
UNIT 3 DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN UK AND USA

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3.0 OBJECTIVES

The study of libraries in the UK and the USA is very significant as these countries are trendsetters and serve as world models in the development of libraries. They also are innovators in developing library techniques, technologies and services. This Unit gives a bird's eye view of the development of libraries in these countries.

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- get a historical perspective of library development in the UK and the USA with highlights of some important landmarks;
- comprehend the role of government in library development, particularly with reference to legislation for public library services;



- appreciate the contributions of library associations in professional activities; and
- observe developmental trends in, library and information systems and services with the increasing application of information technology and possibilities of future systems.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

We will be discussing in this Unit the development of libraries in two advanced countries of the world, the UK and the USA. These two had recognised the importance and value of libraries as early as the 18th century. This Unit includes:

- a) a sketch of the state of libraries in the UK before 1850.
- b) the role of religion in the establishment of libraries.
- c) a short description of commercial and subscription libraries in the UK and the USA.

The industrial revolution in England gave a big boost to the library movement, as skilled workers were required in the country's workforce. Many establishments needed adequate workers. This led to a thirst for knowledge which in turn led to the establishment of libraries all over the UK, particularly in industrial areas. The spread of education among middle class people necessitated the establishment of libraries in several sectors. In addition to these factors, there were dedicated persons who worked selflessly for the establishment of libraries. Philanthropists came forward with necessary funds.

The major credit for the establishment of public libraries has to go to the central, state or local" governments. In both the countries legislation was passed to help the local administration establish libraries. Particularly, it allowed the local administration to collect taxes for the continuance and maintenance of libraries.

Apart from the development of public libraries in these countries, academic, special and other types of libraries have also grown remarkably. In recent decades, information technology has enabled libraries and information centres to provide rapid access to information irrespective of their location. Information technology has expanded resource utilisation. We shall try to understand the current trends in the development of these libraries as well as the future possibilities and prospects of libraries playing their part effectively, not only in their conventional roles but also in facing new challenges by exploiting their strengths to their fullest potential.

3.2 LIBRARIES IN UK BEFORE 1850

From the middle ages to the 18th century, religion was the dominating force in Europe. This led to the establishment of monasteries. In the monasteries, reading and writing were the main occupations of the clergy. This necessitated the establishment of libraries in monasteries. In England, in addition to monasteries, a few societies were established for the promotion of Christian knowledge and for the propagation of the Gospel. Similar educational agencies came into being for the dissemination of knowledge among the poorer classes of people. The immediate result of this was the establishment of Sunday Schools. In these schools, the subjects taught were not entirely religious. Evening lectures on a

variety of subjects became common. This gave impetus to the publication of several journals on a variety of subjects.



The thirst for knowledge was capitalised on by several commercial bodies who started circulation libraries. Throughout England in the 18th century, several subscription libraries sprang up. For the propagation of scientific knowledge "mechanics institutes" were established. Each institute had a reading room which in course of time became part of a public library.

3.2.1 Monastic Libraries

Religion played a major role in the transformation of the political and social life of Europe. The church had played the dominant role in the Europe during the middle and later centuries. The spread of Christianity brought with it a class of spiritual people who established monasteries: Monastic life demanded the reading of scriptures and the copying of manuscripts. This led to the establishment of monastic libraries. Some of the early monasteries in England were established at Canterbury, Wearmouth and York.

Closely related to monastic libraries were cathedral and parish libraries. Parish clergy had great difficulty in obtaining books. Cathedral libraries were situated at distant places and their services were restricted to a few hours in a week. Meanwhile, almost all the monastic libraries in England had been closed down at the time of Henry VIII: For these reasons several parish libraries were established. One person who was closely associated with the establishment of parish libraries was Dr. Thomas Bray (1656-1730). Parish libraries survived for sometime with help of private benefactors.

The ravages of war and natural calamities destroyed several cathedral libraries. Two well-known libraries; St. Paul and Lincoln, were destroyed by fire. The cathedral libraries had done a great service to the society and were the only libraries which could preserve some ancient documents.

However, all the libraries mentioned above cannot be classified as public libraries. They were meant for the bodies of religious worshipers though the public were allowed to use them on some conditions. The majority of these libraries did not last long, the main reason being that they were usually funded by individuals and no funds were forthcoming for their continuity.

3.2.2 Subscription and Circulating Libraries

Before the end of the 17th century, there came about a marked change in British society: Education was advancing by 1700 A.D. There were more than 500 grammar schools and 460 charity schools. Newspapers started appearing and circulation increased rapidly when government censorship was removed in 1694. Another feature was that the coffee houses, where the intelligentsia used to meet and discuss things, became important centres for the dissemination of news. In London; public lectures on science made a modest beginning by the end of the 17th century.

These developments tended to encourage the growth of the reading habit. There was also a shift from religious subjects to secular subjects. Some of the magazines and dailies like the Tatler, the Spectator, and the Gentleman's



Magazine appeared in the first decade of the 18th century. In the words of Samuel Johnson, England had become "a nation of readers". There was a demand for reading material from the middle class, which paved the way for the establishment of private or commercial subscription libraries.

Subscription libraries can be categorised under three classes: (1) private subscription library, (2) book clubs, and (3) commercial circulating libraries.

