



Modern Management System in Libraries

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ABSTRACT

Libraries today are coping with change and searching for tools to assist them to deal with it, as well as creating strategic partnerships with other libraries. Cooperation appears to be the key to library survival. Cooperation efforts vary depending on geographic areas and cultural traditions, but they appear to be present around the world: on the one hand, nations with strong libraries that are used to strengthen cooperation and sharing have seen a flourishing of new cooperative initiatives and formal consortia; on the other hand, nations, where this collaborative practise was not within their culture, have received a boast towards it. The first libraries were repositories for the earliest sort of writing, clay tablets in cuneiform script discovered in Sumer, some dating back to 2600 BC. These written records mark the end of prehistory and the start of history. In the 1980s, the introduction of online searching, i.e. digital databases, began to replace the library's print indexes and abstracting reference tools. While expensive and difficult to use, such resources were frequently mediated by highly skilled librarians to provide broader access to print library materials (at least for the untrained). Although this finding was touted as revolutionary once more, it simply represented a more efficient and effective method of offering basic library services.

Keywords: *Libraries, Collection development, book collections, library materials, Apostolic Library.*

Today, libraries are dealing with change management and are looking for tools to help them deal with it, as well as building strategic connections with other libraries. Cooperation appears to be the key to the survival of libraries. Cooperation efforts vary depending on geographic areas and cultural traditions, but they appear to be present throughout the world: on one hand, nations with strong libraries used to strengthen cooperation and sharing have seen a flourishing of new cooperative initiatives and formal consortia; on the other hand, nations, where this collaborative practise was not within their culture, have received a boast towards it. "Library Collection is the sum total of Library materials books manuscripts serials government papers pamphlets catalogs reports recordings," according to the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Microfilm reels, micro-cards, microfiche punched cards, computer tapes, and other items that comprise a library's holdings". The following is a quotation from R. Tennant, "In a world that is forever changing, the only certainty is change.

Therefore, strategies for building 21st-century libraries and librarians must focus on the ability of librarians and libraries to not just adapt to change but to prepare for it, facilitate it and shape it. (Tennant 503-50) Collection development at a library would thus imply expanding and upgrading the collection in that library; formerly, librarians were only concerned with the acquisition and preservation of reading materials. At the time, the number of documents was more essential than the information contained inside them. That is to say, quality was prioritized in a library. This attitude has shifted recently. User requirements are becoming more important. The phrase Collection Development emerged to underline the importance of responding to the demands of users. Bloomfield (1987) says “To meet the demands, librarians here evolved theories of collection development which imply a more active role in managing conditions.” (Bolman) Collection development is commonly confused with collection building, which indicates that there is already a nucleus of a collection in the library and the librarians will expand on it. However, collection development differs from collection construction in that the term development indicates qualitative enhancement of the collection. That is why Shipman has said “Building a Collection may occasionally involve the selection and acquisition of materials ab initio but in most cases, it is likely to mean the planned system and development of an already existing collection.”

Collection development at a library would thus imply expanding and upgrading the library's collection. Previously, librarians were only concerned with the acquisition and maintenance of reading materials. At the time, the number of documents was more essential than the information contained inside them. In other words, quality was prioritized in a library. This attitude has shifted recently. User requirements are becoming more important. The phrase Collection Development had emerged to underline the importance of responding to the demands of users. Bloomfield (1987) says “To meet the demands, librarians here evolved theories of collection development which imply a more active role is managing conditions” (Prytherch) With the shift in our attitude toward library and information services, we are now more aware of user demands, the value of information accessible to us, and the comprehensive and timely distribution of information.

The first libraries were archives of the earliest type of writing, the clay tablets in cuneiform script unearthed in Sumer, some of which date back to 2600 BC. These written documents represent the end of prehistory and the beginning of history. Ugarit had the first found private archives. There is additional evidence of library classification at Nippur around 1900 BC and

Nineveh around 700 BC. In the fifth century BC, private or personal libraries made up of written books (as opposed to governmental or institutional documents stored in archives) arose in ancient Greece. At the end of the Classical period in the sixth century, the great libraries of the Mediterranean world remained those of Constantinople and Alexandria. Humanist libraries and their enlightened patrons formed a nucleus around which a "academy" of academics assembled in each Italian city of distinction beginning in the 15th century in central and northern Italy. Tianyi Chamber, created by Fan Qin during the Ming Dynasty in 1561, is China's oldest extant library. It formerly had a collection of 70,000 volumes of old books.

During the Han Dynasty, the first library categorization system was established. Personal book collections are said to have been brought to North America by French immigrants in the 16th century. In 1635, The Jesuit College in Quebec City established the continent's first non-personal library. Martin Schrettinger wrote the first textbook on library science in 1808.

