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Chapter 7

Library Science

LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The Five Laws of Library Science are:

1. Books are for Use;
2. Every Reader his Book;
3. Every Book its Reader;
4. Save the Time of the Reader and Save the Time of the Staff; and
5. Library is a Growing Organism.

(2; p9)

PHILOSOPHY OF THE FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

Perhaps, the great contribution of India is in this field (the foundation of all modern library techniques and services). *It is the Five laws of Library Science.* In the words of Mr. W.C. Berwick Sayers, one of the greatest British librarians, *The Five Laws of Library Science is a work of great simplicity which conceals depths and yet reveals what may be called the spiritual but intensely practical springs of all activities in libraries.*

(17; Vol. 6, 1969, p103)

Any librarian who feels bored because of his work not being interesting will be relieved from that mood if he studies the Five Laws, meditates upon them, and finds out the human purpose to be served by the work he has to do. I am sure that he will begin to enjoy his work. He will turn a new leaf in his life.

(17; Vol. 6, 1969, p104)

The Five Laws protest saying *For a parent, the weakest child is as important as the strongest. So also for us, the minority specialists are as important as majority specialists. Library technique should carry out our needs.*

(17; Vol. 2, 1965, p208)

FIVE LAWS AS GUIDELINES FOR IMPROVING LIBRARY TECHNIQUES

What is more important,

1. There is a continuous turbulence in the universe of subjects.
2. New subjects are continuously thrown forth; and
3. There is continuous increase in the number and variety of readers.

Therefore, the library techniques require continued improvement. The Five Laws of Library Science provide the necessary guidelines to improve each technique from time to time and to perform it in the latest style.

(17; Vol. 6, 1969, p104)

LAW OF PARSIMONY & LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The Law of Parsimony may well lose its breath at the wholesale capitulation to the Laws of Library Science. It may well say that the Laws of Library Science remind of Caliban, *Oh Ho, O Ho! wouldn't had been done! Thou didst prevent me; I had peopled else, this isle with Calibans.*

(3; Sec. 616)

SOCIAL CHANGE AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

When the cumulated unconscious shift in the social purpose of the library calls for an altogether different kind of library service, organisation, and technique, and the current ones stand abandoned by sheer folk-force, new normative principles should replace the old ones. And the cycle should be started again.

(1; Sec. AB2)

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING

The symbiosis between classification and cataloguing is a true symbiosis. It is not parasitism. Not only the Class Number throws forth a tow in the form of Chain Procedure to reach at the correct subject heading; but also its obligation to catalogue alerts classification scheme to be careful and circumspective about the terminology in its schedules.

(3; Sec. 65)

Classification and Cataloguing will jointly state as follows *We do not claim to be the only library techniques. What we cannot do by ourselves, we shall ask administrative methods to do.*

(17; Vol. 2, 1965, p210)

CIRCULATION

The counter is the Rubicon and the Circulation Section forms in a sense the sentinels watching and regulating the ingress and the egress of the library while the Circulation Section would have all the circumspection, the loyalty and the pre-vision of a sentinel, it should remember that it is not in the employ of the military department, but of the human library department.

(4; Sec. 26112)

PLANNED FOUNDATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE

In proportion to the immense and lasting benefit that a well-ordered library system can give, it requires long preparation. As is often the case with fundamental social institutions, its foundations must be laid in the youngest and this demands far-sight and wise planning.

(9; Sec. 313)

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR INDIA

I launch this paper-boat containing Library-Seeds suited to the soil of Bharat. May the Government of India and the Constituent States pick them up, sow them, manure them, water them and tend the seedlings with faith and zeal! May the harvest of fruit soon bring to the people happiness, joy and bliss!! May Bharat be thus enabled to radiate into the world at large the redeeming rays of Sat-Chit-Ananda!!!

(5; p16)

A SYSTEM OF LIBRARIES

Even the richest of libraries cannot find finance to buy books in occasional demand. It is still more so with a small public library. The Second Law, therefore, recommends all the libraries of a land forming a single system, with inter-library loan facilities. The entire book-resources of a country should be regarded as a single pool. A book lying idle on the shelf of any library should be made available to any reader whatever be his own service-library.

(6; Sec. 125)

FORMATION OF LIBRARIANSHIP

A triangle of forces came into operation : Too many books, too many authors and too many non-scholar readers not familiar with authors' names or titles of books. The formation of the library profession was a result of this triangular forces.

(17; Vol. 5, 1968, p291)

Three decades ago, when library work was equated to that of a store keeper or custodian, there was a pioneering spirit in the few working librarians that received training in Library

Science. Thanks to these pioneers the concept of library work and service has changed and gone up to a higher level so that the library profession enjoys a much higher status in society than it had three decades ago.

(17; Vol. 1, 1964, p372)

The first principle in planning the public library system of a country is then *Find out the viable unit for a Unitary Library System.*

(17; Vol. 1, 1964, p292)

STAFF RELATION

The stuff of which the staff is made, the relation among the staff, and the staff atmosphere, will affect very intimately the service of the library. If these relations are bad, neither good buildings, nor good collections, nor efficient methods will be of use. The members of the staff should be on the most cordial terms among themselves. There should not be the least trace of jealousy or envy. Self should be suppressed to such a degree that every member is prepared to pass off all work as anonymous.

(6; Sec. 346)

PLANNING FOR ACCURACY AND ECONOMY

Library administration has to be so planned and adjusted that the highest accuracy and the greatest promptness and economy are achieved.

(4; Sec. 03)

NEED FOR SYSTEMATIC INVESTIGATION

Objective studies and experiments in the routine of the work are to be done in libraries. Time-study, therbligs, motion study, areas for further simplification and standardisation, manpower analysis, and mechanisation with the aid of photography, machines, and electronics, were some of the topics which need investigation.

(4; Sec. 021)



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