
UNIT 4 LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN MODERN INDIA : PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

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4.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this Unit, you will be able to:

- trace the progress of libraries and library services in India, as a result from various plans and programmes initiated/implemented at national, regional and local levels;
- explain the Government's role in library development through policy directions, planning processes and recommendations of ad hoc committees; and
- make an assessment of the impact of the plans and programmes on library development, with a view to identify directions for the future

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In any human endeavour, systematic and assured development can take place only if it is based on careful planning and faithful implementation of programmes. In the matter of library development in India, planning and programming efforts



have been many since Independence. While their outcome may be of varying degrees of accomplishment, there is no doubt that the country has been able to develop an extensive infrastructure for library and information services on the basis of plans and programmes embarked upon at various levels. You should have a good understanding of the country's library policies, planning processes and programming endeavours in order to get a good grasp of the organisation of libraries in the country. This unit serves the purpose of providing you an overview of efforts made towards planned development of libraries in the country.

Systematic library development started in India only after 1947. The establishment and development of the National Library at Calcutta, public library legislation in a few states leading

to the creation of public library systems, a growth in the number of university and college libraries, and the rapid development of special libraries and information centres in science and technology, medicine, agriculture, social sciences and the humanities are some of the landmarks achieved during the last five decades. Impressive as these seem to be, they are, inadequate to meet the increasing demand for knowledge and information required for our socio-economic development, higher and technical education, higher industrial productivity, and scientific and technological research, development and progress. All these point to the need for integrated planning and programming of activities and tasks on the basis of a national library and information policy.

Dealing with policy initiatives, a summary of the recommendations of the national policy on the library and information system, formulated by the Department of Culture, is given in this Unit. This policy document spells out an integrated approach to the development of all types of libraries and information systems. As a sequel to this effort, a national commission on libraries has been proposed. National policies in other sectors, such as education, science and technology, and information (communication) also have a bearing on library development in the country.

Several ad hoc committees appointed by appropriate bodies in the country have made recommendations with reference to the development of public, academic, medical and agricultural libraries.

The Five Year Plans have given considerable attention to library and information system development, particularly the Seventh Five Year Plan. Sectoral plans in science and technology, education, health and family welfare, environment, biotechnology, etc., have also dealt with library and information systems in their respective areas.

Notwithstanding this impressive record of progress and development, the present situation of library and information system development appears to be uneven, piecemeal and uncoordinated. The application of computer and communication technologies for creating a network of library and information systems is sure to provide the necessary coordination and integration. The National Policy on Library and Information System, expected to be in force soon, will hopefully result in an integrated development of the library and information system in appropriate quality and quantity.

4.2 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

India is known for its tradition of scholarship and learning and for its cultural heritage. In ancient and medieval periods, there existed famous libraries around



learning centres and places of religious worship. The rulers of the land in the medieval period had taken a deep interest in setting up libraries. During the sixteenth century, the work of Christian missionaries and introduction of printing resulted in the establishment of some libraries. However, the library movement in India may be regarded to have had a proper beginning only after the advent of British rule in the modern period. When English was introduced into the country and the British began to set up some modest educational facilities in the later half of the 19th century, libraries in the modern sense began to spring up in some places, notably the provincial capitals. It was only after the country attained Independence and the Five Year Plans began to be implemented that library development got attention. The successive Five Year Plans, which add up to nine, now, have ushered in library facilities on a large scale in the country.

4.2.1 Growth of Library Movement in India

The Calcutta Public Library was established in the first half of the 19th century and the Imperial Library in 1903. In 1948, the Imperial Library, Calcutta was renamed as the National Library and moved over to the present premises. Though not an apex library of the library system of the country, the National Library has been making steady progress over the years and has grown " in size in collection and staff and in range of services.

The country has also national special libraries, such as the National Science Library of INSDOC and the National Medical Library of the Directorate General of Health Services. Both are located in Delhi. Such libraries in a few other fields are also being proposed.

