

LIBRARY: AIM AND PURPOSE



Overview

India is renowned for its extensive and priceless literary heritage, which has its foundations in educational study. ‘In the old days, teachers of India were themselves librarians and they held the highest esteem.’, stated Dr. S. Radha Krishnan, the former president of India. Since the beginning of human civilizations, information has been a powerful force that has shaped the growth of various facets of human society, including the political, social, economic, occupational, and cultural spheres.

A library used to be thought of as a place where books were kept solely for preservation. The role of the librarian was to act as a caretaker, not

promote book use. The library's primary goal was to preserve the books or store knowledge. The individual was limited to reading library literature within the library. It was anticipated that the readers would use the library independently. Libraries have historically been archival and passive establishments.

However, libraries are now seen as service organizations. These are the routes via which information is communicated. Its goal is to empower users to utilize the libraries' resources and services to their fullest potential. The purpose of libraries is to help people cultivate a love of reading. A modern library develops into an information hub. Nowadays the terms 'librarian' has been replaced by 'cybrarian' and 'information officer'. The reader's utmost contentment is their primary goal. In addition to maintaining and preserving library books, they also make sure the correct book is available to the right reader at the right moment.

In one of the essays written by Rabindranath Tagore in *Bichitra Prabandha*, he said. *'A library can be thought of as a Tower of Silence — like a sleeping child, which embodies the entrapped vibrations of an age-old ocean. Here language is still, like a calm mass of water that has stopped flowing. Man's unbounded enlightenment, shackled with words, is imprisoned in the papers in black and white. If all these sublime aspirations of the quest of human mind suddenly finds expression – if the rebellious words fly in all directions, it will be akin to a torrent from the melted ice of the Himalayas. The library encloses within itself this very deluge of the ardent expressions of human souls.'*

Historical Perspective of Library

There was a period in the ancient culture when man was illiterate. The concepts were spoken from one individual to another. One term for it was 'oral age'. The following are the phases that the library required to go through:

(1) Oral age - Since it was impossible to retain all of the information for an extended period of time, ideas occasionally faded away.

(2) Manuscript age - Civilized man began to master the craft of writing at this point. The visual record for posterity needed to be preserved, it was felt. It was the era of manuscripts. Official records were stored in government stores for documentation, while religious texts were stored in temples and monasteries. The need to establish libraries was recognized for this reason. Consequently, private, royal, and religious libraries were established.

(3) Printing age - Moveable type printing was supposed to begin in the middle of the fifteenth century. Book copies could be made in multiples. The manufacturing of books has increased significantly since the invention of printing. The library's holdings have grown significantly. The establishment of libraries was facilitated in European countries by a number of trends, including industrialization, urbanization, reformation, and the widespread adoption of literacy. The contemporary library system emerged as a result of the encouragement provided by democratic forms of government for the development of libraries. The current library system—which includes academic, public, national, and special libraries—was created to meet the demands of society.

Interpretation and Definition of a Library

The Latin term '*Libraria*' which meant 'tree bark' (a precursor to writing materials), is where the word 'library' originates. It comes from another Greek term called '*Librariun*' which meaning 'book case'. It provides insight into the storage of books. Libraries are seen as social institutions that give people free access to information.

Richardson defines a library as an establishment that houses books that are obtained, organized, and served for use; the library's primary purpose is to satisfy its patrons' needs. The library is now an essential

component of society. These days, the library is an establishment tasked with gathering books and other reading materials, arranging and making them available for use, serving those in need, and encouraging readers to develop a habit of reading in accordance with the notion of universal education. The responsibility for giving readers entertainment, knowledge, and inspiration falls on the shoulders of three people: books, readers, and staff.

Thus, a library is an assortment of materials and offerings. It is a location where interested parties can access books, periodicals, and publications that provide knowledge. Members and readers can access or borrow these documents, which are organized based on some logic and rules.

As stated by Library Science founder Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, ‘A library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of collection of books and the duty of making them accessible to those who acquire the use of them.’

