paddy %	Wheat %	Maize %	Paddy %	Wheat %	Maize %
	PERSONAL LOCALITE						
1	Neigbours	7·24	7·24	5·79	6·06	6·06	1·51
2	Relatives	8·69	2·89	4·34	3·03	3·03	4·54
3	Friends	—	—	—	3·03	1·51	—
4	Village Leaders	7·24	2·89	4·34	21·21	16·66	—
	PERSONAL COSMOPOLITE						
5	Village level workers	27·53	24·63	4·34	19·69	22·72	6·06
6	Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO)	10·14	5·79	2·89	13·63	7·57	1·51
7	Project Executive Officer (PEO)	5·79	7·24	—	—	4·54	1·51
8	Panchayat	4·34	8·69	1·44	—	—	1·51
9	Cooperative	4·34	7·24	5·19	—	—	—
	MASS MEDIA						
10	Radio	10·14	15·94	10·14	4·54	10·60	4·54
11	Printed Materials	7·24	5·79	1·44	6·06	4·54	—
12	Market (Haats)	2·89	4·34	7·24	7·57	10·60	25·75

SOURCE : *Communication behaviour & social change* by IB Singh & BN Sahay, p. 45-46, Table-5.

Table 7

Perception about social change by the farmers of the progressive and non-progressive village

S. No.	Area and type of changes perceived	Progressive Village N=69 Per cent	Non-Progressive Village N=66 Per cent
	ECONOMIC		
1	Rise in standard of living	(28) 40·57	(17) 25·75
2	Increase in expenditure on social and religious performance	(21) 30·43	(11) 16·66
3	Increase in sense of competition and consciousness for economic development	(19) 27·53	(8) 12·12
	SOCIAL		
4	Increase in social prestige	(7) 10·14	(3) 4·54
5	Increase in outside contact and broader friend circle	(15) 21·73	(7) 10·60
	EDUCATIONAL		
6	Increase in literacy	(27) 39·13	(14) 21·21
	POLITICAL		
7	Increase in political consciousness and growth of leadership	(9) 13·04	(1) 1·51

SOURCE : *Communication behaviour & social change* by IB Singh & BN Sahay, p. 97, Table 21.

Table 8

Libraries

Countries	Year	National		Hr. Education		School		Special		Public	
		No. of Lib.	No. of Vol. in 1000	No. of Lib.	No. of Vol. in 1000	No. of Lib.	No. of Vol. in 1000	No. of Lib.	No. of Vol. in 1000	No. of Lib.	No. of Vol. in 1000
A. *Developed Countries*											
1 USA	1974	4	19567	3421	406793	74625	507000	355	26794	8337	387564
2 Germany (FRG)	1974	3	81555	4185	86000	—	—	1300	48000	2500	40000
3 UK	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Japan	—	1	2958	1299	82391	38583	202700	2006	30000	895	38849
5 USSR	—	1	26022	—	—	173900	456000	59000	1558000	130653	1507836
B. *Developing Countries*											
1 Egypt	1972	1	954	112	2591	—	—	313	1605	156	1029
2 Brazil	1974	1	2624	613	9412	—	—	570	7528	2332	12665
3 Hungary	1974	1	1955	24	5091	5330	11276	70	35950	8297	30583
4 Iraq	—	1	68	27	696	4359	1668	4	78	24	195
5 India	—	1	1510	90	11171	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. *Under-Dev. Countries*											
1 Sri Lanka	1974	—	—	40	624	595	1319	49	406	324	052
2 Ethiopia	—	—	—	1	325	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Nigeria	—	3	121	9	490	—	—	95	384	75	132
4 Chile	—	1	2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	718	—
5 Burma	1971	1	576	17	353	—	—	—	—	43	305

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook, 1977.* UNESCO.

Table 9

Publication non-dailies

Countries	Year	Number	Circulation		Year	Number		Circulation	
			Total 1000	Per 1000 inhabitant		Total	1 3 times a week	Total 1000 mil.	Per 1000 inhabitants
A. *Developed Countries*									
1 USA	1975	1812	61222	287	1975	9589	9404	—	—
2 UK	—	111	21700	388	1975	1092	—	—	—
3 Germany (FRG)	—	334	19298	312	1975	41	41	3375	55
4 Japan	1974	180	57820	526	—	—	—	—	—
5 USSR	1975	691	100928	397	1975	7294	—	67105	264
B. *Developing Countries*									
1 Egypt	1974	14	773	21	1972	24	15	920	25
2 Brazil	1973	280	4050	39	1973	856	624	—	—
3 Iran	1974	20	484	15	1974	51	—	96	3
4 Hungary	1975	27	2454	233	1975	79	18	4791	455
5 India	—	835	9383	16	1975	4146	2856	7322	12
C. *Under Dev. Countries*									
1 Sri Lanka	1975	18	—	—	1975	138	46	—	—
2 Ethiopia	1975	8	70	2·5	1975	6	6	35	1
3 Nigeria	1975	12	613	—	1974	25	25	460	6
4 Chile	1975	47	—	—	1974	72	42	—	—
5 Burma	1975	7	319	10	—	—	—	—	—

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook, 1977.* UNESCO.

Table 10

Books by subject groups (Number of Titles)

	Country	Year	Total	Generalities	Philosophy	Religion	Social Science	Pure Science	Applied Science	Arts	Literature	Geogr. History	Children's Books
A	*Developed Countries*												
1	USA	1975	85287	1142	1419	1969	8849	2845	6004	3530	6961	3048	2292
2	UK	—	35526	806	1146	1180	6622	3622	5694	3637	9075	3744	3688
3	Germany (FRG)	—	40616	3123	663	2293	11320	2601	5159	2386	10041	3030	2422
4	Japan	—	34590	1076	604	773	9918	1672	8441	1997	7297	2812	1772
5	USSR	—	78697	2040	1228	232	19151	7312	32534	2399	11427	2374	3031
B	*Developing Countries*												
1	Egypt	1974	31	1	—	—	9	—	—	1	18	2	—
2	Brazil	1975	12296	1212	409	1021	3055	1330	1060	598	2902	709	—
3	Iraq	—	595	16	13	44	251	28	10	15	144	74	—
4	Hungary	—	8603	243	85	67	2153	763	2747	633	1424	488	85
5	India	—	12708	250	350	1025	4245	532	874	250	4337	845	455
C	*Under Dev. Countries*												
1	Sri Lanka	—	1153	2	30	157	424	43	118	78	229	72	25
2	Ethiopia	—											
3	Nigeria	—	1324	212	13	40	443	49	271	47	217	32	72
4	Chile	1974	796	4	22	76	245	45	81	21	207	95	24
5	Burma	—	1164	25	37	195	70	13	60	16	626	27	95

SOURCE : *Statistical yearbook, 1977.* UNESCO.

The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries

KR RAO*

Discusses how proper utilization of existing resources and improvement of existing services can help in overcoming the problems created due to the rising prices of books. Suggests that libraries should go for microforms of documents to save space and money. Makes out a case for inter-library loan and co-operative acquisition programmes.

At the end of 1947 there were twenty universities in our country and they were nothing more than examining bodies, although gradually they took up teaching and research work as well. Their libraries were very small.

After independence and especially since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan the UGC has been spending crores of rupees for helping university libraries by giving substantial grants for building up library collections, for buildings, for fixtures and furniture. It has been following a liberal policy throughout. As a result we have at the close of the 5th Plan the number of University Libraries including the deemed University have almost reached the hundred mark, the library of each university has a sizable collection of books and periodicals. It is hardly necessary to mention here that the cost of books and periodicals is going up year after year. There are periods of sudden spurt in the cost of paper, printing and labour charges. The question of constant increase in the cost of books has become a natural phenomenon which we are witnessing for the last 20 years or so. The inflation in USA and UK affect the cost of books imported by us and also it fluctuates according to the values of their currencies in relation to our own from time to time. Even the cost of our Indian books is going up. The average cost of a books in 1960's was about Rs. 20/- but today it is about Rs. 50/-. Similarly the subscription rates of foreign periodicals has increased enormously. Same is the case with our Indian journals due to the rise in the cost of paper and printing.

In spite of the enormous increase in the subscription the learned periodicals cannot be dispened with or even their number reduced as they contain the most nascent thought in the field and are very useful for research workers. It is through these journals that is possible for an author to publish even a small article

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within a short time and he need not wait unduly for a long time to bring out a full-length book on the subject of his interest. The number of these learned periodicals are also increasing at an alarming rate all over the world. Prior to independence there were hardly 5 Indian periodicals devoted to social sciences and now it is over 863 as per the survey conducted by the ICSSR in 1973. The result is that the high cost has directly or indirectly affected the library finances. Many efforts have been made from time to time to reduce the cost of especially foreign books by Indo-American Low Cost Text Books arrangements and some State Governments have taken up on an experimental basis nationalisation of text books. The State Governments have made efforts in large-scale production of text books with a view to reducing their cost. To bring down the prices of foreign books which invariably form text books at the university level, arrangements have been made to bring out low cost Eastern Economy Editions. But yet these and other methods have not helped much in reducing the burden on library finance especially on book purchase. It is said that it is uneconomical to publish any Indian book less than 1000 copies and after publication, it is known that the libraries only can buy them.

The periodicals which form the backbone of research are increasing both in number and cost of subscription. Hardly anything can be done in respect of periodicals except to have local, regional or even national cooperation in their use by following a liberal inter-library loan system. I very much doubt how far it is practicable to adopt a policy to coordinate purchasing of books and periodicals by a number of libraries jointly as it involves the burden of collective ownership and accountability. However some attempts were made by large scientific institutions in the city of Bombay. They formed an association called BOSLA (Bombay Scientific Librarian's Association) and instructed the publishers to supply books directly to them by-passing the retailers. How far BOSLA could conserve the grant and make a better use of it is has not been ascertained. But one thing seems to be clear that a few scientific libraries could join together and do this kind of job. But certainly this cannot work when a vast number of general readers and universities which need books on all subjects like physical, social and biological Sciences as well as on humanities and literature. The immediate effect was that it did hit the very existence of a few ratailers and put their vocation in jeopardy and there were wide-spread protest meetings in the city expressing concern over the libraries entering book trade themselves. Their fears were genuine as the venture was a threat to their existence.

