

LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER

L. No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills	Activity
18 A.	Librarianship as a Career	Communication, organisation, technological, creativity, analytical, problem-solving, innovation, researching, persuasion	Serving the community, knowledge organisation, information literacy, motivating users, making available relevant information

Summary

The job of a librarian is to connect users with the information required for their various activities. Librarianship is thus referred to as a people's profession. All the activities related to libraries have the chief purpose to help users to access and use information.

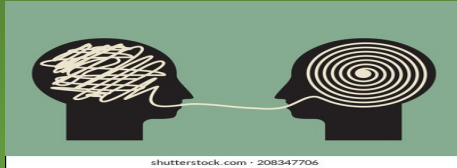
Librarians are also referred to as information professionals as they collect and organise information and library materials. Being a librarian helps an individual to improve knowledge and communication skills.

Being a librarian is not just organising or shelving or issuing books to users. A librarian can be an educator, organiser and innovator of information and knowledge. Characteristics for choosing librarianship as a career are – love for reading, highly organised, detail-oriented, keeping up with modern technologies, researcher, sense of commitment and self-discipline.

In this lesson, different aspects related to library profession are discussed. After studying this lesson, you will be able to understand the scope of library profession and decide upon librarianship as a career.

Principal Points

- Like other professionals like lawyers, advocates or doctors, librarians also form profession of librarianship.
- Librarians are in the service of 'users' . They should possess academic and professional qualifications and qualities of good worker.
- Library professionals deal with 'universe of knowledge (information)' to serve the 'universe of information seekers'. They disseminate right information to right user at the right time.
- LIS training programmes are available at senior secondary level, undergraduate level, postgraduate level, and research level leading to M.Phil., Ph.D. degrees.
- Libraries have adapted and benefitted from print technology, computer technology, communication technology, information technology, networking, etc.
- The advent and adaptation of computer, communication and information technologies, the libraries (their collections and services) have become global. A variety of library software have been developed to help libraries in their working.
- Librarianship promises a good and noble career. Job opportunities for qualified professionals are available at all levels, whether local, regional, state, national and international level.



Build your Understanding

Librarianship is considered as a profession as it possesses the basic characteristics of any profession. It is the body of knowledge imparted in library and information science schools.

A librarian conserves the cultural and intellectual heritage of mankind and plays the role of an agent of communication from information generation to the point of use. The librarians are trained in professional schools associated with universities.

The digital environment and related technologies have transformed the profession of library and information science.

What's



1. A librarian loves his/her work as it gives the power to be the doctor of knowledge. It enables to share the information to other people, encourage them to study or read more books and other reading material.
2. Most of us are familiar with librarians working in school, college, university or public libraries. But there are plenty of librarians are also working in other kinds of organisations having libraries attached to them. These include government departments, agencies, private sector, health sector, industries, legal sector, etc.
3. In recent years, because of their expertise in information handling and information technology, many librarians have moved to media, web content and management areas.
4. Due to advent of modern technologies, it has been observed in the last couple of decades that librarianship from being a humanist profession has now become more of socio-technical profession.



Dr. S R Ranganathan contributed to the development of library profession in our country. He developed theoretical principles, library and information science education, standard terminology and practices.

The objective of the librarian will continue to bring together people and recorded knowledge as much as humanly possible. Although it is claimed that electronic libraries are solving most of our information related problem but it is not so as the human touch is missing.

It is important that library users play a part in ensuring that libraries deliver the services that are required. Librarians always welcome the opportunity to find out what users want and to better understand how to deliver timely and relevant services. This is possible only by working together and building on each other's knowledge, experience and trust that we can improve the services.

Librarians work in different kinds of libraries and information centres and lots of professionally qualified librarians take up teaching library science. Major attributes of librarianship are possession of skill based and theoretical knowledge.

Extend your Horizon

Look up a few issues of some leading news paper(s). Find at least three advertisements for posts in libraries or in the field library and information science. Study the advertisements and record information about designation, pay, required educational and professional qualifications, work experience, age limit, etc.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Identify the job opportunities for librarians in academic sector.
2. 'Libraries have always responded to the advances in technologies', Comment.
3. Enumerate the training programmes available for library professionals at various levels.
4. Write a brief note on role of library consultants.