

BLI-221

**Bachelor's Degree Programme in
Library and Information Science
BLIS SOLVED ASSIGNMENT
2021-2022**

BLI-221

Library, Information and Society

**SOLVED ASSIGNMENT
July 2021 – January 2022**

For June Examination-

**31st March or
as per dates given in the website**

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**30th September or
as per dates given in the website**

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**BLI-221: LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND SOCIETY
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT**

Course Code: BLI-221

Assignment Code: AST/TMA/Jul.2021/Jan.2022

Total Marks: 70

Coverage: Course: Library, Information and Society

Blocks: 1 to 4

Units: 1 to 14

1). Answer the following questions in not more than 500 words each. (4X10=40 Marks)

Q1. State the characteristics of a profession. Discuss the contradicting views of authors justifying LIS as a profession and not as a profession.

Ans. A profession has the following characteristics:

- A professional has requisite knowledge and skills based on long and intensive preparation in an institute of higher learning, beside self-learning and self practice;
- The knowledge should cover the scientific, historical and scholarly principles underlying the skills practiced. Such knowledge should enable the professional to answer the 'what', 'why' and 'how' of the practice;
- The members of the profession should maintain high standards of performance conducting themselves individually and by force of the profession;
- The profession should ensure that its members remain constantly aware of updated in the latest developments in knowledge and skills; and
- The professionals must provide dedicated public service based on the knowledge and skills acquired.

LIS is not a Profession

For a long time there was a dilemma whether librarianship is a profession or not. One of the views is that it is not a profession, it is believed to exist between a profession and a vocation. The medical and legal professions are ancient and hence accepted as professions from time unknown but it is not so in librarianship. Different opinions have been expressed by social scientists about librarianship being a profession. There are those who do not agree with the professionalism of library services. Lancour (1962) does not consider librarianship as a profession on the following grounds.

1. It doesn't have community sanction.
2. Librarians' services are not indispensable in the same way as that of doctors. Most of the library employees, both professionals and non-professionals, hide behind the shelves when looked upon for service. They are not able to serve the society confidently to earn their reputation.
3. They exercise no real authority with the clients.

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Sills (1968) observed that "the profession of librarianship has not been included in the long list of the professions, even in the International Encyclopaedia of Social Science".

LIS is a Profession

A librarian conserves the cultural and intellectual heritage of mankind and acts as an agent of communication from information generation to the point of use. His services are indispensable in information transfer chain. This opinion was shared by many social and information scientists like Melvil Dewey, Butler, Greenwood, Schaffer et al and they tried to prove that librarianship is a profession as it has many attributes of a profession. Robert D Leigh wrote that librarians have accepted professional status as a goal on the following factors:

- 1) "They are identified with knowledge, which is prime service of occupational prestige in our society
- 2) They are service oriented rather than self-interested at least in certain senses.
- 3) Library and information professionals belong to professional association (state and national)
- 4) They are trained in professional schools, associated with universities.
- 5) They have code of ethics."

Thus, librarianship can be considered as a profession, as it possesses the following basic characteristics of a profession:

- A body of knowledge imparted in LIS schools;
- Intensive training and continued practice to gain mastery over the skills for knowledge organisation and retrieval;
- Oriented towards service to the society;
- Associations to bind the professionals;
- Standard terminology and practices; and
- Code of ethics.

Q2. Describe the activities and services of DELNET.

Ans. DELNET has been sponsored by the National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India and is currently being promoted by the National Informatics Centre, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and India International Centre, New Delhi. Though it became a registered body in 1992 but has been functional since 1988. DELNET was originally established as Delhi Library Network and subsequently the name was changed to Developing Library Network. The Headquarter of DELNET is in New Delhi.

DELNET is fully functional with following objectives:

- "To promote sharing of resources among the libraries by developing a network of libraries, by collecting, storing and disseminating information and by offering computerised services to the users.

- To undertake scientific research in the area of Information Science and Technology, create new systems in the field, apply the results of research and publish them.
- To offer technical guidance to the member-libraries on collecting, storing, sharing and disseminating information.
- To coordinate efforts for suitable collection development and reduce unnecessary duplication wherever possible.
- To establish /facilitate the establishment of referral and /or research centres, and maintain a central online union catalogue of books, serials and nonbook materials of all the participating libraries.
- To facilitate and promote delivery of documents manually or mechanically.
- To develop a specialised bibliographic database of books, serials and nonbook materials.
- To develop databases of projects, specialists and institutions.
- To possess and maintain electronic and mechanical equipment for speedy communication of information and delivery of electronic mail.
- To coordinate with other regional, national and international networks and libraries for exchange of information and documents”.