- **Private Subscription Libraries**

The establishment of subscription libraries was not uniform. In some cases a few friends and relatives joined together and contributed books or cash to establish a library: In a few other cases, participating members contributed a fixed amount to buy books. A few of these were also called gentlemen's societies and they usually used to meet in coffee houses. Gentlemen's subscription libraries sometimes arose on a common pattern. Membership ranged from a dozen to a few hundred. The value of a share (like the present day entry fee) was usually a guinea and the annual subscription varied from six, to ten shillings.

The stock of books in these libraries was very small by modern standards. The biggest subscription library in 1801 at Liverpool had 8,000 volumes. Libraries were accommodated in make shift premises, very often over a bookshop. A few libraries were located in rented buildings. There were a few lucky ones - the, Bristol, Birmingham and Liverpool libraries - which had their own buildings.

The control of the library used to be in the hands of a committee of the proprietors. The committee was responsible for the subscription of books, managing the premises and supervising the work of the librarian. The rules were very strict. Fines for keeping books beyond stipulated dates were heavy.

The London library was founded in the year 1841 by the efforts of Thomas Carlyle who was not exactly on the pattern of other proprietary libraries. It had a wide membership 'including members from up country. This library has survived and at present it has a stock exceeding 7,00,000 volumes, one of the richest with extensive loan collection.

- **Book Clubs**

In the second half of the 18th century, another form of subscription library called "book clubs" or "reading society" came into being. Book clubs differed from subscription libraries in, three respects: (i) The membership of book clubs was small, usually not more than a dozen or two, (ii) No attempts were made to build a permanent collection. Books were sold or divided among the members when they had served their turn, (iii) The clubs served as a social and literary group. They used to hold monthly meetings to decide on new purchases or to share the books. No doubt there were several variations. Each book club had its own way of functioning. They were also called by different names such as book society, reading society or literary society.



Book clubs had a major advantage over other types of libraries. They were very economical since they did not employ a salaried librarian or have rented premises. They were used to be housed in an inn or coffee house or in the house of a member. Such an arrangement suited small towns and villages well. The working class group which could not afford the outlay required for a permanent library were benefited the most.

- **Commercial Circulating Libraries**

Parallel with the growth of subscription libraries and book clubs developed commercial subscription libraries. They were better known as circulation libraries and were run by booksellers with the profit motive. The first known circulating library was established in Edinburgh in 1725 by a well-known bookseller, Allan Ramsay. Bath and Briston had their circulating libraries by 1728. London's first circulating library was in existence by 1740 and within a decade, the number increased to six: After 1750 it got a momentum and circulating libraries became very popular: By the close of the 18th century there were more than one thousand circulating libraries throughout the country. Circulating libraries became popular as readers were attracted to fiction and circulating libraries had a good collection: Some of these libraries were also attached to departmental stores. Two well known circulating libraries were owned by W.H. Smith & Son and Boots. Boots Booklovers library had branches throughout the country.

3.2.3 Mechanics Institutes

The Industrial Revolution in England created a middle class engaged mainly in industries. Persons employed in industries were called mechanics. These mechanics formed their own groups for various reasons and they were called "mechanics institutes". These institutes have played a major role in the education of the masses.

It was at this time that one Mr. George Birbeck, who was teaching at the Andersonian Institute at Glasgow, felt the need to educate mechanics. In 1800, he set up a "mechanics class". Here, he lectured on subjects closely associated with their technical skills. Within four years, as many as 700 members were attending these classes. In 1823, the members formed a body called Glasgow Mechanics Institute.

From 1823 onwards a rapid expansion took place and by 1863 there were nearly a thousand institutes in active operation throughout the country. The conditions in individual institutes varied; in some, the library would be the main feature and in others lectures might be the chief concern. The major collections of books were mainly scientific. The libraries attached to these institutes later formed a nucleus of public library stock in their respective places.

Self Check Exercise

1) State how subscription and circulating libraries were developed in the UK..

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below,
ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.



3.3 LIBRARY LEGISLATION

August 14, 1850 is a red letter day in the annals of British library development. On this day the British library legislation became a reality. The enactment of legislation was not because of any demand from the public or from the library profession. The credit goes to nearly half a dozen personalities. Of these three persons were active and strived hard to put public library development on the statute book. They were William Ewart and Joseph Brotherton, both members of Parliament, and Edward Edwards, an assistant in the British Museum. The two members of Parliament persuaded the House of Commons to enact the legislation and Edward Edwards supplied the requisite data.

3.3.1 The 1850 Act

William Ewart, a Liverpool man by birth and a Scot by descent, had served as a member of Parliament for more than forty years. First he represented Liverpool (1830-37) and then Dumfries (1841-68). He was an active member of the House of Commons and had been responsible for many social reforms. He took upon himself the need for library legislation to establish public libraries throughout England. He was ably assisted by another parliamentarian, Joseph Brotherton. In 1849, Ewart succeeded in persuading Parliament to constitute a Select Committee, with Ewart as Chairman, for the enactment of library legislation. During this period Edward Edwards had written a paper entitled "A statistical view of the principal public libraries in Europe and the United States". Edwards was called to the Select Committee to give evidence about the state of public libraries abroad and in his own country.