The development of public libraries as a movement may be said to have started with the measures taken by the ruler of the erstwhile Baroda State in 1906. However, this initiative did not set the pace for later development. Until Independence, a few state central libraries and some public libraries alone came up and the growth has been marginal. Library legislation is in force now in six states, namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Manipur. These states have created a public library network down to the village level. Gujarat and Kerala have also a fairly well developed public library system, but without the support of legislation. There is a pressing need now for the other states to pay more attention to public library development.

In the academic library system, there are about 220 libraries of university-level institutions, over 7,000 college libraries and some one lakh school libraries of moderate quality. While university libraries have had a systematic development, there is an urgent need to strengthen college libraries. School libraries, on the whole, have been a neglected lot. The Third All-India Educational Survey conducted by the National Council of Education Research and Training (1981), gives the state of school libraries as follows:

There were 589,031 recognised schools. Out of these only 41.08% had library facilities. The distribution of library facilities was: 32.41% of the primary schools, 59.61% of the middle schools, 94.05% of the secondary schools and 95.75% of the higher secondary schools/intermediate/ junior/pre-university colleges.

17.8% of school libraries had less than 100 books; 9.6% had 100-249 books; 5.3% had 250-499 books; 3.64% had 500-999 books; 2.52% had 1000-1999 books; 0.94% had 2000-3999 books; and 1.63% had 4000-4999 books. There were 1,441 full time trained persons holding charge of libraries, that is, only 41 % of the schools had full-time trained librarians.



4.3 PLANS, PROGRAMMES, POLICIES

4.3.1 Need for Planning and Programming

Libraries in our country function under a variety of ownerships and jurisdiction. There is generally no coordination in their development. The progress of libraries has been very slow because of the following factors`

- 1) Neglect of library services during the British period
- 2) Resource constraint in the post-Independence era
- 3) Sole dependence on Government funds for library development.

Sincere and vigorous efforts are now needed to strengthen and upgrade the present system and to create new facilities in order to serve a growing demand from an increasing number of users. An integrated plan for library development is needed for the country so that gaps are filled, weak areas are strengthened and additional facilities are created to meet the new demands for library service. Further, library development in the country needs to be coordinated in order to optimise utilisation of available resources and facilities and to minimise duplication of effort.

The development should be systematic and sustained, for which proper planning is necessary. The planning process has to take into account political, legal, economic and administrative realities at any point of time. In relation to planning, strategies have to be evolved to chart out a predetermined course of actions. A programme is a scheduled set of activities or tasks undertaken to implement a strategy: It requires specific planning, budgeting and organisational attention. A course of action is to be formulated with different levels of generality and specificity. Several courses of action may lead to the realisation of the overall objectives.

In the matter of library development in India there have been many recommendations of committees for reforms, policy initiatives, planning processes and programming exercises. They have helped in the planned development of libraries.

4.3.2 Policy Initiatives and Library Policies

A policy is a statement of commitment to a generic course of action necessary for the attainment; of a goal, which in our case is library development. A policy is conditioned on the political, economic, social and cultural milieu. Many countries have adopted a library policy which helped them undertake library development with a certain commitment and assurance. Policies in certain sectors of the national economy have also had their implications for library' development: In India, professional forums in the library field have been pleading with the Government to enunciate a library policy for the country as a whole. At last, the country is now about to have a library policy with hopes of implementation.

National Policy-on Library and Information System (NAPLIS)

The Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, appointed in October 1985 a committee of senior library scientists and other specialists, with Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya as chairman, to prepare a draft document on the National Policy on Library and Information System. The Committee completed its assignment and submitted a draft document to the Government on May 31, 1986.



The main aims of the library and information policy were recommended to be:

- i) to foster, promote and sustain, by all appropriate means, the organisation; availability and use of information in all sectors of national activity;
- ii) to take steps to mobilise and upgrade the existing library and information systems and services and initiate new programmes relevant to our national needs, taking advantage of the latest advances in information technology;
- iii) to encourage and initiate, with all possible speed, programmes for the training of library and information personnel on a scale and of a calibre adequate to provide library and information services and to recognise their work as an important component of the quality and level of such services;
- iv) to set up adequate monitoring mechanisms for ensuring the rapid development of library and information facilities and services to meet the information needs of all sectors and levels of the national economy;
- v) to encourage individual initiatives for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and for the discovery of new knowledge in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom;
- vi) in general, to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of knowledge; and
- vii) to preserve and make known the nation's cultural heritage in its multiple forms.