A governmental entity, an institution, a company, or a private individual organizes and maintains a library. Public and institutional collections and services may be designed for use by persons who do not want to – or cannot afford to – own a large collection for themselves, or who want content that no individual can fairly be expected to hold. In addition to resources, libraries provide the services of librarians, who are professionals in finding, organizing, and interpreting information requirements. Libraries frequently include quiet study places as well as communal areas to enable group study and cooperation. Libraries frequently allow public access to their electronic resources and the Internet. Modern libraries are rapidly being reimagined as locations where people may receive unfettered access to knowledge in a variety of formats and from a variety of sources. They are expanding services beyond the physical boundaries of a facility by making content available electronically and by assisting librarians in accessing and analysing massive volumes of data using a range of digital technologies. 'Things were much the same in the government and temple records on papyrus of Ancient Egypt.' (Murray) At the end of the Classical period in the sixth century, the great libraries of the Mediterranean world remained those of Constantinople and Alexandria. Cassiodorus, Theodoric's minister, constructed a monastery with a library at Vivarium in the heel of Italy, where he strove to introduce Greek wisdom to Latin readers and preserve works both holy and profane for future generations. Cassiodorus, the monastery's unofficial librarian, not only gathered as many manuscripts as he could, but he

also penned treatises to train his monks in the correct uses of reading and procedures for precisely transcribing texts. However, the library of Vivarium was eventually scattered and lost within a century. Theological school of Caesarea gained a reputation for having the most extensive ecclesiastical library of the time, containing more than 30,000 manuscripts, thanks to Origen and especially the scholarly presbyter Pamphilus of Caesarea, an avid collector of books of Scripture: Gregory Nazianzus, Basil the Great, Jerome, and others came and studied there.

By the eighth century, first Iranians and later Arabs had imported from China the trade of papermaking, with a paper mill being in operation in Baghdad in 794. Public libraries began to exist in several Islamic cities around the 9th century. "They were known as the "halls of Science," or dar al-'ilm. The libraries frequently engaged a huge number of translators and copyists to translate the majority of extant Persian, Greek, Roman, and Sanskrit non-fiction and literary classics into Arabic. This bloom of Islamic scholarship ended centuries later, when learning in the Islamic world began to decline after many of these libraries were destroyed by Mongol invasions. Others were victims of Islamic warfare and religious turmoil. However, a few examples of these medieval libraries, such as Chinguetti's library in West Africa, have survived quite completely. Another old library from this era that is still active and increasing is the Central Library of Astan Quds Razavi in the Iranian city of Mashhad, which has been in operation for more than six centuries. Christian monks in Muslim/Christian border countries, mainly Spain and Sicily, copied the contents of these Islamic libraries. They subsequently made their way into other sections of Christian Europe from there. These copies were added to works that had been directly saved by Christian monks from Greek and Roman originals, as well as copies created by Western Christian monks of Byzantine works. The resultant collection of libraries is the foundation of every contemporary library today. The philosopher Laozi was the custodian of books in China's first library, which belonged to the Imperial Zhou dynasty. In addition, evidence of catalogs discovered in some destroyed ancient libraries shows the presence of librarians.

The last quarter of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first have seen a transformation of the information environment in which libraries live, move, and exist that far outnumbers previous changes, including those brought about by the invention of printing so many centuries ago. "And much like a sea animal suddenly forced to live on land, libraries must change in radical and fundamental ways. This presents both a wrenching challenge and

a remarkable opportunity – both of which we will be exploring together in the coming days as we seek to understand the way forward for Indian academic libraries in the 21st Century.” (Pricilla Rani 696-701) I feel that the first step in mapping our future route is to recognize how radical our job must be. We must, in particular, fundamentally alter our perspective. My History of Religions lecturer once stated in class that the hunting and gathering societies could not see seeds. What he meant by saying was not that the seeds were invisible or that these early peoples were blind, but rather that seeds played no important part in their mental map of the world. These hunters and gatherers could not appreciate the potential of seeds as the foundation of an agricultural civilization until they made a fundamental transformation in their worldview.

