

LIS Education in 21st Century: Trends, Challenges and Expectations

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LIS Education - Aim

- To acquaint students with basic Philosophy of Library & Information Science.
- To introduce the structure and attributes of Universe of Knowledge
- To Develop the competent and committed library and information professionals in changing contemporary information environment.
- To identify major issues in the development of new technology in libraries, such as Digital and Virtual libraries, and discuss their implications.

Recent trends

- ICT has changed the methods of information handling & communicating the relevant information to the right end user at the right time in right personal way.
- Internet has accelerated the use of online information resources to a great extent.
- Current users expect value added services, easy to use interface and want tailored information relevant to their need in e-form with a single click.

Recent trends – Cont...

- LITA (Library & information Technology Association, a division of the American Library Association) has identified top ten trends 1999 –
- Trend 1 - “Library users are web users, a growing group, expect customization, interactivity and customer support”
- ICT has transformed the role of not only library but also LIS professional in the changing environment.

Challenges

Digital era needs not only a Librarian but

- Knowledge Manager
- Information Expert
- Evaluator of Global Information Resources
- End-User Educator/Trainer
- Search Intermediary
- ‘Sifter’ of Information Resources
- Facilitator
- Navigator
- Consultant
- Website Builder/Publisher
- Interface designer
- Researcher and many more.

Historical Background

- LIS Education -
- as a subject of study has grown and developed as a response to the knowledge and information needs of various employing units and society.
- Formally started as Library Economy in the USA by Melvil Dewey in 1876.
- Started for the first time in India by the efforts of Maharaja Sayajirao in the erstwhile princely State of Baroda in 1910, under the guidance of Mr. W.A. Borden, a trained American Librarian.
- Next in 1915 erstwhile Punjab University (Lahore).

Historical Background (Cont...)

- 1929 – Certificate Course Started by Dr.Ranganathan at MLA which taken over by the University of Madras and in
- 1937 - the course converted in to PG Diploma in Library Science.
- 1946 – 47 - University of Delhi was the First University to establish Full Fledge Department

Educational framework

- Different types of courses offered –
 - Certificate Course
 - Diploma course
 - Degree course
 - Master course
 - M.Phil course
 - Ph.D.
 - D.Litt.
 - Associateship course
 - In-Service Training
 - Short Term course

Nomenclature: Discipline Dilemma

- Most of the Departments are under the Faculty of Arts / Faculty of Social Sciences.
- In Gujarat, all are under Arts Faculty.
- LIS Discipline is turning more & more towards Science Stream because of inclusion of IT, Communication Technology, Digital Technology, Statistics etc.
- It Should be a under the Science Faculty or should be a separate faculty.

Present scenario

- LIS is a full fledged discipline - numbers of universities are offering BLISc, MLISc, MPhill, and PhD in India. Some Institutions like DRTC and NISCAIR also offer Specialized Courses in LIS.



- LIS Departments in Gujarat

No	University	BLISc	MLISc	MLISc Integrated (Two Years)	M.Phil	PGLNDT	PhD
1	MSU	1956	1986	-	-	-	*
2	GU	1964- 2008	1986 - 2008	2009 - 10	-	-	*
3	SPU	1982	1988	-	Started 2004(Discon tinued in 1992-93)	2009- 10	1996
4	GV	1988- 2007	1986 – 2007	2008 - 09	1993(Discon tinued from 2008-09)	-	1999
5	NGU	1992-93	1992 – 93	-	-	-	*
6	SU	1975	1987	-	-	-	*
7	SGU	1986	-	-	-	-	*
8	BU	1982	1991	-	-	-	*
9	BAOU	2010	-	-	-	-	*

LIS Departments in Gujarat

- At present there are 8 universities imparting LIS Education in Gujarat. Out of 8 Universities:
- Gujarat University (2009-10) and Gujarat Vidyapith (2008-09) have introduced two years Integrated MLISc Courses.
- Remaining 6 universities are conducting BLISc & MLISc course.
- Sardar Patel University is conducting all courses – BLISc, MLISc, M.Phil, PhD and PGLNDT (Post Graduate in Library Networking and Digital Technology), a specialized course which is more relevant to the present requirement of the day. It covers all the aspects of Computerization, Networking of Libraries, Digital Technology and Digitization of Library material etc.

Cont...

- All the 8 Universities are offering Ph.D programme. Only M. S. University and S. P. University have permanent faculties as a recognized guide for Ph.D. Others have to depend on visiting faculty as recognized guide.
- Recently Dr.Ambedkar Open University has introduced BLISc course in Distance Learning Mode. Hence, it is not included in the study.



- Position of Head

No.	Name of the University	Head of the Department
1	MSU	Lecturer as a coordinator
2	GU	Lecturer as a coordinator
3	SPU	Professor as a Head
4	GV	I/C Librarian as a coordinator
5	SAU	Lecturer as a coordinator
6	SGU	Asst. Librarian as a coordinator
7	BHU	Asst. Librarian as a coordinator
8	NGU	Librarian as a coordinator

Position of Head

- Out of 8 Universities, 4 University Departments are headed by librarian or Assistant Librarian. It is not advisable.
- Other three universities (MSU, Gujarat University and SAU) have lecturers as co-ordinator of the Department.
- Professor should be full time Head of the Department like other PG Department.
- In Gujarat, only One - Sardar Patel University has full-time Professor as a Head of the Department.