The draft policy document consists of YO chapters, viz. Introduction, Objectives, Public Library System; Academic Library System, Special Libraries and Information Systems, National Library System and Bibliographical Services, Manpower Development and Professional Status, Modernisation of Library and Information Systems, General Professional Issues and Implementing Agencies and Financial Support. The document has five appendices. Each chapter, after setting out the objectives, makes some specific recommendations towards upgrading and coordinating the existing library and information systems and services and initiating new programmes towards meeting the expanding demand for library and information support. The chapter on Implementing Agencies makes a specific recommendation for constituting a National Commission for Libraries and Information Systems to oversee the implementation of the National Policy.

The Government of India took prompt follow-up action by appointing an empowered committee to examine the -implications of the various recommendations of the policy document and arrive at appropriate decisions for approval by the Government. The committee completed its tasks in March 1,988 and submitted its report.

The recommendations of the empowered committee are:

- constitution of a National Commission on Libraries to play a major role in implementing the library policy and in the progress of library development;
- creation of an All India Library Service;
- active involvement of the Central Government in public library development;
- public library development has also to be supported by agencies involved in social, education, rural development, etc;



- university and college libraries are to be considered academic units and senior library staff members should be regarded as members of the academic community;
- the National Library of India, Calcutta, should be strengthened;
- development of a system of national libraries.

The formulation and implementation of a National Policy on Library and Information System are epoch-making measures in the library movement in the country. If the policy recommendations are faithfully implemented, a new phase in library development in India towards a far better performance and achievement is sure to come about.

Other Library and Information Policies

UNESCO has been advocating the adoption of a National (Science) Information Policy by all the countries of the world. In this connection, UNESCO held some regional meetings and seminars in India. The National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), which is the focal point in India for the UNISIST/LJNESCO programme, is expected to take interest in framing information policy. The Society for Information Science in India has done considerable spade work for preparing the National (Science) Information Policy.

The Medical Library Association of India had brought out in September 1986 a document on National Health (Literature) Information Policy. However, it has not yet been considered at the official level.

4.3.3 Policy on other Sectors having Implications for Libraries

The policies which have been adopted by the Government in a few other sectors have a bearing and influence on library development.

Education Policy: The National Policy on Education, announced by the Government of India in May 1986, has a brief recommendation on libraries as follows: "Together with the development of books, a nation-wide movement for the improvement of existing libraries and the establishment of new ones will be taken up. Provision will be made in all educational institutions for library facilities and the status of librarians improved". Libraries are central to the education system. The National policy on Education should have given a better treatment to the, question of libraries. However, the subsequent follow-up exercise of preparing a document on Programme of Action on National Policy on Education (August 1986) has dealt with some aspects of library development in educational institutions.

Book Policy: The National Book Policy, which was also prepared in 1986, has emphasised the availability of books at low prices, improvement of the quality of books, books for children and other special groups, book production, book promotion, etc. These issues are relevant to collection building programmes in libraries.

Science Policy: The Scientific Policy Resolution adopted by the Government of India in 1958 has the following directions in the context of emphasis on library and information services;

- "to encourage individual initiative for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, in an atmosphere of academic freedom";



- "... and, in general, to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of scientific knowledge."

Technology Policy: The Technology Policy statement announced by the Prime Minister in March 1983 has made an explicit mention of establishing a technology information base towards the collection and analysis of relevant technological information.

Information (Communication) Policy: The document on "Background to Evolving a National Information Policy" has recognised that information is indispensable to the functioning of a true democracy, where people have to be kept informed about current affairs and broad issues - political, social and economic. The role of public libraries in this regard is obvious.

Self Check Exercises

- 2) State the main aims of the National Policy on Library and Information System.
- 3) List national policies in other sectors which have a bearing on library development in the country..