Librarians should keep in mind their primary duty of providing efficient services to scientists working in their institutions, by applying all the library techniques for the benefit of the readers and not compete with booksellers and enter into commercial activity. There are innumerable problems existing in the administration and management of the library itself which have to be faced and solved and we should not dissipate our energies on only one activity which is equally important. While considering the factors affecting the development of libraries, cost of books *per se* is not the only thing that has

to be taken into account. The cost of other items like building, furniture etc. which are necessary for its upkeep must also be taken into consideration. The rise in the prices is a universal phenomenon affecting all commodities. This should be taken care of by the funding authorities like the UGC or the Government by increasing the grant adequately.

It would be pertinent to recall that even the Government of India attempted in 1973 to nationalise the import of foreign books. The steps taken did not yield worth-while results and they went unnoticed and no attempt was made later to evaluate its effects on the intellectual life of the country. Now the import of books and journals are left to the book trade and they are doing fairly a good job except in a few cases in which they are unable to help us. The rising cost should not be the only concern for libraries. A cursory glance at any university library will convince that there is enromous growth of literature and in fact enormous amount is wasted in duplication of materials. We should meet the situation by a more judious spending of the availabe grants.

Mere acquisition of the materials will not be of any use unless they are processed within the least minimum time lag. In many libraries classification and cataloguing work is in arrears and hundreds of volumes are held up in the processing department itself. This is due to the fact many libraries are not adopting the guidelines recommended by the Library Committee of the UGC (1959) with regard to the utilization of book grants by working out a rationalistic staff formula. Libraries are understaffed. Most of them are busy in routine work like book ordering, accessioning, classifying, cataloguing, issuing and other routine work behind the screen. Reference service is the most pivotal work in the library which needs to be strengthened. This is a realistic picture of the situation in many libraries. But we find that the funds are always on the increase while the number of staff remains more or less constant for years.

My plea is that we need not lament over the rise in the cost of books which at the most results in getting less number of books for the same grant but we must improve library services by increasing the technical staff and exploit fully the resources of the library for the benefit of users especially researchers.

After all we must accept the limits of growth. Abnormal growth in the size of library collection renders shelf space, floor space, catalogue space and even the space for reading room inadequate. All these naturally add to the cost of the books and their proper upkeep. We must take note of the ever increasing population in a developing country like ours. In this technological age there exists wide gap between the developed countries and the developing countries in regard to the technical know-how and other scientific information. Loss of time at any level in information transfer would be detrimental and intolerable. It is the moral responsibility of the developed countries to help provide the necessary assistance in the development of education by quick means of dissemination of information. The only hope lies in sharing knowledge among the developing societies or countries by teaching the techniques for mutual benefit. Hence when we think of library finances, there should be a link between the level of library budget and the level of library use. I feel that very little has been

done in this direction. Periodic evaluation of library utilization and the demand on its resources must be assessed before asking for an increase in the book budget. After all we must take into account other costs also like the cost of a library extension or even the construction of a mezannine floor for storage facilities.

We are now on the threshold of a new era in library organisation. We have discovered new methods of information storage and retrieval. The conventional books and newspapers are being replaced by microfilms and microfiches. Although it has not become very popular in a developing country like ours, it has made quite a headway in the West. One will be surprised to know that compared to paper, microfilms and microfiches are cheaper and easier to handle and distribute. The greatest benefit is of course the saving of space. Microfilms take up only small space. It is estimated that a library of 60,000 volumes can be easily stored in a single drawer of a filing cabinet! It would not be an exaggeration to say that microfilms are the foreruners of paper-less publishing in the near future. The future libraries will be of microfilms and microfiches. The advantages of microfilm editions of books and periodicals, are innumerable. As regards periodicals, libraries continuously face the problem of incomplete bound volumes and missing issues. This problem can be overcome by taking out microfilm editions and also rare books, and documents can be had on microfilm. It costs less than paper, for example, the cost of annual subscription to *International Dissertation Abstracts* dealing with both Physical and Social Sciences in paperbound edition are costlier than the microfiche edition. It is estimated that microfiche edition of any document costs 37% less than that of paperbound edition.

Newspaper libraries which till recent times were facing the problem of storing huge files of newspapers, are now able to store them on compact reels. Within 5 to 6 reels the entire year's papers can be recorded and are available for reading through the microfilm reader. Moreover it does not need any airconditioned room to store, as they are tropicalised and they last for over 75 years. All these are indicators of the nature of future libraries. We need properly trained personnel in information retrieval to help research workers. The huge library buildings will be outdated and enormous shelving space will be at our disposal to store the ever increasing and never-ending frontiers of knowledge.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

1. The increasing cost of books is an universal phenomena throughout the world from say 1960 onwards especially regarding the rate of subscription to periodicals.
2. The periodicals are indispensable for research.
3. The UGC is taking care of the increase in cost and providing for the inflation in every Plan.
4. Libraries have enormous collections but not adequate staff as the staff formula has not been implemented in many libraries.
5. We must accept the limitation of growth of the collection.

6. We must pay more attention for better utilization of the resources already in the library by preparing subject bibliographies, documentation lists, indexing journals etc., than merely adding to the number of volumes.
7. Make efforts at all levels including Central and State to reduce the cost of text books by mass production.
8. Leave the book trade to booksellers and publishers and let library staff devote more time to their own duties and in improving library services.
9. Wherever possible procure microfilm and microfiche editions of books, journals, and doctoral theses etc. and make readers gradually get used to their use.
10. Instead of submitting demands for higher book funds from the UGC or any other funding authority, bring the system of inter-library loan into practice, for one must keep in mind that no library however large can acquire all the books or all the books even in one field and must therefore depend upon other libraries and also lend their books to others who need them.
11. Though some advocate cooperative purchase of books and subscription to pericdicals, it has not been experimented so far in our country except in a limited way and how far it will work satisfactorily will have to be ascertained.

The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries

NARINDER KUMAR SHARMA*

Describes the pricing technique adopted by publishers to fix price of a book. Taking a case study of Kurukshetra University Library, shows how the rising prices have appreciably affected the development pattern. Suggests remedial measures to overcome the price rise.

0 INTRODUCTION

To the professional group the word 'library' is not strange. Its meanings have already been assimilated by them and the mere utterance creates in an image of a physical plant where-in the trinity of books clientele and staff are found active-the books being in active use for inspiration and education of the community around and the staff to manage the stock and regulate use to the present and future needs of their patrons. Here the 'term' 'Books' may not be taken in its customary sense. Its meanings must be extended to include all types of publications such as books, periodicals (journals), patents, standards, reports etc. Again, in the world of publications, in the present context, we are concerned with priced publications that are acquired in libraries through purchase for the use of their clientele. The major share of the financial resources of a library is usually allocated to the purchase of reading material. For an integrated development of the libraries all the three constituents are important But, presently we are considering the detrimental impact of rising prices of books that makes the book-budget shrink as the libraries are able to acquire less number of titles with the same book grant.

1 PRICING TECHNIQUE

To illustrate the pricing technique of the publishers we postulate a publication of 200 pages and the publisher proposes to publish 500 copies of the book at the current rate of material, printing, binding charges etc. The Table 1 provides break up of costs of different items.

The total cost as given in the Table 1 is divided on 450 copies, because fifty copies are supposed to go as free for review or as complimentary copies to the author and subject specialists. As such the cost of the book comes to Rs. 16.80 per copy. The moderate publisher reasonably multiplies the cost with four and after

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Table 1

		Rate	Cost for the Books
1.	Printing and Composing	Rs. 17/- per page	Rs. 3400/-
2.	Paper	Rs. 200/- per ream total consumption being 7 reams of the size 23×36, each sheet giving 16 pages	Rs. 1400/-
3.	Binding (with silk screen printing on spine)	Rs. 2·75 per copy	Rs. 1375/-
4.	Jacket & Block Printing	Break up : (a) Paper Rs. 150/- (b) Colour Printing=Rs. 200/- (c) Block=Rs. 75/-	Rs. 425/-
5.	Proof-reading and Miscellaneous charges	—	Rs. 2000/-
6.	For 500 copies total cost	—	Rs. 7600/-

rounding fixes the price of the book. For the book taken as example, the reasonable price that shall be fixed by a publisher in the private sector is Rs. 70/- per copy at the current rates of the elements that make the book (paper, printing, binding, jacket etc.).

This was an instance of pricing a new publication. For older publication also the publishers review their prices from time to time by calculating the cost at the current rate and multiplying the cost with four, as such they paste/stamp/emboss new prices on older publications in case those are still in demand. A bookseller divulged his experience with foreign publications that the prices are increased in every new list of the publisher for the already published material. Further, the rates of exchange in case of U.S. dollar as compared to Indian Rupee has fluctuated towards the higher side during last decade.

In case of periodical publications that are mostly organs of some professional and learned societies, the position is happier as the subscription rates are calculated on actual costs with a nominal margin. Further, in this area only a fraction of privately owned publications are acquired in the libraries.

2 LIBRARY RESOURCES

Libraries being a welfare unit, these are mainly public institutions. They cannot depend upon their own income as it is always meagre (*i.e.*, main heads : (*i*) membership fee, (*ii*) over due charges), not the formulae of matching grants can work upon this. Need-based grants is the only criteria that can be practical.

These grants are usually of two types: recurring to meet regular requirements and non-recurring, also known as ad hoc grants that are neither ascertainable nor of uniform magnitude from year to year, for the uplift of libraries. In case of school and college libraries in India, the recurring book-budget depends upon the share from amalgamated funds allocated to the library for purchase of books. There are no uniform standards as its allocation and utilization depends upon the discretion of the principals of the institution. The magnitude of this book-budget. as such is always subjective. However, in the standards for College Libraries in Haryana 40% of the amalgamated fund has been suggested to be the minimum share as library book-budget. The amalgamated funds being charged from students during fifties in a college were Rs. 3/- and now-a-days, it is Rs. 5/- per student per month, we may safely state that this amount is becoming negligible day by day with rise in price-index and an extension of extra-curricular activities being covered by this fund. But, this cannot be increased so easily as the provision of educational facilities at the minimum cost is the fundamental requirement of the democratic structure of India and this being a welfare state also.

3 CASE STUDY

Leaving aside the central universities where total funds are made available by the UGC as per requirement of the central universities, other regional and state universities spend their regular state book-budget, the recurring grants towards payment of subscriptions of learned periodicals and the purchase of books is looked after through ad hoc state government grants or UGC assistance for a Plan Period. It has also been observed that as and when the UGC's assistance dwindles, the development rate has also been the minimal. For this purpose a glance, over the growth of Kurukshetra University Library for the last five years may be relevant.

