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# UNIT 15 ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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## 15.0 OBJECTIVES

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The purpose of this unit is to acquaint you with library associations in India, the USA and the UK, and their activities and programmes including their administrative and organizational structure and functions.

After studying this unit, you should be able to :

- list and elaborate the aims and objectives of professional associations engaged in the library and information field.
- explain the programmes and activities of library associations in the realization of their aims and objectives, and
- identify and detail the activities of selected library and information associations within India and outside.

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## 15.1 INTRODUCTION

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In the earlier units, you have obtained a fairly good insight into the historical perspectives of libraries, library development in modern society; types of libraries and their functions, categories of users and their information needs, etc. In all these sectors you would have discovered that there is an underlying unity of purpose, i.e. provide a good library and information service. This basic approach has unified all persons working in libraries and information/documentation centres to come together to form associations to focus attention on their common objectives.

Library associations are learned societies. They promote development of the library movement in a country. They strive for better provision of library and information services. In this process, library associations also strive for advancement of the profession and the professionals.

Professional associations are made up of, by and for the professionals in the fields concerned. e.g. librarians, library staff members, library science teachers, users of libraries and library associations.



All these sectors are eligible for membership of library association. An association is what its members make of it by their active collaboration and participation in its programmes and activities. As a fresh entrant to the profession, it is worthwhile for you to know how you can participate in the activities of the professional associations to serve their, ultimate cause.

### **Library associations, systems and programmes**

Now as a participant in this programme, you are aspiring to qualify yourself to become a library and information professional. You should know your responsibilities and obligations to the profession, i.e. striving for improvement of library and information systems and services and advancement of library and information science. After all, the image of a profession is built up by its members. Qualitative performance of duties and adherence to ethical principles and standards are essential to bring credibility, and to hold the status of the profession high. You will study in the succeeding sections how professional associations aim to foster these values.

#### **This unit elaborates**

- i) the need for and importance of professional associations;
- ii) aims and objectives of library associations; and
- iii) programmes and activities of library associations.

After giving a general description on the above aspects, this unit presents briefly the objectives, structural organization, activities, publications, etc., of library associations and their relation with other national and international organizations and future perspectives.

## **15.2 NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

A lone professional person; or a single institution; cannot possibly do much to deal with wider and far-reaching issues of professional concern. Collective action by interested groups is necessary. In this, professional associations serve as a forum for coordinated efforts.

Library development is dependent upon professional planning, foresight, understanding and involvement. These issues are managed in a better way by library associations than by individual institutions. Hence, the solidarity of the profession is a prerequisite for working for a common cause and to achieve results. In fact, the strength and effectiveness of professional associations reflect this solidarity. Library associations, if they, play their part well, can help in spreading the public library movement in a country and ensure better library service. They, indeed; assist in clarifying concepts of libraries and library and information services; and also present appropriate proposals to the right quarters.

### **15.2.1 Aims and objectives of library associations**

Library associations are established with the following aims and objectives:

- to herald the library movement in a country to spread knowledge and information and
- ultimately contribute to human resource development;
- to work for the enactment of public library legislation, drafting of the bills along progressive lines and based on sound principles; make the people library conscious so that they demand the right of access to public library services; mobilize social pressure for the healthy development of library services;
- to strive for the evolution of an integrated national library and information system based on a national policy; bring to the attention of the authorities the deficiencies, defects, etc., in the existing library infrastructure;
- to provide a common forum for library professionals for exchange of information, ideas; experiences and expertise; work for the betterment of salaries, grades, service conditions; status, etc. of library professionals;
- to hold the image of the library profession high in society; promote cooperation among libraries and library professionals;



- to share resources and avoid duplication of efforts;
- to contribute towards manpower development for library and information work which includes education and training, research, incentives, awards and rewards, etc.

### **15.2.2 Programmes and Activities of Library Associations**

Library associations usually undertake all or some of the programmes and activities mentioned below, depending-upon their stage of development. These associations interact with conceived governments from time to time, using every conceivable opportunity for sound development of a library system in the country. These tasks are done by advising, representing and helping in drafting of legislation, formulation of policy statements, guidelines, etc.

#### **Conferences**

Organising conferences, seminars, lectures, etc. to afford opportunities for library professionals to meet, discuss and exchange information, ideas, experiences and expertise.

#### **Library publicity**

Organising library week, exhibitions, book fairs; competitions, etc. for promoting library consciousness and reading and learning habits among the people.

#### **Service conditions**

Taking up with the managements at all levels, through appropriate means, the issues relating to betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals, Library association also in help recruitment of library personnel: They formulate codes of ethics for library professionals in order to preserve high values in conduct and service.

#### **Education**

Conducting training courses that are necessary to supplement university education in library and information science and continuing education programmes for working professionals.

Functioning as an accrediting body to maintain proper standards in library and information science education.

Instituting awards and rewards to recognize outstanding performance of library professionals and library systems.

#### **Publications**

Library associations publish professional literature like a Regular periodical and a newsletter as well as hoc publications such as proceedings, directories, catalogues, bibliographies, course manuals, textbooks; reference books and others.

#### **Standards, services, research**

Formulating standards, guidelines, codes and manuals with regard to practices, procedures, techniques, tools and equipment, as a step towards fostering cooperation among libraries. Undertaking bibliographical projects on their own and through outside contract. Offering advisory and consultancy services.

Undertaking research surveys of library facilities and services, user demands, learning and reading habits, book production etc. in order to identify strengths and weaknesses so as to take necessary steps to improve the system. °

#### **cooperation**

Establishing cooperation with international and national associations of other countries having similar objectives.

