

S. R. RANGANATHAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Siyali Ramamrita Ranganathan was a mathematician and famous library information scientist of our country. S.R.R. has extensively contributed to the policy, planning, formation and betterment of scientific and technical tools and programmes for the growth of library science in India. He is known and remembered as the 'Father of Library Science in India' and is extensively known throughout the rest of the world for his essential work in the field of library and Information Science in his honour, India Celebrates S.R.R. Birthday as the National Library Day. Library Professionals have a good time SRR Birth anniversary on any of the days declining between 9-12 August every year. A variety of events, meetings, Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, symposium etc. Are held to honour this day and keep in mind his Contributions to librarianship.

KEYWORDS:

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

Libraries plays an essential role in the enlargement of our country S.R. Ranganathan, who is known as “Father of Library Science in India” was the first person one who acknowledged the actual require of libraries and library science education in our country.

India celebrates August 12 as Librarians Day in his honour.

BORN	9 August 1892 Officially 12 August 1892	Shiyali, British India (Present day TamilNadu, India)
DIED	27 September 1972	(aged 80) Bangalore, India
Wife:	Rukmini Sarada Ranganathan	Married in 1907 Married in 1929
Son:	Yogeswar	born in 1932

Sarada Ranganathan Endowment trust for Library Science founded by Ranganathan in honour of his wife.

Dr. S.R.R. was born on August 9, 1892 to Ramamirtam Iyer and Sita Lakshmi Ammal at Shiyali (Present Sirkazhi). His primary education started at Sabhanayaka Mudaliar’s Hindu High School in Shiyali. He took up his B.A. in 1913 at Madras Christian College an later M.A. (Mathematics) at Presidency College, Madras in 1916. His teaching profession started with the Government Arts College. Mangalore in 1917 and then he connected Presidency College in 1921. He taught Mathematics and Physics.

In January 1924 Dr. S.R.R. left Presidency College and took charge of the Madras University Library as University Librarian. He left for England in September 1925 to get trained in librarianship and completed a six month certificate course in library science. During this time he visited various libraries and he found that the system of classification cataloguing etc. Was not scientific and there was a wonderful scope for the improvement in Library Science.

On his return from London in 1925 he took instant steps to reorganize the University Library to create a centre of attention more readers and classified its contents on scientific basis. Dr. S.R.R. has written on approximately all aspects of Library Science such as Library Administration, Classification, and Cataloguing etc. He developed the idea of Librametry that is application of statistics to Library Science.

He going ahead the Library Science Department in the year 1931 at Madras University Because of Dr. S.R.R. interest Madras became the first state in our country to perform the Madras Public Library Act and he positive the UNESCO to establish and Documentation Centre in New Delhi.

Dr. S.R.R. was later invited to Banaras University and Delhi University. He was a Professor of Library Science in Delhi University beginning 1947 to 1955. He was Chairman of the UGC Library Commission and Started DRTC (Documentation Research and Training Centre) at Bangalore to encourage the research activities in the field of Library and Information Science. He died on September 27, 1972. The best way to keep in mind Dr. S.R.R. is to publish good books, start well- equipped libraries in schools and also popularise the library movement in rural areas.

CONTRIBUTION

THE FIVE LAWS OF LIBRARY SCIENCE- Published in 1931

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his Book.
3. Every Book its Reader.
4. Save the Time of the Reader
5. A Library is a Growing Organism

COLON CLASSIFICATION-PUBLISHED IN 1933

The colon classification its essential principles, have need of the analysis of a subject to resolve its various aspects called facts and the synthesis of a class number from the numbers assigned in published schedules to different facets. Colon classification is known as an analytic- synthetic classification system. Ranganathan was the first to fully explain facet theory and his work has had a major impact on modern classifications schemes. The name CC comes from makes use of colon: to divide the facets Personality, Matter, Energy, Space, and Time (PMEST). Colon Classification was planned from 1924 to 1928 and was first published in 1933 by the Madras Library Association. 6th edition was the previous one to be published when he was alive and is considered most accepted. SRR published a preview of the planned 7th edition in 1969 but sadly passed away in 1972 before 7th edition was published. The work of amendment of scheme was undertaken by SRR's Associates under Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science (SRELS) and revised 7th edition was brought out in 1987 but unfortunately it was not a complete edition as it had no index.

CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE CODE- PUBLISHED IN 1934

After the colon classification came out, Ranganathan published an additional important work, the Classified Catalogue Code. Ranganathan maintained, catalogue should consist of two components:

One Part should be classified by subject, reflecting the library classification system, with class number entries The other should be dictionary catalogue, including author, title, Series and similar identifiers, as well as alphabetized subject entries. The purpose of a catalogue is to itemize works so they can be found by author, title, Series entry.

