

The Concept of ‘Every’ in the Philosophy of S. R. Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science

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ABSTRACT

The word ‘Every’ has come from ‘Ever’. Ever means ‘always’ or ‘eternal’ or ‘Continually’. So that ‘Every’ denotes the eternal entity. This also defines the rights of man which he acquires to live in. We cannot ignore the man in the society. They live in, they contribute and they flourish when social rights are conceived. Accordingly, the rights of knowledge come into existence, knowledge is eternal. The sources of knowledge are many. Book/s are one of them. A man can betray another man but the book never betrays anybody. Books help the man to grow more and more. Library collects and stores books and the librarians by their services will strive hard to give shape to their motto ‘Every reader his or her book and Every book its reader.’ This paper tries to find the concept of ‘Every’ in the philosophy of S. R. Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science.

KEYWORDS: Library, Laws of Library science, Library movement, Ranganathan’s Philosophy.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word ‘library’ comes from the Latin word “Liber” which means book. The library is therefore a place where books are kept. In earlier times books were very expensive and also scarce. One could not think of providing every reader his book or every book its reader. The number of books and manuscripts provided was limited. The method of production was inevitably tedious, painful, costly and time-consuming affair. As such the libraries were naturally small; because the books were considered very valuable, there were restrictions on the use of books, and users; restricted users only were allowed to use them. The books were preserved in chests or cupboards; they were brought out and chained to desks for safety. Most of the reading was done standing. In the Middle Ages when the universities started coming up, books were not made available to students; rather the books available were protected from them.

But library of today is more than a building or a room in which books are kept. Today a modern library contains much more than books. They contain, besides books, graphic and acoustic materials such as periodicals, pamphlets, reports, newspapers, documents, manuscripts, photocopies, musical scores, microfilms, maps, charts, atlases, etc. Today information is recognised as a very powerful and valuable resource. The enormous growth of information

explosion of literature in each area or subject in number and size results decentralization of literature and increasing specialization in any field of knowledge. Because of the information explosion, the variety, quantity and complication of information are increasing rapidly in every field. Traditional methods have become inadequate to meet the increasing number of clientele as well as their specialized need, which forces us to change the mode of library services.

The library of today selects, collects and also preserves. Simultaneously, it meets the demands of varying tests, environments, etc Its main functions are to disseminate the information contained in the books and other graphic materials and to promote the maximum use of materials stored in the library. To use Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's law- "Every reader his books and every book its reader" is now the motto of every library.

According to Dr. S.R. Ranganathan "A library is a social institution. As such, it has to serve several purposes:

- It should help the life education of one and all.
- It should furnish up-to-date facts and information on all subjects to one and all.
- It should distribute, in an unbiased and balanced way, all shades of recorded views and thoughts to one and all, as a help in the discharge of their political functions in respect of local, national and international affairs.
- It should contribute to productivity-drive by informing top management of the latest trends in diverse enterprises, by ploughing back into the minds of researchers, designers, and technologies every piece of relevant new thought, promptly and pinpointedly.
- It should provide to one and all a harmless and elevating use of leisure.
- It should preserve the literacy remains of humanity for posterity, as vehicles of culture and as source materials for antiquarian research; and in general.
- It should work for continued social well-being, as the agency in charge of all socialised recorded thought.

Thus a library has educational, informational, political, economic, industrial, cultural, and antiquarian functions."

During his eighty-year lifespan, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan contributed many new ideas to library and information science. He wrote 60 books and about 2,000 research articles in his life. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan has a multifaceted personality. He devoted his life to the cause of the development of library science in India. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan enunciated various laws, principles, canons, theories, etc in LIS. His theories are positioned on scientific principles. They are accepted universally and are relevant even today. We can say that his ideas are like a lighthouse for libraries, and LIS students and teachers. His ideas are still exciting and, even today when computers and other developments in the field of telecommunication have changed the whole scenario of LIS. Now when libraries and information centers face the problem of various information resources as well as the defiance of implementing Information Communication Technology (ICT), Dr. Ranganathan's philosophy is relevant and accepted as a way to overcome these problems.