Table 2

Stock

Year	Total stock	Books & backvolumes of periodicals added during the year	Remarks
1 April, 1975	1,31,008	2,033	1 Includes backvolumes of Periodicals got bound during the session and accessioned
2 April, 1976	1,38,287	7,279	
3 April, 1977	1,45,255	6,968	
4 April, 1978	1,54,385	9,130	2 Theses/Dissertations transferred from the Examination Branch
5 April, 1979	1,61,974	7,589	
6 Dec., 1979	1,65,256	3,282	3 Books received gratis

Table 3

Book Budget

		Recurring periodicals	Non-Recurring Books
1	1974-75	2,20,000	2,85,000
2	1975-76	3,00,000	2,85,000
3	1976-77	3,00,000	3,50,000
4	1977-78	3,00,000	4,50,000
5	1978-79	3,00,000	4,35,000
6	1979-80	4,50,000	2,80,000

4 THE PROBLEM

A comparative study of Tables 2 and 3 reveals that with an increase in grants the annual addition of books did not increase as expected. Therefore, the development was appreciably affected by, rising prices in the book-market both at home as well as abroad. The library was acquiring approximately 1000 periodical titles by paying Rs. 2,00,000 as subscription during 1969-70, it is now getting approximately 1700 periodicals titles by paying Rs. 4,50,000 as subscription. For a review of this phenomenon that the input is felt less in case of periodicals, I have before me one unique periodical (Lucknow Librarian), the subscription rate of its 1968 volume was Rs. 10/- p.a. and today it is Rs. 30/- p.a. (*i.e.* three times). The basic-factor of this threefold increase is not higher cost alone. There are other factors such as : Number of advertisements received. Number of subscribers etc. Now, to review the magnitude of rise in the prices of books that may find place on the library shelf are : the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan series on "The History and Culture of Indian People" Edited by Dr. R.C. Majumdar. These were available at Rs. 30-35 per volume earlier but now are priced at Rs. 120-140 each volume (*i.e.* four-fold increase).

5 THE IMPACT

The detrimental impact of rise in prices of books on the development of libraries is, primarily, due to the reason that state as well as UGC's grants are not increased keeping in view the pricing mechanism of books. We have already observed that with 1% increase in the cost of the constituents that make a book it becomes 4% costlier to the library resulting in a detrimental impact on the growth of the library as far as the quantity of reading material is coneerned.

6 ANOTHER VARIABLE AND ANALOGY

There is another variable that has affected the development of libraries. It has been observed that literature explosion like population explosion in our society, is further shrinking the financial resources of libraries and making them poorer day by day. The outdated Malthusian theory of population has current analogical applicability over libraries, when we observed that whereas the library grants are being increased in an arithmetical progression, the rise in the prices of books and the number of titles being published a year in the market are observing geometrical progression.

7 REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS

A. No individual library is competent to satisfy the requirements of its

clientele through their own resources. For bibliographical control of literature--explosion, library systems be developed wherein the participating units may exploit-their financial resources through cooperative acquisition and cooperative use of reading material.

B. To arrest the deterimental impact of the rise in prices of books, state intervention in the following manner may be useful *i.e.*, either state should enter as a publisher for the publication of higher research treatises or the state may provide paper on controlled rate to the publisher or provide subsidy to them with a right to fix prices of their publications.

C. The radical suggestion that can be made for grants-in-aid keeping in view the phenomenal rise in the prices of books and corresponding increased census of priced publications is, that both state and UGC must increase their regular book-grants to the libraries. Only such a measure can help in acquisition of all those titles that demand requisite place on library shelves.

D. For continued balanced developmental approach in future years, the current year after adjustments be reckoned as the base year and the library grants be increased to the tune of four times the percentage increase in general price-index.

The Role of Libraries in a Changing Society

TN RAJAN*

Discusses some features of the modern libraries as a product of the social milieu. Describes urban concentration of libraries, changing concept of the library and its expanding dimensions, development of national information systems, technological impact. Discusses the possible future directions the libraries are likely to take. Points out the need for social studies and research in the library and information field in order to serve the community more effectively.

0 INTRODUCTION

Libraries are agencies that reflect the social milieu to a certain degree, responding in various measures, to the changing trends in the social, economic, educational, technological and cultural environments of a country. Not merely are libraries the consequences and products of the social milieu, they are also potential instruments of social change, although this potentiality has not been fully explored and much less exploited. Libraries have, therefore, remained largely passive adjuncts to other organisations. Of course, the public library is an independent social institution in its own right, but in India the public library development has been totally static. The rapidly changing social environments accentuate the need for a new orientation and outlook for the development of the library.

1 URBAN CONCENTRATION

An important feature of the modern library is that it is a product of urbanisation which has provided the appropriate soil and climate to the library to emerge and grow. Almost all institutions and organisations-educational, professional, social, cultural, technological etc. have been concentrated in cities and libraries have grown around them. Major cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad, being seats of political and economic power, centres of higher education and research, have called for the record of knowledge and also provided the financial means to build the records in libraries. The public library also has been an urban product. Indeed the cities and the libraries have been symbiotic in their relations. While there has been growth in the academic and specialist libraries, necessitated by various environmental factors, public library development has been utterly neglected in India. The zeal and enthusiasm shown for the public library movement in the pre-independent days, have been conspicuously absent in the post independence period. Very little has been

*INSDOC, New Delhi-12.

achieved in this area, despite the fact that some states have enacted library legislation. The massive adult education programme that has been launched in the last two years, has been indifferent to involve the libraries in this programme.

2 INFORMATION AND LIBRARIES

Another important aspect that will have far reaching effect on libraries is the recognition of the pervasive and vital role of information for educational development. The international approach to information through UNISIST and the tempo of activities of other international organisations like UNIDO, UNDP, IAEA, FAO and others, the tremendous development of the information industry in USA with the national government involving itself in planning, programming and funding of library and information services, integration of national information services under the British Library in England, and the expanding activities under the British Library and the expanding activities of ASLIB, the NISSAT and NIC programmes of our own country are just a few evidences to substantiate the recognition of the present role of information. Development itself is a very complex and multifarious process which involves policy makers, planners, decision-makers, and managers at the scientific. technological, economic, social, educational and political levels. These groups of people are expected not only to ensure the dovetailing and compatibility of the different objectives at various levels but also must regularly ascertain the degree to which each of these can be achieved in the light of the direct and indirect consequences of the action undertaken. The information infrastructure facility that is necessary to support the multidimensional process of development, demands an integrated approach to create a national information system.

3 NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

A national information system can be envisaged as a total information network with a few central bodies at the apex for coordination, a number of sectoral centres, national in scope but discipline/product/mission oriented, and a number of local information units, operating to meet the immediate requirements of a particular organisation. These are integrative organic parts of the system, operating independently without any administrative red tape from any single top organisation. The national system will articulate through a variety of components such as libraries, documentation centres, data banks, information analysis centres, referral centres, clearing houses and such others. Of these components of the information system the libraries form the backbone which have a long history and experience in handling information. But these libraries will have to operate in a new conceptual framework. While the printed word will continue to dominate the communication process, it is important to recognise that information is now increasingly disseminated through other forms. Microforms, audio and video cassettes, machine readable forms, are some of the new forms which will become the stock in trade of libraries in future, in addition to the print media. For most of its developmental activities, India very heavily depends on Western literature.

4 IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

In developing the information network the application of technology will be the most important factor. In most of the industrially advanced countries computer technology, reprographics and micro- and telecommunication technology have been revolutionising the whole information transfer process.

Several hundreds of computerised biblographical data bases, are today available on-line. A number of information networks have been formed making the exchange of information much faster and comprehensive than ever before. Computer software packages for information retrieval and for computerising several library operations are now available on commercial basis. Unesco has offered the ISIS (Integrated Set for Information Services) package for installation of computerised information services in developing countries. In India, attempts are going on to make full use of this software package. Technology has indeed opened new avenues for experimentation in the library and information field.

5 SOCIAL IMPLICATION

Despite all these overawing developments, there is a criticism that research in the library and information field has been oriented more toward internal problems rather than outward to users or to the society as a whole. "The newer efforts are directed inward—better bibliographical control, centralised data records, regional and national networks—and designed to serve better not even the whole of the present clientele but the subgroup of specialists within it. The forces that seem destined to change the library are more technological than social, with modifications in structure and mechanics more likely than in social purpose and wider clientele". (Martin, p. 293). This is as much true in the Indian context as it is in the American context.

If libraries are to play their useful role in the country's developmental process, social study and research in the library and information field have to be given adequate attention. These may include among others :

1 Demographic trends. Composition and structure of the rural and urban population; age group distribution; literacy and levels of knowledge, occupation, etc.

2 User need studies.

3 Geography of library and information resources. Concentration and dispersion.

4 Industrial and technological advances, their influence on institutions and society.

5 Appropriate library and information provision at the grass root levels in rural areas in particular.

6 Economics and sociology of information.

With the challenges facing the library and information world, it is imperative to have such investigations, to establish a proper place for the library in society.

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XXVI ALL-INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE, New Delhi.
March 6-9, 1980

Venue: Theatre Shakuntlam, Pragati Maidan, Mathura Road, New Delhi.

TIME TABLE

Thursday, March 6, 1980

5.00 p.m.—6.00 p.m.	*Inaugural Session* Inauguration by Justice Shri VS Deshpande, Chief Justice, High Court of Delhi Presidential address of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Union Minister for External Affairs was read in absentia Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the Chief Guest

Friday, March 7, 1980

9.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m.	Seminar on "Library Services for a Developing Society" Presentation of working papers and discussion
1.00 p.m.—2.00 p.m.	Lunch Break
2.00 p.m.—5.00 p.m.	Seminar continues

Saturday, March 8, 1980

9.30 a.m.—1.00 p.m.	Symposium on "The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries"
1.00 p.m.—2.00 p.m.	Lunch Break
2.00 p.m.—5.00 p.m.	Central Sectional Committee Meetings General discussion on the theme of the Conference
5.00 p.m.	General Body Meeting of the ILA (Open to ILA members only)

Sunday, March 9, 1980

9.30 a.m.—12.00 noon	Plenary Session Presentation of Report and Recommendations of the Seminar and the Symposium
12.00 noon—1.00 p.m.	Concluding Session of the Conference

University Library Services for a Developing Society

KS DESHPANDE*

Discusses the importance of university library services for a developing society. Describes the new areas of library services as distinct from traditional services. Suggests a programme of action for introducing new services.

1 INTRODUCTION

It has by now been realised by the powers that be in the developing third world countries that the alround development of a country depends largely on their faith in the printed word and on the sincerity, zeal and vigour with which this faith is translated into reality in the form of treating the book industry as an industry of the highest priority and giving it the moral, the financial as well as the legal support that is required for it to flourish as such.