Currently, DELNET has about 4667 libraries as its members of which 241 are from Delhi, 4402 from states and union territories outside Delhi and 24 outside India.

Services

a) Inter Library Loan Online

Member libraries can request online for a document using the Inter-library loan facility of DELNET through DELNET server and the document is couriered to the requesting library. The member library needs to pay an annual subscription for this service.

b) Reference Service

DELNET has a referral centre that provides reference service to participating libraries.

Training Programmes

DELNET organises monthly training programs with NIC on topics like Web page design, Internet search strategies and other resources, etc. It also conducts courses on Machine Readable Cataloguing and bibliographic standards like MARC21.

Conferences, Lectures and Workshops: National Convention on Library and Information Networking (NACLIN) in an annual conference by DELNET which is organised at different parts of the country. Besides DELNET regularly organises workshops and lectures in different parts of the country and abroad.

Newsletter

DELNET publishes a newsletter called 'DELNET Newsletter' in order to communicate the activity of DELNET to professionals.

Research

DELNET has actively played an important role in imparting knowledge of international standards applying them in libraries, particularly Marc 21. Recently it has been advocating the open source softwares and teaching their use by conducting training programmes in KOHA and D- Space.

Q3. Describe the role of UGC in the development of libraries and information services.

Ans. The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a statutory organisation established by an Act of Parliament in 1956. This is a national body for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. The UGC serves as a vital link between the Union and state governments and the institutions of higher learning. In addition to its role of giving grants to universities and colleges; the UGC also advises union and state governments on the measures necessary for the improvement of university education. It also frames regulations such as those on the minimum standards of instruction and qualifications of teachers on the advice of subject specialists and academicians with whom it frequently interacts in connection with the formulation, evaluation and monitoring of programmes.

The Commission, being an apex body in maintaining higher education in the country, has also played a major role in promoting library and information services in these universities and colleges. Besides, it has also established and constituted a number of libraries/information centers/study centers and committees to provide quality education and service in the field of library and information activities. Some of these are :

a) Financial Assistance to University and College Libraries

Financial assistance is given to universities and colleges including Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed Universities, Government and affiliated colleges, which receive grants for building up libraries so as to meet the demands of the students, teachers and research scholars. The Commission provides substantial grants for the acquisition of books and journals.

b) Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) on Library and Information Science

The UGC constituted CDC on Library and Information Science in 1990 to restructure the courses of studies. The committee in its recommendations framed guidelines for LIS schools, covering admission policy, students and faculty strength, instructional methodology, teaching aids, application of information technology, etc.

c) Establishment of National Information Centres

The objective of establishing National Information Centres in specialised areas is to provide improved access to information and to provide bibliographic support to teachers and research scholars in their respective fields.

d) Establishment of INFLIBNET

The UGC established an Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Programme with headquarters at Ahmedabad as a project of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCA) Pune in April 1991. The INFLIBNET Programme aims at the establishment of a national network of libraries and information centers in institutions of

higher learning including universities, colleges, R&D institutions and national organisations like CSIR, ICMR, ICSSR, ICAR, DOE, etc.

e) Modernisation of University Libraries

Recent advances in information and communication technology and its utility have forced the university libraries to computerise their services and connect themselves to various network programmes like INFLIBNET so as to provide fast, efficient and reliable computerised information service to its users. The UGC provided special financial assistance to central university libraries (2 crore rupees) and university libraries established before independence (50 lakh rupees) during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years for updating library facilities.

f) National Review Committee on University and College Libraries

The purpose of constituting such a committee is to review the utilisation of grants to central universities and some state university libraries of Rs. 2 crores and Rs.50 lakhs respectively. Secondly, to prepare a status report of university and college libraries in India and, finally, to prepare a strategy plan/guideline for the future for smooth functioning of these university and college libraries.

Q4. Discuss the role of UNESCO in promoting library and information activities in India.