Maintaining liasion with book and publishing trade for attending to mutual problems in library acquisitions.



**Self Check Exercise**

- 1) State the aims and objectives of library associations.
- 2) List under six broad groups the programmes and activities of library associations.

**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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**15.3 A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA**

We have historical records of early library associations in India such as Baroda Library Association (1910), Andhra Desa Library Association (1914), Bengal Library Association (1927) and Madras Library Association (1927). The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933. The Post-independence period has witnessed an increase in the number of library associations.

We have, at present, many national and state level library associations. There are also associations devoted to special categories of libraries, subjects, fields and other special interests. For example, the Govt. of India Libraries Association, (GILA), Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Micrographic Congress of India (MIC); Society for Information Science.

Only a few associations are active in contributing to professional development. Professionals are generally indifferent to become members of library associations. The fact that many states w have not enacted library legislation points out that our library associations have not been effective. There is however; scope and need for better functioning and performance of our library associations.

Two associations at the all India level are described in the following sections. The Indian Library Association and the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres.

**15.3.1 Indian Library Association (ILA)**

The Indian Library Association was founded in 1933 at Calcutta. It is a registered society, with headquarters now located at Delhi. It is the premier national association representing the entire library profession in the country.

The birth of the Association can be traced to the holding of an All India Library Conference at Calcutta in September 1933. All leading librarians of that period were instrumental in organising the conference, whose main aim was to form the Indian Library Association. Between 1933 and 1947, seven All-India Library Conferences were held in different parts of the country. Publications of ILA included two editions of the Directory of Indian Libraries and a quarterly journal entitled Library Bulletin, as an official organ. After Independence, the Association witnessed both hectic and lean periods of activity.

Until 1983, when ILA completed fifty years, 22 more All-India Library Conferences were held. The growth over the period was steady but not spectacular. Some initiatives taken by the ILA



can be said to have had an impact over library development in the country. For instance in 1992, the ILA successfully organized an Indian Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference at Delhi. However, the expectations of the library profession have all along been far more than what was achieved. At the present time, the library profession is keen to make ILA strong and effective and there are signs of some progress.

#### **a) Objectives**

The Association aims at establishing high standards of librarianship and library services in the country. It has the following objectives:

- i) promotion of library movement in the country and enactment of library legislation;
- ii) improvement of library services;
- iii) development of library science education and training and accreditation of library schools towards maintaining proper standards of education;
- iv) betterment of salary, service conditions and status of library personnel;
- v) promotion of cooperation among libraries and library professionals;
- vi) promotion of research and bibliographical studies;
- vii) affiliation with state and other library associations;
- viii) cooperation with international and other national associations with similar objectives;
- ix) publication of serial and other publications for dissemination of information;
- x) providing a common forum by organising conferences, seminars and meetings;
- xi) promotion and formulation of standards, norms, guidelines, etc., for management of library and information systems and their services.

#### **b) Organization**

The membership of the Association comprises patrons, life and ordinary members, and institutional and associate members.

The general body elects, for a two-year term, a President, Six Vice Presidents, a General Secretary and Council Members up to 20 at the rate of one representative for every 100 personal members, and one representative for every 40 institutional members. There are 11 Sectional Committees, one representative of each member state library association and ex-Presidents of the Association are also members of the Council. An Executive Committee consisting of the President, one Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, two Secretaries, P.R.O. and three Council members look after routine management. While the general body meets once a year, usually at the time of All India Library Conference, the council meets at least once in a quarter and the Executive Committee meets as often as necessary. The Annual Report and Accounts of the Association are passed at the General Body Meeting.

Members, Subscription Rates are: Ordinary Rs. 100/-, Library Associations Rs. 750/-, Institutions Rs. 3000/-, Life Rs. 7500/-, Patron Rs. 10,000/-.

Address Indian Library Association (ILA), A 40-441, Flat No. 201, Ansal Building, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110 009.

The Association has a duly approved written Constitution. It has also framed some bye-laws to codify procedures.

#### **c) Activities**

##### **Conferences and Library Meetings**

An-All India Library Conference is held every year at some place in the country. The host institution is either a university, an institution or a local library association. A National Seminar, on one or more themes of importance and relevance is a part of the programme of the All-India Library Conference. In addition, national seminars on themes of topical interest are also held from time to time.

The Association arranges lectures, round table discussions, etc., mostly in Delhi. A study circle meeting is held regularly once a month at Delhi for discussing technical subjects. It associates



itself with libraries, other library associations, institutions, etc. in the programmes generally organized during the National Library Week in November each year.

### **Publications**

The Association brings out a quarterly journal entitled ILA Bulletin as an official organ and a vehicle for publishing learned articles contributed by professionals in the library and information science field. There is a scheme of awarding prizes such as PV Verghese Prize, for best article contributed to the ILA Bulletin. The Association published ILA Newsletter every month to disseminate information of current interest to members. Since 1978, the Association has been publishing regularly the proceedings of the All India Library, Conference which includes the Seminar Papers discussed at the meeting.

In the case of ad hoc seminars also, a pre-seminar volume carrying the papers is brought out. In 1985, it brought out the fourth edition of the Indian Library Directory. An ILA Members Directory was published in 1987. The Association brings out regularly its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. It is expanding its publication programme at the present time. In 1995, a database NALANDA of over 10,000 libraries (5336 Academic, 1470 Public and 3280 Special) was created.

### **Continuing Education**

The Association has recently started a Continuing Education programme for the benefit of working professionals. It organized during the last decade a series of workshops in different cities on Computer Application to Library and Information Activities. More such programmes are planned for the future.

