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Research Trends: Library and Information Science

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ABSTRACT :

It is through the education of library and information science that qualified and skilled staff are prepared for the management and operation of the library. Modern library science is called library information science because it is not limited only to the acquisition, presentation, classification, presentation panel and management of books but it also includes the search, processing, communication and retrieval of information. Modern libraries are making maximum use of information communication technology. Today is the time of information system. Internet has a special role in this. Today social media has been established as a powerful medium in the dissemination of information. Through this, today various types of information are being easily and quickly delivered to the general public. Therefore, to achieve the goals of the library and to provide continuous service, research was required to increase its quality in library activities. The more rigorous the research, the more useful its results will be, whether it is basic or applied in nature. Research activity of library and information science sheds historical light on research, which enhances information services. For this purpose, light has been thrown in the present article on library and information science research.

Keywords: Research, Library and Information Science Research, Development

Introduction :

Curiosity is the basic instinct of man. It is because of curiosity that man continuously progresses in the field of knowledge because it has been the fundamental characteristic of man that he is never satisfied with sufficient knowledge and after success in one field, he again starts working for the future. Research is a systematic effort to acquire new knowledge. The importance of research is constantly increasing in every part of human activities. In discussions related to research, libraries, traditional library science and new library and information science cannot be separated. Library and information science is an interdisciplinary field. It includes various problems, professionals, organizations and intellectual responsibilities. According to Shera, Ralph Beals once classified library literature into three parts - good news, testimony and research, and found that the last of these was very less. Goldhor, in his text on library research, has classified library literature in terms of research: one, a relatively small group of published research defined in the narrow sense; two, a large volume of published and unpublished service studies or applied research; three, a large number of reports or descriptions of specific situations or mere opinions; and four, original data. As Busha and Harter indicated in their textbook, the vast majority of library-related research is applied in nature. A 1984 issue of Library Trends was devoted to research in librarianship, and it reviewed research related to the history of library and information science, the economics of libraries, political science, and sociology, psychology of information use, organization theory, public administration, and operations research. This work thus provided a classification of library research in terms of both methodology and subject matter. Research is an endless process, there is growing evidence that the quality, even if not the quantity, of library and information science research is improving. And, hopefully, there is growing recognition that "the results of research in the broad spectrum of endeavors beyond library science will determine, to a large extent, the future direction of library services and the nature of the profession."

Development of Research in Library and Information Science :

The history of research in library science is not very long. Research activities in library and information science have started in various countries like America, Britain and India in the last few decades. In the 1930s, the study of library related phenomena had started in America. The Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, which was established in 1926, first proposed for the PhD degree. During the first 30 years of research activities, 129 dissertations were prepared, out of which 80 were from the University of Chicago. Out of these, 45 were on the history of books, printing and publishing, 13 on library governance, 3 on the study of technical services, 9 on study interests, 8 on current analysis, 9 on literary organizations. The first library school in the United Kingdom was established in 1919 at University College London. There was no proposal for PhD till 1969. 1963 The first study centre of Library and Information Science was established in Sheffield University. Library and Information Science in India had started in Vadodara Library by 1931. After the Second World War, it was gradually established as a full-fledged or a separate department and undergraduate and postgraduate courses were started in the university. Along with this, research activities on various subjects also started. At that time, Dr. Ranganathan, who was the librarian of Madras University, was the only person who focused on research work in Library and Information Science.