Two of the library’s functions are described in this definition:

1. ‘The care of books’ refers to safeguarding the collection or books from human beings, fire, water, fungus, and other book enemies.’
2. ‘Accessibility to user’ refers to providing resources to the appropriate user who requires them.’

The vocabulary of library and information science published by the American Library Association (ALA) states ‘Library as a collection of materials organized to provide physical bibliographical and intellectual access to group with a staff that is trained to provide services and program related to information needs of the target group.’

The Harrods librarian's reference book and dictionary define a library as:

1. ‘A selection of books and other literary works stored for perusal, research, and reference.’

2. 'A location, structure, or rooms designated for the storage and utilization of an assortment of books, etc.'

Aim and Purpose of Library

The primary goal of the library is to give staff and students ideas and knowledge. It cultivates a lifetime learning habit. The presence of libraries ensures that the teaching and learning process is ongoing. It fosters imagination development through reading a range of books. A library serves as an institution's brain when it comes to education. Getting the appropriate information to the right people at the right time is a library's main goal. The following is a discussion of libraries' other goals:

- To support all educational programs: All planned and carried out institutional activities must centre around the library. Students can utilize libraries to get ready for upcoming classes, homework, exams, competitions, leisure, project work, seminars, and other extracurricular events and competitions that the institute occasionally hosts. Therefore, libraries should provide books that complement every course offered by the organization in order to meet the diverse demands of their patrons.
- To foster a love of reading: Students should be encouraged to read books besides textbooks. Early development of positive library habits will ensure their continuation in the future. Novels, travel guides, and popular publications are all available in libraries to satisfy readers' leisure requirements. Reading regularly expands vocabulary and sharpens creative thinking.
- To broaden one's language and knowledge: The reading material is arranged in libraries so that different books with the same title are available. Students' vocabulary and general knowledge grow as a result of this subject. Beyond what is covered in the syllabus, staff members

and students discover additional information that benefits the teaching and learning community.

- To instil in students the habit of looking for assistance from sources other than textbooks: libraries serve as the centre of activity and can be used by students for inspiration, education, information, and enjoyment. Instructors ought to set homework and projects that encourage students to use libraries, so making them more beneficial. It can be used by students for follow-up study, parallel reading, and preparation.

- To choose quality books: A library's primary goal is to choose and purchase books and other reading materials in accordance with curricula, interests, demands, levels, and specifications of both current and future users. Teachers and librarians are crucial in the book selection process. The books must be chosen to provide a thorough collection based on the reader's needs. Books ought to be chosen objectively and without prejudice. When choosing literature, there should be no indication of bias towards any particular interests or viewpoints.

- To promote lifelong learning: Libraries give access to knowledge, ideas, and information that are vital for thriving in the information- and knowledge-based society of today. The library's collection of books is always being updated, and each student has the right to review what they have learned. The library helps the learner with this goal throughout their entire lives. Libraries support lifelong learning, literacy, and the dissemination of helpful information to the public. It is essential that libraries provide their patrons with reading materials and tools that foster lifelong learning, foster imagination and creative thinking, and prepare them to be model citizens.

- To help students develop their self-learning abilities: libraries help students become more independent readers, enhance the quality of instruction, and familiarize themselves with a variety of library resources, such as encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and catalogue cards. It

also teaches kids how to use library resources in any setting, fostering a lifelong love of studying. In the end, it promotes citizenship among the pupils, which advances national advancement.