### **Consultancy**

The Association took up and completed successfully a project for technical processing of about 35,000 volumes of a special collection for the Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. It took up a similar project, starting from November 1987 for the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

### **Professional Issues**

The Association takes up with the State Governments, at every conceivable opportunity, the issue of enacting library legislation in order to develop the public library system. It has been repeatedly sending memoranda persuading the State Governments to initiate action on library legislation. It has been active in pursuing with the governments, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) and with other managements matters relating to betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals. It took initiatives in drafting a national policy for library service and held a seminar on the topic, as a result of which, the Government of India appointed a Committee to prepare a National Policy on Library and Information System. During the All India Library Conference, a number of resolutions are usually passed on matters of professional interest and concern, which the Association takes up with appropriate authorities for implementation.

### **Participation in Official Bodies**

The ILA was represented in the Seventh Plan Working Group on Modernization of Libraries and Informatics, which submitted its report in July 1984. The Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System prepared a draft in May 1986; and the Review Committee for considering salary scales of government librarians was constituted by the Government of India as per the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. It was called upon to tender its opinion before the Mehrotra Committee which considered the salary scales for university library staff as well as the librarians under the Fourth Pay Commission. The ILA is also represented on the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Good Offices. Committee, National Bureau of Standards, Executive Committee-2 (NBS) Section Committee on Documentation Standards, UNESCO National Commission and National Book Trust (NBT), World Book Fair Committee, etc.

### **Relations with Other Professional Bodies**

ILA plays a leading role in the Joint Council of Library Associations (JOCLAI) in India towards evolving a coordinated approach and a common strategy on professional issues of concern to all library associations. It has good working relations with IASLIC and state library associations.



## International Activities of ILA

ILA is a member of IFLA and the Commonwealth Library Association.

It hosted the 1992 IFLA General Conference in Delhi. The International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy organized by ILA in November 1985 was an event of great significance. The ILA also organized the IFLA Universal Availability of -Publications (UAP) Regional Seminar in October 1985 and FID/CR Regional Seminar in November 1985 in New Delhi.

## Perspectives for Future

The ILA is now firmly organized, with the confidence of the library profession assured, to carry on and expand its programmes and activities with a view to meet the hopes and aspirations of the profession and to serve the cause of librarianship and library service in the country.

## Self Check Exercises

- 3) List the main activities and programmes of the Indian Library Association.
- 4) State the professional issues that were taken up by the Indian Library Association with state and central government authorities.

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

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

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### 15.3.2 Indian Association of Special and Information Centres (IASLIC)

Address: F-29/-GTT Sohome 6 M, Kankurgachi, Calcutta 700 054. The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) was founded in 1955. It is a registered society with headquarters located in Calcutta. It was formed with the aim of having an association in India similar to the Association for Information Management in the UK and the Special Libraries Association in the USA.

At a largely attended meeting of librarians held at Calcutta on 25 June 1955 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. L. Hora, the idea of starting an all India association devoted to the progress of special libraries and information centers was mooted. Following this initiative, another meeting held on 3 September 1955 formalized the decision to establish the Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC). The spontaneous cooperation and enthusiasm shown by professionals in the formative period as well as dedicated efforts of some founding members have helped in laying a firm foundation for the association. Over a period of forty years and more, IASLIC has grown in stature and in range of activities and has been contributing in many ways to the improvement of special libraries and information centres in the country. It has earned recognition for its regular and systematic work all these years.



### a) Objectives

IASLIC has the following major objectives :

- i) To encourage and promote the systematic acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge;
- ii) to improve the quality of library and information services and dissemination work ;
- iii) to coordinate the activities and foster mutual cooperation and assistance among special libraries; information centres, etc;
- iv) to serve as a field of active contact for libraries, information bureause, documentation centres, etc;
- v) to improve the technical efficiency of workers in special libraries, information centres, etc., and look after their professional welfare ;
- vi) to act as a centre for research special library and documentation techniques;
- vii) to act as a centre for information in scientific, technical and other fields ;
- viii) to take such action as may be incidental and conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Association.

### b) Organization

The membership of IASLIC consists of honorary members, donors, life and ordinary members and institutional members. The General Body elects, for a two-year term; a President, six Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, two Joint Secretaries, two Assistant Secretaries, a Librarian and 25 Council Members. The Council appoints from among its members the Executive and Finance Committees. The work of the Association is distributed among six divisions with specific responsibilities assigned to them.

### c) Activities

#### i) Meetings

IASLIC holds a biennial seminar and a conference in alternate years in different parts of the country at the venue of host organizations who are usually university libraries/ departments of library and information science, institutions, associations, etc. It has recently formed special interest groups devoted to areas like Industrial Information, Social Science Information, Computer Application and Humanities.

They meet at the time of the annual conference seminar to discuss problems of common interest. IASLIC organizes from time to time ad hoc seminars~, lectures, exhibitions, etc. It-has study circles at Calcutta and other cities. The meetings of the study circles are held every month, wherein technical issues are discussed.

#### ii) Publications

The serial publications of IASLIC are IASLIC Bulletin (quarterly) established in 1956, annual subscription Rs. 300/-. It is the official organ and carries learned articles in library and information science. These are the IASLIC Newsletter (monthly) which disseminates information about the activities of the Association as well as other news of professional interest; and the Indian Library Science Abstracts (annual). It brought out the second edition of the Directory of Special and Research Libraries in India in 1985. It has brought out some monographs and one each of a manual, code and glossary. The Association brings out regularly its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and Membership List. IASLIC gives best Librarian of the year and best Article in IASLIC Bulletin awards every year.

