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Topic : - INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ILA)

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INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ILA):

1. INTRODUCTION (LIBRARY ASSOCIATION):

We have historical records of early library associations in India such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), Bengal Library Association (1927) and Madras Library Association (1927). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933. The Post-independence period has witnessed an increase in the number of library associations. We have, at present, many national and state level library associations. There are also associations devoted to special categories of libraries, subjects, fields and other special interests. For example, the Govt. of India Libraries Association, (GILA), Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Micrographic Congress of India (MIC); Society for Information Science. Only a few associations are active in contributing to professional development. Professionals are generally indifferent to become members of library associations. The fact that many states have not enacted library legislation points out that our library associations have not been effective.

One association at the all India level are described in the following sections. The Indian Library Association

2. INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (Historical Prospectives):

The Indian Library Association was formed on 13th September 1933 on the occasion of 1st All India Library Conference held at Calcutta (now Kolkata). The Indian Library Association is the largest professional body in the field of library and information science in the country. It is the premier national association representing the library profession in the country. The birth of the Association can be traced to the holding of an All India Library Conference at Calcutta in September 1933. All leading librarians of that period were instrumental in organising the conference, whose main aim was to form the Indian Library Association. Between 1933 and 1947, seven All-India Library Conferences were held in different parts of the country. Publications of ILA included two editions of the Directory of Indian Libraries and a quarterly journal entitled Library Bulletin, as an official organ. After Independence, the Association witnessed both hectic and lean periods of activity.

Until 1983, when ILA completed fifty years, 22 more All-India Library Conferences were held. The growth over the period was steady but not spectacular. Some initiatives taken by the ILA can be said to have had an impact over library development in the country. For instance in 1992, the ILA successfully organized an Indian Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference at Delhi. However, the expectations of the library profession have all along been far more than what was achieved. At the present time, the library profession is keen to make ILA strong and effective and there are signs of some progress.

3. OBJECTIVES:

The Association aims at establishing high standards of librarianship and library services in the country. It has the following objectives:

- Promotion of library movement in the country and enactment of library legislation;
- Improvement of library services;
- Development of library science education and training and accreditation of library schools Towards maintaining proper standards of education;
- Betterment of salaries, service conditions and status of library personnel;
- Promotion of cooperation among libraries and professionals;
- Promotion of research and bibliographical studies;
- Affiliation with state and other library associations
- Cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives;
- Publication of serials and other publications for dissemination of information;
- Providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings;
- Promotion and formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc., for management Of library and information systems and their services;
- Establishments of libraries, documentation and information centres and assistance in their development; and
- Carrying out all such other activities that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ILA:

The membership of the Association comprises patrons, life and ordinary members, and institutional and associate members.

The general body elects, for a three year term, a President, six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary and Council Members, up to 20, at the rate of one representative for every 100 personal members, and one representative for every 40 institutional members. There are Sectional Committees to look after professional work in different areas, such as: University Libraries, College Libraries, Government Department Libraries, School Libraries, Academic Status and Parity, Public Libraries, Library and Information Schools, Educational Projects and Consultancy, etc. These Sectional Committees consist of working librarians and experts in the subject including teachers in library and information science.

The Chairmen of the Sectional Committees, one representative of each member state library association and ex- Presidents of the Association are also members of Council. An Executive Committee Consisting of the President, one Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, two Secretaries, P.R.O. and three Council Members look after routine management. While the general body meets once a year, usually at the time of All India Library Conference, the council meets at least once in a quarter and the Executive Committee meets as often as necessary. The annual report and accounts of the Association are passed at the General Body Meeting.

5. ACTIVITIES IN INDIA:

An All India Library Conference is held every year at some place in the country. The host institution is a university, an institution or a local library association. National seminar, on one or more themes of importance and relevance is a part of the programme of the All India Library Conference. In addition national seminars on themes of topical interest are also held from time to time.