After centuries of foreign domination India became free three decades ago and has since then been making Herculian efforts to be in the vanguard of the developed nations. Free India, very rightly at the start of her journey on this new adventure of independence, decided to hitch her wagon to the star of democracy. For a successful democratic experiment on enlightened electorate is a *sine-qua-non.* If the people of the biggest democracy that India is in the world today, are to be kept enlightened and well-informed a network of libraries has to be set up covering the length and breadth of the country from the great civilised, advanced urban centres to the remotest hamlets and villages which are immersed in superstition, illiteracy, ignorance and darkness. In order to serve the literate minority (30%) as well as the illiterate majority (70%) in India, libraries of all kinds—public, academic, special, will have to make extra and ceaseless efforts, beyond their routine, restricted areas of service. They have to house and harness in an abundant manner and measure the audio-visual aids so that the illiterate masses are kept enlightened. The illiterate Indian is intelligent, is precocious, has common-sense and it is not difficult to keep him enlightened through imaginatively produced audio-visual aids.

2 UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND THE PUBLIC

Unfortunately the public library movement in India, still happens to be in

*Librarian, Karnatak University Library, Dharwad-3.

its infancy. Excepting the five more fortunate states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, library laws are conspicuous by their absence in the remaining 17 states and 9 Union territories. Fortunately for us the university libraries in India are, comparatively speaking, in a state of prosperity. They have therefore to shoulder the additional burden of carrying the torch of knowledge to the very doorsteps of common man, even though in a limited fashion, until such time as the public library movement develops muscle and strength. Some years back the Government of India did issue a circular addressed to all the universities in the country to keep the doors of their libraries open to such of the members of the public who desire to make use of their resources. But unfortunately many of of the university libraries, far from having such out-going extension programmes which reach the far off corners in their jurisdiction are being operated at the mere house keeping level. It is high time that they out-grew their inhibitions and came out boldly into being more useful to the community in which they are located.

Going out and reaching even in a restricted manner the mofussil centres and the hamlets and villages in their areas is a job of a tall order for many universities in the country. These libraries could at least be more out-going, dynamic, and positive and aggressive to an extent in their services to the clientele on their own campuses. With this end in view and against the background of the need for a more positive library service, an attempt to indicate areas of service on which adequate accent and emphasis needs to be placed are indicated in what follows.

3 NEW AREAS OF SERVICES

(*A*) *Audio-visual aids :* Audio-visual aids have a very great role to play in the imparting of instruction to the students. In several subjects no amount of lecturing would produce the effect that the showing of a film or film strips, or slides would produce. The use of audio-visual aids would lend depth and meaning and more clarity to the class room lectures. Therefore, it is suggested that the university libraries build up right from the very beginning an excellent audio-visual aids section. Educational films on a wide variety of topics like electronics, marine life, catalysers, parade of ancient life, lasers and such other scientific subjects, films introducing the various lands and their people, films on the lives of great men like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, are available in plenty and libraries need to go in for them. Similarly long-playing records, cassettes of the plays of Shakespeare, classical music—both oriental and occidental etc., are available and libraries should liberally go in for these. For this purpose an additional grant approximating at least to about 10% of the budget provision for books, should be made available.

Along with such instructional films and other audiovisual aids, these libraries could also build up a collection of films of educative value and documentaries which could be used in the context of rural and other non-academic groups. Alternatively such films can be borrowed from Government Departments, foreign embassies etc., and shown to mofussil audience.

(*B*) *Extension Services :* The library services of the universities should not be restricted to the university clientele itself. It should be possible for the literates in the university area to have access to the book resources of the university libraries. It may be pertinent to recall here that at a Seminar held by the National Book Trust at Bangalore in 1976, one of the participants—a famous novelist residing at Mysore—loudly complained that he could not get easy access to any library in the city in order to gather material for one of his novels. The university libraries owe it to such writers and their ilk to fullfil their just needs. At Dharwad, apart from the local writers, the local advocates and even men of medicine have come to consult the resources of the university library in complicated cases. And then what about the more precocious under-graduate students, those preparing for competitive examinations held by Union Public Service Commission, the State Public Service Commissions, etc? It therefore becomes imperative, even urgent, for the university libraries to offer extension services to cover all such types of readers.

Extension services should include the establishment of extension libraries in the cities proper which will act as links between the universities on the one hand and the city communities on the other.

Not all students who enrol themselves for the Post-graduate courses can afford to reside on the campuses, nor is it possible for the universities to provide hostel accommodation for all the students who seek the facility. In the absence of adequate transport facilities and also in view of the transportation costs it would be would be advisible for the universities to establish extension libraries in the cities proper so that these libraries could cater to the needs not only of the post graduate students residing in the cities but also the undergraduates and the other scholars in the city who may not be directly connected with the universities.

The establishment of the extension libraries also becomes very necessary in view of the fact that the public library movement on the State is still in its infancy, the college libraries also are not so well developed as to keep their doors open to the elite of the town and also of the fact that a large majority of our college and university students hail from the weaker sections of the society and cannot afford to have either a study room in their houses or such basic reference works as ordinary dictionaries.

At Mysore and Dharwad when the university libraries were shifted to the post-graduate campuses from the hearts of the cities where they were located at the beginning, several citizens represented to the universities that by shifting the libraries they would be depriving them the ordinary citizens of library facilities. At Mysore therefore, University Library left behind in the old building a collection of 10,000 volumes, selected to meet the needs of the citizens with adequate staff to look after the collection.

Fortunately, the University Grants Commission has sanctioned Study Centres for bigger cities. These could be developed into extension libraries of the universities. The library vans, which are a must, could be used to replenish the stocks of these extension libraries as and when the occasion arises.

For the time being it is suggested that these extension libraries be located in centrally located buildings to be obtained on rental basis. Meanwhile, however the universities should make attempts to secure open sites in the hearts of the cities and construct independent buildings for housing these extension libraries.

The programme could be expanded and such extension libraries could also be started in the other important centres of the university areas at a later date.

(*C*) *Assistance to College Libraries :* The university libraries should go out to help the college libraries to develop in an organised and dynamic fashion. As matters stand at present, there does not exist any link between the university libraries and the college libraries as such. The development of the college libraries is not at all being supervised by the universities. The Visiting Committees which go and inspect the colleges do not have qualified librarians sitting on them, with the result that the development of the college libraries has been rather poor. There have however been examples where the principals and the managing bodies have, on their own invited library science experts to advise them on how to vitalise their libraries, or on the construction of new library buildings etc.

The college libraries should be integrated into the university library system and the university librarians and the university library committees should have responsibility for the proper development of the college libraries. While on the one hand the university library committees and the university librarians should pay periodical visits to the college libraries, on the other hand, the principals and the librarians of the colleges should visit the university libraries for exchange of ideas and solutions of problems, and measures to be taken on how further to vitalise the college libraries. It should be emphasised in this connection that without a properly organised, adequately stocked libraries on the campuses of colleges the instructional programmes in vogue would not be fruitful. There should also be an inter-library lending system in operation between the university libraries and the college libraries so that the book requirements of the more advanced students and of the teachers engaged in research etc., are adequately taken care of.

Reduction of Postal Rates : It would be necessary in this context to repeat again that the Union Government should be urged to slash down the postal rates for sending books on inter-library loan as this would enable even private citizens anxious to enrich their knowledge to have recourse to getting their books on loan from the university and college libraries by post.

(*D*) *Archival Cells :* The universities should develop Archival Cells where the personal correspondence, diaries etc., of eminent sons of the soil can be garnered and governed. The Cells could also maintain photocopies or microfilm editions of the records pertaining to their respective areas available in the neighbouring States or elsewhere such as the India Office Library (London).

They could also collect the private manuscripts and other documents (in Urdu, Modi etc.) available with the Sardars, Deshpandes, Desais, Kulkarnis, Patils and such other officers of the Moghul, Vijayanagar and Maratha periods etc., as also of big jamindars etc. All these along with the records and books etc.,

preserved in museums and the National and State Archives would be very useful in reconstructing the history of this country of the mediaeval and early modern periods.

(*E*) *Orientation of Freshman :* The library staff has to conduct orientation classes at the beginning of every year for the fresh men with the help of lucidly written, elegantly produced library guides. Such orientation classes will also have to be followed up by lectures in the different departments where the professional staff would be talking to the students about the reference sources in their respective subjects and how to make use of them etc. For these reasons it is necessary to give the professional staff the faculty status.

(*F*) *Courses in Research Methodology :* As an extension and continuation of their programmes of orientation courses, university libraries should also sponsor courses in research methodology for all those who enrol themselves for the Ph.D. Programmes, etc. Along with such programmes advice on proof correction, printing etc. could also be offered.

(*G*) They may again organise popular book-exhibitions combined with other cultural programmes, informative lectures etc in mofussil centres and villages in their areas on appropriate occasions with the collaboration of service clubs and other cultural organizations.

(*H*) *Rural Libraries :* Luckiiy In India some of the universities have established Directorates of Extension Services. Through them they have heen organizing useful lecture programmes in mofussil centres and in rural areas. They have been engaged in publication work also. As a follow-up they may direct their libraries to look after the book needs of the rural folk under their extension activities.

Fortunately for us on this Karnatak University campus, the Directorate of Extension Service has, since its inception, organized and been running the circulating library system in the rural areas. Under the scheme so far 27 talukas with about 220 villages have been covered. On an average a sum of Rs. 1,000/- is being spent per year on the acquisition of books. Books of a popular nature, stories, novels, dramas, poetical selections, folk literature, books dealing with popular science, agriculture, medicine, religion etc., are being circulated. According to the system, 20 villages in a particular taluka are covered in 20 months. Twenty boxes each containing one hundred different titles are circulated among these 20 villages. The programme is welcomed by the villagers and there is a need not only to enlarge its scope but also to intensify it, vitalise it, and make it a real instrument for bringing about rural revolution.

Some of the lacunae of this programme are:

(*a*) The number of books included is miserable to say the least. It should be raised to at least a thousand;

(*b*) The funds earmarked are also very meagre;

(*c*) The arrangement of distribution of books is ad hoc in the sense that the responsibility is put upon either the Village Panchayat or the village school teacher;

(*d*) The book collection needs to be adequately geared to the requirements of the villagers. While

poetry, drama and fiction are enlightening, what the villagers most want would be books and documents with the help of which they can grow more and better crops, lead a more hygienic life, etc.

(*e*) The activity is of a peripheral nature.

