**LIS as a Career in the changing environment**

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**Abstract**

Now-a-days, a number of career prospects are available in Library and Information Science. The qualified and trained professionals are employed in various libraries and information centres. The present study aims to identify and assess the job opportunities for the professionally qualified LIS professionals in the area of Library and Information Science.This paper highlights the current scenario of LIS career and also point out the skills required for various job titles in present LIS fields. It discusses various categories of LIS jobs, where the professionals can match their profile.

**Key words**: Librarianship, Employment opportunities, metadata harvester, knowledge navigators and Information analyst.

1. **Introduction**

Library Science, Documentation and Information Science, all are concerned with processing for storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. To satisfy the need of the users library professionals adopt new technologies and evolve new techniques.

Librarianship as a profession provides a variety of employment opportunities. Today there are a number of career prospects in Library and Information Science. The qualified professionals are employed in various libraries and information centres and thus the professionals can find considerable opportunity for employment.

1. **Changing dimensions**
   1. **Agrarian society to knowledge society**

An agrarian society (or agricultural society) is any society based around producing and maintaining crops and farmland. A knowledge society generates, processes, shares and makes available to all members of the [society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society) knowledge that may be used to improve the human condition.

* 1. **Traditional library to digital/virtual library**

A library is an organized collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. An electronic library (also referred to as digital library or digital repository) is a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as [electronic media](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_media) formats (as opposed to print, [micro form](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micro_form), or other media), along with means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection.

* 1. **Cataloguer to metadata harvester**

A cataloguer is an individual responsible for the processes of description, subject analysis, classification, and [authority control](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority_control) of library materials. A harvester is a client application that issues OAI-PMH requests. A harvester is operated by a service provider as a means of collecting metadata from [repositories](http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/openarchivesprotocol.html#Repository).

* 1. **Information retrieval specialist to knowledge navigators**

The Information Retrieval Specialist is concerned with supporting communication between researchers and practitioners, promoting the use of [Information Retrieval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Retrieval) (IR) methods. Knowledge navigator describes a device that can access a large networked [database](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database) of [hypertext](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext) information, and use [software agents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_agent) to assist searching for information.

* 1. **Reference librarian to knowledge interpreters**

Reference [librarians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Librarian) provide library users with direction to library materials, advice on library collections and services, and expertise on multiple kinds of information from multiple sources. An interpreter is a person who converts a thought or expression .The interpreter's function is to convey every semantic element (tone and register) and every intention and feeling of the message that the source-language speaker is directing to target-language recipients.

* 1. **Librarian to Information educator, information manager, information analyst etc.**

Information analyst is an individual who analyzes technical design and functional design for software development

1. **Conceptual parallelism**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Concept | Library Science | Documentation | Information Science |
| Unit | Library | Documentation | Information Centre |
| year | 1931,Dr.S.R. Ranganathan | 1948 , J.H. Shera | 1961, |
| Medium | Book | Document | Data Base |
| End user | Reader | User | Recipient |
| Staff | Librarian | Documentalist | Information Officer |

1. **Different Category of Library professionals and their occupation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Library professionals** | **Occupation** |
| Library Administrator | Responsible for the administration of a library |
| Classifier | Classifies books following certain scheme of classification |
| Cataloguer | Catalogues documents following a catalogue code |
| Classificationist | Designs and builds up scheme of classification on sound principles. |
| Indexer | Compiles indexes based on some principles, guidelines and tools. |
| Reference librarian | Provides reference services |
| Library and information science teacher | To teach the LIS students and provides new thoughts for research. |
| Thesaurus Designer | Construction of a thesaurus. |
| Bibliographer | Compilation of bibliographies |
| Librametrician | Provides information relating to quantitative studies of various library objects and activities. |
| Bibliometrician | Provides answers to many queries relating to the ranking of periodicals in the world, important contribution being produced from a country, rate of growth of literature of a country, use of journals and other documents in a library, |
| Content Developer | Designs, creates and development of the content in cyber space. |

The Library administrator is responsible for the administration of a library. The head of a library is designated as Chief Librarian and his/her subordinates as Deputy Librarian, Assistant Librarian etc. He / She possess expertise in planning, organisation and management of various activities and services of a library.

1. **Qualities and aptitude of the present day Librarian**

In this age of information superhighway, librarian has to deal with both print and electronic resources. They should have the following traits and responsibilities:

* Vision and aim to work in e-environment;
* Skilful management of different ICT enabled processes and services;
* Analyzing the information need and requirement of the users and preparing the service strategy based on the users’ need;
* Familiarity with wide variety of scholarly and public information domains;
* Effective management of human resources;
* Proficiency in using computers and peripherals;
* Knowledge about digital libraries and retrieval systems;
* On-line searching of electronic databases, bibliographic as well as full text;
* Expertise in execution of automated information system;
* Development of database and various reference tool ;
* Knowledge management and marketing;
* Web content management and designing;

To perform all the above responsibilities efficiently, information professionals or library professionals require a vast knowledge, skills and competencies.

1. **Objective of the study**

The objectives of the study are the following:

* To set forth a glimpse on the employment opportunities for the library professionals;
* To trace out different areas where the library professionals can employ themselves;
* To furnish remuneration for various categories of employment;
* To ascertain the present scenario regarding the requirement of skills and qualifications for the employment.
* To recognise and reveal the changes in designation of professionals, their requirements.