- To support educators in enhancing their instructional skills, teachers are also given books from the library. In order to stay current with their knowledge, teachers need to read more books. In order to instil a hunger for learning and a lifetime of learning in them, they also need a great deal of additional resources for instructional support, most of which are kept up to date in libraries.
- To provide the right ambiance: A calm environment is ideal for reading and studying at the library. It should have excellent ventilation, a spotless interior, and a serene atmosphere. To avoid disturbing others, students should uphold firm discipline. A library should have a calm, academic atmosphere.
- To break up the monotony and revitalise the class: Students require a vacation from the rigorous assignments that a set schedule frequently produces. This intermission could take the shape of a library session. This will assist in breaking up the monotony of nonstop instruction.
- To offer wholesome content for amusement and recreational purposes: Teachers and students enjoy reading for leisure and enjoyment in addition to meeting curriculum requirements. Thus, one of the library's goals is to have quality books for leisure as well. For consumers' leisure needs, libraries stock popular publications, nonfiction, fiction, and biographies.
- To help students understand the policies and procedures of the library: Every library needs to have a set of guidelines that its patrons are expected to abide by. In order for students to use the library responsibly and reap its maximum benefits, they are made aware of its laws and restrictions. The guidelines should be laid out so that students can understand them and are not intimidated by them.

- **Classifying and cataloguing the books:** In order to meet the diverse needs of both teachers and students, it is necessary to carefully choose and acquire books and other reading materials from a variety of sources, process them technically using a standard classification scheme, catalogue them to offer multiple access points, distribute the documents, and provide the information in a way that is most appealing to both groups of people.
- **To add new books:** The library's collection should be expanded periodically. News books should be uploaded if there is a curriculum change or a rise in a student's strength to meet the needs of the user. The title 'list of new arrivals' should be used to showcase the freshly acquired books on the notice board to alert readers to the new books.
- **To save newspaper clippings:** The most reliable source of up-to-date information is the newspaper. For future reference in the library, it would be most appropriate if the pertinent clippings of educational writeups, objects or events relating to the institute, etc., were sorted and kept in file or on computer. Articles that are instructive or enlightening ought to be saved and put up on the bulletin board as well.
- **To supply reference books:** Libraries should have dictionaries, encyclopaedias, yearbooks, handbooks, maps, charts, and other reference materials available for patron use. A varied selection of books will foster intellectual curiosity and assist consumers in developing emotional stability and balance. The role of the librarian is to help users make the best use of the reference materials.
- **Provision of extra learning materials other than textbooks:** The college library helps the students by lending extra reading materials. Students' knowledge is improved by such materials in all areas. The library's goal is to offer more assistance than just textbooks.
- **To conserve history and historical culture:** Books are the real evidence of historical and cultural heritage preservation. The pupils pick up this knowledge and improve their language and knowledge.

- For spiritual and religious uplift: Religious texts are kept in libraries to serve as a guide for upcoming generations. Reading a variety of narratives and literary works helps students' religious and spiritual knowledge grow. These materials also include a variety of yoga asanas.
- To organize non-printed items: In addition to books, the library tries to offer toys, globes, charts, CDs, DVDs, maps, and other materials. The library also hopes to give students access to a variety of movie screenings.

Reading is the primary function of libraries, and communities that read more inevitably have more intelligent members. It contributes significantly to the advancement of knowledge. Library of the college serves as its intellectual centre and is the main source of reading material for students. Thus, the college library serves as the hub for both social and intellectual activities.

The Significance of a Library

- Vast book collection: The library's collection consists of books, manuscripts, journals, audiobooks, videos, DVDs, and other media. A library has a large collection of books that are neatly arranged on book shelves. A person cannot possibly have such a large book collection at home. In a library, one can find a wide variety of books and other materials.
- Libraries and Cultural Events: Books in libraries help to preserve a society's cultural legacy. It ought to have and lend books that help people hone their creative skills. In order to meet the demands of the general public, it should also plan cultural events.
- Expensive books: Libraries invested in expensive books, such as reference collections that include encyclopaedias, manuals, competitive books, etc. Purchasing pricey books is difficult for an individual. It rejects the requirement to purchase pricey books and

materials. Many avid readers would not have been able to read if libraries hadn't existed, primarily because of budgetary constraints.