CHAIN INDEXING- Published In 1934

Ranganathan devised an ingeniously Simple method called Chain Indexing. This method simply uses each facet of a subject together with its immediately preceding facets, as an index entry. All important aspects of the subject, from the most general to the most definite are automatically covered. Chain Indexing can be modified to other classification systems as well.

PUBLICATIONS

FAMOUS BOOKS

S.No.	Famous Book	Year
1.	Five Laws of Library Science	1931
2.	Colon Classification	1933
3.	Classified Catalogue Code	1934
4.	Library Administration	1935
5.	Prolegomena to Library Classification	1937 Ed. 3- 1967
6.	Theory of the Library Catalogue	1938
7.	Reference Service and Bibliography	1940
8.	Library Classification : Fundamentals and Procedure	1944
9.	Elements of Library Classification	1945
10.	Classification of Marathi Literature	1945
11.	Organisation of libraries in India	1946
12.	Classification and International Documentation	1948
13.	Classification, Coding and Machinery for Search	1950
14.	Headings and Canons	1950
15.	Library Manual	1951
16.	Classification and Communication	1951
17.	Philosophy of Library Classification	1951
18.	Library Book Selection	1952
19.	Depth Classification	1953
20.	Documentation and its facets	1963
21.	Glossary of Classification Terms	1964
22.	Descriptive account of Colon Classification	1967
23.	Documentation :Genesis and Development	1972
24.	Public Library System : India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, U.K., U.S.A.	1972

EDITED OF BOOKS

Social Science research and Libraries- 1960

Documentation and its Facets-1963

Ranganathan' works on classification and Cataloguing are his best acknowledged contributions; he published over 50 Books and 1000 Papers on all aspects.

He founded and edited periodicals:

1. The Library Association Annals Bulletin and Granthalaya (The Hindi component of the Journals)
2. The Annals of Library Science
3. Library Science with a Slant to Documentation

EDITED OF FOLLOWING JOURNALS

1. Abigila -Indian Library Association-1949-53
2. Annals of Library Science -1954-63
3. Library Science with a Slant to Documentation- 1964-72
4. Libra –Associate Editor- 1951
5. Modern Librarian –Editorial Board -1937-47
6. Indian Librarian - 1947
7. Madras Library Association- Conducted Memoirs – 1939-1944
8. American Documentation – 1959

CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARY SCIENCE EDUCATION

First achievements in 1929 were to found a library school that was afterwards included into the University of Madras. He also instituted a Master of Library Science Degree in 1948 and a Doctoral program in 1950 both the University of Delhi. These were the initial higher degree programs in Library Science accessible in India and almost certainly in any of the Commonwealth Countries. Ranganathan to a great extent influenced the curricula and textbooks for such courses.

Ranganathan achievement in library education was to found the Documentation Research and Training Centre at Bangalore, (1962) under the support of the Indian Statistical Institute. The centre is dedicated solely to research and advanced training in documentation and information science. Ever since his return from England, Ranganathan had hoped to establish a Western- Style network of Public Libraries throughout India. His first step toward achieving this end was to form the Madras library Association in 1928. To support development of public libraries in the state of Madras. He also drafted precise legislation to make longer the public library system beyond the state of Madras into other areas of India. In 1950 he published an important work detailing plans for a system of national, state university Public and School Libraries for the entire country.

COMMITMENT TO LIBRARY SCIENCE

Ranganathan activity level throughout his lifetime reflects a total selfless commitment to library science. When he retired from the Madras University library. It was only to accept a series of appointments at other Indian Universities and to step up his involvement in international activities. He remained actively engaged in research until his death in 1972 at the age of 80. Ranganathan is extensively acknowledged as the father of Library Science in India. His activities extended well beyond his country's borders.

In addition to attending many international library and information science conferences he travelled extensively on lecture tours to library science schools throughout the US and Europe. He also participated in the performance of International organizations as UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations and the International Standards Organization. He played a key role in setting policy for the United Nations Library and he devoted much effort to international Standardization of documentation. In the course of his career he was a member of chairman of more than 25 committees which addressed such issues as library administration, education of librarians and library legislation.

CAREER

Ranganathan supposed several important offices in India during his long career. He served as president of the Indian Library Association from 1944 to 1953 and as president of Madras Library Association from 1958 to 1967. He also serves as vice president of the Governing Council of the Indian Standards Institute from 1965 to 1972. Although Ranganathan is extensively known as the father of library Science in India. His performance Extended well beyond his country's borders. In accumulation to attending many international library and information science conferences. He travelled extensively on lecture tours to library science schools throughout the US and Europe.

