

**Course** : - Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS)

**Paper** : - Paper-I

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**Topic:** - INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL  
LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES  
(IASLIC)

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# **INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTERS (IASLIC):**

## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) is a non-profit organization based in India that supports development in the entire field of special librarianship in India. The IASLIC undertakes supports, coordinate research and studies, conducts short term training courses; organises general/special meetings, and hold seminars and conferences in alternate years on current problems of Libraries and Information services and other allied areas are selected as themes for discussions on these occasions. It also publishes journals, monographs, manuals, newsletters, papers, proceedings and reports.

## **2. Historical Background:**

The mark of nineteenth century brought the development of many special libraries in India. By beginning of twentieth century a need was felt to develop an association of such special libraries to have better co-operation among these libraries across the country. An attempt was made in 1949 to set up a special library association as a wing of the Indian Library Association. It did not materialize immediately.

The second attempt was made in 1955. Shri J. Saha of the Indian Statistical Institute, Shri A. K. Mukherjee of the Anthropological Survey of India, and Shri G. B. Ghosh of the Geological Survey of India issued a brief circular on June 18, 1955 convening a meeting. It was sent to a large number of librarians in India. The meeting was to be held on Saturday, 25 June at 4 P.M. in the Lecture Theatre of the Indian Museum.

In addition to the initiative of the three prime movers, the enthusiasm and inspiration of the late Dr. S. L. Hora, a Zoologist of international repute, and the then Director of the Zoological Survey of India were greatly responsible for the success of this venture. The meeting of 25 June 1955 was well attended. Many librarians and documentalists from far of places attended the meeting.

Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) was formally established. Dr. Hora was elected the first President and Mr. J. Saha the first Honorary General Secretary of IASLIC. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, library professionals across the country at a large scale in seminars, conferences, annual general meetings started demanding to spread out IASLIC's activities in all spheres of librarianship and libraries. Academic Library Section, Public Library Section, Corporate Library Section, Government Library Section. Also it has created a separate section viz JOCLAI (Joint Council of Library Associations of India) Section to keep coordination among all kind of Library Associations of India.

### **3. Objectives of IASLIC:**

- a) To encourage and promote the systematic acquisition, organization, and dissemination of knowledge.
- b) To improve the quality of library and information service and documentation work.
- c) To co-ordinate the activities and to foster mutual co-operation and assistance among the special libraries – scientific, technological and research Institutions, learned societies, commercial organizations, industrial research Establishments, as well as other information and documentation centers to the maximum extent.
- d) To serve as a field of active contact for libraries, information bureaus, Documentation centers, scientists, research workers, specialists and Others having common interests.
- e) To improve the technical efficiency of workers in special libraries and Information and documentation centers and to look after their Professional welfares.
- f) To act as a center of research in special library and documentation Techniques.
- g) To act as a center of information in scientific, technical and other fields.
- h) To take such actions as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the association or any of them.

### **4. Organization:**

It has a General Body who appoint a president, a general secretary, a treasurer, 2 joint and assistant secretaries each, 6 vice president, a librarian and council of 25 members.

These appointments are valid for 2 years.

- The association has 6 divisions:
- Publication and Publicity
- Library Services
- Documentation services
- Education
- Co-operation and coordination of libraries
- Documentation, Reproduction and Translation

There are 4 special interest groups:

- Humanity
- Industrial Information
- Social Science
- Computer Application

## **5. Activities:**

The activities of IASLIC are,

- 1) Publishing IASLIC Bulletin (Quarterly), IASLIC Newsletter (Monthly), and Indian Library Science Abstracts (Annual);
- 2) Organization of professional Conferences/Seminars – so far 45 Seminars/Conferences have been organized in different parts of the Country;
- 3) Professional Education – so far 35 short term training courses / workshops Have been conducted on different aspects of library science in Collaboration with UGC, DSIR, CSIR and Library and Information Science Departments of various universities;
- 4) Library Consultancy Services; and
- 5) Special interest group Activities – annual meetings are held on i) Social sciences information, ii) Computer application, iii) Humanities information, iv) Informatics, v) Industrial information, and vi) Library and Information Science education.

IASLIC also organizes Annual Lectures,

- a) Annual Special Lecture series was introduced in 1987 in which eminent personalities from various professions (such as renowned scientists, vice chancellors, chief justice, media personalities, etc) have been invited to deliver lectures on topics of interest to library profession;
- b) Ranganathan Memorial Lecture series was started in 1993 in which lectures are delivered by leading library professionals. Besides, 'Librarian of the Year' award is given every year to deserving library professional.

IASLIC, for the last 50 years, has made a remarkable and stellar contribution in its mission to promote library movement to improve professional competencies of library and information science workers and to foster coordination and cooperation among the professional association and organizations. The Association has earned recognition and national level acceptance which is extremely heartening and a source of great pride to its members.