2. OBJECTIVES

It is very important and necessary to find the concept of 'Every' in the philosophy of the Five Laws of Library Science of S.R. Ranganathan. The Objectives of this study are as follows.

- ✓ To analyse the Ranganathan's philosophy.
- ✓ It helps to improve the prevailing practices.
- ✓ It helps further refine the theory.
- ✓ To find out the answer to how his philosophy of 'Every' creates better development for any library.
- ✓ To find an idea of how and why Ranganathan thinks users are facing problems in different situations while using the facilities provided by this software.

3. METHODOLOGY

This work started with the study of the concept of 'Every' in the philosophy of Five Laws of S.R.Ranganathan based on the comprehensive study of primary and secondary sources. To find practical experience a search strategy has been conducted using a different search method.

1. Literature survey on.

- Library development.
- Evaluation criteria of Ranganathan's concept of 'Every'.
- Literature published in this field for the past and present years.

2. Literature search on Internet and information collection from the different websites.

3. Discussion with some experts associated in this field.

4. SCOPE

After the Second World War information increased tremendously. Library operations are increasing due to the ever-increasing number of documents and readers; and the demands for information. In that situation, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's concept of 'Every' helps to solve various problems.

Keeping View of the importance of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan's philosophy of 'Every', this the study will help the person who is interested in this area and also to the librarian for making every decision in any library.

Public libraries or peoples' libraries are offshoots of the Indian Renaissance. During this period the public came forward voluntarily and standard libraries to serve all sections of the community i.e. 'Every'. At the same time, the production of books, periodicals and newspapers gave impetus to the rapid growth of the library movement. Thus the library service becomes a movement of the people, by the people and for the people. This is a modern concept that gradually spread all over India from the year 1800 onwards.

5. LIMITATION

There are huge information about the concept of Ranganathan's Philosophy of 'Every' in his Five Laws of Library Science but I am not able to search or collect sufficient information because of lack of time. I have given only sixty days to complete my dissertation and this time is not sufficient to search or collect sufficient information. So I am searching or collecting some selected information. And I am trying to do my best effort.

The limitation also lies in the case of specialization. Sometimes this implies compartmentalization of readers, documents, theories and ideas. We cannot hold it, we cannot detect the society but unify the society as a whole i.e. with this concept. This idea can enlighten the candle, but not extinguish it in any capacity.

6. RANGANATHAN AS A PHILOSOPHER OF 'EVERY'

Dr. Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972) was perhaps the greatest librarian of the 20th century. As a librarian and an educator his contributions to the field of library and information science surpassed all others and established our country permanently on the world library stage. Besides these two major contributions, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan also studied a wide variety of library topics, including the education of librarians, library administration and organization, reference services, and collection management, among others.

The Phase of the Industrial Revolution means that sometime in the 1780s and for the first time in human history, the shackles were taken off the productive power of human societies, which became capable of the constant rapid and up to the present limitless multiplication of men, goods and services. This is now technically known to the economists as the 'take off into self-sustained growth'. No previous society had been able to break through the boundary which a pre-industrial structure. This Industrial Revolution was not indeed an episode with a beginning and end. To ask when it was 'complete' is meaningless, for its essence was that henceforth revolutionary change becomes the norm. This is still going on at most we can ask when the economic transformation has gone far enough to establish a substantially industrialized economy, capable of producing to man. Once Einstein dreamed of a social system in which full social justice would be achieved, in which people would not have to be satisfied with only fulfilling minimum needs but would work in cooperation for the round development of society.

