

JOB AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Asha Rani

Research Scholar

Department of Library and Information
Science

Maharishi Dayanand University,
Rohtak, Haryana, India

Dr. Nirmal Kumar Swain

(corresponding author)

Associate Professor

Department of Library and Information
Science

Maharishi Dayanand University,
Rohtak, Haryana, India

INTRODUCTION

Choosing a career and jobs is not easy going, despite planning and executing it properly. During the processes of education more especially higher education, job options, often differs from context to context. These contexts sometimes mean the country or nations, the subjects and disciplines. The person with good socio-economic background and of course from cities and towns, sometimes get better advantage. There are also specifications of towns and metropolis as well as state and central capital. In Indian case, it is difficult to generalize the job avenues and at the same time the culture and reputation of the universities and higher learning institutes. Through this research paper, the authors wish to highlight the job and career avenues in the discipline of librarianship, more extensively in library and information science or in brief library science. Further the paper reveals a positive side or pro-librarianship with historical and empirical observations.

EDUCATION IN LIBRARIANSHIP

For any job or career, degree is required depending upon nature of job, generalized job avenues are based on any degree or diploma as essential qualification. But in certain cases jobs are based on requiring people with specified degrees with skill. These aspects bifurcates the discipline into professional and nonprofessional education. Professional education refers to the degrees lead to professional qualifications may be at level of undergraduate or post graduate. One of these courses is Library Science or Lib and Inf. Sc. The course in most cases a post B.A. or B.Sc. in Indian universities. The same course is considered as bachelors degree at the beginning, popularly known as B. Lib. and succeeded by one year master's course, M. Lib. This pattern is invariably uniform in Indian case though the integrated two years course are being replaced these days with a special note with a unique deviation of cases of undergraduate level in the form of B.A. (Honours) course with example can be cited B.A. (Honours) course in Rama Devi University, Bhubaneswar formerly known as Rama Devi College. Further unique course of this type is uniquely found at Banasthali Vidyapith, an women's university. The course is run as one of the foundation papers, a kind of the compulsory for all the students leading to their bachelor's degree. The second author of this paper taught at this university and proved the usefulness of it in India. Now UGC and other agencies started following and introducing at the undergraduate level. " Most schools of library and information have broadened their curricula to be more encompassing of

information activities within and outside of libraries and changed their titles to library and information science, information science, information studies or just information” (Allan & Parish, 2009, p. ix).

Though authors are of the opinion that it cannot be compared with the profession of medicine and engineering, yet it is also ruled out that the jobs in librarianship is considered as low profile and unprofessional. Many statistics have been shown with this regard and the role of librarian is also recognized to provide a positive view of the jobs and career. The very basic level entry into the profession is at the level of school librarian. Though they are not highly paid but the treatment of school librarian is at par with the school teachers itself prove that their level is that high as school teachers, considering school level, the college librarian are also treated at par with the teachers of different subjects in the colleges. The qualification required for the college teachers is same as the college librarian. Similar elevation is also found at the level of university set up, where university librarian is with the grade of a professor in university setup. There are hierarchy of assistant librarian, deputy librarian and single post of librarian. Apart from these jobs in govt. setup, especially in academic atmosphere there are also jobs in corporate sector and other academic sector. Among the non- academics, central, banking organizations, railways and security agencies do have the post of librarian with different designations. In the case of CRPF, a security agency of India advertised and recruited a post of sub inspector (library) in which the person is proposed to be recruited for the post with a degree or diploma in librarianship.

In corporate sector also, the multinational companies often recruit the people with degree in library science with other desirable skills to maintain the information environment in the company. Largely they are better paid with typical job description often with lucrative designations.

OTHER AVENUES

Sometimes people with degree and diploma in library science are recruited for a post with typical job description and work culture. Survey into these nature of jobs opine though the recruitment process is not structured yet the skill and training of the library profession is very much match to the advertisement. A typical example can be cited for the post of listening officer because of the special skills of listening effective communication and file management. People also say that sometimes librarian change the job in the traditional environment for becoming data officer so there are avenues available uncommonly but goes in favour of library profession.

PROFESSION AND PROFESSIONALS

In the above discussion it is fairly clear this is a profession holds good values in the terms of getting good jobs and maintaining a social life of good status. The librarianship profession also holds all the criteria and qualification being considered as a strong profession. People even choose the profession often leaving others. Professionals mean those who work as librarian and with other designations mostly on the basis of a degree on library science, feel good as a right choice though their expectations are sometime high but in majority of cases

they all are happy with the jobs they do, career they maintain and livelihood they run with these jobs. New skills are coming up and it is expected they should be trained with those skills.

ICT ENVIRONMENT

The information and communication technologies (ICTs) the modern version of information technology (IT) changes the entire course of the profession. Recruiters expect the people should be trained with modern IT skills so that they can handle multiple jobs in India. The work activates are mostly maintained through computing and other electronic machines, so handling the data through Internet, sharing the information, now a challenge for library professionals. If they lose the skill, they are out of the job, sometimes they are trained with these skills during their courses in the Indian school of librarianship and they sometime do add on courses privately just to coop with the job markets.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

Training and skills for a librarian is done at university and at college setup with especially designated department. The courses offered are Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral level. Though the courses are gradually shifting from traditional to modern and specialised degrees at a large junk of outputs trained with traditional values. It's true that simple classification and cataloguing will not work so the syllabus is designed with parameters taking example form computing, internet and ICTs. The new environment of choice base credit system is a new hope for the Indian students and researchers similar with students of librarianship. Some

more choices can be imbibed into the students; those are interested so they can be absorbed in the jobs where computing and internet environment is must.

DISCUSSIONS

The above description implicated the holistic and profiled view of librarianship as career in Indian society through manpower calculations on the form of documents are not available still individual observations strongly confirmed. The students with a degree in library and information science do not sit idle without a job , where job is secured after course but in random cases large chunks of degree holders are trained with traditional skills often gets job after gap of few years and also it is observed that the students switch over to other profession after failing repeatedly in getting jobs.

CONCLUSION

In the concluding remarks the authors are highly hopeful for the aspirants to choose these as profession. “ Library and Information Science (LIS) careers range across a broad and constantly changing landscape of types of work, knowledge and skill sets, employees (or clients) , and job structures. In fact, trying to get a handle on the vast range of ways a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree can be deployed can prove immensely challenging” (Dority, 2012, p.1). The option for courses in library science can lend them jobs at least to some extent a guarantee. Jobs of various natures are available with on uniform salary structure at the same time comparison must be done with equal nature of profession. The graduate and post graduate of other social sciences disciplines do not enjoy

this much job avenues. Other factors are needed to be controlled as large numbers of degree holders are getting their degrees through distance or correspondence mode so the skill and training are not matched at par with their regular counterparts. The agencies and government should be encouraged to recruit more number of librarians at grass root level at schools. The school librarian can definitely encouraged promoting reading habits of the students who are the future citizens and certainly their presence can enhance the cultivation of book culture. Despite all these observations in almost all the states of India considering the jobs of librarians is further motivated to give the profession many thumbs up.

REFERENCES

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