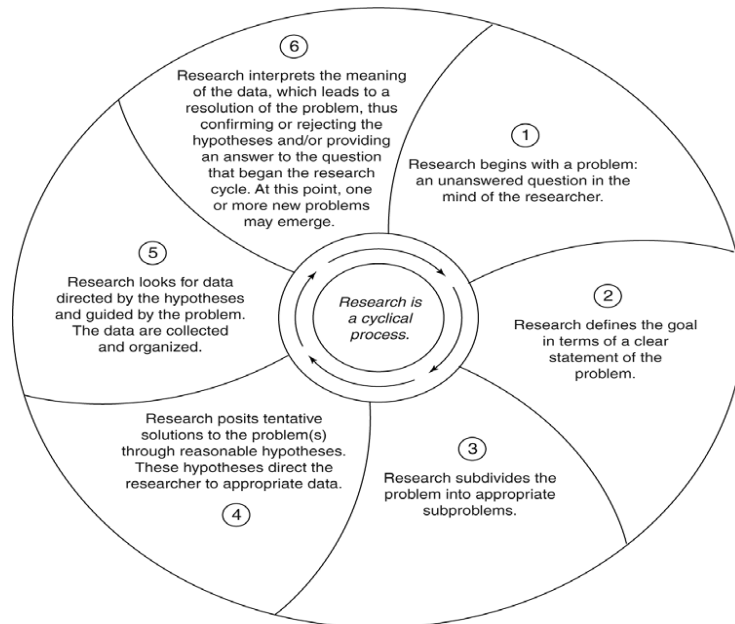


Figure: Research Process

Throughout this process, but perhaps at this point, the librarian will need to develop a plan for attempting to solve the problem. In other words, it will be necessary to decide what methodology and data collection techniques to use in addition to other procedures in the investigation. The librarian may choose to conduct an experiment during which a particular type of library instruction will be given, and students' library skills will be tested thereafter. Or a survey may be conducted in which students will be asked about, for example, their library use. Another feature of research inherent in most of the process is the need to deal with facts and their meanings. This activity is particularly important during the data collection and analysis stages. This is where the researcher must attempt to collect the information needed to solve the problem, organize it into meaningful categories, and analyze its significance. Data collected during a library instruction study may include scores on tests, attitudes toward the library, and self-perceptions of library skills.

Need for research in library and information science

Research in library and information science is needed due to the following reasons -

- Due to socio-economic changes in information related activities in the country.
- Information is continuously developing as a national source. Due to the establishment of national and international networks, the utility of information is greatly affected. Therefore, research and manpower are required in the information system.
- Research is necessary to bring innovation in the field of library and information science and to raise its level.
- New equipment and techniques are developed through research work, which is necessary for personnel training.
- Solution of library problems, library problems can be solved by critical and detailed study of research thesis.
- Research is evidence of the related subject, which reveals the research in that field and gives knowledge of the categories of researchers.
- According to the University Grants Commission, teachers of library science are given posts on the basis of their qualifications. In this, only those teachers who have research degrees are given sufficient recognition, so research is necessary.
- Research degree is necessary to get higher post and sufficient recognition.
- Research is necessary to increase the work of the library and to satisfy the needs of the users.

Therefore, research in library and information science plays an important role in the educational process, through which new knowledge is created and the problems of librarians, information scientists, and writers are solved.

Usefulness of Research in Library and Information Science

Research has many uses in library and information science, some of which are as follows -

- Determination of new knowledge and expansion of the limits of knowledge.
- Facilitating new uses of the existence of knowledge.
- Helpful in finding solutions to problems.
- Bringing novelty in the research of the researcher.
- To bring about intellectual and professional development in the teaching department.
- Research empowers the teaching department, research organization, researcher and students according to their qualifications.

In this way, research plays an important role in the expansion of knowledge and in new discoveries. Which is very important for the collection of the library. Teaching and research are the two primary functions of the university. Under research programs, teachers, librarians, information experts can obtain their research degree and get recognition according to their qualifications. These qualifications are very important in the department of library and information science. Many problems are being solved through them.

Research Areas in Library and Information Science

In order to evaluate the various aspects of library and information science, it is essential to determine the research needs of various areas of library science. The following areas of research in various aspects of library and information science are given.

- It includes information search, analysis of literature, library usage methods and user education.
- It includes information dissemination technology, storage and retrieval technology and system, management of information system and national and international information system etc.
- It includes terminology, subject headings, libraries and their organization, index and abstracting process.
- It includes documentary and non-documentary classification, cataloguing of books and non-text book materials and related processes.
- It includes automation of library activities, computer technology and its use in information retrieval and the services provided by it.
- It includes the study of professional associations, institutions, individuals and education of library science etc.
- It is necessary to study the structure of the list of text books, methods of teaching and evaluation, the relation between the training given by the library school and the demonstration of activities, location of the library keeping in view higher education, etc.
- Important trends in professional library science.
- All aspects of the reference process.
- Promotion and upgradation of reference knowledge.

Conclusion :

Work has begun on the practice of efficiently disseminating library information and services through social media. In such a situation, social media can be used in a better way and on a wider scale in this field. The changes coming in the field of library and information science through social media have been investigated through the present paper. Library and information science is a branch of academic disciplines that addresses cutting-edge topics such as social media networks, digital learning environments, and human information behaviour to deal with the problems of existing and developing information/technology fields. The library and information science profession is dedicated to the study and application of theory and technology for the production, selection, organization, management, preservation, dissemination, and exploitation of information collections in all formats. The shared social role of library science and information science, as well as their common concern with the difficulties of proper exploitation of graphic records, is a major point of convergence. Library and information science is considered an interdisciplinary field that includes literature, psychology, sociology, management, and computer science. In today's society, the aim of a library is to educate the entire community. The main aim of a library is to provide as many learning materials as possible to its patrons so that they can be fully educated at their various levels. Therefore, it is necessary to advance the trend of research in library and information science day by day and certainly research work is in progress in this field. Therefore, it is clear from the study that research trends in library and information science are increasing and efforts are being made to include them in the website of Shodhganga.

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