

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Library Profession: Characteristics and ethics

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Abstract: Libraries are at a turning point. As technology rapidly transforms the way we access information, and resources are increasingly available online and in digital formats, the established role of the library as a physical space housing racks of books is looking increasingly out of step with the needs of students and researchers. Allied with technology, library users' needs and preferences are helping to drive the change in libraries. Students, researchers and teachers now expect to be able to access information around the clock, from almost anywhere in the world and via a growing number of devices, from laptops to phones. This paper is an attempt to show that LIS profession is an essential and integral part for education system in India and LIS ethics plays a backbone for the future need and growth of society.

Keywords: Library Profession; Library ethics

Introduction

Before going to detail of LIS profession, we have to know that what is profession? According to Webster's dictionary "A profession is the industry which need skilled and specific knowledge. Usually long term and serious preparation is expected to understand its function and scientific system, historical and learned principles need orientation and training which is based on sound ideas advanced and high achievements which keeps busy to his member in continuous study and specific public service.

In simple word profession and its related works have some basic principles which can be understood through training.

The study of ethics in the information professions is a subset of the study of ethics in general. Thus, a definition of ethics may be helpful in clarifying this concept. There is no agreement on the

exact definition of the term ethics (Mont, 1991).

LIS Profession

Is a source like other profession to earn bread and butter and getting money too. No society and industry today can make progress without use and cooperation of library services.

Some characteristics of Library profession-

- 1 Library science has five basic laws which was incorporated by S.R. Rangnathan
- 2 Library profession has a service motive.
- 3 The base of library science is a scientific

- 4 To get the degree it is essential to study a LIS course in recognized university.
- 5 For the development of library various library organizations are established.
- 6 LIS profession is being used for welfare of society and for enhancement for the better life of human being.

Like every profession LIS profession also follows some ethics but the LIS ethics have to be perceived at various levels, appropriate different culture and situation.

These levels may be at the primary institutional, national, international and professional.

John Bekker a leading authority in librarianship has suggested some ethics of good librarianship.

- 1 The competency of librarians.
- 2 Professional independence and intellectual freedom
- 3 The integrity of members.
- 4 Respect of client privacy.
- 5 Librarians should have that strive to improve libraries and library services.
- 6 Librarians should be sensitive to the condition which he/she come through.
- 7 Qualification and sweat disposition.
- 8 Dedication and spirit.
- 9 He should be a good time manager.
- 10 Having the source of knowledge.
- 11 Studious and reader.

- 12 He should have good knowledge of IT (in context with modern library).

Indian scenario

Indian adventure of designing a professional code of ethics have remained at the level of efforts to survey literature on professional ethics and no more.

- A. A serious discussion is made at national conference of IASLIC in 1984. The subject of professional ethics has been dealt with A. K. Mukherjee book, Librarianship - its philosophy and history (1966).
- B. Two articles by Meghan in Indian Librarians in 1962 and literature survey by Amithabh Chatterjee appearing in IASLIC bulletin in Sep., 1965 are additional literature references.

The only effort to consider this subject seriously in a professional forum is appeared at IASLIC conference in 1984. There were ten papers presented at the conference, five of these give good overview of professional ethics, four on professional ethics for person working in a university, special and other institutional libraries and another on Rangnathans five laws vis – a –vis professional ethics with special reference to research library. All these papers have good numbers of references which would facilitate further readings on the subject.

Conclusion-

The paper has provided importance of LIS profession for the development of society and also discussed the ethics suggested by John Bekker a leading authority in librarianship for good librarianship and also discussed the issue under Indian scenario.

References –

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