Since then, history has provided numerous examples of fundamental transformations caused by key shifts in human thinking, with profound implications for human history and progress: the Ptolemaic view of the universe giving way to the Copernican revolution, or Newton's worldview being supplanted by Einstein centuries later. But the example that comes to me most quickly here in India is the West's effort to find a path to the East. As you may be aware, Europeans discovered the wealth of the Orient, notably India, in the late Middle Ages, with its spices, silks, and gold. Sailing east to trade with eastern cultures resulted in enormous fortunes for both governments and people in both cultures. But there was a problem: a long detour around Africa, months spent sailing south and then north to reach the Orient's marketplaces. A straight method might potentially yield trade fortunes beyond avarice's wildest fantasies. The main impediment to discovering such a direct path was not bigger ships, better sailors, or even better navigation technology. It was a need for a new mindset, a new way of seeing the world. A previous lingering belief that the globe was flat meant that the only way to go to the East was to sail eastward - which necessitated a lengthy detour. Columbus, on the other hand, had acquired a new worldview. He started to believe that the globe was round. That seemingly little shift in perspective has far-reaching consequences. It meant that you could sail east by sailing west, and therefore arrive in the Orient without having to take a massive African detour. As it turned out, the globe was more convoluted than Columbus had anticipated, and while he did not uncover a new path to India, he did discover a "New World" (the New Indies) with new riches - and changed the course of history. The key here for us today is the influence that our old worldview has over us, and the extent to which it forms, leads, and even blinds us to future possibilities. Today, I would suggest that librarians and information science workers, in general, must learn how to make

seeds visible, and how to comprehend the implications of a round world, by embracing a new vision of the library. To put it another way, we need to consider the digital revolution as a fundamentally different way of doing business entirely - one that allows us to "see" the potential and successfully deal with the obstacles of the new, while still being conventional. It is difficult to break away from a traditional viewpoint, as is frequently the case when there is a need for significant and fundamental change in our way of thinking. Let me explain simply how difficult this issue is for librarians nowadays. In general, it is a history of employing digital technology to address conventional print-world issues rather than seeing and using the benefits of a genuinely digital world. The first significant use of digital technology in libraries was to improve library procedures for dealing with print holdings, particularly circulation systems and catalogues.

The purpose of this and similar systems, based on the Quadraplanar structure established at the University of Chicago in the early 1970s, was to employ digital technology for inventory control and record display of print (and other physical things) in library collections. While we referred to it as revolutionary, it just represented a more efficient and precise method of doing typical library operations. We were merely sailing somewhat better-maintained ships throughout Africa. The next significant advancement was a better method of providing intellectual access to the print library. The advent of online searching, i.e. digital databases, began to replace the library's print indexes and abstracting reference tools in the 1980s. Such resources were often mediated by highly trained librarians to enable greater access to print library resources, while being costly and complex to use (at least for the untrained). Although heralded as revolutionary once more, this discovery just represented a more efficient and effective manner of providing standard library services.

As digital information began to significantly enter the collection in the early 1990s, a more fundamental alteration began to seep into the library sector. "Joining such pioneers as ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research) – longitudinal databases maintained on rows of computer tapes – were CD formatted databases such as Sir Chadwyck-Healey's English Poetry (700- 1900), compact discs for music collections and even, in the US, the Government Printing Office was increasingly distributing its massive information avalanche in a digital CD format." (Pandita 1-8) As a result, digital discs and cassettes were viewed as another another addition to the United Nations of collecting formats. More significantly, even though these new digital resources were viewed as a revolutionary

breakthrough, they were nevertheless packed in a physical manner, and were often purposefully designed to seem like books in order to be housed alongside the "real" collection. We were still only cruising across Africa with bigger ships. The first of two even more drastic digital earthquakes struck in the late 1990s, causing the foundations to genuinely tremble. The Big Deal (bulk journal purchasing) and JSTOR (retrospective digitization of key journals) caused a worldwide boom of access to digital journal literature, while print access to the same material began to decline. Both libraries and their users began a slow but steady exodus from print journal releases, while journal publishers not only supplied digital editions of their journals in the future, but also launched extensive digital retro conversion. While we are not aware of any comprehensive and systematic census reporting on the degree of academic journal digitization for the 20,000+ academic journals, patron use and library purchase patterns clearly indicate that digital journals are now the dominant and increasingly exclusive format for academic journals. These digital journal collections are almost never found in libraries.

The second major digital earthquake happened around the middle of the first decade of the new century. 'Google, Microsoft (for a while), the EU and Open Content Alliance had all begun massive book digitization projects. In a complementary manner, access to government documents also shifted. In the US, for example, rather than continuing to provide the digital information to libraries on physical discs, the government has made a substantial shift to information access via online websites, bypassing the library middleman.' (Adams 119-31) Furthermore, we have witnessed the widespread development of high density storage facilities during this time period, as well as an increasing movement of library physical collections to them. Taken together, these findings, together with others previously reported in the journal literature, offer the same deep two-part message for librarians. The first component of the message is that digital information is no longer just another format for libraries in the twenty-first century; it is becoming the sole format. Not just the core aspects of conventional library collections, such as journals, books, and government records, but also music and the visual arts, may and are now represented digitally. The library is progressively becoming a single world government unified around the digital format, rather than a United Nations of forms. 'Buddhist scriptures, educational materials, and histories were stored in libraries in pre-modern Southeast Asia. In Burma, a royal library called the Pitaka Taik was legendarily founded by King Anawrahta; in the 18th century, British envoy Michael Symes, upon visiting this library, wrote that "it is not improbable that his Birman majesty may