Even so the university deserves to be felicitated on providing this service to the rural areas.

University libraries in India should extend service to rural areas.

All the universities particularly those located in mofussil areas should, as a matter of course, take care of this vital need of the villagers, remembering always that the funds for their palatial buildings, their towers and turrets, their comparatively luxurious creature comforts, come from the poor villagers. A programme of action is suggested as indicated below:

(*a*) Every university library should as a part of its extension activity supply books and periodicals to rural needs.

(*b*) Specially qualified staff should be appointed to organize the service in an efficient manner.

(*c*) The book collection should be tailored to the actual needs of the villages. In addition to general literature there should be functional books, books for neo-literates and children in the collection.

(*d*) There should be a heavy sprinkling of audio-visual material like filmstrips, slides, tapes, talking books, posters, pictures and prints through which the villagers can be educated.

(*e*) They can stock educative documentaries, and films relating to agriculture, the grow-more food campaign, family planning and rural sanitation. Through all these media they can bring hygiene and health, civic sense, the concept of a manageable family to the doorsteps of the village folks.

(*f*) The unit should organize story hours and reading sessions for the illiterate villagers.

(*g*) They can organize from time to time book and picture exhibitions which would expose the villagers to the continuous developments taking place in the urban centres and the world at large.

(*h*) They should commission the university teachers to write books for the neo-literates just as they are now commissioned to write books for the elite and the scholars.

(*i*) The universities may invite the colleges under their control particularly those situated in rural districts, to take active part in all these programmes.

(*j*) The help and cooperation of such service organizations like the Rotary, the Lions, the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the Bharat Sevak Samaj, the Family Planning Association of India, would be available to the universities in the implementation of any such programmes.

(*k*) The agricultural universities in particular, can through their

extension divisions, play a very dynamic and effective role in rural development.

(*I*) They may enlist the help of not only the postgraduate teachers but also of the students to run these libraries, and to launch upon full-blooded programmes of adult literacy throughout the university area. As matters stand at present the students are idle for nearly half the year. What a tremendous waste of youth power which could otherwise be harnessed for nation-building activities! (There are about 180 working days in a year for the students—"Each one teach one", should be made the watch words of the university students).

(*I*) *Library Services to be considered as Essential Services :* The university libraries should aim at keeping their doors open for longer hours as many as atleast 14 hours per day during the week days—and at least for 7 hours on Sundays and public holidays. For this purpose library services should be deemed as essential services and on no account should the libraries be kept closed for more than 5 days in a year, these five days being the National holidays viz., the Republic day, the Independence day, Gandhi Jayanti and one or two days for Deepavali and important festivals.

A large majority of our students hail from low-income groups and several of them have therefore to seek employment in order to continue their higher studies. If the libraries are not kept open for longer hours they would be seriously handicapped. Moreover it has been our experience that a large number of students would not be having private rooms in their homes nor would they be in a position to buy such essential reference tools as dictionaries etc. It is, therefore, necessary that the libraries should be kept open during all the waking hours. The library staff drafted for duties during odd hours and on Sundays and holidays should be given special allowances and quarters on the campus on a priority basis.

(*J*) *Special attention to students of depressed classes :* Some of the college libraries in the country have made special arrangements for the students hailing from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Text-books are loaned out to them without any time or number restriction. Such facilities need necessarily to be introduced at the university level also.

A reference has been made to library services to rural areas by university libraries in the foregoing. Such extension services should have special boxes for the people belonging to the depressed classes residing in the rural areas. Education does liberate the depressed classes from their bondage of ages. Continued contact with the sources of knowledge, with tools of self-education, inevitably bring enlightenment to them. It is therefore necessary that the microscopically few literate persons from these classes should have un-hindered and free access to books. And this service will cost very little. But it will in turn bring rich dividends to society.

(*K*) *Trade Discount :* Till about a decade back the system of inviting quotations from book-sellers for supply of books and periodicals was prevalent in our country. Thanks to the far-seeing

leadership given by the Government of India, this practice has been given a go-by. The Government every year confers with the representatives of the book-trade and fixes-up the rates of supply. This healthy system has ensured speedy supply of books and saved the librarians from the harangues of the audit cells.

Even then there are some libraries which still resort to the old practice of inviting tenders and thereby promote cut-throat competition among book-sellers with very un-healthy results. In the public library sector in particular, with the inauguration of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, the practice of insisting on higher rates of discount has raised its ugly hood. Publishers and authors of books are required to shell out as much as 27% discount. Naturally the publishers have been compelled to hike the prices of books. The result: Indian general books, even books meant for school and college students, have become prohibitively costly. Thus by insisting on higher rates of discount we are making books beyond the reach of both—individual and institutional buyers.

4 BASIC NECESSITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE PROGRAMME

(*i*) *Autonomy for the Libraries :* In order to do all this the libraries attached to the universities should be made autonomous units within the university framework right from the beginning as otherwise their growth would be stunted and imbalanced. At least 10% of the total budget of the university, excluding the UGC grants, should be ear-marked during the first 25 years of their growth, so that the library services can be developed on proper lines. The librarians and their team of dedicated workers, with the guidance of the Vice-Chancellors and the Advisory Committees, should enjoy full freedom and powers to develop the libraries on proper lines. The libraries should be regarded as the first and foremost departments of instruction in the universities on par with Postgraduate Departments and not treated as mere section of the university office. The funds set apart for the library should, on no account, be diverted for purposes other than the development of the libraries.

(*ii*) *The Staff :* The success of a library system depends not so much on its book collection nor in its buildings and equipment but more on the men and women who man it, and they should be persons of vision, dynamism, and eager to serve their fellowmen. It would be necessary to appoint at the outset, to head these libraries, men of outstanding abilities in attractive professional grades. It seems necessary and relevant in this context to cite the exemplary action of the authorities of the La Trobe University (Australia) where the very first officer to be appointed at the beginning was not the Vice-Chancellor, not the Registrar, but the University Librarian. This is but one, among several proofs, if proofs were required, to show how in the developed world, books, libraries and librarians are held in high esteem. While recruiting the other professional staff, persons having different subject backgrounds and aptitudes, *i.e.*, MAs and MScs in different disciplines with a flair for speaking, writing, guiding researchers and with the appropriate qualifi-

cations as laid down by the UGC need necessarily to be appointed so that the promotion of the use of books could be achieved in the maximum manner possible.

It should be stressed here that the professional staff in the libraries should be given the faculty status. Librarians and the professional staff in the libraries have more to do with students and the teachers of the universities rather than with the administrators. A number of jobs that the professional staff performs like selection of books, classification, cataloguing, offering reference service, readers' advisory service etc., are akin to the teaching functions of teachers.

By implementing the above suggestions these libraries will definitely be enabled to play a more positive role and perform their teaching functions efficiently.

Welcome Speech of Shri B.L. Bharadwaja, President, Indian Library Association

Shri Narasimha Rao, Chief Justice, Deshpande, Kulapati Narayanan, Shri Mirdha, Shri Kaul, Delegates to the Conference, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed a privilege for me to welcome you this afternoon to the Inaugural function of the 26th All India Library Conference. The first session of this Conference was held in Calcutta way back in 1933. Since then it has been meeting biennially and later annually, at various places all over India. It was at the first Library Conference in September 1933 that the Indian Library Association was established.

This Conference is meeting alongwith 4th World Book Fair and we are grateful to the National Book Trust, India, for their kindly inviting us to hold the Conference and providing us with the facilities to do so.

The Library movement in India has, during the past seventy years, made rapid studies and we have today, a very large number of libraries of different types, all over the country. But overall Public Library System is still far from being satisfactory. This is because the Governments in the Centre and in a large number of States have not yet fully realised the importance and role of libraries in the development of the nation. Since Independence only four States in India have enacted library legislation. West Bengal has recently joined this progressive group. In the absence of a proper legislative sanction a library system in a State cannot deliver the goods. It is therefore, time that the Governments in the States bring forth suitable legislation in this regard.

The Government of India also has not yet devised proper library policy for the country with the result that the development of libraries in the country has not taken place on proper lines. It is high time that the Government of India, in the Ministry of Education, established a permanent Library Commission to study the whole question in its proper perspectives and prepare a well thought out scheme for the development of libraries particularly Public Libraries and also imperised the implementation of the scheme. The need for such a Commission is all the more greater in view of the new concepts of education like the 'non-formal education' 'continuing education' open university etc. being actually pushed forward and included in the educational programmes.

More than a year ago, the Ministry of Education launched a programme of Adult Education but unfortunately the place of libraries in this programme has not yet been properly defined and to that extent that the scheme suffers from a serious draw back. May I therefore, appeal to the concerned authorities to have the matter properly looked into and let the libraries play proper role in the scheme of things.

The Librarians as a community also deserve better consideration. They have a very important role to play in educating the people and are therefore teachers in their own right. As a matter of fact their role in this matter is in the true nature of

'Guru Shishya Parampara' the traditional system of imparting education in India.

The main theme before the Conference is the Library Services for a Developing Society. Among the developing countries, India according to the late Prof. Arthur view reached a "take off" a decade ago. As a matter of fact we are now air borne. If therefore the country has to achieve commanding heights, the education of our masses is a very important step to be taken. It is here that the library services have to play their role. I do hope that our deliberations will lead to chalking out a programme of organising proper services in all types of libraries and for all type of our clientele.

The question of rising cost of books is also of considerable importance for the libraries because it has proved to be a big stumbling block in the way of building proper collection of reading materials. It is hoped that our discussions on this subject will help us in finding out a solution to this problem.

Before I close, I must express my grateful thanks to the distinguished guests for their very kindly accepting our invitation to be with us this afternoon. Their presence amidst us has not only lent charm and dignity to this function, but their words of wisdom are sure to guide us and give us the inspiration to march forward in the service of our countrymen. We are therefore beholden to them.

A word about Shri G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, whose book 'Modern Diplomacy: Dialectics and Dimensions" is going to be released on this occasion.

Shri Krishnamurthy is a life member of the Indian Library Association. An eminent jurist, he is a dynamic person and a gifted writer. His writings on International Law and Diplomacy have already won acclaim from various quarters and his later book is going to be a valuable contribution to this field. We are happy.

May I once again welcome the guests, the delegates and all others present here and offer them our grateful thanks.