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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4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS OF SOME IMPORTANT COMMITTEES ON LIBRARY MATTERS

There have been many ad hoc committees appointed by the government at various levels from time to time to consider either exclusively or partly or in a passing reference issues relating to the improvement of libraries. These committees, besides pointing out the shortcomings of the existing system in relation to an assessment of present and future requirements, have proposed reforms/improvements in the form of recommendations. The governments, in most cases, have accepted in principle the reports of the committees. However, the committees' role being advisory, the recommendations are not binding on the governments. Nonetheless, such committees stimulate interest in the issues highlighted by them and help in taking concrete measures thorough regular planning and programming endeavours.

It is important to note the work of various committees and commissions on libraries and their recommendations. It is not possible to review every state-level and central-level committee or commission. However, a brief review of the recommendations of some important committees on libraries is given below:

4.4.1 Public Libraries

- i) Though not an official initiative, it is worth mentioning here that Dr. S.R. Ranganathan prepared a Library Development Plan, a thirty year programme, published as a book in 1950 by the University of Delhi. The blueprint drawn up by Dr. Ranganathan was useful to subsequent exercises of formulating national-level plans for library development



- ii) The Report of the Advisory Committee for Libraries, also known as the Sinha Committee, is an extremely valuable document. For the first time, issues relating to public library development in the country as a whole have been dealt with thoroughly and many useful recommendations have been made. The report was submitted to the Government of India in November 1958 and in the following year it was published as an official document. The report has nine chapters; Historical, Present Position, Structure of Libraries, Auxiliary Services and Library Cooperation, Library Personnel, Training for Librarianship, Libraries and Social Education and Library Finance and Administration. In each chapter, specific recommendations have been made.

The Sinha Committee made the following recommendations:

- libraries at the panchayat, block, district and state levels to be constituted with appropriate functions and span of control;
- the Book Bureau and the Mitra Mandal have to be set up as auxiliary services;
- an inter-library loan service should be established;
- the status and responsibilities of library professionals should be determined;
- training should be provided to library personnel to upgrade their skills;
- libraries should interact with other social, education and adult education programmes. The library cess of 6 paise per rupee in property tax should be collected by the local authorities for building and maintaining libraries; and an equivalent sum must be contributed by the state and central governments;
- a library fund with proper supervision must be set up to administer the finances of libraries at various levels.

While the overall basic recommendations of the Library Advisory Committee have been sound, the lamentable part is that many of the valuable recommendations have remained un-implemented: As a result, even today, public library development in the country is lagging behind.

- iii) The first well-known committee on regional public libraries is the Library Development Committee, Bombay 1939-40, headed by Mr. A.A.A. Fyzee. Though the terms of reference of the committee were the setting up of central and regional libraries only, it covered a wider field and put forth a scheme for developing libraries in the then Bombay province in six stages to cover even villages with a population of less than 1,000. The financial implications of the committee's proposals would not allow the Government of Bombay to implement all the six stages. Arising out of the recommendations of the Fyzee Committee, one central library, three regional libraries and 15 district libraries (all districts of the then Bombay province), marking up stages 1 and 2, were set up.
- iv) In Andhra Pradesh, a committee was appointed by the Government in February 1976 under the chairmanship of Justice Gopal Rao Ekbote to review the working of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960 and to suggest necessary amendments to the Act. The committee submitted its report in 1977. It made several worthwhile recommendations on various



aspects of the public library system in the light of the experience of the working of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act 1960. The Government of Andhra Pradesh accepted the Report of the Ekbote Committee but did not appear to have implemented the recommendations faithfully. There was yet another committee appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in July 1978 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Vavilala Gopalakrishnayya, to suggest measures for the improvement of private libraries (aided libraries) and to evolve a system of grant-in-aid to private libraries. The committee submitted its report in November 1978. It suggested norms and procedures for identification, grant-in-aid, inspection, etc., of private libraries. The Government accepted the majority of the recommendations of this committee in 1982.