The concept of 'Every' in the philosophy of library laws (2nd and 3rd) of S.R. Ranganathan comes from that revolutionary cry. 'Every person (reader) his or her book' (law 2) and 'Every book its reader'(law 3) what a volume of ideas rests in a potential state in these words! How strict will be the task of carrying out these messages? Books are the tools of education. These tools are meant for every person and the education for all. We can start from Aristotle, what is Aristotle's answer to this basic question? This is the interaction of nature to make the bodies of slaves and freemen different from each other. And since this is true concerning the body. This is still more just to determine in the same manner when we consider the soul, books for the chosen few were then a ruling concept. In the Modern Review for March 1911 once told in the article 'The future of India' by Rabindranath Tagore that "The final purpose of the history that is being built up in India is not that Hindus or any other race will predominate here the history of man will attain to a special fulfillment and gives an un-precedence from to its perfection and makes that perfection the property of all humanity. If in modeling the image of this perfection, the Hindus, Muslims or Englishman utterly removes all trace of his own existing individual features, he may thereby no doubt destroy his national pride, but neither Truth nor Goodness will suffer". We can mention a specimen of 18th-century opinion. 'To make the society happy and people easy under the meanest circumstances, this is requisite that great numbers of them should be ignorant as well as poor. The nineteenth century was long besotted with this concept. There was a bipartite division of persons belonging to those who were from divine right, occupied the privileged position and the others who had no right to education i.e. books. The education of the common people requires a civilized and commercial society. The attention and response of the public was more than that of people of some rank and fortune.

The concept of 'every' therefore had no part in this phase. This was all left to education for all without caste and creed. This idea broke the barrier and started its journey towards truth. Everybody respects them if everybody is to have the fullest benefit. But the content is to say that the criterion of 'Every' when giving special advantages is not the social status, but the capacity to fully genuinely utilize such special privileges, which by their very nature should affect the ordinary privileges of other readers prejudicially

The concept of 'Every' also suggested the thought of an open access system of the library. Open access means the opportunity to see and examine the book collection of the library with much freedom and rights. The reader can wander among the books with great pleasure. Freedom makes pleasure and contributes to the service of man. The majority of readers do not know their requirements and their interests take a definite shape only after seeing and finding their place of search, enquiry and information of their own. He can build up himself and make himself in his way and ultimately this will lead the path of human resources for all round development of human society. Once S. C. Dube remarked in his 'Indian Society' that "you will find the past, the present and the future living together. In the process of its evolution. Indian society has admired a composite culture, characterized by stable patterns pluralism".

India has a glorious past where many ancient centers of higher learning flourished and attracted people from all over the world. In ancient times libraries were part of royal houses, monasteries and gurukuls. And sometimes they were the personal properties and right. The public had no privilege to enter and take part in these institutions.

According to Acarya Naredra Deva in 1934 "Socialism has come to stay in this country and his daily gaining in strength and prestige inside the congress as well as in the country. The social foundation of this new school of thought which has appeared within the Congress is the democratic intelligentsia. Outside the congress among its adherents are representatives of workers and to a much smaller extent peasants who constitute the real revolutionary elements of an anti-imperialistic struggle. The working class is in the vanguard while the peasants and the intelligentsia are only its auxiliaries. We should try to broaden the social basis of our movement by bringing into our fold workers and peasants. Alexander Henzen has truly said that one can only effort upon men by viewing their dreams more clearly than they view themselves. The process of differentiation is growing apace. The truth of coining reforms was positive with the hues of the university. This was a national struggle to make India new. And no doubt Siyali Ramamrita Ranganathan did like this. He had a clear conception of the objective and methods and without it, success was not possible. Professor Ranganathan was aware "to strive for knowledge is to struggle for freedom as ignorance is the worst slavery". The fight for freedom, equality and justice is an ongoing process. Neither is there any end nor can there be.

By using the term 'Every' in his Laws of Library Science 2 and Laws of Library science 3 Professor S. R. Ranganathan did his research on the society. According to J. W. Best, research may be defined as the systematic and objective analysis and recording of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalizations, and principles otherwise resulting in prediction and possibly. "Ultimate control of events", we take it development of generalizations' from this passage. The fulfillment of the desire for knowledge is hidden there. People get from it. This philosophy coordinated with Professor S.R. Ranganathan in his Passion, Mission and Vision of his life. This

was his social commitment. And I think social commitment when comes to social research, research is associated with general problems with pronounced well-defined hypotheses. The result from which may be derived such generalizations as would embody some truth, principle, or theory. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan began his professional life as a Mathematician. In 1923 the University of Madras created the post of University Librarian to oversee their poorly organized collection and accordingly, the University appointed Ranganathan for the said position of librarian of the University in 1924.