XXVI All India Library Conference

High-Lights



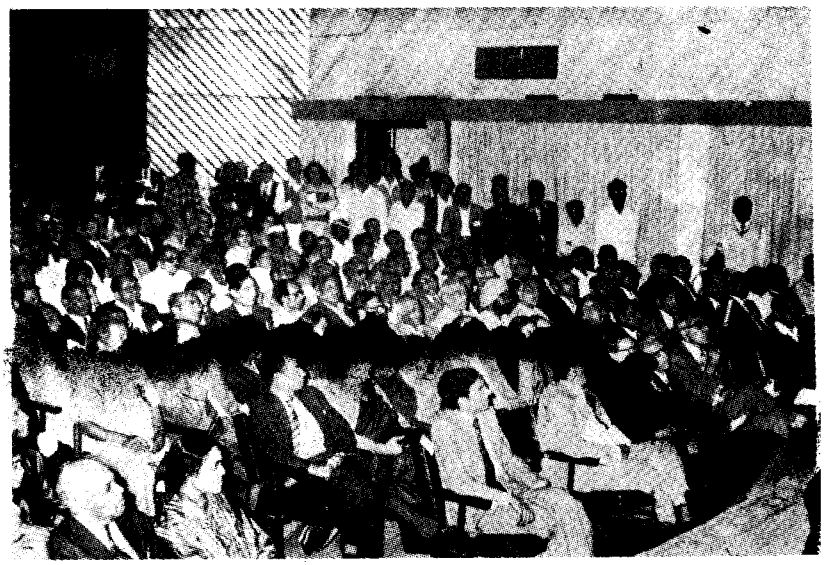
Justice Shri VS Deshpande, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, inaugurating the Conference by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Shri OP Trikha, Secretary and Shri S Kumar, Office Secretary look on.



Shri BL Bharadwaja, President, ILA, welcoming the guests and delegates.



Justice Shri VS Deshpande releasing the 'Souvenir'.



A section of the audience.

XXVI All India Library Conference, New Delhi (6-9 March 1980)

Summary Proceedings

Rapporteur General:
VK NANDA*

The XXVI All India Library Conference was held at New Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Library Association at the invitation of the National Book Trust, India, on March 6-9, 1980 at the venue of the 4th World Book Fair. The Conference, a very well attended gathering of professionals from all over the country, was punctuated by the Inaugural Session; two sessions for Seminar on "Library Services for a Developing Society"; one session for Symposium on "The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries"; the ILA General Body meeting; the Plenary session; and the Valedictory function.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session was held on 6-3-1980 at 5.00 p.m. in Theatre Shakuntalam. Shri BL Bharadwaja, President of the Indian Library Association welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates to the Conference. In his welcome address, he invited the attention of the guests towards the urgent need of a national policy for the development of public libraries, in the absence of which public libraries had been sadly neglected in the country He also explained the role of the libraries in the spread of literacy and education among the people. He appealed to the powers that be to accord proper recognition to the library profession thus enabling to play its role in the task of national development.

Mr Justice VS Deshpande, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, in his inaugural speech strongly emphasized the need for library facilities in rural areas where eighty per cent of country's population lived. He pointed out that it was vital for the progress and effective functioning of democracy to disseminate knowledge and information by assuring supply of books, journals and newspapers, etc. to all people. He said that the contents of these publications should be such as to serve the need of the people to the

*Assistant Librarian, Dr Zakir Hussain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

maximum and libraries could circulate this literature which told them about their rights and duties as citizens. A scientific outlook had to be gradually created in the people in respect of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and other matters of importance to them, he added. Justice Deshpande also released the "Souvenir" published for the occasion carrying articles on the theme of the Conference by eminent writers, educationists and librarians.

Shri KR Narayanan, Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University in his key-note Address deplored the cut made by the University Grants Commission in the budgets for libraries. He said growing materialism coupled with an anti-intellectual wave particularly in politics and higher services, were responsible for the lack of interest in gaining more knowledge. He pointed out that survey of university library usage revealed that seventy to eighty per cent of their books had never been taken off the shelves. He emphasised that library was a power house of ideas noting that Karl Marx conceived his concept of a world revolution in the dim lights of the British Museum. Mao too spent hours in the Beijing (Peking) Library. He desired the librarians to act as midwives of understanding between people and books and described them to be an important link in creating reading habits. Librarians, he said play an important role in the cultural and social progress of the society. He further added that librarians should not be treated as minor bureaucrats but should be kept at par with teachers. While winding up his scholistic speech he decried the lack of publications in the Indian languages and pleaded for their promotion.

Shri PV Narasimha Rao, Union Minister for External Affairs who was to deliver the Presidential Address but could not attend due to urgent state business expressed his inability to attend the function and sent a short speech which was read out on the occasion. In his speech he described the libraries as storehouses of knowledge and traced their importance in history. He also touched on the history of library movement in India and suggested that library movement must become a people's movement.

The Chief Guest, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, described the rural library services as need of the hour. He deplored the lack of libraries for children and adults in villages; while the resources of some big libraries in the urban centres were not fully utilized. Compared to academic libraries, the public libraries are worst off, he added. The other two speakers who addressed the Conference were Shri GVG Krishnamurty and Shri TN Kaul. Shri Krishnamurty, a noted author on diplomacy, whose book "Modern Diplomacy : Dialectics and Dimensions", was released by the Chief Guest, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, explained the term diplomacy and established its relationship with librarianship. Shri Kaul a distinguished diplomat and former Indian Ambassador to USA struck a refreshing note by suggesting that Government of India should be persuaded to exempt the donations to libraries from the payment of income tax. He also beautifully explained the close relationship between librarianship and diplomacy.

Messages received from national and international dignitaries wishing the confe-

rence a success were read out by Shri OP Trikha, Secretary, Indian Library Association. He also proposed a vote of thanks to the distinguished guests for having accepted the invitation to grace the inaugural function. He also thanked the authorities of the National Book Trust for their co-operation in hosting the Conference in the Shakuntlam Theatre and for giving various other facilities.

The Inaugural Function was followed by the release of Shri GVG Krishnamurty's book by the Chief Guest.

SEMINAR ON "LIBRARY SERVICES FOR A DEVELOPING SOCIETY"

First Session

Dr CP Shukla, Hony Professor in Library Science, MS University of Baroda, chaired the morning session of the Seminar on 7th March, 1980 and provided a detailed introduction to the subject of the Seminar. Initiating the subject, he said that the developing countries were facing many problems which have bearings on social, economic and cultural developments. The function of Public Libraries, therefore, should be defined in this context. He pointed out that our problems were different from those of Great Britain and USA.

Sarvshri VK Nanda and PK Jayaswal were rapporteurs for this session.

Presentation of Papers

The following 20 papers were received for presentation and discussion at the Seminar :

1 Dash, Jagat Bihari: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
2 Datta, AK: *Awareness of the Existence of Library Services among the people: A case study of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.*
3 Dasgupta, Kalpana: *New Role of Librarians in a Developing Society with particular reference to India.*
4 Deshpande, KS: *University Library Services for a Developing Society.*
5 Ganguly, SM: *New Orientation of Public Library Services in a Developing Society.*
6 Gour, PN: *Public Library Services in India and National Adult Education Programme : A Plea for their Integration.*
7 Nagraj, MN: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
8 Nayeem, MA: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
9 Pattanaik, Prabir Kumar : *Library Services for a Developing Society: Role of Public Libraries in India.*
10 Rajan, TN: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
11 Sahai, SN: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
12 Sarda, K: *Community Analysis for Planning Library Services in the Villages.*

13. Sethi, AR: *University Library as a Catalyst of Social Change.*
14 Shah, KL: *Classification and Cataloguing in Publication—A Plan for Regional Centre.*
15 Sharma, CD: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
16 Singh, RSP: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*
17 Subha Rao, CV: *Role of Libraries in Developing Countries for Rural Uplift.*
18 Verma, CK Rai: *Library Services in a Developing Society.*
19 Tahir Mohamed : *Library Co-operation, Exchange of Duplicate Journals.*
20 Tikekar, Aroon: *Library Services for a Developing Society: A Researcher's Viewpoint.*
21 Trehan, GL: *Library Services for a Developing Society.*

All the papers were circulated to the delegates at the time of registration. Papers at serial number 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18 were abstracted due to their late arrival, and paucity of funds. Papers at serial numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 were cyclostyled in full. The authors of the papers mentioned at serial numbers, 2 5 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21 could not be present at the Seminar. The papers of these authors could not, therefore, be formally presented for discussions and were taken as presented.

The salient features of some of the papers presented are as below :

First to present his paper, was Dr PN Gour, a past President of the Indian Library Association. Dr Gour emphasized the need for the integration of National Adult Education Programme with Public Library Services in India. It is unfortunate, he said, that the philosophy of public library services regarding the adult illiterates has not yet gained recognition in principle or in practice in India, though vast majority of people still remain illiterate. He stated the objectives of National Adult Education Programme which was started by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare on 2nd October, 1978. The entire programme was estimated to cost Rs 686 crores. But neither the 'libraries' nor the 'librarians' are mentioned any where in the entire blue print of the programmes. Dr Gour with his long experience of public library service, suggested a mechanism to integrate public libraries with National Adult Education Programme.

Mrs Kalpana Dasgupta, Senior Librarian, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, while indentifying the information needs of a developing society and its economic development, drew the attention of the audience towards the need for a well organised information system which should help the people at various levels. She said that collection of precise and reliable information at the right time could help minimise waste of resources. She urged all information dissemination organisations, including libraries, radio, television, films and other traditional media, to gear themselves to the needs of the people at large.

Mr CV Subha Rao, Senior Librarian, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, in his paper, "Role of libraries in developing countries for rural uplift", proved on the basis of elaborate data that library development in India is highly imbalanced. The rural

India is facing an actue "information drought" since many years. Libraries as a source of mass social change are far outnumbered by more effective methods of radio, cinema and village level worker in an illiterate setting. According to him, the lowest of our countrymen at the remotest village level has a birthright to an elementary information regarding personal hygiene, agriculture and other such vital sources of information which lay unused in the library stack in many cities.

Shri RS Singh, Librarian, Sinha Library (Bihar State Central Library), Patna, while identifying the information needs of the illiterate adults suggested that libraries should not remain, as they tend to do, mere store houses of books; they should be dynamic and set out to educate and attract adults to use them. He said public libraries possess certain characteristics which make them particularly suitable to work as an agency for Adult Education Programme as they will not only help in eradicating illiteracy from the masses but will also provide opportunity to neo-literates for life long self education which will be helpful in carrying further their pursuits. It is therefore very necessary he said, that a network of public libraries should be established and facilities should be extended even in the remote rural areas of the country.