- v) In Tamil Nadu also, a Library Reorganising Committee was appointed in 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. V. N. Subharayan. The committee made some valuable recommendations, following which, a separate full time District Library Officer for each district was provided to administer the district library system. An official-level committee headed by Mr. S. Srinivasan examined the implications of the recommendations of the Subharayan Committee and proposed in November 1978 the sanction of a family benefit fund and a retirement fund and integrated library personnel for the public library system in Tamil Nadu.

4.4.2 Academic Libraries

The place of the library in schools has been given a proper focus in the report of the Secondary Education Commission (October 1952 - June 1953) whose chairman was Dr. A.L. Mudaliar. The commission pointed out the sad state of affairs of libraries in schools. It emphasised the habit of general reading by children and advocated the establishment of really good libraries in schools and provision of intelligent and effective library service for this purpose. It said that individual work, pursuit of group projects, academic hobbies and co-curricular activities called for the presence of a good and efficiently functioning library. The commission also recommended that every secondary school should have a central library under a trained librarian. It expressed the view that in smaller places it may be more economical to build up the school library in such a way that it may also serve the function of a public library for the locality.

In regard to university libraries, the report of the University Education Commission (December 1948 to August 1949; Chairman: Dr. S. Radhakrishnan), discussed in detail the central position of the library in the academic system. This commission recommended encouragement to self-study and library work to supplement class instruction. The report stated that training in higher branches of learning is mainly a question of learning how to use the tools, and if the library tools are not there the students are handicapped in learning how to use the tools. It concluded that learning the techniques of using the library and searching for information is highly essential.

The report of the Education Commission (1964-66; Chairman: Dr. D.S. Kothari), entitled, Education and National Development, also discussed the role of libraries in higher education. While advocating self-study by the students, the report highlighted the skill to use books and documents independently by the students in the learning process. The Education Commission offered eleven useful and important suggestions for the improvement of university and college libraries.



The commission also addressed itself to the role of libraries in adult education and recommended the establishment of a network of public libraries. It wanted school libraries to be integrated with public libraries for purposes of adult education programmes.

By far the most comprehensive document on university and college libraries is the report of the UGC Library Committee, chaired by Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. The report was published by the University Grants Commission in 1959 as "University and College Libraries", containing the report of the Library Committee and the proceedings of the seminar on "From Publisher to Reader" held on March 4-7, 1957. The report touched upon all aspects of university and college library organisation and services and formulated a set of comprehensive recommendations. The recommendations of the committee had a far-reaching effect on the development of university libraries later. The committee not only provided a framework to the UGC to implement its grants-in-aid programmes but also gave to university authorities important guidelines. Particular mention must be made of the recommendations concerning library finance which helped libraries to secure enough finance by way of annual grants from the universities themselves and of development grants from the UGC. The recommendations on library personnel and staff strength provided the size of the library staff based on various library operations.

The staff formula prescribed by Dr. Ranganathan has guided UGC and the universities all along. The report has also-given a blueprint for the systematic development of university libraries in the country.

4.4.3 Agricultural Libraries

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has shown interest in the improvement of library and documentation services in agricultural institutions. As early as 1957, the Council invited Dr. Ralph Shaw of the United States to study the requirements of library and bibliographical services for agricultural research and teaching. Dr. Shaw, with the co-authorship of Dr. D.B. Krishna Rao, submitted a report on Library and Bibliographical Service (published by ICAR in 1959). The report stimulated interest, although many of the recommendations were not put into effect.

In 1967, the ICAR commissioned an Indo-American Agricultural Library Survey and Study Team under the chairpersonship of Dr. Dorothy Parker of the Rockefeller Foundation. The report of the team, which was published by the ICAR in 1969 under the title, Final Report on the ICAR Institutes and Agricultural University Libraries, carried valuable recommendations directed towards evolving a national system of agricultural libraries and documentation centres, with the libraries of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute and National Dairy Research Institute functioning as national libraries in agriculture, veterinary science and dairy science respectively. The recommendations of this study team also remained unimplemented, despite the pressing need for evolving a national system for agricultural information.