possess a more numerous library than any potentate, from the banks of the Danube to the 'In pre-modern Southeast Asia, libraries housed Buddhist texts, educational resources, and histories. In Burma, King Anawrahta is said to have founded a royal library called the Pitaka Taik; in the 18th century, British envoy Michael Symes wrote that "it is not improbable that his Birman majesty may possess a more numerous library than any potentate, from the banks of the Danube to the borders of China." (Casson) In Thailand, libraries called to try were established all across the nation, generally on stilts above a pond to keep mosquitoes away from the books.

Monastery library grew in the early Middle Ages, such as the major one at the Abbey of Monte Cassino. Books were typically chained to the shelves, and chained libraries emphasised the fact that manuscripts written via the laborious process of hand copying were important belongings. 'Despite this caution, many libraries leased books in exchange for security deposits' (usually money or a book of equal value). Lending was a method for books to be copied and circulated.' The council of Paris rebuked those monasteries who still prohibited lending books in 1212, reminding them that lending is "one of the great deeds of kindness." Early libraries were collections of lecterns with books chained to them, housed in monastery cloisters and affiliated with scriptoria. Bookpresses began with shelves erected above and between back-to-back lecterns. The chain was fastened to a book's foreedge rather than its spine. To maximise illumination, book presses were situated in carrels (perpendicular to the walls and hence to the windows), with low bookshelves in front of the windows. This "stall arrangement" was common in English institutional libraries. Bookcases were set parallel to and against the walls in European libraries. This "wall system" was originally used on a big scale in El Escorial, Spain. Humanist libraries and their enlightened patrons formed a nucleus around which a "academy" of academics assembled in each Italian city of distinction beginning in the 15th century in central and northern Italy. Cosimo de Medici developed his own collection in Florence, which served as the foundation for the Laurentian Library. Pope Nicholas V gathered the papal collections in separate Greek and Latin libraries in Rome, and Pope Sixtus IV entrusted the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana to his librarian, the humanist Bartolomeo Platina, in February 1475. Sixtus V bisected Bramante's Cortile del Belvedere with a cross-wing in the 16th century to contain the Apostolic Library in appropriate splendour.

Many organisations distinguish between a "circulation" or "lending library" (often a public library where resources are expected to be leased to clients, institutions, or other libraries) and "research" or "reference library" (where the materials are selected on a basis of their natures or subject matter, and are usually not lent out). Modern libraries frequently have a broad collection for circulation as well as a reference collection that is typically more specialised and limited to the library grounds. 'Research in library history in India has generally been ignored, resulting in the availability of relatively restricted and sparse material. Donald G. Davis, Jr. of the University of Texas at Austin comments about the state of library history in India, stating that while a core literature on Indian library history exists, it has many imbalances and gaps. The researchers' interests and geographical locations are highly diverse. With a single individual seldom contributing more than one piece. Existing research efforts show little pattern. In this setting, the historian's role is considerably more critical and vital in assessing the rise and development of libraries in India, the causes responsible for their expansion, and the impact.

It is commonly known that our libraries are underused in comparison to investments made in them, Rajgopalan observed in his 1987 presidential address to the Indian Library Association. Non- and under-use of libraries results in a waste of resources." Perhaps consumers' poor utilisation is due to a low literacy rate, a lack of reading habits, and so on... Libraries must establish user education programmes so that libraries are fully utilised. "If library historians would examine the roots and tendencies of library challenges, they would give a great service to the profession and society," (Rajgopalan) he added. They are either native or alien. Foreign travelogues from Tibetans, Chinese, Muslims, Portuguese, English, and other Europeans are quite beneficial. Itsing, Fahien, Hieun Tsang, Alberuni, Ibn Batuta, Minhaj, Firishta, Badauni, Afif, bernier, mandelso, Manrique de Lara, Martin, Count Noer are some notable foreign travelogues. In addition to the travelogues, historians such as Henry M. Eliot, John Dawson, Stanley Lane-Pool, Ishwari Prasad, R.C. Majumdar, Jadunath Sarkar, V.D. Mahajan, Mohammed Muhammed Zubair, J.S. Sarma, and N.N. Law have made major contributions. Despite being few, there are articles produced by library professionals on the history of libraries. A few efforts have also been undertaken to do study in the area of library history and similar works.

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