#### iii) Education and Training

In the past; IASLIC used to conduct regular training courses in foreign languages and in library science at graduate level. Now, it is engaged in a con6nuing education programme on topics like Computer Applications, Indexing, CDS/ISIS. It conducts short-term training workshops for the benefit of working professionals at Calcutta and at other places. Every year 3-4 workshops are being organized.

#### iv) Bibliography and Translation Services

IASLIC offers translation and bibliography compilation services to individuals and institutions on a on-profit basis.It maintains a library devoted to library and information science literature.





- v) **Professional Issues**  
The Association strives to improve the standards of service in special libraries and information centres. In this connection, it has made attempts to evolve a code of ethics for librarianship. It brings to the attention of authorities issues which call for improvement and corrective measures. It concerns itself in sound planning and development of library and information system and promotes suitable measures in this regard. It has taken Measures like drafting an inter library loan code for library cooperation. It has been quite responsive to the need for securing better salary scales, service conditions and status for library professionals. It brings together library and information professionals at all levels and speaks for them as a Whole on professional issues.
- vi) **Relations with other Bodies**  
IASLIC maintains a healthy relationship with the Indian Library Association and other library associations. It has taken a leading part in the formation of the Joint Council for Library Associations in India. (JOCLAI). It takes an active interest in implementing the common programmes of this Joint Council for Library Associations in India. IASLIC is cooperating with the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) by taking up specific assignments and projects. It is represented in Indian Standards Institution, Documentation and Information Committee (ISIIEC2) (now known as Bureau of Indian Standards).
- vii) **Perspective for Future**  
IASLIC has had satisfying accomplishments in playing a leader/ coordinator role in the "" library -and information field --country. It now poised for assured growth and development in the period ahead for serving the cause of special librarianship in India.

**Self Check Exercises**

- Note:** i) Write your answers in the space given below.  
ii) Check your answers with the answers given at the end of this unit.
- 5) List the activities of IASLIC that distinguish its special character.
  - 6) Name the publications of IASLIC.

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## 15.4 LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

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Three library associations, one of the United States of America and two of the United Kingdom, are described in this section. These associations have a long and distinguished record of activities and service and have been pattern setters for the creation of national associations in many countries. The three associations described in this section are the American Library Association, the Library Association of U.K. and the Association for Information Management, known formerly as Association for Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (ASLIB) also of the U. K.

### 15.4.1 American Library Association (ALA)

The American Library Association (ALA) has the uniqueness of being the oldest and largest library association in the world. It was founded in 1876 with its headquarters at Chicago.



Address : American Library Association 50, East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. A group of 103 library activists, at a meeting' held in Philadelphia in the fall of 1876 to coincide with the nation's centennial celebrations, resolved on a motion moved by Melville Dewey, the father of librarianship; to form the American Library Association. ALA, thus born, has been a success story by dedicated efforts of eminent librarians who steered the Association in its formative periods, the ALA grew in strength steadily and became even in the early part of this century the national voice for library interests. Today, with a solid foundation, wide base, expanding programmes and activities and social impact, ALA plays a dynamic role to foster American library interests with great success.

#### **a) Objectives**

ALA is an organization for librarians and libraries with the overall objective of promoting and improving library services and librarianship and providing life-long services to all. It stands for user-oriented library and information, services. Its aim is to propagate library consciousness and promote the library interests of the country. It is there to work for intellectual freedom without the constraint of censorship and for free access to reading materials. The ALA is concerned with the profession, and the professional's interests.

#### **b) Organization**

Any person, library or other organization interested in library services and libraries is admitted as a member and there is no geographical limit. ALA elects a President, a Secretary and other office-bearers. It is governed by a Council. The Executive Board is the management arm. It has at present 11 divisions such as those relating to adult services, school librarians, libraries for children and young, library education, reference and adult services, and resources and technical services as well as committees devoted to various other subjects. In some areas, there are well developed units working under the umbrella of ALA, but they are functioning as separate divisions, such as American Association of School Libraries, College and Research Libraries, American Library Trustee Association, Association for Library Services to Children. Association, of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, Library Administration and Management Association, Library and Information Technology Association and Public Libraries Association. Yet another tier in the structure of ALA consists of Round Tables, which are membership units dealing with aspects of librarianship outside the scope of a division.

#### **c) Activities**

- i) The work of ALA is centered mainly on its divisions, committees and round tables: The Annual Conference of ALA .is held usually in June in different cities of United States. A number of pre and post-conference seminars, workshops, etc., is also held at that time.
- ii) From the very beginning, ALA focused its attention on standardization of library procedures, techniques, forms etc. In education and training for librarianship, its role has been mainly accreditation and setting up of proper standards. However, its activities under its continuing education programme are many. ALA has a creditable record in promoting and encouraging research, innovation, invention, etc. in the library and information science field. The library technology programmes have contributed significantly.
- iii) ALA has been quite active in the passage of federal legislation in matters relating to library services. The Library Bill of Rights, Library Services Act of 1956 (amended in 1964), and legislations dealing with postal rates, copyright and funds for library services are examples of initiatives taken by ALA. It also takes interest in clarification of legislative issues whenever situation the warrants it.
- iv) Publications: Its publication programme is large and impressive. It is directly responsible for the following serials. ALA Handbook of Organisations and Membership Directory (annual) ALA Yearbook American Libraries (ii issues) (1907) Previously ALA Bulletin Booklist (22 issues), Choice (11 issues) Library Technology Project (LTP) Reports (6 issues). Other units of ALA are also bringing out serial



titles. Its ad hoc publications comprising monographs, manuals, guides, codes, handbooks, proceedings of annual conference etc. may extend to more than 2,000 titles and account for significant world library science literature.