Ewart was given leave to introduce his Public Libraries Bill in February 1850 and it received the royal assent on August 14, 1850. The Act empowered municipal authorities with a population of 10,000 or more to adopt the Act. To adopt the Act, a two-thirds majority of the votes cast was necessary and if it failed, no poll could be held for two years.

The Act provided to levy a rate of half a penny in the pound on the rateable value of the property assessed. Spending was restricted to building, fuel, lighting, fixture, furniture and the salaries of the staff. Money could not be spent on purchase of books. Books or cash were supposed to be donated by the benefactors.

In the first two years after the 1850 Act, Norwich, Winchester, Bolton, Ipswich, Manchester and Oxford municipal councils adopted the Act. By 1854, three more boroughs, Blackburn, Sheffield and Cambridge had followed suit. The Act was extended to Scotland and Ireland in 1853.



3.3.2 Subsequent Amendments

The Act of 1850 was in no way a success . It only established a principle. In practice it was very unsatisfactory because of the severe restrictions it imposed (a) on the kinds of authorities that might adopt the Act; (b) on the amount of money that could be spent; (c) on the ways in which that money could be spent; and (d) on the methods to be used for its adoption.

In 1850, Edward Edwards had taken over as the Librarian of Manchester Public Library. He persuaded Ewart to amend the Act so as to remove some of the major obstacles in the Act. In 1855, an amended Act was passed. The main features of this Act were (1) It raised the rate limitation to one penny. (2) Purchase of books and newspapers was allowed. (3) Power to establish a library was extended to any parish with a population of 5,000 or more. In his tenure as an MP, Ewart was able to bring in another amendment in 1866. This amendment removed the population limit altogether. It prescribed a simple majority, instead of the two-thirds majority for the purpose of adoption.

After 1866, there were a number of minor amendments in 1871, 1877,1884,1887,1889 and 1891. In 1892, all the Acts so far passed were repealed and one consolidated Act was enforced. In spite of these numerous Acts, only about 780 out of over 1000 boroughs and urban districts had adopted the Act by 1900. One landmark of this period was the formation of a Library Association in 1877.

Self Check Exercise

2) State the major features of the Public Libraries Act, 1850:

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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3.4 LIBRARY SURVEYS AND REPORTS

In spite of library legislation it cannot be, stated that the library movement was an immediate success. The general public were content with subscription libraries. There was opposition to additional taxation. Financial constraints hindered every activity of libraries.

3.4.1 Donations to Public Libraries

It was about this time that a great boon to public libraries was bestowed through the benevolence of Andrew Carnegie. Andrew Carnegie, born in Scotland and settled in the USA amassed great wealth as an industrialist. He gave huge donations for various social causes. One of them was libraries. Carnegie grants for libraries were restricted to library buildings. During the period 1900-1912 alone Garnegie donated nearly two million pounds. Many smaller grants were



given in the later part of the 19th century. Books were supposed to be donated by the local community.

There were several other donations to public libraries: Substantial grants were donated by Passmore Edwards (1823-1911). The result of these donations was a spurt in the adoption of library legislation. During a short span of ten years 1900-1909, 208 authorities adopted the Public Libraries Act. In a short period, 366 library buildings spread over 292 library authorities sprang up. In 1913, Carnegie created the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. Though indirectly the Carnegie funds encouraged authorities to establish libraries, their growth was tardy. There were no funds for books. Library staff was underpaid and made to work long hours.

3.4.2 Adams Report

The huge donations, instead of accelerating the library movement, created several problems. The trustees of the Carnegie Trust wanted to survey the working of the public library system and Dr. W.G.S. Adams was called upon to submit a report. The report appeared in 1915. It is interesting to read the critical opinion of Dr. Adams: "Libraries have, in a number of cases, been provided, involving a scale of expenditure on upkeep which left insufficient means for the main purpose and object of the library.... Buildings in several instances costing £10,000 or even larger sums have been erected, the upkeep of which absorbed the greater part of the income from the 1d rate; leaving a mere pittance and in some cases not even that, for the purchase of books. In certain instances, where there had previously been a library on smaller premises, the gift of the larger building has ultimately involved a reduction in the expenditure on books. In many cases there is not an adequate income to provide a librarian worthy of the building and competent to create the true library."

3.4.3 Penny Rate Abolished

The Adams Report had its effect. It paved the way for new legislation. In the meantime, several library authorities and the Library Association were working to amend the previous Public Libraries Act, 1919. This Act repealed the penny rate limitation and county councils were authorised to adopt the Act for areas not already served. The Act was rapidly adopted by many county councils and by 1927, 96% of the population was covered by the new Public Libraries Act.

3.4.4 Mitchell and Kenyon Reports

The Carnegie Trust in the year 1924 appointed its secretary, Lieut-Colonel J.M. Mitchell, to report on the working of public libraries. This was designed as a sequel to the Adams report. It covered the whole of the United Kingdom: Its main focus was on the development of the new county service and the problems of library coordination. The statistical data provided in this report gave a valuable insight into the working of county libraries.

The Board of Education, in 1924, appointed Sir Frederic Kenyon "to enquire into the adequacy of the library provision already made under the Public Libraries Act and the means of extending and completing such provision throughout England and Wales". The Report submitted in 1927 was popularly known as the Kenyon Report. The Report noted that 96.3 per cent of the population of England and



Wales were covered by the library authorities. It gave details about the per head expenditure, circulation figures, nature of demand for books, wasteful expenditure on reading rooms serving mainly newspapers and magazines and many other interesting details: The report only helped to know the status of the library service but did not result in any further amendment to the Public Libraries Act.