1. **Courses in LIS  education**

**7.1 The different courses running by different Universities or Associations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the course** | **Level of study** | **Authority** | **Admission Criteria** | **Duration** |
| CLIS(Certificate ) | U.G | State Library Associations | 12+2 | 6 months |
| BLIS (Bachelor) | P.G | Universities | Graduation and admission test | 1 year |
| MLIS (Master) | P.G | Universities | BLIS | 1-2 Years |
| Integrated MLIS | P.G | Universities | 12+2 and admission test | 5 Years |
| M.Phil. | Research | Universities | MLIS with 55% marks and admission test | 1-2 Years |
| Ph.D. | Research | Universities | MLIS or M.Phil. | 2-5 Years |

**7.2 IT Oriented Courses:**

In view of the increasing use of computer and information technology in libraries, several universities in India have started various courses which are:

MSc (Information Science); Master of Library Automation and Networking; Postgraduate Diploma in Library Automation and Networking (PGDLAN); Master’s Degree in Library Automation (MLA); M. Tech in Information Systems and Management and MLIS in Digital Library etc.

**7.3 Skills Required**

To succeed as a good librarian one should have keen interest in books as well as a variety of topics:

* Managerial skills to run a library
* Basic skills in information processing, storage and retrieval
* Technological Skills are Internet and Networks using Skill, Information Retrieval Skill and Computer & IT Tools using Skill
* Excellent communication skills
* Preservation skills (cryptography, firewall, and different anti-virus software, database security etc.) of E-resources
* Soft skills like patience, user friendliness, urge to know, politeness etc.

**8. Opportunities:**

Today there are bright career prospects in Library and information Science. The qualified professionals are employed in vivid libraries and Information Centers. The job opportunities in LIS can be depicted in the following sectors:

**8.1 Opportunities in Teaching**

Library and Information Science is also a subject for UGC-NET for determining the eligibility for lectureship in universities and colleges. Teaching jobs are available in Universities, Colleges, Poly-Techniques and in vocational training institutes like ITI which requires master degree in Library and Information Science with 55% marks and NET/SET/PhD.

**8.2 Opportunities in Librarianship**

There is immense scope for career development for the librarians. Candidates, who wish to pursue their career as a librarian, may look for the job vacancies available in the various educational institutions, several information centres and documentation centres. The following sections describe the career prospects in LIS.

**8.2.1 Public Library Sector**

After independence, the growth of public libraries have been remarkable with the establishment of National Library from Imperial library in 1948, Delhi Public Library in 1951, Raja Rammohan Ray Library Foundation in 1972 and subsequently different public libraries of various kinds and capacities. In India, we have a large network of public libraries. **The table shows the representative number of public libraries in India.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Number** | **Public Libraries** | **Number** | **%** |
| States & UT | 35 | State Central Libraries | 28 | 80% |
| Districts | 592 | Divisional and District Libraries | 451 | 76% |
| Talukas | 3987 | Sub-Divisional/Taluka/Tehsil Libraries | 501 | 12.5% |
| Villages | 5,87,226 | Town and rural Libraries | 29,820 | 4.9% |

According to an estimate of Raja Rammohan Ray Library Foundation (RRRLF), as on 2002, there were approximately 60,000 public libraries in India. All these libraries require library professionals, which bring to light the job openings.

**8.2.2 Academic Library Sector**

The Academic Library includes in general, Schools, Colleges and Universities. In India, there are good numbers of technological institutes, management institutes, science institutes, social science institutes, humanities institutes. The numbers of these institutes are increasing day by day.

**8.2.3 Research Library Sector**

In India, there are scientific research institutes, social science research institutes, humanities research institutes and specialized institutes. All these institutions have the need of library professionals from highest position to junior grade for smooth functioning of their libraries and information centres.

**8.2.4 Special Library sector**

Several Central and State Government offices, Survey Offices, Parliament, Assemblies, Rastrapati Bhawan and Governors’ Houses have excellent libraries. The requirements of library professionals are increasing day by day in these libraries.

**8.2.5 Library attached to institutions of national importance, museums and archives**

In India, a good numbers of institutions are there which the potential areas are for talented professionals.

**8.2.6 Banking sector libraries**

Reserve banks, nationalized banks and private banks maintain libraries for successful execution of banking policies.

**8.2.7 Corporate Sector libraries**

Multinational companies in various fields like, information technology, software, biotechnology, medicine, pharmacy, engineering etc. have well organized dedicated libraries. They employ qualified library professionals as information scientists, information managers, database managers, resource managers, knowledge workers, librarians and like with good remuneration.

**8.2.8 Libraries of Non- Government Organizations**

In India, there are good numbers of national and international NGOs having established library and information centres, where professionals have opening to work.

**8.2.9 Private Libraries:**

In ancient India Takshsila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Kanchipuram and others maintained vast libraries.

**8.2.10 Manuscript Libraries**

In India, there are good numbers of manuscripts libraries such as the Oriental Research Institute and Manuscript Library.

1. **Salaries in Library and Information profession**

In the age of information revolution librarianship is a well paid job. However salaries of library professionals vary depending upon their individual qualifications, experience, size and nature of the hiring institutes. Many colleges and universities have adopted UGC scales of salary for the library staff. The library staff in the constituent units of large establishments of the Central Government, such as Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) enjoy salary scales similar to those applicable to scientific staff. Indeed, the salaries of special librarians are high. Librarians employed in government museum, archives, galleries have higher earnings than those in colleges and universities. Librarians working in research institutes and private documentation centres also have handsome earnings. This pay structure gives the good messages to the library professionals. Those who do not belong to the library professionals can also realise that LIS professionals are also recognized as other academicians.

1. **Conclusion**

Today career in LIS is multidimensional, ever growing and bright which is significantly enriching the knowledge base of the society for prosperity and progress so demand of library professionals are increasing in the light of information technology.

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