4.4.4 Medical Libraries

There were important recommendations concerning medical libraries in the report of the Health Survey and Development Committee, Vol.2, Recommendations (Chairman Dr. J. Bhore), which was published in 1946. The committee took note of the existing condition of medical libraries in India and strongly recommended



the establishment of a central medical library. The committee noted that there was no medical library in India with more than 11,000 volumes except the DGHS Library, which later became the National Medical Library.

Long after the Bhore Committee's recommendations on medical libraries in India, the next most comprehensive report that was commissioned was the report of the Sankaran Committee, submitted in 1981. The report recommended the evolution of an effective and efficient library and information services network for the country, which later-became known as HELLIS Network.

Self Check Exercises

- 4) list the areas of recommendations of the report of the Library Advisory Committee of the Government of India.
- 5) Mention the role and function of libraries as given by the two Education Commission reports.
- 6) State the areas of recommendations of the UGC Library Committee.

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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4.5 PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENDEAVOURS

The country has taken to national planning to bring about social and economic change. The Five Year Plans, starting from 1951 have brought about a vast transformation in the country. By placing the thrust on modernisation, the country is now preparing itself to enter the twenty - first century, which is to be characterised by a technological revolution of altogether new dimensions.

Library development is taken care of in the national plans as a sub-sector exclusively and also under different sectoral plans. The state plans also devote attention to public library development. Development of individual library systems is usually included in the plans of the parent body and aggregated at sub-sectoral and sectoral levels

4.5.1 National Planning

The development of libraries in the country during the seven Five Year Plans is summed up in Tables 1 and 2. The three columns with tables represent, respectively, the Five Year Plans, indicating financial outlays, the development plans and the extent of implementation at the end of the plan period. In Table 1, the development of libraries as a sub-sector is given. In Table 2, the development of library systems attached to science and technology, education, health; environment and biotechnology is given.

Table 1: Development of libraries under different five-year plans

Five Year Plan Including Financial outlay	Proposed Development	Extent of Implementation



First 1951-56 Rs. 1 crore plus	Network of public libraries, linking district and state central libraries; Community Development Programme to give fillip to rural libraries	Schemes came into force in 1952 Nine states prepared plans for setting up their state central libraries; some states were in the process of setting up district libraries.
	Enactment of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act 1954/56.	Establishment of the National Central Library and three depository libraries in Calcutta Bombay and Madras.
Second 1956- 61	National network of central, state and district libraries	Development activities marginal
Third 1961-66	Continued the pace set by the first two Plans, without any special emphasis	12 out of 16 states had state entral
		Libraries; 5 out of 9 Union Territories had central libraries; 203 out of 327 districts had district libraries; 27% of blocks had block libraries.
Fourth 1966- 71 Rs. 30.99 crores	Appointment of a working group for Library Development by the Planning Commission Prepared a scheme of phased and coordinated programme for the foundation of a public library system Library given the status of a sub- sector	The implementation did not match the identified programmes of the Working Group for Libraries Development

4.5.2 Sectoral Planning

Table 2: Development of Libraries under 8th and 9th Five-Year Plans

Sectoral Plans Est. in crores	Proposed Development	Extent of Implementation
Eighth Plan 1990-95 Estimates for all sectors Rs. 1942	Main thrust: To set up a National Commission on Libraries and Information System: To evolve a National Policy on Library and	Recommendations have either not been implemented or very little action has been taken.



	Information System	
Rs.450	Public Library System including Pachayaat Libraries	-do-
Rs. 360	Academic Libraries	-do-
Rs. 280	Special Libraries	-do-
Rs. 270	National Library and Bibliography System	-do-
Rs.5.00	National Commission on Libraries and Information system	-do-
Rs. 41	Miscellaneous	-do-
Rs. 535	Informatics (NISSAT, NIS in Soc.Sc.,NICNET, INFLIBNET, Indian Inst of Information' Science)	-do-
Total Rs. 1942		
Ninth plan 1997-2002	Priorities: Library to become a concurrent subject; Library legislation in all states; Libraries to be modernised, networks national and city databases; Application information technology conservation of India's heritage; Setting up an autonomous body to review modernisation process, develop a databank, and lay down guidelines for manpower development, setting up of a Bureau of Libraries and Information Service in the Department of Culture; An All-India cadre for library and information services.	In process
Estimates for all sectors		
Rs. 2444		
Rs. 400	Public library system	
Rs. 700	Academic library system	
Rs. 400 (humanities)	Special libraries (S&T, Govt. libraries, arts, culture;	
Rs.525	National library system	



