Review Article

Library and Information Science Education in India with Special Reference to Bhopal City

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Abstract: This paper sketches the emergence of library and information science (LIS) education in India with a special reference to Bhopal M.P. It describes the current status, as well as the historical framework on LIS education in India in general and M.P in particular. Many universities and institutions have changed the nomenclature of LIS program, revised the curriculum, shifted from certificate course to master degree program to research study, and international collaboration. It is observed that many LIS schools have changed their curricula from minor tinkering to full revision, from traditional course to digital course. LIS schools opened-up for more interdisciplinary, more practical/practice oriented rather than theoretical classes, and also come forward for international collaboration. But, some of the LIS schools still suffer for their existence due to traditional course curricula, lack of infrastructure, lack of computer lab, and lack of teaching faculty and staff.

Keywords: LIS Education, Professional study, Bhopal M.P.

INTRODUCTION

Library and Information Science Education in India

In the early 19th Century, young people learned librarianship by working under the more experienced practitioners. But, gradually the tasks performed by librarians became more complex and more dependent on technology. As a result, the study of library science has moved from the work-setting to professional schools in Universities. The first ever library school was started by Melvil Dewey in USA in 1887 at Columbia College (now Columbia University). In 1889 the programme moved to the New York State Library in Albany when Dewey became the Director there. The success of Dewey's training programme and the publication of *Training for Library Service*, a book by the economist Charles Williamson in 1923, led other universities, institutes of technology, and large public libraries to establish their own professional degree programmes in library science.

Presently the following LIS courses are available in India

Certificate course in Library and Information Science (C.Lib.Sc) – Diploma in Library and Information Science - B.Lib.Sc /BLIS (Bachelor Degree in Library and Information Science) –

M.Lib.Sc. /MLIS (Master Degree in Library and Information Science) –
PGDLAN (Post Graduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking) –
M.Phil (Master of Philosophy) in Library and Information Science –
Ph.D (Doctor of Philosophy) in Library and Information Science –
D.Litt in Library and Information Science

Table-1: Institutions Offering LIS Education in India Government Institutions

Central Government Institutions	Courses offered
Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh	BLISc, MLISc, Ph.D.
Assam University, Assam	Integrated MLISc, MPhil, Ph.D.
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Uttar Pradesh	Integrated MLISc
Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Praedsh	MLISc, M.A. in Manuscripto-logy, Ph.D.
Central University of Gujrat, Gujarat	M.L.I.Sc.
Central University of Haryana, Haryana	M.L.I.Sc
Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh	Integrated M.L.I.Sc
Delhi University, Delhi	B.L.I.Sc., MLISc, MPhil, Ph.D.
Dr Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Madhya Pradesh	BLISc, MLISc, Ph.D.
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh	5-Year Integrated UG/ PG Programme with exit option on completion of 3 years UG Programme, BLISc, MLISc, Ph.D.
Indian Statistical Institute(Documentation Research & Training Centre), Karnataka	MSLIS, Research Programmes
Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi	PGDLAN, BLISc, MLISc, Ph.D.
Jamia Mallia Islamia, New Delhi	B.L.I.Sc.
Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar	Diploma in Lib Sc, Diploma in Lib & Inf. Sc., B.L.I.Sc., M.L.I.Sc. MPhil
Manipur University, Imphal	Integrated MLISc, Ph.D.
Mizoram University	Integrated MLISc, MPhil, Ph.D.
North Eastern Hill University	Integrated MLISc, Ph.D.
Pondicherry University, Pondicherry	PGDLAN, Integrated MLISc, Ph.D.
Tripura University, Tripura	Integrated MLISc

LIS Departments in the college of Bhopal .A study Investigators have made a humble attempt to visit the LIS department of Bhopal colleges both Private and semi govt and collected the available information and presented in the table (2).

Table-2

Type of College	Private	Private	Semi Private	Private
Teaching Staff	1+3Female	2 F	2+4	1+1
Supporting Staff	1	1	1	-
Courses Offered	UG & PG	UG & PG	UG	UG & PG
Using in teaching E Resources /Traditional	E-Resources	Both	Traditional	Traditional
Books	80	100	1220	500
Journal Information	2	1	3	1
Equipment information DDC ,Colon Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medium of Teaching	Bi Lingual	Hindi	Hindi	Hindi
Research Publications information	Yes	Nil	Nil	Nil
No.Of Student UG	15	33	30	11
PG	12	20	NA	4

The above table indicates that the LIS Departments of Semi private college is more informative as compared to other three. However the investigators found that the fees structure of this course is very low Hindi medium students are more interested to get admission in these courses, which obstruct the availability latest information on LIS education. The participants in this study also mentioned problems with technology in the school. The biggest constraint identified was the lack of funding for updated equipment and adequate access to equipment. Additionally, several of the participants alluded to staff issues in that everyone in the building is not "on board" with technology and some staff members need to be "forced" into using it.

Market trends of librarians or information specialists in madhya pradesh

One of the reasons to keep up with the new trends of information society is to provide the students wider chance of employment and job opportunity. The teachers sensed that the job market is in need of information services staffs, but it also needs staff with new information technology competency. They also sensed that the up to cutting edge technology may bring good opportunity, but, the basic foundation of humanity and liberal arts and/or managerial skills will be needed after the entry level for LIS professional. Market trends of librarian or information specialists pointing at the "Information Contents" and its related knowledge and skills. With up to date information skills, the libraries may not be able to utilize their intelligence learned from schools, thus, recent graduates now turn their directions to corporate sector, private firms, and working as information specialist which pays better than libraries of different kind

CONCLUSION

Since the authors are from MP state and have been involved in different LIS education activities, based on this some suggestions have been made to improve the quality of LIS education.

These are

- Latest IT infrastructure should be implemented in the computer laboratory of LIS department so that students will be well versed with those technologies and compete with today's LIS-IT market.
- The syllabus at all levels should be updated regularly and areas of Information science should be correlated with those of Library science
- The quality of teaching staff should be improved.
- Seminars, tutorials, assignments and field tours should be effectively integrated with curricula involving outside experts and agencies.
- To improve quality of research, talented scholars should be provided financial assistance by research organisations.

The ground reality of the present LIS education system in India indicates that the quality improvement is essential and unavoidable, not only for its survival but also for facing the major changes and challenges of today and tomorrow. Library schools in India need to look forward and take full advantage of the opportunities lying ahead of us. The use of information technology for training LIS students and professionals has become crucial for meeting the challenges of twenty first century. It has been predicted that a country that leads information revolution will prove to be more powerful than any other country. The significance of the role of library schools to train manpower for coming decades can contribute to the progress of the nation.

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