During the general discussion, Shri RS Saxena, Librarian, Roorkee University Library, reiterated the need for development of children's libraries for making the people library minded from the very beginning. According to him, book collections of many university libraries with big book grants remain unutilized. He suggested that such libraries should go all out to make the books accessible not only to teachers and students but also to other people living in the community. Since books are very costly these days, a nation can get its money's worth only when the book collections are utilized in full, he said.

Shri NB Inamdar, Librarian, Osmania University Library, Hyderabad suggested that Adult Education cannot prosper without a balanced development of public libraries in rural as well as urban sectors. Audio-visual materials are necessary for cultivating library habits in the rural sector, he said. He deplored the lack of co-operation between the public libraries and other types of libraries. The later were neglecting the former. Other types of libraries should offer a helping hand to the public libraries for the general benefit of the people at large, he emphasised.

Shri SN Raghav from Banaras Hindu University was of the opinion that librarians should reach the masses in order to make their libraries used better.

Second Session

The Second Session of the Seminar which started at 2.30 p.m. on 7-3-1980 was presided over by Shri DR Kalia.

Sarvshri VK Nanda and Ghaninder Singh were the Rapporteurs.

Shri DR Kalia brought before the house some of the salient indicators determined by the United Nations regarding rating a country as "developed" or "developing".

The following indicators, he said, are prescribed by UN for judging a society "developed" or "developing": 1. Rate of literacy among different strata/sections of the society. 2. Percentage of school going children at elementary/secondary and higher secondary level. 3. Consumption of paper per capita. 4. Percentage of GNP spent on R & D.

The Chairman further pointed out that as per conditions necessitated by the above indicators our country has been rated as a developing country. He further added that the percentage of illiteracy is to be reduced by spreading education. In this context, he said, libraries play a pivotal role both socially and economically. The libraries can open flood gates of information to the entire society at different levels. The library profession, he further clarified, should shun all narrow loyalties and meet the challenge by showing unstinted loyalty to the nation.

Shri TN Rajan from INSDOC, New Delhi was invited to present his paper. Shri Rajan decried the absence of a National Information System in our country. According to him a National System of Information is of utmost importance for proper direction and control of the library network, now scattered in our country. Shri Rajan's paper also discussed some features of the modern libraries as a product of the social millieu. Subjects like urban concentration of libraries, changing concept of library and its expanding dimensions and technological impacts were also touched upon by Shri Rajan. The paper also pointed out the need for special studies and research in the library and information field in order to serve the community effectively.

Shri AR Sethi, Assistant Librarian, Jawaharal Nehru University, New Delhi was the next to present his paper entitled "University Library as a Catalyst of Social Change". He reiterated that the university libraries, instead of confining their services to the chosen few, should also extend library services to the people residing in their immediate environment. Based on the models of the university libraries of Scandinavian countries such as Italy, Spain and Germany, he pleaded that the university libraries in India should form an integral part of the public library system and should serve not only professors and students but all citizens of the locality. He said that it is for the library profession to create an atmosphere for this move to succeed. This may involve changing the university statutes. While presenting JNU Library as a case study, he concluded by emphasizing that a university library should be a living force in the community where it functions.

Shri KK Bhatia from Central Road Research Institute Library, New Delhi was of the opinion that the unutilized resources of the libraries should be put to proper use. He agreed with Shri Sethi's paper and suggested that all types of libraries should extend their services to general public.

Miss MP Tomas, Ex-Librarian, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, said that absence of proper libraries at the school level was the cause of general apathy of Indian people towards the library development

Shri SN Raghav from Banaras Hindu University pointed out that ninety nine

per cent of the academic population does not come to the library. He said that surveys should be conducted to find out the reasons for such a colossal wastage of library resources. The university library collections should therefore be thrown open to the general public in order to achieve the fuller utilization of the library resources. In doing so he suggested that successful campaigns should be undertaken to reach the illiterates and neoliterates.

Shri NN Mohanty, Librarian, DK Publishers, pointed out that libraries in our country are not well known among the masses. He said programmes should be launched by the library associations and librarians to educate the people about the importance and usefulness of libraries.

Shri Girja Kumar, Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library was of the view that a University Library should serve community where it functions in the following ways :

1 University libraries should have Public Services Department to cater to the needs of the community.

2 University libraries should help actively the Adult Education Work in the community.

3 University libraries should adopt a neighbouring school library and a college library of the community. It should impart technical know how to such school and college libraries. In this way the university library will be building up a model school library and a model college library.

4 University libraries should arrange lectures, seminars, film shows, debates, book clubs for the benefits of the community where it serves.

Shri RS Saxena, Librarian, Roorkee University Library agreed with Shri Girja Kumar's view-point and further suggested that the university libraries should also establish an institution known as "Adarash Bal Niketan" which should serve as a free public library for children of the university community.

Dr CP Shukla, drew the attention of the delegates by pointing out the need to convince the planners that the development of public libraries is a vital service to the people. A specific portion of our national income should be reserved for the establishment of libraries, he said. He further suggested that libraries should work as a part of mass media net-work.

Shri DP Gupta, Librarian, Ministry of Defence Library, emphasized the building up of need based literature for people living in rural areas.

Shri JB Dash, Librarian, Paradip College, Paradip Port, Orissa, wanted ILA to lay a common yardstick in respect of pay-scales and service conditions for all libraries in the country.

At the end of the general discussion, Shri Kalia thanked the speakers and summed up the discussion by saying that the recent approach is to make every library somewhat

comprehensive to cater to the needs of all types of persons of the community where it functions.

SYMPOSIUM ON "THE IMPACT OF RISING PRICES OF BOOKS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES"

Professor D Raghavan, Course Director, Open University in Book Publishing, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan was the Chairman of the Symposium on "'The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries" held on 8th March, 1980 at 9.30 a.m.

Sarvshri VK Nanda and PK Jayaswal were the rapporteurs. Initiating the subject of the Symposium, the Chairman said that rising prices is such a subject which the government has not been able to solve. Leave aside books, the government have not been able to control the prices of some of the very essential commodities, he said. Problem of rising prices cannot be solved by looking at books as a commodity. Besides the cost of paper, a book also requires good printing, scholarly editing and dedicated publishing. Publishers, who are gate-keepers of knowledge, he said, lack devotion and a sense of involvement. They only want to make money. They never employ good editors and printers. He paid tribute to the Western publishers who have developed excellent publishing over the last five hundred years. The libraries are interested in good publishing because they get the end product, he said. Soaring book prices and inelastic budgets have seriously hampered the growth of libraries in India during the last few years.

Before the presentation of Papers on the Symposium Mr Kemp, Adviser, British Council, New Delhi, was presented the Souvenir of XXV All India Library Conference held at Trivandrum in 1979.

Presentation of Papers :

The following 8 papers were received for presentation and discussion at the Symposium:

1 Alvi, Wajih Ahmed: *Escalating book prices : their impact on libraries.*
2 Ghai, OP: *The Impact of rising prices of books on the development of libraries.*
3 Goil, NK: *Impact of rising prices of reading materials on library development.*
4 Guha, B, Guha, AK and Jayaswal, PK: *Impact of rise in prices of books.*
5 Gupta, Sulekha: *Rising book prices and development of libraries in India.*
6 Rao, KR: *Library services for a developing society and the impact of rising prices of books on the development of libraries.*
7 Saxena, RS and Khare, SK: *Impact of exponential rate of growth of periodicals and their cost on scientific and technical libraries.*
8 Sharma, Narinder Kumar: *The Impact of rising prices of books on development of libraries.*

The authors of papers mentioned at serial numbers 1, 5 and 8 could not be present at the Symposium. Their papers could not therefore be formally presented for discussion. Papers mentioned at serial numbers 5, 6 and 7 were abstracted while papers mentioned at serial numbers 1, 3, 4 and 8 were cyclostyled in full and were distributed to the delegates at the time of registration. Paper mentioned at Serial number 2 was received at the start of the Symposium and therefore could not be cyclostyled, though its author presented it in full on his turn.

The first to present the paper was Shri AK Guha, Senior Analyst, Administrative Reforms Wing, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi. Mr Guha's paper entitled "Book prices and their impact on libraries" provided information on the average prices of books in different subjects and analysed the rise in prices over a period of seven years from 1971 to 1977. The paper revealed that between 1971 and 1977, the price rise in books was more than double. Books on geography were highly priced throughout the years, followed by books on history and political science. The Indian publishers, the paper added, were pricing their books at three to five times the cost of production. Regarding the impact of rising book prices on libraries, Shri Guha said every librarian was trying to do the impossible task of stretching an inelastic budget to cover an ever growing need for more reading material in his library. In fact, whatever little extra funds he is able to get for his library is getting absorbed by the rise in prices of books. In the end, Shri Guha said that some knowledge of book publishing, prices of books and rise thereof and similar information must be made available to all libraries. This will help the libraries to adjust book budgets to the rise in prices of books. He suggested the creation of a National Agency with the task of continuously monitoring the prices of Indian books. The suggested National Agency should also collect and publish book trade information from Great Britain and USA. The formation of a National Forum was also suggested where publishers, booksellers, librarians, authors and readers could meet and discuss problems relating to book production, quality of books, availability of paper, subject matter etc. and formulate national policies.

Next to present his paper was Shri NK Goil, Librarian, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. Shri Goil was of the view that the prices of Indian books can be brought down if the Indian publishers make an effort to give print order for larger number of copies as compared to the present limited number of copies. He also suggested to the Indian publishers that the mark-up prices of books should be kept between the range of 2-3 and not 4-5. The present practice of calculating the cost of the books needs to reviewed, he said. The cost of producing a book in India could be reduced if the publishers make more use of the letterpress instead of other costlier methods of printing books he suggested. He said that to cope with the near abnormal escalation in the prices of reading material *i.e.* books, journals, newspaper etc. school, college and university libraries should be encouraged to charge adequate amount of library fees from the students as part of internal resources of libraries over and above government grants for the purchase of reading materials.

Shri KR Rao, Librarian, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, in his paper, put forward the idea that the increasing cost of books is an universal phenomenon and

we should leave the book trade to book-sellers and publishers. He said we must accept the limitations of growth of the collections. He said we should concentrate on the better utilization of the existing resources by preparing subject bibliographies, documentation lists, indexing journals, acquiring microfilm and micro-fiche editions of books and making the readers to get used to their use. He also suggested that inter-library loan should be made more effective.