He performs a key role in setting policy for the United Nations Library and he devoted much effort to international Standardization of documentation. He was mostly active in the International Federation for Documentation (FID).

He founded the FI Committee on classification theory, served as vice president of the FID council and was elected an honorary member of FID. He also became honorary chairman of the FID committee on classification research.

HONOURS RECEIVED

Ranganathan's involvement were acknowledged 1964, he was named honorary president of the second international Conference on Classification Research in Elsinore, Denmark. He also received a number of other high honours. In 1935 and 1957 respectively the Indian government bestowed on him the honorific title Rao Sahib and the Public service award Padmashri. In 1948 he received an honorary doctorate of literature from the University of Delhi.

He received the similar degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1964. He was made a national research professor by the Indian government in 1965 and he received the Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloguing and Classification of the American Library Association (ALA) in 1970. After his death the FID in 1976 established the Ranganathan award in his memory. This official document of merit is awarded twice-yearly for a recent outstanding contribution in the field of classification.

BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

S. No.	Formed		Year
1.	Madras Library Association	Founder Secretary	1928
2	Envisioned India's First Bookmobile Proposed using name (Librachine) (1962)	1962 SRR proposed using a Librachine	1931
3	Indian Library Association	President till 1953 and first Life member of ILA	1933
4	Virginia Bibliographic Society	Honorary Fellow	1951
5	FID/CA (Committee on General Theory of Classification of the International Federation for Documentation	Rapporteur- general,	1951-61
6	Classification Research Group (CRG)		1952
4.	Delhi Library Association	Patron	1954
5.	Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers (IASLIC)	Honorary Member	1956
6.	Padmashree, Government of India		1957
7.	Research and Writing in Zurich		1954-57
8.	Library Association (London)	Honorary Vice- President	1957
9.	International Federation for Documentation	Honorary Fellow,	1957
10.	Mysore Library Association, Bangalore	Founder- Patron,	1962
11.)Committee of the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi	Chairman of Documentation Sectional	1947-66
12.	Indian Standards Institution (ISI)	Honorary Fellow	1967
13.	Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloguing and Classification from the American Library Association (ALA)		1970
14.	Mark Twain Society, USA	Grand Knight of Peace	1971
15.	FID	established the Ranganathan award in his memory for outstanding contribution in the field of classification	1976
16.	Philately Division, Department of Post, Government of India,	released a Postal Stamp in SRR Honour at the official Opening of IFLA General Conference	1992

LIFE STYLE

His great capability for work, Ranganathan was renowned for his self-disciplined life-style. In spite of the good salary he earned. H adopted a Gandhi- like simplicity in diet and dress. He ate only lightly, shunned coffee and tea and wore plain homespun garments. He usually walked barefoot to the library and worked there barefoot saying that the library was his home and no one wears shoes in his own home.

In 1925 to award a mathematics fellowship at Madras Christian College in tribute of his mathematics professor Edward B. Ross and in 1956 to award the Sarada Ranganathan chair of library science at the University of Madras in honour of his wife.

He determined his whole body, mind and soul on the discipline of library science so they felt he had embraced it as a path to spiritual perfection.

NUMEROUS QUTOES

Eric De Glorier “Ranganathan was the guru of all of us.”

Jesse Shera “That one cannot properly judge the work of S.R. Ranganathan without referencing to the totality of librarianship is a tribute to the breadth and depth of his contribution to the profession.

WCB Sayers “He is father of Library Science in India. His reputation as a librarian extends far beyond the borders of his own country and his opinion and advice are valued in all lands where libraries are held in honour.”

S. Das Gupta “He had turned library education into an intellectual discipline and lifted it above the levels of simple skills.”

ALA “Your words are the words of Anglo- American, but your languages is of East, ideas are universal. Answers challenge of future. Most of us are your disciples, all of us are your students..... we are proud to be your debt.”

All are remember Dr. S.R. Ranganathan who is the father of LIS profession in India today and every day.

Librarians of today have indistinct awareness of this great personality. We only remember him every August when we pay flower-patterned tributes as a sign of our respect. But we need to understand that Librarianship is at this period only because of hard work of SRR and many more such luminaries of our profession before SRR libraries were only repositories and librarians were untrained custodians. It was SRR who gave direction and propelled Indian Librarianship and his views on libraries and librarianship are significant and relevant even today.

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