- v) Awards: ALA has instituted several awards in the name of some eminent library scientists to encourage and recognize working professionals for outstanding performance and excellence in certain fields. The following are a few examples:  
John Cotton; Dana Library Public Relations Award;  
Clearance Day Award for promoting love of books and reading;  
Melvil Dewey Award for creative professional achievement;  
E.P. Dutton-John McRae Award for advanced study for serving the needs of culturally deprived children;  
Margaret Mann Award for achievements in cataloguing and classifications;  
Ralph R. Shaw Award:

**d) International Activities of ALA**

ALA has been active in international cooperation and relations. It participates in the programmes of UNESCO, IFLA and FID. It has assisted many countries through advisory services, technical assistance, fellowships, travel grants, supply of reading materials, etc.

**Self Check Exercises**

- 7) List the various divisions of the American Library Association.
- 8) State the international activities of the American Library Association.

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

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

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**15.4.2 Library Association (LA-UK)**

The Library Association (LA-UK) is another old and large library association like the American Library Association. It was founded in 1877 with its headquarters in London. Address : 7 Ridgmount Street, London; WC1E, 7 AE: It was founded as the Library Association of the United Kingdom at the conclusion of the First International Conference of Librarians held at Brussels in October 1877. Publication of the Monthly Notes commenced on 15th January 1880, and 'The Library' was adopted as the official journal on 10th December 1880. On 30th January 1896, the name of the Association was changed to the Library Association. It was granted Royal Charter on 17th February, 1898. The Library Association Record commenced publication as the official journal of the Association in January 1899. It became a wholly professional association in 1962 when new bye-laws came into operation.

In spite of the proliferation of library associations, the Library Association has steadily advanced into its second century and it continues to be actively involved in promoting library interests in Great Britain.

**a) Objectives**

The objectives of the Library Association are primarily to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work and include promotion of the establishment and improvement of libraries,



promotion of appropriate legislation; encouragement of research; better qualifications of librarians and raising of professional standards and conditions generally.

#### **b) Organization**

The membership of the Library Association is over 24,000 and is open to all interested in its aims and objectives. However, the status of Chartered Librarian and the use of the title of Associate of the Library Association (ALA) are restricted to those who have successfully completed the courses and training of the Association prescribed for the purpose. Fellowship of the Library Association is given on submission of an approved thesis for outstanding service to librarianship. The Library Association has twelve regional branches, including the Scottish and Welsh Library Associations and twenty three special interest groups. The Library Association is governed by a 60- member council elected by the members and is advised by four main committees : Executive Coordinating, General Purpose, Library Services and Professional Development and Education.

#### **c) Activities**

##### i) Conferences

The Library Association holds an annual conference regularly. In addition, Branches and Groups arrange their own conferences; meetings and study schools. Printed proceedings usually result from these meetings.

##### ii) Education

From its earliest years, the Library Association has been organising courses for aspiring librarians, planning syllabus, conducting examinations, and maintaining a professional register. It has encouraged formation of library schools in the country. After the library schools were developed; LA's role as an examining body has diminished: But it still plays an important part in continuing professional education and training: It organizes an increasing number of short courses on currently important aspects of library and information science and carries on a continuing dialogue with library schools for maintaining high standards of library education. These are available at Book Point Ltd., 39 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon O X 14 4 TD (UK).

##### iii) Library Legislation

The role of the Library Association in promoting library legislation is acknowledged in all quarters. The Public Libraries Act of 1892, Public Libraries Act of 1919 and the revision of the bye-laws of the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 were due to the initiatives of the Library Association: It has been active in clarifying issues arising from legislations, whenever situation warrants. The Library Association has to its credit many surveys conducted by it in regard to the public library system in the country.

##### iv) Library Research

Research and development are also given prominence by the Library Association. It sponsors numerous projects on its own initiative and with its own resources. It also works with the British Library and ASLIB in several areas of research.

##### v) Relations with other institutions

The Library Association is represented in many official bodies and committees and has been offering advisory service and professional assistance in many programmes of library development. It had a role in the establishment of the British Library in 1973. The Library Association has helped the formation of the regional library system and promoted inter-library cooperation.

##### vi) Library Standards

The Library Association has been advocating high standards of library service: It has evolved a code of ethics for the library profession. It has taken interest in evolving standards and guidelines of techniques, procedure, equipment etc. Though not working along trade union lines, the Association has been constantly striving for the betterment of salary, service conditions and status of library professionals.

#### **d) Publications**





### 15.4.3 Association for information Management (ASLIB) Address: ASLIB, Information House, 20-24 Old Street, London EC 1 V9AP UK.

You would like to know why this Association has come to be known as the Association for Information Management but yet uses the acronym ASLIB, which does not tally with its name at all. For this, you may have to go into its past. This Association was founded in 1926, as the Association for Special Libraries and Information Bureau (ASLIB) and earned a great reputation by its record of professional service. In 1983, however, the Association extended its activities, in tune with expanding dimensions of information and was renamed the Association for Information Management. But as the Association was well known as ASLIB; it continues the same acronym to represent its new name also.

The British Society for International Bibliography was merged into it in 1949. ASLIB has been instrumental in focusing on the importance of information in all spheres of national endeavour, particularly in the reconstruction period after World War II: By demonstrating its usefulness, ASLIB could secure the recognition of the British Government as a research association. The creation of the Office of Scientific and Technical Information, which was a forerunner to the British Library was largely due to the spade-work done by ASLIB.