In spite of all financial and organizational difficulties, IASLIC has been expanding its activities in different dimensions. The essential role of IASLIC has been that of a leader-coordinator, who seeks to bring about a harmonious development in the entire field of special librarianship in India through development and coordination of professional thinking and effective performance of the persons in the profession. (Nag, 2005).

The association, over a period, made a remarkable and stellar contribution in Its mission to promote library and information science movement, to improve Professional competencies, to foster coordination and cooperation among professional Associations and organizations (Nag, 2003).

## **6. Information Services:**

The IASLIC undertakes compilation of bibliographies and English translation of documents from Russian, German, French, Chinese, Japanese, etc. and also undertakes imaging of documents for archiving. All these services are provided on non-profit basis. The Association also undertakes consultancy services like creation of computerised bibliographic databases, retrospective conversion of records, preservation and conservation of documents cataloguing, classification and stock verification in public and private organisations on non-profit basis.

## **7. Professional Issues:**

The Association strives to improve the standards of service in special libraries and information centers. In this connection, it has made attempts to evolve a code of ethics for librarianship. It brings to the attention of authorities, issues which call for improvement and corrective measures. It concerns itself in sound planning and development of library and information systems and promotes suitable measures in this regard. It has taken measures like drafting an inter-library loan code for library cooperation. It has been quite responsive to the need for securing better salary scales, service conditions and status for library professional. It brings together library and information professionals at all levels and speaks for them as a whole on professional issues.

## **8. Education and Training:**

The Association in its continuing education programmes conducts short term courses, workshops, round tables, seminars etc. Organizing short-term training courses in various topics is now a regular feature of the continuing education programme to improve professional competency. These courses are usually held in collaboration with university departments, specialized institutions, National Library of India and other professional bodies etc. in different parts of India.

## **9. Publication:**

The IASLIC Bulletin, its official quarterly journal, has been taken out ever since 1956 and has been devoted to the development and dissemination of the fundamental and applied knowledge in library and information sciences discipline. The information contained in this bulletin is useful to all the library

professionals. The bulletin is issued quarterly; new volume begins with the March number every year.

The IASLIC Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Association and is aimed to inform members about the professional activities in general and IASLIC in particular. It is published monthly. Indian Library Science Abstracts (annual), another publication of the Association covers literature published in the country in the field of library and information science.

Apart from IASLIC Bulletin and Newsletter, it also publishes books, monographs, directory, conference and seminar proceedings, annual report, etc.

Since 1966 the association is publishing a bimonthly newsletter IASLIC has other publications also.

- ✓ Education for Librarianship in India: A Survey.
- ✓ Glossary of terms used for Cataloguing in Indian regional Languages. Methods of Scientific Communication.
- ✓ Special and Research Libraries Directory of India in 1985 second edition was
  - ✓ printed covering around 500 libraries.
  - ✓ Indexing Systems.

IASLIC: Perspective, Performance, and Promise — A Silver Jubilee Commemorative Volume, Indexing Systems, and Library Architecture-1980.

### **10. Awards For Excellence:**

The IASLIC has instituted different awards for librarians. These are awarded to the best librarian of the year, best teacher in LIS, best young teacher in LIS, a retired librarian and the best article award.

- IASLIC Best LIS Teacher Award
- IASLIC Best Young LIS Teacher Award
- Best Retired Librarian Award
- IASLIC Librarian of the Year Award
- IASLIC Best Article Award

### **11. Seminar, Conference, Workshop and Training:**

The seminars and conferences are organized to serve as a forum to exchange and share expertise, ideas, skills and new techniques required to develop and maintain modern library system. It was found that the IASLIC organizes

seminar and conferences in alternate year. In general it was also observed that in even year it organizes seminar and in the odd year it organizes conference. So far till the year 2009 it had organized 27 conferences and 22 seminars at national level.

The IASLIC conferences began since 1956 but in the years 1958 & 1959 conferences were not held. These two years and the years 1971, 1973 and 1974 the conferences were not organized. Interestingly, it can be seen that first three conferences were held in the then Calcutta only.

## **12. SUMMARY:**

The IASLIC undertakes, supports, coordinate research and studies, conducts short term training courses; organizes general/special meetings, and hold seminars and conferences in alternate years on current problems of Libraries and Information services and other allied areas are selected as themes for discussions on these occasions. It also publishes journals, monographs, manuals, newsletters, papers, proceedings and reports. IASLIC maintains its headquarters at Kolkata in a small three storied building of its own at P-291, CIT Scheme No 6M , Kankurgachi, Kolkata -700 054, West Bengal, India in the vicinity of CIT industrial housing estate behind the Ramakrishna Samadhi Road Post Office. The Office is run by Voluntary workers and remains open from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. except Sundays, second Saturdays and national holidays. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, library professionals across the country at a large scale in seminars, conferences, annual general meetings started demanding to spread out IASLIC's activities in all spheres of librarianship and libraries viz. Academic Library, Public Library, Special Library, Corporate Library, Gvornment Library etc.