Shri RS Saxena, Librarian, University of Roorkee Library in his paper, made a detailed study of the increase in subscription cost of 100 core journals subscribed at University Library Roorkee, a technical library, for the last 12 years period and correlated the effect of this increasing cost on the Library budget. Shri Saxena suggested that without adopting the policy of co-operation and co-ordination among the libraries *i.e.* resource sharing, no immediate solution to the problem of abnormal rise in subscription costs is possible. He further suggested that document exchange centres may be established at regional, national and international level and SDI services be introduced more vigorously in all the scientific and technical libraries.

Shri OP Ghai of Sterling Publishers, pointed out, in his paper, the reasons for the increasing cost of books. He said most of the publishers give print order for not more than 1000 copies of a title and this added to the increase in per unit cost of the book. He said publishers are forced by economic reasons to limit the print order because it is only the libraries and institutions which purchase books. Such people do not have the taste for books and the poor cannot afford to buy books. He said the price of paper has been continuously rising, and paper alone accounts for more than 30 per cent of the cost of book production. The publishers could not get any loan or financial assistance from the banks or other institutions because book-publishing was considered an unproductive activity, he said. He also drew the attention of the audience towards the rising cost of administration resulting in increased salaries due to inflation. He said it takes two to three years to sell 1000 print run of a scholarly book.

THE GENERAL DISCUSSION

Shri DR Kalia, Chairman, Delhi Library Board, spoke about the successful performance of the Good Offices Committee and suggested that it should be further strengthened by widening the scope of its terms of reference so that it can deliberate on all matters, affecting the pricing, production and distribution of reading material in the country. Shri Girja Kumar, Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University disclosed that Indian Association of Academic Librarians is proposing to form a forum of publishers, booksellers and librarians which shall look into the matter of book prices, distribution and production of books. Shri PV Verghese, Librarian, State Central Library, Trivandrum suggested a slab system of discount "depending on the number of copies ordered instead of the usual 10 per cent which is quite low". He further suggested that pre-publication price of books should be lower than the published price. Many libraries place orders at pre-publication stage, he said. Shri CV Subha Rao, Senior Librarian, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, said that the cost of a publication

is recovered by the publishers by selling 150 to 200 copies because they are marked so highly. Dr Pandey SK Sharma from Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta said that suppliers were willing to give more discount, but were giving only 10 per cent because the Good Offices Committee requires it so. Shri V Sundaram, Librarian, Ministry of Industry and Commerce Library, New Delhi suggested that the Libraries should take a holiday in purchasing books so that the publishers are forced to lower the prices of books.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ILA

The Ordinary General Body Meeting of the Indian Library Association was held on 8th March, 1980 at 4.30 p.m. Shri BL Bharadwaja, President, ILA was in the chair.

At the start of the meeting the President requested the members to stand and observe two minutes silence on the sad demise of Shri Syed Hussain Raza Naqvi, Librarian Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Chandra Nagar, Delhi and Chairman of the Central Sectional Committee for School Libraries of ILA, and Shri DR Malik of the Delhi Public Library who was a part time employee of ILA for the last several years. The General Body meeting recorded with profound sorrow the passing away of Sarvashri Naqvi and Malik.

The minutes of the last General Body Meeting held at Trivandrum on May 17, 1979 were confirmed.

Shri CP Vashishth, Treasurer, ILA presented the audited statement of accounts for 1978-79 which was adopted after certain clarifications.

Shri OP Trikha, Secretary, ILA read out the Statement of Activities of the Association during the period 1st April, 1979 to 29th February, 1980. The Statement of Accounts was adopted after some comments. Some members, belonging to Government of India Libraries Association, sought the clarification about whether or not the post of "librarian" is technical. The question was discussed by the house thoroughly and a resolution was passed (Resolution III (4) Annexure I).

While winding up the proceedings of the meeting, the President, Shri BL Bharadwaja, appealed to the members to strengthen the Association by enrolling more members, building adequate resources so that it can vigorously take up the follow-up action on the resolutions from tme so time He thanked members of the Executive Committee and the Council and the office bearers. He particularly thanked the office Secretary and the staff of the ILA Office for their devotion, dedication and efficient work.

The General Body meeting ended at 6.00 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

PLENARY SESSION

Plenary Session was held on 9th March, 1980 under the Chairmanship of Dr CP Shukla. Shri VK Nanda, Rapporteur General read out the resolutions one by one,

emerging out of the Seminar and the Symposium. The resolutions were earlier drafted by the Chairmen of the Seminar and the Symposium, in consultation with Shri Bharadwaja, President ILA, Shri NK Goel, Vice President ILA, Shri OP Trikha, Secretary ILA and Shri VK Nanda, Public Relations Officer ILA. After securing the consensus of the house several resolutions were adopted (Annexure I).

VELEDICTORY FUNCTION

The veledictory session meeting held soon after the Plenary Session was presided over by Shri BL Bharadwaja, the President. The Veledictory Address was delivered by Shri JC Mehta, Director, Delhi Public Library. Shri Mehta laid emphasis on strengthening the ILA State Committees which should organise library conventions in their respective states so that public opinion may be cultivated in favour of library cause all over the country. He wished the gathering the very best in their endeavour to develop libraries and library services in the country.

The President, while concluding the session offered sincere thanks to the authorities of National Book Trust, India, for their hospitality in inviting the Conference along with the World Book Fair. He also expressed his gratefulness to the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and the Indian Council for Social Science Research for their generous financial help. He further thanked the contributors of papers and participants in the deliberations of the Seminar and the Symposium. To the Chairmen of the Seminar and the Symposium he expressed gratitude for their co-operation and guidance. He specially thanked the publishers and booksellers for giving advertisements for the Souvenir, to the Delhi Library Association the Indian Association of Academic Librarians for their hosting the lunches to the delegates, and the officers of the Conference including the Secretary, the Office Secretary, the Rapporteur General and the Rapporteurs and last, though not the least, the delegates from all over India who participated in the Conference, thus making it a grand success.

Annexure I

I Seminar on "Library Services for a Developing Society"

Resolutions and recommendations :

1 This Conference is of the view that in the absence of a National Library Policy, the development of Library and Information Services in the country has proceeded in a haphazard manner resulting into fragmentation and uneven growth of the services. This has prevented the libraries from playing their proper role in the cultural, literary and socio-economic development of the country. In order to provide guidelines for the future development of these services on proper lines, this Conference recommends to the Government of India to formulate at the earliest, a National Library Policy for the country.

The Conference further recommends that in order to be able to plan, co-ordinate and finance, library development schemes, the Government of India should constitute a National Commission for Library and Information Services with a permanent secretariat of its own.

2 This Conference is of the view that in order to supplement the financial resources of the Central and State Governments, being allocated for the development of library and information services, donations and endowments from individuals and corporate bodies should be encouraged, and donations made for the purpose, should be fully exempted from the payment of Income Tax etc.

3 This Conference, taking cognisance of the fact that a large number of industrial estates and complexes have been established in the country since independence, without providing library facilities for the benefit of the general and technical personnel working in these estates, recommends to the Central and State-Governments and authorities managing the industrial estates, to provide library and information services in the existing and proposed industrial estates and complexes both in the rural and the urban sectors. The Directorates of Industries in the States and Union Territories should be made responsible for making provision of these services.

4 This Conference is of the view that for the acceleration of agricultural development in the country all the 5027 development blocks should be provided with general and technical libraries at their headquarters, forming a part of the State Library System, for the benefit of farmers and the technical staff posted in the development blocks.

5 This Conference recommends to the Central and State Governments that with a view to making optimum use of the available library resources, the academic and special libraries, throughout the country, should be directed to extend their services to the community at large, in their respective neighbourhoods so as to achieve greater utilization of their resources.

II Symposium on "The Impact of Rising Prices of Books on the Development of Libraries"

This Conference notes with alarm the increasing prices of reading material and the absence of proportionate increase in the book grants, resulting in depletion of resources of libraries and information centres. The Conference, therefore, recommends that:

(*a*) A National agency should be created or an existing agency should be entrusted with the task of continuously monitoring the prices of reading materials produced in the country.

(*b*) Statistics on the production of reading materials in the country should be compiled on a regular basis by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

(*c*) The book grants to libraries should be increased annually to absorb the rise

in prices as well as to develop their resources commensurate with their growing needs.

(*d*) The 'Good Offices Committee' which has been functioning successfully with the goodwill of authors, publishers, booksellers and librarians in determining common terms of supply of Indian and foreign reading material to libraries, should be further strengthened by widening the scope of its terms of reference so that it can deliberate on all matters affecting the pricing, production and distribution of reading materials in the country.

(*e*) This Conference recommends to all library authorities in the country that the libraries under their control should evolve a system of recourse-sharing to facilitate inter-library lending of reading material.

III General

1 This Conference recommends that all libraries should be headed by professionally qualified librarians. As library management cannot be separated from technical aspects of the work and its supervision, the heads of the libraries must possess technical qualifications in library and information science.

2 This Conference recommends that the present National Adult Education Programme should be suitably revised so that it may be integrated with the public library services.

It further recommends that President, Indian Library Association may constitute a small sub-committee to take necessary steps for the implementation of the above recommendation.

3 This Conference, while appreciating the commendable work done by the Indian Council of Social Science Research in promoting research in Social Sciences and the laudable work done by the Social Science Documentation Centre, in developing reference tools in Social Sciences, regrets to note that Library Science has not yet been included in the list of subjects for which the Council grants facilities for research etc. It, therefore, requests the Council to take suitable steps to encourage research in Library and Information Science leading to improvement in these services which are basic facilities for any research, more particularly research in the field of Social Sciences.

4 This Conference notes with satisfaction that the Policy Formation Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture have, in their letter No. F-18-4/79, stated that courses in Library Science are of professional/technical nature and that all posts for which a qualification is of the natural/exact science or applied science and the incumbents whereof have to use the knowledge in the discharge of their duties, are of technical nature.

It further notes that the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Ministry of Home Affairs, in their endorsement No. 257/79/Estt./D, dated 13th November, 1979 to the Department of Agriculture, Government

of India, have stated that they have no objection in taking action to declare the posts requiring Library Science as an essential qualification "as technical".

The Conference, in view of the facts stated above, resolves to request that the departments in the Government of India and the State Governments etc. may take immediate action to declare, all posts in the offices under them requiring Library Science as an essential qualification, as "technical" so as to enable the incumbents of these posts to avail of all facilities prescribed for such posts and enjoyed by the technical staff already working in the Ministries, Departments and Offices of the Government of India and the State Governments, etc.

Proceedings of the following Conferences of the Indian Library Association have been published :

XXIV ALL INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

held at Bangalore from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, 1978

XXV ALL INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

held at Trivandrum from May 14-18, 1979

XXVI ALL INDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

held at Delhi from March 6-9, 1980

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