#### a) Objectives

ASLIB aims to facilitate the coordination and systematic use of sources of knowledge and information in all public affairs and in industry and commerce and in all the arts and sciences. It aims to increase the contribution of information to the economic, social and cultural life of the community by the promotion of effective information management.

#### b) Organization

The membership of ASLIB is largely composed of corporate bodies, including industrial and business organizations, professional and learned societies, public, academic and national libraries, publishers and database providers. It has over 2,000 members, approximately a quarter of whom are in countries other than the UK. Further, personal members may account for only one fourth of the membership: It has branches in Scotland, the North of England and the Midlands. Subject groups have been formed in biological and agricultural sciences, chemistry, economic and business information, electronics, engineering, private view-data, transport and planning. There are also technical groups covering translations, informatics and computer application. A sub-group represents the interests of one-man-Bands (unit staffed by one person only).

#### c) Activities

- i) ASLIB regards itself as a resource for management. ASLIB's research role was abandoned in 1985. Its earlier record of research efforts is impressive. Consultancy service which ASLIB used to offer is now taken over by an independent unit in association with ASLIB. ASLIB concentrates now on:
  - (a) information services to its members. In addition to referral service, ASLIB advises its members on practical aspects of information management such as on-line information retrieval methods and systems, library automation, networking and local area network; (b) application software, and; (c) modern library and information resource management.
- ii) The Library of ASLIB holds 20,000 volumes relevant to documentation and information science and subscribes to several periodicals.
- iii) ASLIB keeps registers of specialist translators and indexes. It maintains an index of translations into English of articles on scientific and technical subjects.
- iv) ASLIB and its various specialist groups organize from time to time conferences, seminars, study circles and such other meetings to discuss issues of current importance and relevance to library and information professionals. The papers presented at these meetings get published in ASLIB proceedings. The Annual Conference of ASLIB is devoted to a major theme and it is largely attended.

#### d) Publications

The serial publications of ASLIB are :  
ASLIB Proceedings (monthly)



- ASLIB Booklist (monthly)
- ASLIB Information (monthly)
- ASLIB Newsletter (monthly)
- Index to Theses (annual)
- Journal of Documentation (quarterly)
- Netlink (3 issues)

Program : News of Computers in Libraries (quarterly)

Forthcoming International Scientific and Technical Conference (quarterly) Technical Translation Bulletin (3 issues).

ASLIB's occasional publications consist of monographs, directories, reports, proceedings, bibliographies, etc. The publications of ASLIB have a wide recognition and appeal for their content and standard. For example, ASLIB's Handbook of Special Librarianship and Information Work (Edn 5, 1985) is widely distributed and serves as a valuable guide for developing library and information services and systems.

#### **e) Education**

ASLIB organizes a number of short courses for both members and non-members. A wide range of topics are covered in the training programme. Most of them have practical value. In a year, as many as forty courses may be organized. On some topics, the courses are repeated many times. Attention is paid to courses in newly emerging areas. The training programme of ASLIB has earned recognition and is increasingly being taken advantage of.

#### **f) Perspective for Future**

There has been a shift in emphasis in the objectives as well as in approaches to realize the objectives. Information management is now the core programme of ASLIB. Promotional role is less prominent. It is becoming a service centre. Nonetheless, ASLIB will continue to have its influence and impact in special library and library field in the UK and elsewhere.

#### **Self Check Exercises**

- 11) State in five lines the aims of ASLIB.
- 12) name the areas of work ASLIB presently concentrates on.

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

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

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#### **15.4.4 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) founded in 1929 with the aim of promoting international contacts among library associations and librarians, is a non-governmental professional organisation. In the first two decades, It had remained almost



as a forum confirmed to leading librarians from Europe and America: In the post-war period; with a consultative status accorded by UNESCO, it began to develop, but slowly. The International Conference on Cataloguing Principles held in Paris in 1961 gave some impetus to the growth of IFLA. After the Secretariat shifted to the Hague in 1971, IFLA (under the presidentship of Herman Liebaers), stepped up its activities and was able to enlist universal international membership. At the present time, with some major projects and many smaller programmes, IFLA is quite active and is making worldwide impact towards promoting the cause of librarianship.

The broad objective of IFLA is to promote international understanding, Cooperation; discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity including bibliography; information service and education of personnel and to provide a professional body through librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest.

IFLA has two categories of members-Associations and Institutions. In 1986, IFLA had 171 member associations and 823 member institutions from 123 countries. There is provision for admission of personal affiliates and consultative status to international organisations involved in activities similar to the activities of FID.

The members elect the council, which is the supreme governing body. The main steering bodies are the Executive and Professional Boards, the first full powers for administration and management and the second is concerned with coordination and planning of professional activities. For carrying out professional tasks, Round Tables and Working Groups have also been formed. - IFLA has an International Office for Universal Bibliographic Control and an Office for International Lending at the British Library Reference and Lending Divisions respectively. There are two regional Bureaus at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Dakar; Senegal.

The activities of IFLA are guided by Medium Term Programmes (MTP) prepared by the Programme Development Group, such as for the periods 1976-1980, 1981-1985 and 1986-1990. The major programmes in which IFLA concentrates its efforts are Universal Bibliographic Control (Launched in 1974); Universal Availability of Publications (UAP); International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD), and International MARC.

These Programmes have received substantial support from UNESCO. These have indeed been making a global impact. Another major sphere of activity of IFLA is development of "library work in the third world countries. It is able to enlist the participation of librarians from Asia, Africa; America and Caribbean countries in this task by organising conferences and seminars, awarding fellowships, etc.