Rs.310	Informatics (NISSAT, NICNET, INFLIBNET, DELNET, City networks, National Mission on Rare books and Manuscripts)
Rs.5.00	Apex body on libraries and information systems
Rs. 52	Manpower development, R&D, National Institute of Library and Information Science
Rs.52	Other activities

While it is gratifying that the Planning Commission has taken the initiative and that the Working Group has come up with many valuable recommendations, there has been little evidence of definite acceptance of the recommendations by the Planning Commission, particularly in terms of allocating the required financial resources: A multitude of agencies at the centre and in the states and in different sectors are responsible for library development. Therefore, financial inputs have not been channelised systematically and in a coordinated manner. In this situation, it can only be hoped that the financial inputs, as recommended by the Working Group of the Ninth Five Year Plan, will be taken care of by the different sectors, agencies, levels, etc.

4.6 ASSESSMENT OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

4.6.1 Present Situation

There is no doubt that plans and programmes so far conceived have helped the country to lay the foundation for a proper library service. The recommendations of the different committees have also stimulated action subsequently. However, taking an overall view, library development in the country does not seem to have picked up any momentum. Shortfalls in implementation may perhaps be due to inadequate financial provision. Generally, considering the demands for many social and educational programmes, particularly in terms of financial allocations, library development gets a low priority. If Library becomes a concurrent subject, there may be better chances of giving attention to library development.

School libraries which should not be neglected receive very little attention and care.

Despite serious efforts to bring about network of libraries, the process is slow, and halting.

Manpower development needs greater attention as IT is fast making the traditional library approach out of date.

4.6.2 Directions for the Future

Modernisation is the key to restructuring the entire library edifice. Computer, communication and multimedia technologies provide a great opportunity for the profession to rise to the occasion.

The quality of library services will have to improve by leaps and bounds if the library and information professionals have to stay in competition with others who are getting more and more involved in library and information activities.

Linking the library resources of the country through effective networking facilities, national bibliographic database creation, developing access and availability of full texts, and upgrading professional competence to face new



competitive situations are some of the more important tasks facing the development of the library and information system in the country. The latest Five Year Plan has taken care of all these aspects and, if implemented, the future of library system will be ensure.

4.7 SUMMARY

This Unit is an introduction to the study of organised and planned efforts at library development in India. While tracing the growth of the library movement in the country, we find that the parameters for library development have been very wide and the magnitude too vast. Planning and programming endeavours are essential to aim at a systematic and assured development. A national library policy is also necessary to have a commitment to provide library service to all the people. The Five Year Plans have given a great deal of attention to library development and informatics and the Ninth Plan has made appropriate provision. If implemented rigorously, library development will get assured success.

4.8 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1) The three landmarks indicating the progress of libraries in India in the post-independence period are:
 - i) the growth and development of the-National Library at Calcutta;
 - ii) public library legislation in six states of India leading to the development of public library systems in these states;
 - iii) the increase in the number of university and college libraries.
- 2) The main aims of the National Policy on Library and Information System are:
 - i) to foster, promote, and sustain the organisation, availability and use of information, in all sectors of national activity;
 - ii) to take steps for mobilising and upgrading the existing library and information systems and services;
 - iii) to encourage and initiate, programmes for the library and information personnel;
 - iv) to set up adequate monitoring mechanisms for ensuring a rapid development of library and information facilities and services;
 - v) to encourage individual initiatives for the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge and for the discovery of new knowledge in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom;
 - vi) to secure for the people of the country all the benefits that can accrue from the acquisition and application of knowledge; and
 - vii) to preserve and make known the nation's cultural heritage in its multiple forms.
- 3) The national sectoral policies which have a bearing on the library development are:
 - i) Education Policy;
 - ii) Book Policy;
 - iii) Scientific Policy Resolution;
 - iv) Technology Policy;
 - v) Information (Communication) Policy.