The Association arranges lectures, round table discussions and other activities in Delhi and other cities. It associates itself with libraries, other library association, institutions, etc. in the programmes generally organised during the National Library Week in November each year.

6. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF ILA:

ILA is a member of IFLA and the Commonwealth Library Association. It hosted the 1992 IFLA General Conference in Delhi. The International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy organized by ILA in November 1985 was an event of great significance. The ILA also organized the IFLA Universal Availability of -Publications (UAP) Regional Seminar in October 1985 and FID/CR Regional Seminar in November 1985 in New Delhi.

ILA celebrated its 75th year in 2008 and organised an International Conference. Under the auspicious of ILA 'Unesco Public Library Manifesto' has been translated into about 15 Indian Languages.

7. PUBLICATION:

The Association brings out a quarterly journal entitled ILA Bulletin as an official organ and a vehicle for publishing learned articles contributed by professionals in the library and information science field. There is a scheme of awarding prizes such as PV Verghese Prize, for best article contributed to the ILA Bulletin. The Association published ILA Newsletter

every month to disseminate information of current interest to members. Since 1978, the Association has been publishing regularly the proceedings of the All India Library, Conference which includes the Seminar Papers discussed at the meeting. In the case of ad hoc seminars also, a pre-seminar volume carrying the papers is brought out. In 1985, it brought out the fourth edition of the Indian Library Directory. An ILA Members Directory was published in 1987. The Association brings out regularly its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. It is expanding its publication programme at the present time. In 1995, a database NALANDA of over 10,000 libraries (5336 Academic, 1470 Public and 3280 Special) was created.

8. CONTINUING EDUCATION:

The Association has recently started a Continuing Education programme for the benefit of working professionals. It organized during the last decade a series of workshops in different cities on Computer Application to Library and Information Activities. More such programmes are planned for the future.

9. AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:

ILA has instituted many awards for encouraging excellence in the professional practices such as:

- ILA-Kaula Best Librarian Award
- ILA- Vendanaikkee Fellowship
- ILA-C D Sharma Award
- ILA- AG Verghese Award
- ILA-Dr. K Padma Umamathy and Dr. S K Umamathy Fellowship in Library and Information Sc.
- ILA-Dr. L M Padhya Best University Library Award
- ILA-S M Ganguly Award

10. PROFESSIONAL ISSUES:

The Association takes up with the state governments, at every conceivable opportunity, the issue of enacting library legislation in order to develop the public library system. It has been repeatedly sending a memorandum persuading the state governments to initiate action on library legislation. It has been active in pursuing with the government, with the University Grant Commission (UGC) and with other bodies management matters relating to the betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals. It took initiatives in drafting a national policy for library service and held a seminar on the topic, as a

result of which, the Government of India appointed a Committee to prepare a National Policy on Library and Information System. During the All India Library Conference, a number of resolutions are usually passed on matters of professional interest and concern, which the Association takes up with appropriate authorities for implementation.

11. FUTURE PROSPECTIVES:

The ILA is now firmly organised, with the confidence of the library profession assured, to carry on and expand its programmes and activities with a view to meet the hopes and aspirations of the profession and to serve the cause of librarianship and library service in the country. We are marching towards knowledge society. In the knowledge society, creation, building and developing knowledge infrastructure, is one of the main functions of the government and others. A new visionary approach for National and Regional Library Associations in India would be drawn from some of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission. The Indian Library Association needs to participate actively in implementing the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, relating to libraries, such as:

- Setting up the National Commission on Libraries.
- Census of all libraries.
- LIS education and public private participation in LIS development.
- Translation of pedagogic materials.

12. SUMMERY:

Library Associations are learned bodies which foster a spirit of public service among their members, promote library services, protect the interests of their members and build up the image of the library profession. Two major associations of India ,viz. the Indian Library Association and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers have been described, with reference to their objectives, organisations activities, publications, education and training programme, consultancy service and other information services, professional issues, relation with other professional bodies, international relation and future perspectives.