The other activities with regard, to developing countries are studies on special problems in ` cataloguing, preparing course syllabus for library schools; preparation of braille books, and advice on rural library service. IFLA is also interested in areas such as standards for library work, legislation for public libraries and library statistics:

Of late the Annual General Conference of IFLA is turning to be a minor attraction to foster personal contacts among the international community of librarians. Some 2,000 delegates attend the Annual General Conference. In conjunction with the Annual Conference, a number of pre and post-conference seminars and round table meetings devoted to specific areas are held.

The periodical publications of IFLA are: IFLA journal (quarterly); International cataloguing (quarterly), IFLA Annual and IFLA Directory (annual). In the Monograph Series, IFLA has a number of useful publications, brought out by K.G. Saur (Munich/London). Another series, relates to UBC Publications.

India has begun to take an active part in IFLA lately. The India Library Association and a few other professional associations and institutions have become members. India is also represented in the Executive Board of IFLA. ILA organised IFLA Regional Seminar on UAP in New Delhi in 1985. It is a matter of great significance that IFLA: General Conference was held at New Delhi in 1992 hosted by the India Library Association.

#### **15.4.5 International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID)**

The International Federation for Information and Documentation (the word **Information** was added to the name in 1986, but the acronym **FID** is continued) was founded by Paul





Otlet and Henri La Fontaine in Belgium in 1895 as the International Institute of Bibliography (IIB). At that time, the main objective was the creation and maintenance of a Classification (UDC) from the Dewey Decimal Classification for Providing order and access to the bibliographical entries in the world repertory. While the Universal Bibliographic Repertory project had failed the IIB left legacies of great value in providing a nucleus for the evolution of FID and in the development of UDC. Which is still the world's major classification scheme for information and knowledge.

In the early period. The activities were few and the participation was confined to European countries. In 1938, when the headquarters was completely shifted to the, Hague, the International Institute assumed the name International Federation for Documentation to signify an expanding role to cover documentation in all its practical aspects. After World War II, there has been a gradual increase in membership and steady expansion of activities reflecting its international character.

FID is essentially a scientific and professional organisation. It is a non-governmental body. A small permanent secretarial functions at the headquarters which is now located at the Hague: The membership comprises national members, one each of over sixty countries two international member and a large number of affiliate members. Its revenue comes from membership subscription. Sale of publications and small grant from UNESCO.

The Federation is governed by a General Assembly of national and international members which meets once in two years. Implementation of policies is delegated to a Council elected by and from the national delegates of the General Assembly. The President, permanent Secretary General and senior officers form an Executive Committee, which is charged with the management of the Federation.

The functioning of FID is supported by a series of Technical Committees and Task Forces devoted to areas such as Research on the Theoretical Basis of Information, Informatics; Terminology, Linguistics in Documentation, Classification Research; Central Classification Committee which coordinated revision of Universal Decimal Classification. Broad System of Ordering, Information Systems and Network Design, Education and Broad System of Ordering, Information Systems and Network Design, Education and Training, Study of User Needs, Social Science Documentation and Information. These Committees have been set up to review fields, plan and execute actions towards furthering the technical programmes of FID. In order to take care of regional interests; FID has set up regional Commission for Asia and Oceania (FID/CAO) and Regional Commission for Latin America (FID/CLA).

With the central aim of promoting, through international cooperation, research in and development of information and documentation, FID has been guided in the past by three major plans, namely, Outline of a Long-Term Policy (1960), FID Programme (1970) and a New Programme Structure (1978).

FID Crossing its 94th Anniversary, is now embarking upon a new Plan to guide its activities. The general Fields of concern of FID are sources of information, storing, retrieving, repackaging and conveying information, properties of information, Supply of information to match user needs and personnel development. The special field are education and training, aids to translation and classification and indexing. The framework of the New Plan provides for drawing general and specific objectives, evolving strategies; establishing major programmes and carrying out a number of activities.

Revision, development and maintenance of UDC have been looked after by Fid as a direct responsibility. Under the overall coordination of Central Classification Committee (FID/CCC), thirty or more UDC revision committees assist the developmental work of UDC. In all other areas, the activities are carried out thought the technical committees and task forces. The outcome of those activities may lead to generation of reports, publications etc. in some cases. Occasionally, seminars, workshops and meetings are held by the technical committees to focus attention on technical issues and to come up with useful recommendations.



Once every two years, FID holds a congress at different venues. Usually a general theme is selected for the Congress. A pre-conference volume carrying the papers is brought out. The Conference is well attended. In conjunction with the biennial conference, the technical committees may also organise seminars sometimes: The Regional Commissions, FID/CAO and FID/CLA also hold biennial Congress and General Assembly.

In addition to an active monograph publications programme, FID publishes the monthly FID News Bulletin, the quarterly International Forum on Information Documentation (English and Russian), R&D Projects in Documentation and Librarianship (bi-monthly), Extensions and Corrections to the UDC (annual) and FID Directory (bi-annual).

FID cooperates with the programmes of other organisations such as UNESCO, IELA, International Council of Archives and International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 46 (ISO/TC 46).

India's association with FID dates back to 1948. At the instance of Dr. Donker Duyvis, a past Secretary-General of FID, the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan carried on the work of FID/CA Committee for General Theory of Classification and DID/CR - Committee for Classification Research.