- **Libraries and Formal Education:** A library is an essential component of any educational establishment. It needs to have a selection of books that are appropriate for the courses it offers, and it needs to motivate students to read these books. A learner gains in-depth knowledge and the ability to evaluate and contrast various points of view presented in various books when they read a large number of books on a given subject. This fosters the growth of his or her own perspective and critical and analytical thinking abilities. Therefore, it is impossible to dispute the importance of libraries for students' intellectual growth.
- **Libraries protect history:** As repositories of centuries' worth of knowledge, data, truth, and history, libraries play a crucial role in the battle against disinformation. Libraries aid in keeping the public informed with information by offering free access to historical, educational, and news resources.
- **Libraries and Informal Education:** Because there are no teachers present, informal education is facilitated by libraries. Students are required to study on their own to get knowledge. They are free to access the formal institutions' libraries. One important tool for promoting informal education is the public library system.
- **Rare books are available:** Every library has a special area dedicated to rare books. Rare books, such as manuscripts, that are difficult to find outside are preserved in libraries. For researchers, these are incredibly beneficial. In the library, they can consult and read these books. Old syllabuses, examination papers, yearly reports, and other materials that instructors and students recommend are also kept in libraries.
- **Library and Recreation:** To satisfy patrons' leisure requirements, libraries stock popular magazines, travel guides, and novels. Reading regularly expands vocabulary and sharpens creative thinking. A library also hosts recreational events like music and painting competitions.

- **Use of Literature and General Books:** Students can benefit from general books in libraries since they offer more knowledge. These books support students' development of reading habits and help them keep up with current information.
- **Library and Spiritual and Ideological Upliftment:** Every library has some books that meet the users' ideological and religious demands. Users are instilled with strong morals and ideals by biographies of notable individuals and classic literature.

A library is an ocean of wisdom. It is possible to have as much as one desires or wants. The library is essential to education because it fosters creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. Libraries promote teaching and learning while also having an impact on students' comprehension and performance. For pupils, reading text books alone is insufficient. By spending his free time reading in the library, a student can broaden his knowledge on a variety of subjects.

Reading frequently in a library can help one stay current on their knowledge. Without a strong library, an institution cannot encourage its students to pursue higher education. A strong library is essential for both educators and learners to maintain current and relevant knowledge. By using the library, students can develop good habits. It instils in them a passion and taste for reading and literature. Students' character development is aided by reading biographies of heroic people. Students in need who are unable to purchase books for themselves can check them out from the library. Students can utilize the library if they don't feel comfortable in their houses. Opportunities to maximize one's free time are provided by the library. A student's best pals are well-written books. Therefore, it is imperative that they utilize them to the fullest and constantly seek to broaden their knowledge through reading them.

Importance of Library

1. Libraries are a tool for knowledge expansion and information dissemination: They can provide information in the form of books, periodicals, audiovisual systems, and other formats. These books and other materials are expensive and very large. It offers resources that will enhance and supplement the curriculum while taking into account the various interests and skills of the students as well as their growing knowledge.

2. Libraries support the development of study habits: The library is the most effective and primary tool for helping students form a habit of regular study time. In the classroom, pupils do not have the same opportunity for silent study as they do in the library. Students begin to take an interest in their own studies and develop the habit of studying silently.

3. Libraries help kids build their personalities: In addition to helping students grow mentally and intellectually, libraries also help students develop their personalities. When students begin studying in libraries, their knowledge base grows steadily, enabling them to have more meaningful conversations with others and to influence others through their capacity for introspection and thought. They believe they are capable of participating in an increasing number of social activities. It causes socialization to occur. As a result, in addition to their textbooks, pupils should read other works from the college library.

4. A library is a place where literary and artistic resources, such as books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, prints, records, and cassettes, are kept for reading, reference, or lending.

5. Libraries foster literacy and artistic and aesthetic interests. Students' literacy, artistic, and aesthetic life cycles are aided by it.

6. Libraries also help students study for competitive exams: They offer literature for a range of competitive tests. It creates competitive exam books, self-learning materials, and other resources to help students

enhance their abilities and get ready for a variety of careers. When competitive literature is easily accessible to students, academic performance improves.

7. The library inspires learning and reflection: Students study in silence in the library, which promotes independent study and the attempt to comprehend what they learn and reflect on it after reading it. Their mental attitude is developed as a result. They look for solutions to the issues that arise in life.