3.4.5 McColvin Report

From the 1920s to the 1970s there were several surveys and reports on the working of public libraries in Britain. The first survey was undertaken by the Library Association in 1936: This was financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. For the purpose of the survey, the country was divided into 12 geographical areas. Each area was entrusted to an expert to submit his report. Unfortunately, the time limit fixed to submit the report was only one month. There were divergent reports from each area. The political situation and the outbreak of the war hindered all development activities.

In the year 1941, the Library Association commissioned its honorary secretary, Lionel R. McColvin, City Librarian of Westminster, to undertake a survey of the conditions then prevailing and the future needs of the public library service. The Carnegie Trust met the cost of the investigation. By the spring of 1942, McColvin completed his survey and presented the report.

The McColvin Report gave a deplorable picture of the state of public libraries and recommended sweeping changes. His major recommendations were:

- a) Establishment of a central authority for the promotion and maintenance of nation-wide library service.
- b) The department would examine the proposals for buildings and loans, formulate standards concerning supply of books, and fix the qualifications and salaries of staff,
- c) The grants allocated to libraries would be the same as in the case of higher education.

The McColvin Report gave a fully worked out scheme for state assistance to, and state inspection of, the library service:

3.4.6 Roberts Report

In England and Wales the question of library areas was reopened and in 1957, the Minister of Education appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr: S.C. Roberts to consider the structure of public library service, and to advise what changes, if any, should be made in the administrative arrangement in relation to public and other libraries. The report submitted in 1959 included the following recommendations:

- 1) Counties, county boroughs, metropolitan boroughs and the city of London should continue to be library authorities.
- 2) Parishes should cease to be library authorities,
- 3) Other existing library authorities should be entitled to apply for a continuance of powers, subject to a minimum annual expenditure on



books of £5000 or 2 shilling per head of population whichever was the greater.

- 4) Non-county boroughs and urban districts not at present library authorities should be eligible to apply for recognition subject to the same criterion of expenditure and subject also to a minimum population of 50,000.

The Report also made recommendations for the improvement of staffing and for a statutory system of inter-library cooperation. The most important proposal was that the Minister of Education should be given general responsibility of overseeing the public library service.

3.4.7 The 1964 Act

The Minister of Education, after consulting the local authorities, accepted most of the Roberts Committee recommendations. He also set up two working parties of libraries and other local authority representatives to examine the technical implications of (a) the basic requirements for an efficient public library service and (b) the recommendations concerning inter-library cooperation.

The two working parties were headed by H.T, Bourdillon and E.B.H. Baker. The reports of these two committees along with the recommendations of the Roberts Report, resulted in the enactment of the Public Libraries and Museum Act' 1964. It placed upon the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the duty to superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service.

Self Check Exercise

- 3) State some of the reports on the public library set up in the UK

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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3.5 THE BRITISH LIBRARY ACT

The University Grants Commission appointed a committee under Thomas Parry to go into the working of university libraries in Britain. The British Government took note of the Parry ' Committee Report published in 1967. The report drew the attention of the Government to the absence of a true apex to the library system in the country and recommended the establishment of a British National Library

The Secretary of State for Education and Science set up a new committee to examine the functions and organisation of the British Museum Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology and the Science Museum Library. The chairman of the committee was Dr. F.S. Dainton who was entrusted with the job of considering the feasibility of a unified framework of the different constituents of the National Library then existing. The committee recommended the establishment of a National Libraries Authority. The committee further said



that this authority should have control on the two reference units, namely, the British Museum Library and the National Reference Library of Science and Invention, and the two lending libraries, namely, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology and the National Central Library.

The Government accepted the recommendations in principle and took steps to bring new legislation. It distinguished three main fields of activity, namely the reference service, the lending service and the bibliographic service. The name chosen for the new national organisation was the British Library. The British Library Act, 1972, was passed and came into operation on July 1; 1973. The structure of the British Library is discussed in Unit 5.

3.6 KINDS OF LIBRARIES, GROWTH AND FUTURE TRENDS

Libraries and information centres have developed and grown in different dimensions in the UK. The British Library (BL), as stated earlier was formed in 1973, following the recommendations of the Dainton Report and the passing of the British Library Act 1972, amalgamating the former British Museum Library, the National Central Library and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology and the British National Bibliography. BL now offers library services in the humanities and social sciences, science, technology and industry, national bibliographic services, including the Blaise on-line services, and the undertaking of R & D activities through its specialised divisions operating at different points.

A complete library edifice has been created and is in operation in the UK, constituting the British Library, and the National libraries of Scotland and Wales; the public library system; academic libraries to include research, university, college, polytechnic libraries and others of teaching and learning institutions; special libraries, comprising business, industrial, and other types of libraries, serving special categories of users and collections.

Besides the facilities for access through public access catalogues and stocks available for use through resource sharing library networks, access to computerised databases through on-line facilities for global resources, supported by document delivery services for obtaining hard copies, etc. provide a complete library and bibliographic services. -

Some of the notable aspects of library development which also indicate future trends are broadly stated below:

The funds available for library development are gradually getting reduced in real terms, the trend having commenced about 20 years ago and is likely to be more pronounced in the years to come.