All these policies deal with libraries explicitly and implicitly.

- 4) The areas of recommendation of the Report of the Library Advisory Committee are:
- i) structure of library system (for public libraries)
 - ii) library cooperation
 - iii) compilation of union catalogues
 - iv) library personnel, status, powers, duties and responsibilities
 - v) training for librarianship
 - vi) auxiliary services, like book bureaux, development of library association, formation of Mitra Mandals.
 - vii) library Finance
 - viii) interaction between libraries and social education programme.
- 5) Secondary Education Commission Report (Chairman Dr. A.L: Mudaliar)
- i) establishment of good libraries in schools and provision of intelligent and effective library service;
 - ii) emphasis on the habit of general reading by children;
 - iii) in smaller places, school libraries could function as public libraries also. University

Education Commission Report (Chairman Dr. S. Radhakrishna)

- i) central position of the library in the academic system;
- ii) preferred self study and library work by way of supplementing class instructions;
- iii) higher branches of learning is mainly a question of learning how to use tools and techniques.

Education Commission (Chairman, Dr. D.S. Kothari)

- i) discussed role of libraries in higher education
- ii) highlighted the skill to use independently books and documents by the students in the learning process;
- iii) offered eleven useful and important suggestions for the improvement of university and college libraries.

- 6) The areas of recommendation of the UGC Library Committee are:
- i) provided a framework and important guidelines to implement its grant-in-aid programmes
 - ii) library finance
 - iii) personnel, status, salary etc:
 - vi) staff strength
 - v) a blueprint for the systematic development of university libraries in the country.

- 7) The salient features of the report of Working Group on Libraries of the Fourth Five Year ' Plan are:

Preparation of a scheme of phased and coordinated programmes for laying the foundation of an efficient system of public library service for the country with a financial out of Rs.30.00 crores. Importance was given to



library development as a sub-sector;-but the implementation did not match the identified programmes of the working group.

8) A brief summary of the report of the Seventh Plan Working Group on Modernisation of Libraries:

The report dealt with the requirements of public, academic, special and national libraries, and the use of computers and manpower development and training. Discussed the feasible perspective of development of library services up to 2000 A.D. The report carried five general recommendation relating to such issues as national library policy, separate library directorates/departments, All-India Library Service cadre, and publication and production of materials and use of computers and information technology.

Specific recommendations were made regarding public, university, college, special libraries, information systems and centres, national libraries, education and training, and library associations. The second part of the report dealt with informatics and computer application. It identified areas of computer application in libraries, outlined a plan for library and information networks and made proposals for international networking and on-line database services. Recommendations on informatics referred to the computer culture in the library community, education and training, computerisation of major libraries, constituting a working group to design, monitor, and evaluate activities. The financial profile suggested was Rs.996 crores, with an allocation of Rs.100 crores, Rs.360 crores, Rs.280 crores and Rs.40 crores for public, academic, special and national library systems respectively; for National Information System and Informatics Rs.10 crores and Rs.150 crores. An expenditure of Rs.12 crores was earmarked for the proposed National Institute of Library and Information Science, Library Directorates, Library Associations and publications and production of material.

4.9 KEYWORDS

Network	:	A system comprising of compatible units with a common purpose, linked together formally or informally.
Planning	:	A formulated method of doing something and refers to any method of thinking out acts and purposes beforehand. Plan, project, design and scheme are often synonymously used.
Programme	:	A scheduled set of activities or tasks to implement a strategy and a tactical action unit of the goal-seeking process.
Policy	:	A statement of a commitment to a generic course of action, necessary for or conducive to the attainment of a goal.
Resource Sharing	:	Mobilising, optimising and utilising on a sharing basis by formal or informal agreements the resources, facilities and services of a system by its components.
Sector	:	Broad areas devoted to subject/discipline/mission.
Strategy :	:	A predetermined course of action, usually selected from a number of alternatives



4.10 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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