8. Libraries protect our cultural legacy: Social interactions and culture are intimately linked. Books at a library help to preserve a society's cultural legacy. It is either verbally transmitted or transmitted through written information from one generation to the next. The pupils gain knowledge of both their own and other nations' cultures and civilizations.

9. A library can be enjoyable: Books are a person's best friends. They provide him with companionship during both happy and unhappy times. They rank among the primary information sources. A library is the ideal location for convenient access to books. Students can read various publications, newspapers, and journals that the library subscribes to while they are there. For this reason, the library is the ideal place for students to pass the time. By spending his free time reading in the library, a reader or student can broaden his knowledge on a variety of subjects.

10. It facilitates research: A library is essential for conducting research. By means of various periodicals, research reports, and other publications of a similar nature, it disseminates both newly generated material and already existing knowledge and information. Rare books and periodicals are available to us through libraries, and these volumes are extremely valuable to researchers and academics alike.

11. Libraries refresh our knowledge: Reading frequently in a library might help one stay current on information. A learner gains in-depth knowledge and the ability to evaluate and contrast various points of

view presented in various books when they read a large number of books on a given subject. This fosters the growth of his or her own perspective and critical and analytical thinking abilities. A strong library is essential for both educators and learners to maintain current and relevant knowledge.

12. The library enhances classroom instruction: Textbooks do not adequately explain a lot of other connected topics. Thus, users must rely on libraries to obtain an adequate and comprehensive knowledge base. Occasionally, an instructor may advise reading more literature on the topic. Libraries should therefore have these kinds of literature to help students learn how to find information sources, improve their reading and study habits, and supplement and enhance their classroom experiences.

13. The library fosters reading habits: Among the library's most significant responsibilities is fostering a love of reading in the next generation. Books are the silent things; you have to work at applying them. The ability to instil in students a value for literature always demands human agency. Teachers or librarians are this human agency. The use of library resources and classroom instruction must work closely together to accomplish this. Libraries help pupils become more proficient readers and to build an interest in reading as well as a love and enjoyment of reading. Libraries ought to host celebrity author talks and readings from popular books and periodicals. They can enhance their capacity for independent learning and self-study by engaging in further reading.

14. Library resources for extracurricular activities: Since many topics pertaining to extracurricular activities are not covered in textbooks, students must rely on library resources. The library's collection of books provides the content for debates, declamation contests, poetical recitation, dramas, and quizzes. Thus, it can be concluded that libraries are highly beneficial for carrying out various extracurricular activities.

15. Libraries are Beneficial for News Archives: Libraries keep a large collection of newspapers, scholarly journals, and trade magazines on hand, as well as back issues in storage. Compared to the long lists of online news aggregators and the rapid access to stories released within minutes, this effort could seem insignificant.

16. Libraries are sources of religious information: Every library has some books that meet the users' ideological and religious needs. Users are instilled with strong morals and ideals by biographies of notable individuals and classic literature.

17. Libraries are the finest way to make the most of your time: Science is the foundation of the modern era. by producing a great deal of discoveries and creations. Our lives are now easier and more comfortable thanks to science. Work that used to take days to complete can now be completed in a matter of hours, and work that used to take hours can now be completed in a matter of minutes. This explains why a man has ample free time. He appears to find that the library is the finest option for making innovative and profitable use of his free time, not to mention that it will expand his knowledge. Thus, in order to make the most of their free time, educators and students should visit libraries and study there.

Libraries are extremely important because they benefit individuals by giving them access to resources for information, education, and enjoyment. Libraries are essential for stimulating and advancing the process of learning and information acquisition. A plethora of books and resources are available to anyone who enjoy reading. Everyone has access to educational resources through libraries. Reading enhances knowledge, social skills, mental health, academic achievement, and a host of other advantages. A library serves as a shared space for individuals with a range of reading abilities and interests. Individuals are given the chance to grow and learn in accordance with their aptitudes and interests. The library is the ideal place to spend free time in a way that promotes an individual's overall growth and wellbeing.