Management of information is likely to be a key concern in most organisations and it has already begun to give a new shape to structural reorganisation. The strategy of most libraries would emphasise access to information over holdings, and budgetary constraints would shift to allow money to move from the purchase of books to the purchase of information.

Local libraries may become a switching centre rather than a resource, and a provider of documentation services and offer training.



End users will themselves become more active in database searching and other activities such as direct document ordering and receipt, operating through their personal workstations.

Networks will develop rapidly, as well as campus-wide systems in higher education.

Private sector equivalents will grow and meet consumer resistance to the pricing for information.

The national library system will find it progressively harder to maintain service because of falling support and funding, and will be obliged to seek full cost recovery for services provided;

Academic libraries are changing with the far-reaching changes in the educational process. Education is swiftly moving from liberal education to skill centered information and practical technique learning and applying the facilities of modern information technology to the entire process of teaching and learning. The concept of flexible learning is catching up fast in polytechnics and professional colleges which emphasise resource-based learning rather than classroom teaching. Distance learning with packages of course materials, educational technology in terms of audio and video cassettes, educational telecasts, teleconferencing etc., have strengthened self learning.

Virtually every academic library will have an operational online public access catalogue with continuous expansion of access facilities.

Public libraries will increasingly offer community information services which may take different forms: Users with special needs, for example people with disabilities, people in institutions, housebound persons, adults in basic education, elderly people, visually handicapped, hearing impaired persons, services to a multi-cultural society - there are some of the different forms of new community based services.

The basic provision of some kind will continue to be free, but the inevitable growth in the cost of materials and services will compel libraries and information centres to charge for value-added services..

Needless to mention, these changes are brought about by a variety of changing contexts. Social 'trends due to various factors such as demographic patterns, information technology with all its tools and techniques and their application to information provision, users' demand for information of bewildering varieties, new institutional mechanisms to cope up with all these changes and a host of other related factors are likely to change existing systems and services, perhaps unrecognisably, in the 21st century.

Self Check Exercise

- 4) **Mention the different kinds of libraries in the UK that constitute a total library structure.**
- 5) **Mention briefly the major current trends in library and information systems and services in the UK and the future possibilities.**

Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below -

ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.



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3.7 DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN USA

Development of libraries in the USA is of recent origin. Early migrants to America were more concerned with settling down and making a living. They were more anxious to build a house in the wilderness and to find an avocation. In spite of the hazardous life of the early migrants, they had not forgotten their religious heritage. The clergy had carried the Bible and the physician his books, but by and large the early collection was mainly religious. Then some private libraries with a very modest collection came into being. In these small collections we see the beginning of library history in the United States of America.

3.7.1 Colonial Period

Some of the early settlers in America brought with them their private collections of books. Libraries in the colonial period were mainly private libraries. Some of the well-known private libraries belonged to (1) William Brewster of Plymouth Colony, (2) John Winthrop, Governor of Connecticut, (3) Col. William Byrd of Westover, Virginia, and (4) James Logan of Philadelphia. Their collections were between 3,000 to 4,000 volumes.

The credit for establishing what may be called the first public library went to Boston. In 1653, Robert Keayne, a Boston merchant, bequeathed in his will an amount of £ 300 for setting up a room in the Town House to establish a library for public use. His wish was fulfilled and a library was set up in the Town House. It survived for nearly a century until it was consumed by a major fire in 1749.

It was Thomas Bray, an Anglican clergyman who created literary centres for the colonists. He set up more than 70 libraries during the period 1695-1704. His major activity was in Maryland but his ambition was to establish one large library in each colony. Bray was assisted in his work by two groups, the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The collections in these libraries were mainly theological, as these books were meant for the clergy. Strictly the Bray libraries were not public libraries though a few were so designated.

3.7.2 Social Libraries

You have read earlier in this unit that in England book clubs and subscription libraries were popular. On a similar pattern libraries were also established in the USA. They were designated as social libraries. Benjamin Franklin was a pioneer in starting social libraries. He floated a company in 1793 called the Library Company of Philadelphia and requested interested persons to become members. The initial subscription was 40 shillings and an annual fee of 10 shillings. Franklin's library was often referred to as the mother of the social library in America.



Subscription libraries of varying sizes began to proliferate throughout the USA. "Three other well known subscription libraries were (1) the Redwood Library of Newport, (2) the New York Society Library of New York city and (3) the Charleston Library Society of Charleston. Social libraries were very popular during the period 1790-1815 and thereafter there was a gradual decline due to the rise of public libraries supported by the state. One major feature of the subscription libraries was the nature of the library collections These collections were quite different, with less emphasis upon religion and more upon secular matters, like history, biography, travel, literature, grammar, agriculture, arithmetic and natural science. As in England, there were also several commercial libraries whose motto was to make a profit.

3.7.3 Mercantile Libraries

America was changing from an agricultural to an industrial country. With the advance of trade and commerce, a new class of the mercantile community sprang up. Another segment of society consisted of industrial workers due to the setting up of various types of industries. Business firms and industries sponsored "mercantile" libraries to foster educational and recreational reading among their employees. These libraries were also known as "mechanics" libraries or "apprentices" libraries. These libraries were closely related to the education movement in the first half of the 19th century.