Ans. The constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), signed on 16 November 1945, came into force on 4th November, 1946 after ratification by 20 countries including India. Today, UNESCO functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. It also serves as a clearinghouse – for the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge – while helping Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. UNESCO promotes international co-operation among its 193 Member States and 6 Associate Members in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

The UNESCO's School Library Manifesto adopted in 1999, aims to define and advance the role of school libraries and resource centres in enabling students to acquire the learning tools and learning content that allow them to develop their full capacities; to continue to learn throughout their lives; and to make informed decisions. The following are essential to the development of literacy, information literacy, teaching, learning and culture and are core school library services:

- supporting and enhancing educational goals as outlined in the school's mission and curriculum;
- developing and sustaining in children the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning and the use of libraries throughout their lives;
- offering opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment;
- supporting all students in learning and practising skills for evaluating and using information, regardless of form, format or medium, including sensitivity to the modes of communication within the community;

- providing access to local, regional, national and global resources and opportunities that expose learners to diverse ideas, experiences and opinions;
- organising activities that encourage cultural and social awareness and sensitivity;
- working with students, teachers, administrators and parents to achieve the mission of the school; proclaiming the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are essential to effective and responsible citizenship and participation in a democracy;
- promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

Activities

Access to Information: UNESCO aims at helping individuals and organisations in improving access to information and knowledge. It strives to create conditions conducive to free flow of information. Universal access to information is high on its agenda. To achieve universal access to information it sets standards, creates awareness and develops management tools to strengthen libraries.

Archives: Archives are important components that help at improving information access, both for the public at large and for specialised groups. Since its creation, UNESCO has contributed to the reinforcement of these types of services. The development of information technologies and in particular the Internet, networking, cooperation and digitisation modify substantially the functions of acquiring, storing and disseminating information and knowledge. UNESCO pays special attention to the underdeveloped countries so that they do not lag behind technological advances.

- "making the general public and decision-makers aware of the importance of records and archives for planning and development safeguarding of the national heritage;
- assisting Member States in the establishment of efficient records and archives management infrastructures through standardisation, archival legislation, training, and enhancing infrastructure (buildings and equipment);
- promoting international debates on main issues in the archival field".

II. Answer the following questions in not more than 250 words each. (6X5=30 Marks)

Q1. Discuss in brief the role of RRRLF in modernisation of libraries.

Ans. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was established in May, 1972 by the Department of Culture, Government of India to spread library services all over the country in cooperation with state governments, union territory administrations and organisations working in the field. It is a central autonomous organisation established and financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Objectives:

- "promote library movement in the country;
- enunciate a national library policy and to help build up a national library system;
- provide financial and technical assistance to libraries;

- provide financial assistance to organisations, regional or national engaged in the promotion of library development;
- publish appropriate literature and to act as a clearing house of ideas and information on library development in India and abroad;
- promote research in problems of library development; and
- advise the government on all matters pertaining to the library development in the country”

RRRLF has undertaken several promotional activities for qualitative improvement of library services. It has played a major role in the preparation of National Policy on Library and Information System (NAPLIS). It has also issued guidelines on public library systems and services. The Foundation introduced the Annual Raja Rammohun Roy Award to the best contributor of an article covering the area of development of Public Library Systems and Services or suggesting measures for promotion of reading habit. It helps to disseminate innovative, new concepts and ideas for the development of Public Library System and Services in the country through research oriented activities.

Q2. What is resource sharing? Discuss its need.

Ans. Resource sharing is a concept quite often talked about in the literature of LIS. Literally, the term implies, using each other's resources. Edmonds defines it as 'the reciprocally beneficial sharing of resources, developed or pre-existing, by two or more bodies.' In the context of libraries, it refers to libraries sharing their resources, including the sources of information, staff expertise, infrastructure, and finance.

Need

The stock in trade in libraries, i.e. documents is available in plenty. Their rate of increase is such that it is termed an explosion. It is estimated that there was a 6% increase in book production in 2012 compared to 2011. They are available in a variety of formats. The channels of availability of these documents are also varied adding to the complexity of their acquisition. Prices of documents are on the increase. Periodicals prices are on the increase, a 6% hike was reported in 2013. Earlier the increase in prices used to be mainly in science, technology and medicine journals only but now it has been experienced in other areas like humanities and education too.

Increasing numbers of documents also demand physical space which is a limitation for libraries. Even if they are able to buy all that is needed, where is the space to store the documents? Libraries exist for users; any change in their demands and requirements requires libraries to adapt themselves. Users are now more demanding, expecting to be satisfied as early as possible. Libraries have to show their accountability; they have to satisfy the users in the best possible way. Customised services are the talk of the day. Staff has to be more interactive with the users knowing about their areas of interest and their requirements to serve them in the best possible way.