- Teaching Faculty at a Glance : Gujarat

No.	Name of University	Professor	Reader	Lecturer	Remark
1	MSU	-	-	1	1 TA 1 TL
2	GU	-	-	1	Visiting
3	SPU	2	-	1	Visiting
4	GV	-	-	1	Visiting
5	SAU	-	-	1	Visiting
6	SGU	-	-	-	Visiting
7	BHU	-	-	-	1 Ad.L Visiting
8	NGU			-	1 TL

Teaching Faculty

- The need for full-time teachers duly recognized referring to UGC Review Committee (1965) and UGC Panel on library & Information Science (1982) but the situation in Gujarat is as under –
- 08 University Departments in Gujarat have total 7 faculties only. Sardar Patel University has 3 faculties whereas other 4 University Departments have only 1 faculty each. Other 3 universities offering courses without Faculty.

Teaching Faculty

- Not a Single Department has Full Time Faculty with Full Strength (As per the Pyramidal Structure given by UGC, June 2010).
- Teacher Student Ratio is not maintained [(1:10) in BLISc, (1:5) in MLISc] by any of the Departments. Moreover, there is no supporting staff.

Intake

- The study indicates that SGU, BHU, NGU have highest number of seats, it is also to note that they do not have a single permanent faculty. Gujarat University has 35 seats with only 1 permanent faculty. S.P. University has 30+10 in BLISc, 10+20 in MLISc and M.Phil 20 seats with 3 full time faculties.

Admission Criteria

- Most of all the LIS Department of various Universities in Gujarat has criteria of merits for admission and Gujarat Vidyapith has merits and entrance test for admission. For M.Phil and Ph. D. there is entrance test and merits for admission.

Examination Systems

- Because of CBSC (Choice Based Credit System) all the Universities are introducing semester system from 2010.
- Weightages of marks in theory and practice as well as internal and external marks are varying from University to University.

Curricula

- The curriculum recommended by the review committee of the University Grants Commission (of which Dr. S.R. Ranganathan was chairman) in its report of 1965, was generally followed in most of the LIS Schools in India as well as Gujarat with certain changes and modification.
- After that CDC, UGC (1992) (Under the chairmanship of P.N. Kaula) prepared model Curriculum for different levels of LIS courses conducted in Indian Universities.
- Then UGC constituted Subject Panel on LIS (1997) (Under convenor ship of C.R.Karisiddappa) for restructuring of CDC Report (2001) in the wake of rising impact of Information Technology on libraries. They restructured LIS syllabi and prepared the Model Curriculum.

Cont...

- Most of the Departments in Gujarat as well as in India have adopted revised curriculum with some local variation.
- To provide competent workforce for digital era, DLIS, Sardar Patel University is changing LIS Curriculum once in every Three Years to accommodate new ideas generated in the field. It covers all the aspects such as – Computerization, Library Networking, Internet, Information Technology, Communication Technology, Digitization, Information repackaging, etc. Even though, regular updation of curriculum, it is observed that sometimes the requirement of LIS professionals for Digital era are not fully satisfied.

Physical Facilities

- There is lacking of Separate Building with all the facilities such as
 - Separate room for each teacher, Common lecture hall with about 100-160 seats, Class rooms, Seminar room, well equipped Departmental Library, Computer Lab as well as Digital Lab, Workshop, Audio- Visual room, Common room for teachers – meeting etc., Office room, Stores and records room etc. and other facilities
- The Department of Library and Information Science, Sardar Patel University has a separate accommodation with full fledge Computer Lab, Digital Lab and Departmental Library with Internet facility.

Research Facilities & Environments

- Research and development is a backbone of any profession & teaching – learning programme. There are many opportunities for relevant research in LIS field in Gujarat as well as in India.
- There is no environment and facilities for R&D in LIS field in Gujarat
- There is need to establish Research Institute in LIS field in Gujarat referring to NKC (2009)

Dynamic Role

- LIS Departments have to overcome their limitation and problems to prepare professionals for 21st Century to play dynamic role to satisfy the contemporary demands of knowledge society.

Dynamic Role - Prerequisites

- Full fledged Department with all the facilities.
- Teacher – Student ratio.
- Teaching Standards
- National and International Standard should be maintained for LIS Education.
- Survey of job opportunities to ascertain specific skills and competencies needed for the particular job environment.
- On the basis of survey result - curriculum should be revised & facilities should be provided.
- Full fledged Computer and Digital Laboratory with Internet facility.
- Maximum Practical Exposure

Prerequisites – Cont...

- Attract top students with a background of subjects in the natural and applied sciences.
- Teacher training regarding new topics.
- Specialized faculty.
- Need of Evaluation of curricula with reference to requirement of knowledge based society
- **Provide opportunities for Research in LIS – NKC (2009) has recommended Indian Institute of Library Science (IILS) which indicates importance of research in LIS field.**
- Quality Control Mechanism

Conclusion

- Modern LIS Education has to offer a broad based flexible system of education which helps information personnel requirements of several sectors of economy. The LIS School can play an important role to produce professional manpower for present and future needs of knowledge society. Requirements are not same in all types of Library and Information centers, at all levels of tasks. It is a challenge for LIS School to cultivate and develop abilities in future library professionals without infrastructure facilities.

- Open for Discussion, Suggestions for preparing professionals to meet the future challenges