3.7.4 School District-Public Libraries

Before the advent of free public libraries, a novel idea was mooted by the Governor of New York, Dewitt Clinton. He recommended to the state legislature the formation of school district libraries. The idea was to house these libraries in the existing schools and open them to the public without any charge. In 1835, the New York legislature passed a law to levy a tax of \$ 20.00 to start a library and \$ 10.00 in subsequent years to provide for its growth. The state legislature made available a sum of \$ 55,000 a year for the purchase of books. The school district was expected to raise an amount of money equal to that received from the state exchequer.

The novel idea of opening school district-public libraries found favour with many states and by 1876 as many as twenty-one states had followed suit.

Self Check Exercise

6) State the different types of libraries that were established- in the USA during the early yeas.

Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of this unit.

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3.8 LIBRARY LEGISLATION

The credit for establishing a free public library in the modern sense of public libraries goes to Peterborough in New Hampshire. In 1823, the Peterborough Municipal Council made a provision in its budget to set up a free public library. Legislative measures in the USA can be traced back to 1848. The Boston Public Library was established by an Act passed by the General Court of Massachusetts in 1848. In the very next year, New Hampshire legally authorised the cities and towns under its control to establish libraries and also made provision to levy a separate tax for funding the libraries.

Today every state of the USA has a public library Act. The Act provides the legal basis for the establishment and administration of public libraries and for the tax provision. However, the Acts differ from state to state. Some Acts are comprehensive and cover all types of libraries, like city, town, village, district, regional or school district libraries. In a few states, there may be a separate law for each type of library. However, all Acts have one provision in common, that is, the use of the library should be free to the inhabitants of the municipalities concerned. Another redeeming feature of the majority of the Acts is that the proceeds from the library tax should be kept in a separate fund called the library fund and cannot be intermingled with other funds of the tax collecting authority.

Federal legislation in the USA evolved very slowly. It was only in 1956 that the first general library law was enacted at the national level. This was the Library Services Act in which a national commitment to the support of libraries in the overall educational programme was made. The Act was applicable to rural areas but in 1964 it was amended to include urban areas also and the Act was renamed the Library Services and Construction Act. This Act appropriated funds for library services and for inter-library cooperation.

3.9 PHILANTHROPY AND LIBRARY MOVEMENT

One factor that contributed greatly to the library movement in the USA was benavolent contributions by individuals or trusts. Philanthropy played a great part in the later half of the 19th century. The New York Public Library was a creation of philanthropy. John Jacob Astor, a businessman, bequeathed \$4,00,000 in his will to establish a reference library in New York city in 1848. Astor entrusted one Joseph Green Cogswell to buy books. The Astor Library opened in 1854 with 90,000 volumes. Cogswell became its first director.

Another reference library was opened in New York in 1870. This was done by James Lenox who had collected nearly 20,000 volumes covering subjects like Americian literature, folklore, history, works of Milton, Shakespeare, Bunyan and several other classics. In 1800, former Governor of New York State, Samuel J. Tilden left an estate worth \$ 50,00,000 for the creation of a free public library. However, his will went into litigation and a compromise with his relatives was made and the library secured only half of the amount. In 1895, the three trusts stated above merged and the New York Public Library came into being. It is a private library but the services are free.

There are several other examples of endowments for the establishment of free public libraries in the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.



The Enoch Pratt Library (1884) at Baltimore, the Newberry Library at Chicago (1887), the John Crerar Library, also at Chicago, (1894), the Henry E. Huntington Library at San Marino (1919), and the Pierpont Morgan Library at New York are some examples of libraries set up by donations.

The greatest single benefactor to the public library cause was Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919). His donations were mainly meant for the construction of library buildings. Funds for books and maintenance had to come from the community. In the USA alone, 1681 public library buildings were constructed through Carnegie's endowments. By 1920, the Carnegie Trust had donated more than \$ 500,00,000 for the construction of library buildings. There were only seven municipality-supported libraries in the 16 larger cities of the USA in 1890. This situation markedly changed after Carnegie's donations. In the last decade of the 19th century, libraries started spreading throughout the length and breadth of the USA.

3.10 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

One library that has given the lead is the Library of Congress. A detailed study of the Library of Congress is given under Unit 5 of this course.

3.11 KINDS OF LIBRARIES, GROWTH AND FUTURE TRENDS

The USA is a land of libraries. The following table gives an idea of the types and number of libraries in the country and related data:

Libraries in the United States (1989)

No.	No.	Collection	Annual Expenditure Dollars	Prof. Staff
National	3	29, 277, 384	—————	—————
Academic	4,607	633, 848, 000	2, 461, 988, 000	21,919
Public	9,068	600, 000, 000	3, 700, 000, 000	35,000
School	102,538	923,025,222	633,301,000	68,391
Special	11,146	—————	—————	—————

National Libraries

The United States sponsors many governmental libraries, but three qualify as national libraries because of the constituencies they serve. The largest is the Library of Congress(LC) which has been an outstanding international trend-setter in most of the world's library developments.

What started in the first decade of this century as a service to distribute catalogue cards grew to the printing of the *National Union Catalog* in the fourth decade and eventually led to Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) tapes in the sixth decade. LC has played a very important role in other national library activities to include a number of projects, to find better techniques and methods of library and information services, not only in the USA but also internationally.



