



## Library It's Purposes and Social Concept.

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### ABSTRACT

In the old age, a library was regarded as a storehouse of books and the books were kept there for preservation only. The librarian was merely a caretaker or custodian of the books. The books were not suppose to be used by the common people, Only a few persons were having the approach to these books. The libraries tended to be passive and archival institutions. In modern times, the libraries have become social agencies.

Library is considered a product of society for its cultural advancement. Library not only conserves our culture, but also plays an important role in its dissemination. Modern library is regarded as service institution, its aim is to enable the users to make the most effective use of the resources and services of the libraries. Library is expected to convert potential readers into habitual users. A library is concerned with communication and dissemination of knowledge. Modern libraries are no longer mere depositories of all past, present and future knowledge but have become information orient.

**Keywords:** Social concept, library, information, education, institutions

### I. DEFINITION

The work Library has been derived from Latin's word Libraria, Libraria is the name of that place where book. other printed and written material is Kept safely. Thus a library is an organised collection of books and other information materials covering the whole field of knowledge or any part of it: library may be available to everyone or restricted to a particular community. (Lexicon Universal Encyclopaedia, V12, 1983 Pp. 374-75).

A glossary of library and information science has defined library as "a collection of materials organised to provide physical bibliographic and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff that is trained to provide services and programmes related to the information needs of the target group." According to New Oxford Dictionary a library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of a collection of books and the duty of making them

accessible to those who require the use of them. Dr. Ranganathan in his lecture on the topic 'Salesmanship & Librarianship', delivered in 1933 at the All India Conference held at Calcutta published the importance of public relation and publicity in a library and suggested that the definition of the New Oxford Dictionary should be modified as under: "A library is a public institution or establishment charged with the care of collection of books. The duty of making them accessible to those who require the use of them and the task of converting every person in its neighbourhood into a habitual library "goer and reader of books." Thus a library is considered as a public institution and this is the concept of a modern library.

A modern library acquires material, processes it, and makes it available for use rather than preservation. To provide services to the users it allows open access to its collection. It converts potential users into habitual users, who is to a library regularly and use the library as a matter of habit.

### II. PURPOSE

The story of human civilization tells us that libraries have been an essential part of civilized society. Libraries came into being to serve the masses of the society. The purpose of the library is to provide reading and other materials for intellectual growth of all members of society, Its aims are social and democratic for society oriented. Its purpose is to develop political, economic and cultural life of the society. The library is concerned with communication of knowledge and it keeps in communication of knowledge by providing repackaged information through its friendly devices.

The purpose of the library is:

To provide life-long self-education.

To collect and organise documents to one and all information on all subjects including local, national and international affairs to serve political, social and economic welfare of the society.

Preservation of documents

Preservation of cultural heritage

Recreational reading

Proper use of leisure

Advancement of culture



Formal education  
Support to scholarship  
Laboratory for study and research.

### III. SOCIAL CONCEPT

Libraries play an important role in the overall development of society. Gerald Johnson says about public library services "The Quickest and the easiest access to the world's best thought is through public library." Library is a place where the graphic acoustic and holistic materials are housed in an organised manner for the use of one and all. Since a library possesses the following qualities, therefore, it is considered as a social organisation:

Social origin and development  
Social objectives  
Quality of adaptation to social order

Modern library become the centre for study and social activities. Today, libraries of all countries are functioning as social centre by providing services Such as organising lectures, dramatic presentations, exhibitions, competitions and reaching people through book mobilises libraries are maintained at various levels i.e. National, State, District, Municipal and village level etc.

The objectives of libraries are social and democratic i.e society oriented libraries are absolutely necessary for society.

Origin, development, objectives, services and functions of library reveal that library is a social organisation.

Types of Libraries:

Parry Committee on libraries talked about six types of libraries e.g

National Libraries;

Special Libraries;

Public Libraries

Libraries in institution of higher education other than universities;

Libraries of ecclesiastic foundations; and  
University libraries;

Libraries of ecclesiastic institutions may be grouped together with special libraries.

Thus libraries can be grouped under the following four categories: Public Libraries e.g. Village Libraries, Municipal Libraries, District Libraries and State Central Libraries

1 Special Libraries e.g. Libraries of Ministers of Labour, Finance, Commerce, Parliament and NDRI Library etc.

2 Academic Libraries (e.g. School Libraries, College and University Libraries).

National Libraries e.g. British Library, Library of Congress (US), National Library of India (Calcutta) etc.

It facilitates informal education of all people in the community.

It meets the information need of all.

It supports the educational, civil and cultural activities of groups and organisations.

It encourages wholesome recreation and constructive use of leisure time.

It helps in formal education also.

The above functions are material providing functions of a public library. Following are the service functions of a public library.

Issue of documents

Inter-library loan

To provide guidance to readers in locating and using the documents of their interest.

To promote the use of library by publishing the library services, inviting people and approach the people door to door.

To provide Readers' advisory service  
Compilation of bibliographies

Referral Service

Library orientation and bibliographic instructions.

To serve as a social, cultural and intellectual power house for the community, it employs efficient ways of information retrieval e-g. extension activities local festivals and book exhibitions etc

It is a centre for adult education, recreation and strengthening the democracy.

### IV. CONCLUSION

In sum up, we can say that libraries have been an essential part of civilized society. Libraries came into being to serve the masses of the society. Libraries play an important role in the overall development of society. It is considered as a social organisation. It collect and organise documents to one and all information on all subjects including local, national and international affairs to serve political, social and economic welfare of the society. A public library performs the functions for information, Education, Recreation, Entertainment and Inspiration.

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