As Rapporteur-General and Honorary Chairman respectively for more than two decades Dr. Ranganathan made lasting contributions. Since its establishment in 1952, INSDOC has been the national member of FID. Indian representatives have held offices of vice-presidency and council membership for many terms. FID honoured Ranganathan by electing him in 1957 as a Member of Honour. The Chairmanship and the Secretariat of FID/IM committee for Informatics are with India (INSDOC) now. India is also represented in many Technical Committees such as FID/CR, FID/ET, FID/II, FID/ISD, and FLDIPD. India hosted the Third International Conference on Classification Research in 1975 and the Second Regional Conference on Classification Research in 1985. In order to ensure active participation of India in FID's programmes, a National Committee of FID has been constituted by INSDOC. The 49th FID Conference and Congress was also hosted by INSDOC in October, 1998.

## 15.5 SUMMARY

Library Associations are learned bodies which foster a spirit of public service among their members, promote library services, protect the interests of their members and build up the image of the library profession.

In this unit, we have dealt with the following aspects :

- i) The role, aims and objectives, programmes and activities of library associations at national levels in India as well as in the USA and the UK.
- ii) Two major associations of India, viz. the Indian Library-Association and the Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres have been described, with reference to their objectives, organizations, activities, publications, educational and training programmes, consultancy services and other information services, professional issues, relations with other professional bodies, international relations and future perspectives.
- iii) The American Library Association, the Library Association of the UK and the Association for Information Management also of the UK, IFLA, FID are described with reference to their aims and objectives, organizations, activities; publications, public library legislation, library research, relations with other institutions, awards and rewards, international relations and future perspectives.

## 15.6 ANSWERS TO SELF CHECK EXERCISES

- 1) The aims and objectives of library associations are :
  - a) Promote/Spread Library movement in a country to disseminate knowledge ;
  - b) Work for enactment of public library legislation in the country;
  - c) Work towards the evolution of integrated national library and information systems;
  - d) Professional development including improving service conditions for the professionals;



- e) Contributes towards manpower development.
- 2) The programmes and activities of a library association can be broadly grouped under the following categories :
  - a) Undertaking surveys of library facilities and services;
  - b) Continuing educational programmes;
  - c) User studies;
  - d) Organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.
  - e) Publication activities;
  - f) Professional development.
- 3) The activities of the Indian Library Association are :
  - a) Holding conferences and meetings
  - b) Publication of ILA Bulletin: ILA Newsletter; Conference Proceedings; ILA members directory; Annual Reports;
  - c) Continuing education programmes.
  - d) Consultancy services; Directory of Libraries database.
  - e) Handling professional issues;
  - f) Participation in national library and information development;
  - g) Maintaining relations with other professional bodies;
  - h) Maintaining international relations;
  - i) Preparing for the future.
- 4) The professional issues taken by the Indian Library Association have been:
  - a) Enactment of library legislation with the state governments;
  - b) Betterment of salary grades, service conditions and status of library professionals;
  - c) National Library and Information Policy.
- 5) The activities of IASLIC that distinguished its special character are:
  - a) Biennial seminars and conferences in alternate years in different parts of the country;
  - b) Formation of interest groups devoted to areas like Industrial Information, Social Science Information;
  - c) Organising special lectures; exhibitions;
  - d) Publications of literature in the library and information science;
  - e) Support research projects getting financial assistance from funding bodies.
- 6) The Publications of IASLIC are : IASLIC Newsletter, Proceedings of Seminars and Conferences, Indian Library and Information Science Abstracts, Monographs, Manual; Codes and Glossaries etc.
- 7) The divisions of the American Library Association are : School Libraries, Libraries for Children and Young : Library Education: Reference and Adult Services : Library Resources and Technical Services and Library Automation; College and Research Libraries,
- 8) ALA's International Activities include Participation in the programmes of UNESCO, IFLA and FID, assistance to many countries through Advisory Services, Technical Assistance, Fellowships, Travel Grants, Supply of Reading Materials, etc:
- 9) The educational and training activities of the British Library Association include : Admission as Associate Members on; the successful completion of courses prescribed for the purpose ; Admission as Fellows on the submission of an approved thesis and its evaluation or for outstanding services to librarianship, Organization and conduct of continuing education and training programmes; Encouragement to the establishment of Library schools and maintenance of high standards in professional education and training;
- 10) The British Library Association Publication Programme includes publishing :  
Library Association Record (monthly);  
Journal of Librarianship (quarterly)  
British Humanities Index (quarterly)  
Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts (bi-weekly)  
Library and Information Science Abstracts (bi-monthly) (LISA)

Current Research in Library and Information Science (three issues a year) Current Technology Index (monthly)



Monographs, directories, yearbooks, Conference proceedings and other occasional publications.

- 11) ASLIB aims to facilitate, the coordination and systematic use of source of knowledge and information in all public affairs and in industry and commerce and in all the arts and sciences: It is to increase the contribution of information to the economic, social and cultural life of the community by the promotion of effective information management.
- 12) ASLIB mainly concentrates on information services, publications of professional literature and professional development.

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## 15.7 KEY WORDS

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<b>Continuing Education</b>	:	Non-formal education for the benefit of working professionals to upgrade knowledge and skill, Ethics : Rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular group. Forum : Public place for discussion of matters of common interest to a given group.
<b>Library Movement</b>	:	Progressive development of libraries towards providing the public access to knowledge and information.
<b>Objectives</b>	:	Specific aims, goals to be achieved:
<b>Official Organ</b>	:	A journal, newspaper or other publication representing a special group.
<b>Profession</b>	:	Body of persons engaged in an occupation, requiring an extensive education in a branch of science, arts, etc.
<b>Programme</b>	:	A coordinated group of things to be done or performed.
<b>Standard</b>	:	Model, Guide or Pattern for guidance.

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## 15.8 REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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