The two other national libraries are the National Library of Medicine (NML) and the National Agricultural Library (NAL). NML emerged in the 1950s directly from its predecessor, the Army Medical Library. It serves practising medical professionals and medical science researchers, not only in the USA but throughout the world through its Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) and MEDLINE services. *Medlars* is a sophisticated computerised

storage and retrieval system that grew from *Index Medicus*, NML's paper-based index to current literature. The holdings of NML are nearing a million.

NAL grew out of the Department of Agriculture Library; It has also led to the development of computerised storage and retrieval of information on agriculture and allied subjects.

There are also other federal government agencies whose libraries serve different information needs of their parent organisations.

Academic Libraries

Academic libraries, as in the UK, include school, college, university and research libraries. They have developed individual growth patterns. The Harvard University Library represents the largest of the privately supported institutions, whose collections and inter-institutional responsibilities have grown in geometric progression. Notable among the other university libraries are Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia, Chicago, Princeton and Yale. A number of others have also contributed very greatly to resource development and a host of library and information services.

A distinguishing feature of academic libraries in the USA is the development of school libraries and media centres. More than 75,000 libraries and media centres are now in public and private elementary and secondary schools. The infusion of federal support, coupled with standards developed by professional associations, have allowed libraries and media centres to improve traditional services in reading, reference, and teaching and to augment their role in supplying schools with additional instructional support. In many cases they are also participating actively in computer literacy programmes in US elementary and secondary schools.

Special Libraries

Special libraries, generally, exist to serve specific clientele. They are not designed to meet the information needs of the general public. Naturally, their collections are much smaller. Staffed with specially trained professionals, they offer need based services to specialists. The special libraries of AT&T's Bell Laboratories, International Business Machines (IBM), and Westinghouse Electric Corporation are a few examples of the big industrial and business establishments' libraries. Newspapers, advertising agencies and other agencies have special libraries. There are also libraries attached to learned societies, hospitals, banks, legal institutions, publishing houses, scientific institutions, etc., each is meant to serve its respective clientele's information needs.



Growth and Future Trends

Many of the trends mentioned with reference to the UK also apply to libraries in the USA, with variations depending on indigenous requirements. There are, however, very distinct-trends in the USA that may have a far reaching impact on the entire library and information scenario not only in that country but globally.

One such development is the **INTERNET**. Arising out of this is the Network of Computers and Communications which is likely to be the characteristic infrastructure of the post-modern world. The first part is composed of the network's links. The second will consist of the sensors and monitors that connect the network to the world. The third part will comprise databases including encyclopedic information, musical and theatrical performances and records of all kinds. Finally, there will be information processors for the purpose of keeping the network itself in order to provide expert services of particular kinds. The information links are like the nerves that pervade and help to animate the human organism. The sensors and monitors are analogous to the human senses that put us in touch with the world. Databases correspond to the memory; the information processors perform the function of human reasoning and comprehension. Once the post-modern infrastructure is reasonably integrated it will greatly exceed human intelligence in reach, acuity, capacity and precision.

Although these statements appear to be a forecast rather than a definite possibility at present, special studies have been conducted to assess the impact of Internet on all the three major kinds of libraries, namely, academic, public and special libraries. Here, we are just bringing to your attention the publication of the book entitled *Libraries and the Internet/NREM: Perspectives, Issues, and Challenges*.

Another significant effort to deal with the increasing role of information in its widest dimension is mentioned here to highlight current and future trends. A National Information Infrastructure (NII) which is also called the Information Super highway, is envisaged with various possibilities of information use. The components of this Information Superhighway are:

- People to create, publish, organize, preserve, manage, and use information; to develop applications and services; to design and implement policies and standards; and to educate and train individuals for all aspects of NII
- The information content in all formats and media, including text, still and moving images, numeric files, sound recordings, archival records, museum collections and other evidence of all kinds.
- Hardware and other physical components, including computers, monitors, input devices, printers, telephone, fax machines, compact disks, video and audio media, cameras, televisions, cable and other wires, switches, satellites, microwave nets, optical fibre transmission lines and other devices yet to be invented.
- Software and news groups such as file transfer protocol, gophers, USENET news, Wide 'Area Information Servers (WAIS), the World-Wide Web (WWW), with mosaic and Hypertext Language (HTML), and many others to be developed.



- Standards, codes, regulations, and other policies to facilitate, interconnect, provide interoperability, ensure privacy, protect security, provide for appropriate compensation to owners of intellectual property, protect the integrity of data, promote ethical practice, and ensure true universal access and service.

In building up the proposed infrastructure, principles, goals, strategies, and mechanisms have been evolved. An Information Infrastructure Task Force (IITF) has been charged with articulating and implementing the administration's NII vision, working with the private sector to develop comprehensive telecommunications and information policies.

Self Check Exercises

- 7) How were school libraries developing in the USA?
- 8) What are the future trends which promise a possible radical change from the present library and information set up?

- Note: i) Write your answers in the space given below;
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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3.12 ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

In the development of libraries in the UK and the USA, the part played by professional associations is exceptional and remarkable. In the UK, the British Library Association, (LAUK) was established in 1877 and the Association for Information Management (ASLIB) came up in 1926 (known formally as the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux):

They have been spearheading and directing library and information activities with dedication and devotion. In the USA, the American Library Association (ALA, 1876), the Special Library Association (SLA, 1909) and the American Society for Information Science (ASIS, 1937) have been working with zeal and tirelessly for the promotion and development of libraries and information services.

