Comparative study of LIS Course offers by Patna University and Magadh University

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents a comparative study of Library and Information Science (LIS) courses offered by Patna University and Magadh University. Both of the Universities are state-funded universities. The study is based on primary data. The web questionnaire method is used for data collection for this proposed study. These universities are selected to analyse library facilities, infrastructure, programs, admission processes, curriculum, faculty, and infrastructure for LIS education, specifically focusing on BLIS (Bachelor of Library and Information Science), MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science), and Ph.D. programs: and also, to have a comparison of the pros and cons of relative advantage and disadvantage.

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KEYWORDS: LIS Education, Central Library, State University.

INTRODUCTION

Library and information science courses such as BLIS and MLIS come under the professional courses. The core of the curricula is the people about the information itself and the technology that enables the user's provision. Based on the various information the library is extending quality services. The data used in the study are primary. A web questionnaire is used for data collection in this study. These universities have been selected to compare performance with the analysis of their programs, admission processes, curriculum, faculty, and infrastructure for LIS education, specifically focusing on BLIS (Bachelor of Library and Information Science), MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science), and Ph.D. programs. The infrastructure available in the universities and the faculty members who deliver the courses constitute a valuable role in the analysis presented in the paper.

The Courses

Diploma in Library and Information Science (DLIS), Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS), Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) and Ph.D. in Library and Information Science are some of the most opted courses & noticed as a choice of the students willing to pursue LIS courses. The Bachelor's Degree Programme in Library and Information Science is commonly known as Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS). It attempts to impart necessary training and skills for effective organization and management of

libraries and provide information to the users. The Minimum eligibility criteria for admission to this program is graduation in any discipline (10+2+3 Pattern) with minimum 50 % marks. Whereas Master's Degree Programme in Library and Information Science is commonly known as Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS). MLIS course trains the students in organization, retrieval, and dissemination of information using the latest relevant technology, particularly information technology to meet the challenges of the knowledge society and that of users. Eligibility criteria for one-year duration MLIS is Bachelor's Degree in Library and Information Science and eligibility criteria for integrated MLIS are the same as BLIS (duration 1 +1 year). DLIS is an entry-level course in Library and information science, which educates students on the basics of theoretical and practical applications of librarianship. The minimum eligibility criteria for admission to DLIS is Matriculation (10th). The candidates must fulfill other conditions as may be laid down by the University/ Admission committee published from time to time. Both universities offer BLIS, MLIS, and Ph. D. in Library science as shown in table 1.

Table 1: LIS Course offers by universities

Sl. No.	University Name	LIS	MLIS	Ph.D.	DLIS
1.	Patna University	Yes	Yes	No	No
2.	Magadh University	Yes	Yes	No	No

Admission Process

Both universities conduct entrance exams for admission in LIS courses followed by a merit list (merit is made by calculating the marks obtained in 10th, 12th, and Graduation). There is a relaxation in marks for OBC, SC, and ST category students for the same. There are some general rules which all the universities impose on candidates for the admission process. Reservation of seats for admission shall be as per the reservation policy of the state/ central government. No admission will be entertained after the last date of the submission of the application form. No request for admission will be entertained once the admission is closed. A student must complete the program within the duration stipulated for the said course. In case a student is not able to secure the prescribed marks %/ credit he/she is liable to take readmission in the first semester of the course.

Table 2: Admission Process Followed by Universities

SL. No.	University Name	Admission Process
1.	Patna University	Entrance Exam
2.	Magadh university	Entrance Exam

DLIS is an entry-level course in Library and information science, which educates students on the basics of theoretical and practical applications of librarianship. The duration of DLIS varies from 06 months to 3 years. There are two types of BLIS courses BLIS one year duration (after Graduation) and 4 years BLIS as per NEP (after the 12th). There are two types of MLIS courses. MLIS for one academic year and MLIS integrated. Minimum duration for completing Ph. D. is 3 years.

Table 3: Duration of the Library and Information Science Courses (BLIS, MLIS, DLIS)

Sl. No.	Name of the Course	Duration of the Course
1.	DLIS	06 Month/10 Months
	DLIS	1 Year
	DLIS	3 Years
2.	BLIS	1 Year
	BLIS	4 Years
3.	MLIS	1 Year
	MLIS	2 Years
4.	Ph.D.	3 Years

Student Intake

The student's intake strength per batch is different in both universities. This number may be revised only by the order of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on the recommendation of the Board of Studies from time to time. As per table 4 Patna University takes 40 students in MLIS and 45 students in BLIS and Magadh University takes 60 students in MLIS and 60 students in BLIS. the intake capacity of Magadh University is higher than Patna University.