Dr. S.R. Ranganathan was not satisfied with his new job. After a few days, S.R. Ranganathan traveled to England the university college, in London to study contemporary Western practices in librarianship. At University College he earned marks only slightly, above average, but his mathematical mind always haunted to acquire a new thought as well as a new dimension of the social aspect. S.R. Ranganathan returned with a great interest in libraries and librarianship and a vision of its importance for the Indian nation in a new shape. He returned to and held the position of university librarian at the University of Madras for 20 years. During that time, he helped to found the Madras Library Association and lobbied activity for the establishment of free public libraries throughout India and the creation of a comprehensive national library. Dr. S.R.Ranganathan was considered by man to be a workaholic for all time he thought only and only for the development of the downtrodden and marginal people of the society. And the word 'Every' in his philosophy was a result of the same. Here was a time when the library was a luxury enjoyed by a privileged class of the society. Literacy was limited and education and research were at a low table. But the democratic concept, mass education, high priority on research and development, and super-normal social change are certain factors that have endorsed the liberal and uniform use of libraries by all. The new theories and practices of educational, political and social obligations, life in a society of science and technology, etc have made the society library dependent today. The growth in user population calls for growth in library resources and services libraries have always considered it their duty to serve more and more users, but as this happens the interests of users become more diverse.

To face this situation libraries are more prompted to investigate ways and means for wider coverage of collections and lengthening the radius of service. Resource sharing offers practical solutions to these problems. By pooling their resources in collections and services they can extend the availability of large collections and reach more and more users of the libraries. Presently, we are engaged in creating an atmosphere for the free flow of information worldwide to every man. The purpose is to make adequate use of information to transform every bit of information into a wit – that is, exploitation of information for research, progress and prosperity of mankind.

This dream can materialize only when libraries share their resources in materials and services to enable more knowledge to reach more people in this world. The value of information as a crucial factor in the social and economic development and progress of a nation is increasingly recognized in the present decade than before.

Thus according to Ranganathan Library and information services, as operated through a public institution, come under nonprofit institution, where the emphasis shifts from profit to service for satisfying the needs of 'Every' user.

7. RANGANATHAN'S AND TODAY'S CONCEPT OF LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

The Law	In Ranganathan's Day	In Today's World
Books are for use.	Place every books in circulation—not just on the shelf.	Make sure e-resources are available where and when they are needed.
Every reader his or her book.	Break down barriers to the principle of education (and books) for all.	Discard the difficulties that hamper users from making adequate use of electronic resources
Every book its reader.	Open the stacks, arrange a well cross reference catalogue.	Coordinate electronic resources into virtual learning environments and other web pages of the institution.
Save the time of the reader.	Create comprehensive catalogues for quick search for any particular books of every reader's.	Facilitate meta- searching technique so that users can search entire sets of electronic resources and provide link resolvers so that readers get access to the best source.
A library is a growing organism.	See libraries as part of the larger community in our society.	Provide 24/7 access so that users can get their required information anytime at anywhere.

CONCLUSION

Thus Dr. Ranganathan says various laws, principles, canons, theories, etc in library and information science. His theories are based on scientific principles. They are accepted universally and are relevant even today. His ideas are still exciting and, even today when computers and other developments in the field of telecommunication have changed every scenario of LIS. Even now, when libraries and information centers face the problem of underused information resources as well as the challenges of implementing Information Communication Technology (ICT), Dr. Ranganathan's philosophy is relevant and accepted as a way to overcome both these problems in every sector.

There are also different types of libraries in India. These are private libraries, public libraries, and libraries of the Government. Departments-Central as well as State Government, national museums, learned societies and institutions, professional bodies, Universities, schools and colleges, and research organizations. These can however be divided into the following groups :

- a) Private Library
- b) Public Library
- c) School Library
- d) College Library
- e) University Library
- f) National Library
- g) Special Library
- h) Government Library

So there is also a restriction of use in every library and information center for 'Every' user or reader who is not satisfied Dr.S.R.Ranganathan's philosophy of 'Every' in his Five Laws of Library Science.

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