These professional bodies have endeavoured to promote library and information services in their countries, and strive to protect the interests of professionals, developed professional practices through standards, guidelines, codes, manuals and other types of publications, published journals to reflect professional developments, conducted professional courses and training programmes to enable skill development, established national and international contacts to be in tune with international thinking and practices and done similar other things. We are merely mentioning this here in order to briefly state the important role played by these professional bodies. They are dealt with in detail in another unit.



Self Check Exercise

9) How do professional associations contribute to the growth and development of libraries in the UK and the USA?

- Note: i) Write your answer in the space given below;
ii) Check your answer with the answers given at the end of this Unit.

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3.13 SUMMARY

This unit traces the development of libraries and information centres in the UK and the USA. The efforts made to develop public libraries in the UK are briefly narrated, highlighting important landmarks. All these culminated in the establishment of a Public Library System, supported by library legislation at different periods. Similarly in the USA, the development of public libraries has been with the support of philanthropists and library legislation. Besides public library development which has taken deep roots in these countries with excellent professional services, other libraries such as academic libraries and special libraries have developed. Different kinds of libraries and information centres have grown gradually with information needs. Although the academic libraries of universities have a longer history, dating back to the period of the growth of universities, their growth has been due to various factors such as increasing students admitted to different courses, specialisation, and others. A number of new factors contributed a great number of changes to social, political and economic developments, which demanded innovative thinking and new solutions. Some of the more important factors are information technology, user needs, demographic changes needing different types of information, and the volume and variety of information disseminated and published. All these aspects have been dealt with in this unit in the appropriate sections.

3.14 ANSWER TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1) Before the end of the 17th century there was a marked increase in reading habits. This was due to the spread of education. More than 5,000 grammar schools and 460 charity schools had been established before the end of 1700 AD. The intelligentsia met in coffee houses where they discussed various issues and these coffee houses became centres for the dissemination of news. Magazines like the Tatler, the Spectator and the Gentleman's Magazine appeared in the first decade of the 18th century. These factors were responsible for the spread of subscription and circulating libraries.
- 2) The Public Library Act of 1850 empowered municipal authorities with a population of 10,000 and above to adopt the Act. However, a two-third majority of votes cast was necessary for the adoption, and in case the motion was not carried, another poll could not be held for two more years. The Act provided to levy half a penny in the pound on the rateable value of the



property. Spending was restricted to building, fuel, lighting, fixtures, furniture and the salaries of the staff.

- 3) Some of the committees that were appointed to look into the working of the public libraries in England were (1) Adams Report (2) Mitchell Report (3) Kenyon Report (4) McColvin Report (5) Robert Report.
- 4) The total library structure of the UK comprises:
 - The British Library, and the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales
 - The public library system
 - Academic libraries which include research, university, college, polytechnic libraries and others of teaching and learning institutions.
 - Special libraries, comprising business, industrial, and other types of libraries, serving special categories of users.
- 5) The current trends are a funds crunch, dwindling gradually for all kinds of libraries, the impact of technology in all library activities, demographic patterns, structural reorganisation of libraries and such others.

Future possibilities include pricing for library and information services as a norm, rapid changes in conventional library and information systems, changing staff patterns, increasing application of IT with greater thrust on information provision, etc.

- 6) In the beginning, American libraries were mainly privately owned. Subscription libraries and commercial libraries came into being during the period 1790-1815. They were called "social libraries". -School-district public libraries were of a slightly later origin. Mercantile libraries on the pattern of Mechanics Institute of England were another popular type of library that existed before the advancement of free public libraries.
- 7) A distinguishing feature of academic libraries in the USA is the development of school libraries and media centres. More than 75,000 libraries and media centres are now in public and private elementary and secondary schools. The infusion of federal support, coupled with standards developed by professional associations, have allowed libraries and media centres to improve traditional services in reading, reference, and teaching and to augment their role in supplying schools with additional instructional support. In many cases they are also participating actively in computer literary programmes in US elementary and secondary schools.
- 8) Internet/the National Research and Education Network (NREN) and the Federal Government vision of creating an Information Superhighway are the notable efforts to face the challenges of the future.
- 9) These professional bodies have endeavoured to promote library and information services in their countries, striven to protect the interests of professionals, developed professional practices through standards, guidelines, codes, manuals and other types of publications, published journals to reflect professional developments conducted professional courses and training programmes to enable skill development, established national and interna-



tional contacts to be in tune with international thinking and practices and done similar other things.

3.15 KEYWORDS

Database	Information stored on computer files, and accessible via a remote terminal and telecommunications link.
Documentation	The study of the acquisition, handling and communication of information, particularly relating to scientific reports, semi-published material,
Information Superhighway	: Collection of electronic networks which provide access to many databases, brought about by the convergence of hardware, software and networking technologies.
Intellectual Property	: Author's right to claim ownership of a created work.
Network	: A system of physically separate computers with telecommunication links, allowing the resources of each participating machine to be shared by each of
Teleconferencing	: A special counselling session/meeting/ conference/ discussion organised with the help of advanced media technology whereby participant of distant regions can interact with each other from one or more remote locations.

3.16 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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