Q3. Explain the role of libraries in facilitating and supporting learning.

Ans. The library is the interface between the users and the vast amounts of published and unpublished information available. Most libraries place great emphasis on their role in

facilitating and supporting learning. The issue for libraries is to provide a range of services which support lifelong learners who choose to learn in any one of the many modes, and probably in a personal mix of all modes. Therefore, there is a considerable challenge for librarians, across most sectors, to develop their direct involvement in the delivery of learning. As a matter of fact, understanding of pedagogical principles will help librarians to be more effective in designing and delivering services and in demonstrating the relevance and importance of libraries. One thing must be emphasised, libraries are fundamentally service organisations. What they do is intended to benefit people of all ages and backgrounds. They are quite clearly in the business of helping their users to develop knowledge and understanding. Both, services and knowledge, are firmly at the centre of community development, whether globally or locally. The offering of knowledge - based service and the continuous enhancement of its quality have provided businesses with an avenue for differentiation from their competitors. But, libraries do not conduct business. They are unique and need to progress in the 21st century empowering themselves to meet the changing needs of society.

Q4. Discuss the issues and problems in designing a code of ethics for librarians.

Ans. ISSUES AND PROBLEMS:

- 1) Image of the library and information profession in society;
- 2) More than one professional body;
- 3) Authority in implementation with provisions for disciplinary action in case of violation of the ethical principles enunciated by ethical codes;
- 4) Expanding dimensions of the profession;
- 5) Consequent undefined state of the profession;
- 6) Quality of professional work;
- 7) Immigration of specialists from other disciplines and professions.

Despite these difficulties, problems and issues, professional ethics are necessary for professional practices; to ensure quality in service and in social recognition.

Q5. Explain the functions and activities of an information broker.

Ans. The information broker is an individual or a firm, who, on demand, seeks to answer questions using all available sources and who is in business for profit. Broking rests on the axial principle: information for payment. In case of libraries information is provided but costs are not charged to the user. One must understand the important distinction between information which is freely available and information which is free. The services offered by brokers comprise:

- Briefing or instant education;
- Information repackaging;
- Market research / analysis;
- Personnel recruitment;
- Press cutting service; and
- Seminars / workshops.

Information brokers specialise in providing fast and efficient services. These firms largely staffed by the people with library backgrounds provide literature searches, retrieve and supply documents. These firms may not pose any threat to libraries. In fact, they supplement them by filling needs and demands that publicly supported libraries cannot try to meet by providing special and expensive services to business, professional and other users who can afford them.

Q6. Discuss in brief the objectives and services of CALIBNET.

Ans. Objectives

CALIBNET is established to pursue the problems of eastern region of the country, mainly West Bengal. The primary objective of the organisation is creating and facilitating access to available library and information resources in West Bengal. The main objective is supported by other objectives like given below:

- Facilitating remote online access to the holding data of Calcutta libraries and other specialised databases; and
- Providing electronic access to globally available information, imbibing its information centre approach.

Services

a) Software Development

i) Sanjukta: This in-house software has been developed for storage and retrieval which is used in the Centralised Database of CALIBNET for providing online access from remote locations. The software provides options and flexibility for record generation, organising and searching information.

ii) Parapar: Parapar has been developed to support interchange of bibliographic data between different bibliographic standards like USMARC, UNIMARC and CCF. It converts other format data to ISO2709 format which can be imported into the centralised Database of CALIBNET.

b) Current Content Service: Confile Service: Confile is a current content service. It covers almost 20,000 journals of different disciplines. It economises library service on journal subscription and reduces the drain on precious foreign exchange resources.

c) Document Delivery Service: Caliburger Caliborder is a document delivery service which delivers full text of any article and even patents on demand.

d) Selective Dissemination of Information: ConAlert service is designed to give current and tailored bibliographic information. A user profile is created based on the keywords. Notification about the arrival or availability of the document is sent to the user. On demand document is also delivered at user's desk.

e) Institutional Resources Development Services: CALIBNET supports institutes to build library. It also assists and provides consultancy in library automation and creation of

databases and electronic resources. It runs wide range of training programs and customised courses based on institutional needs.