Table 4: Students intake by universities

Sl. No.	University Name	MLIS	BLIS	Ph.D.	DLIS
1.	Patna University	40	45	N/A	N/A
2.	Magadh University	60	60	N/A	N/A

Faculty Details

As per Table 5 total no. of faculty is four at Patna University and five at Magadh University. Both universities hire guest faculty which means recruitment is prespecify their tenure, it may be extended as per the requirement.

Table 5: Faculty details of universities

Sl. No.	University Name	No. of faculty	Nature or post
1.	Patna University	04	Guest Faculty (Fixed Term)
2.	Magadh University	05	Guest Faculty (Fixed Term)

Fee Details

As per table 6, the fee structure of the two Universities for Library and Information science courses are different. As per the data, MLIS and BLIS fee is higher in Magadh University whereas Ph.D.

Table 6: Fee Details of various LIS courses

Sl. No.	University Name	MLIS Fee	BLIS Fee	Ph. D. Fee	DLIS Fee
1.	Patna University	11000	6500	N/A	N/A
2.	Magadh University	20000	16000	N/A	N/A

Patna University Central Library

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Library is the Central Library of Patna University. The library was established in 1919 and renamed in 1995 to honor Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. At present the library is serving all its users with a wide range of learning and research materials. The library holds approximately 4,00,000 books, along with national and international journals, rare manuscripts, and research theses. The Library has a special collection of law, science, literature, social sciences, and the history and culture of Bihar.

To keep pace with modern demands, the library has embraced digitization by offering e-resources, such as e-books, e-journals, and databases like JSTOR, INFLIBNET, and NLIST. It
also provides digital archives and research publications, ensuring access to global knowledge. Facilities include spacious reading rooms, lending services, reprographic services (photocopying, scanning, and printing), and internet access with Wi-Fi-enabled computer terminals.

Library is putting all its efforts to automate the collection and services, including online public access cataloguing and the implementation of RFID systems for automated book circulation. These initiatives aim to enhance user convenience and improve the management of resources.

Despite its significance, the library faces challenges such as limited space for its growing collection and the need for more advanced digital infrastructure. Plans for the future include expanding digital services, preserving rare manuscripts through digitization, and collaborating with other institutions for resource sharing.

The Patna University Central Library is not only a center for academic support but also a cultural repository, preserving the heritage of Bihar. Its ongoing modernization efforts and commitment to fostering learning make it an indispensable part of the university and a beacon of knowledge for the academic community.

Magadh University Central Library

The Magadh University Central Library, located in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, is a vital academic resource supporting the learning and research needs of students, faculty, and researchers. Established in 1962, the library serves as a hub of knowledge for one of Bihar's largest universities.

The library houses a collection of over 1,62,000 books, along with a range of journals, magazines, and newspapers. Its special holdings include rare manuscripts and documents of historical and cultural significance, particularly in areas like Buddhist studies, reflecting the heritage of Bodh Gaya. Additionally, it provides extensive resources in disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and management studies.

To keep pace with modern needs, the library offers digital resources like e-books, e-journals, and online databases, integrated with platforms like INFLIBNET for inter-library sharing. Facilities include reading rooms, lending services, reprographic services, and internet access through Wi-Fi and computer terminals.

The library has undertaken modernization efforts, including digitization and automation and institutional archives, with plans to implement RFID systems for automated processes. However, challenges such as space constraints and funding limitations persist. Future goals include expanding e-library facilities, digitizing rare manuscripts, and introducing advanced library management systems.

CONCLUSION

As per the findings of the study, both universities are playing a crucial role in imparting LIS education in Bihar. Both universities offer BLIS and MLIS courses and do not offer DLIS and Ph.D. course. The student intake capacity is higher in Magadh University. Both universities have been hired guest faculties to run the LIS courses. MLIS and BLIS fee is higher at Magadh University. Patna University Central Library has a larger collection (4,00,000+ resources) and emphasizes Bihar's cultural heritage. In contrast, Magadh University Central Library, holds 1,62,000 books, with a special focus on Buddhist studies reflecting Bodh Gaya's legacy. While Patna University's library is more extensive and historically rich, Magadh University's library highlights regional cultural significance. Both face challenges like space constraints but remain vital for fostering academic excellence.

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