

Ranganathan Birth Centenary Monograph

**PADAMSHREE S. R. RANGANATHAN—A CREATIVE GENIUS
AND AN INTELLECTUAL PAR EXCELLENCE**

By

G. L. TREHAN, GIRJA KUMAR & OTHERS



Dr. S. R. Ranganathan

Transcending Time and Space his works shall ever live
And his profound thoughts have lingering fragrance to give.

G. L. TREHAN

RANGANATHAN SMRITI

SOME PROFOUND THOUGHTS OF RANGANATHAN

Librarianship An Intellectual Profession

Librarianship is an intellectual profession. Joy is derived in the profession not merely through money but also through the full occupation of oneself in the discharge of one's duties without correlating money and work at every moment.

Function of the Library

To collect, organise and serve exactly and expeditiously all recorded knowledge is the function of the library.

Social Purpose of the Library

The library itself is a social institution charged with a set of social duties. These duties centre on one social purpose. That purpose is the activation of the human mind by the transmission of thought-energy across both time and place.

Status of Library Personnel

Status of any body is taken and not given by some body else. So, it is with the library personnel. It requires efforts—not effort of force but the effort of establishing the usefulness of the profession to the society.

Personal Service as the very life of a Library

A library is a collection of books kept for use. Librarianship then is connecting a user and a book. Hence the very life of a library is in the personal service given to the people.

Reference Service

Reference Service is an integral part of University teaching for all students which University and College Librarian should give to them. It is one of the means of self-education.

Classification and Communication

Classification can illuminate the field of knowledge; it can be prophetic.

CLSC Eminent Indian Librarian's Study Monograph

**Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan—A Creative Genius and
An Intellectual Par Excellence**

by

G. L. Trehan, Girja Kumar and others

WITH A FOREWORD

by

K. M. UJLAMBKAR

Director of Libraries (Retired)

President, Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan

Smarak Samiti, Pune, (Maharashtra)

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FOREWORD

The Library profession has produced a galaxy of great minds, who have raised the status of the profession to greater heights in the eyes of the library world by their seminal and unique contributions. Among these seminal minds is the name of Padmashree Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, Father of Library Movement and Library Science in India.

The grateful library profession owes it a duty to remember this genius in the field of Library and Information Science and to pay homage to his intellectual calibre and seminal contributions individually and collectively by celebrating his birth centenary as an occasion for the promotion of Libraries, Learning, Literature and Information. As rightly put in by Shri G. L. Trehan in this Monograph, our leading library luminary Dr. S. R. Ranganathan was an intellectual giant and a creative genius. This Monograph is a valuable addition to our growing library literature on our library savant Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan.

K. M. UJLAMBKAR

President,

Padmashri S. R. Ranganathan Smarak Samiti

11 Pramodhan, 242-B, Shukrawar Peth,

Pune 411 002

PROLOGUE

During the Birth Centenary Year 1992 of Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan, the library profession remembered our library savant. His mind on various aspects of librarianship is reflected in his "Five Laws of Library Science" and his other classic works. As rightly put in by late S. R. Bhatia, Editor, Indian Librarian, who had felt it by so long contact with him, "the strength he had lent us came from not so much on the way of his skill and competence as an expert and not at all in the way of duty but it came out of the man himself and of the vision and imagination through which he saw the work out of his faith in selflessness and his courage to stand for righteousness".

As a result of my intimate contact with Ranganathan through correspondence and indepth study of his classic works, I consider our library savant a creative genius, a great library thinker, writer and doer. He, in his revised edition of Five Laws of Library Science (1957), indicated that "there can be an art of librarianship as well as library science". I look back with satisfaction the immense pleasure and benefit I derived and encouragement I received from him in my library and literary pursuits. I have learnt from him more of library science, library service and librarianship than I would have learnt from a library school.

Chandgairh Library Study Circle celebrated Ranganathan's Birth Centenary by associating with Chandigarh Librarians' Association at a function organized by it at the Central State Library, Chandigarh, on November 26, 1992 and by publishing this write-up for study by younger generation of librarians and teachers of Library Science with care and interest. To provide more knowledge about Ranganathan in this write-up I have included a learned article entitled, "S. R. Ranganathan--An Intellectual Par Excellence" by Girja Kumar, former Librarian, Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi and articles by P.A. Mohan Rajan, Librarian, Madras University Library, and Dr. M.P. Satija, Department of Library Science, G.N.D. University, Amritsar, as well as an article on intimate study of some Facets of Ranganathan's personality by Dr. D. B. Krishna Rao, a write-up by our well-known Ranganathan Scholar, and Prof.P.N. Kaula on

Ranganathan as Library scientist and Benefactor for which I express my gratitude to them. I suggest that a book called "Ranganathan Smriti" should be compiled by a Ranganathan scholar containing precepts of Ranganathan like Manu Smriti (Code of Manu). I thank G.S. Thakur, Asisstant Librarian, Punjab University Library and Convenor, Chandigarh Library Study Circle, for assisting me in this write-up. I am indebted to K.M. Ujlambkar for his Foreword.

An Appeal to the younger generation of Librarians

I appeal to our members of the library profession, especially the younger generation, to celebrate Ranganathan Jayanti every year on August 12 and remember our library savant's words :—

"May young librarians' outlook be vast and not narrow. May they be activated by the desire to achieve something big and of lasting good to the country and not money by what money or power can be grasped by them with least professional efforts."

PRAYER

I pray Almighty and Benevolent God to give me at the fag end of my life good health, strength and resources to continue my writing work on library, learning and literature for the uplift of the library profession and to lead me from darkness to light for completing my writing projects in hand before I leave this good earth.

1359, Sector 15-B,
Chandigarh-160015.

G.L. Trehan



Ranganathan Jayanti

S. R. Ranganathan A Creative Genius

1. SHIYALI RAMAMRITA RANGANATHAN was born on
auspicious day
That is, August 12, 1892, a very HAPPY BIRTH DAY.
How he became a creative genius and a seer
And great thinker and doer may be told here.
2. In 1917 Ranganathan became lecturer in a Madras College
And though still young he showed worth and knowledge.
He taught Mathematics for six years, so fine
But his mind was not set on that very line.
3. He switched on to librarianship in the year 1923
When Madras Varsity appointed him to hold the key.
He felt bore in the library as he had little work to do
And number of readers using the library was too few.
4. In 1924, Ranganathan was sent abroad for training's sake
And Library School of London Varsity he joined in the wake.
Berwick Sayers, the great teacher, was there to teach
And he inspired Ranganathan for his level to reach.
5. He finished Theory in just two months' time so to say
And did apprentice work in Croydon Public Library so gay.
He visited about 100 libraries in country up and down
And found library practice differed from town to town.
6. In late 1928 Ranganathan felt a great urge in mind
For conceiving normative principles yet to be defined.
One evening he sat alone in the library much depressed
And he put aside his work, his mind being so obsessed.
7. Then his friend Professor Ross made his call with smiling face
But he sensed at once in Ranganathan's mind no peace to trace.
Ranganathan shared his struggle with Ross on problem involved
And also sought 'light' on the question to be solved.

8. "You mean books are for use", Ross exclaimed
And "This is your first law", he so named.
Ho "this stroke of intuition relieved Ranganathan a lot
But Ross didn't wait there for what Ranganathan thought.
9. As "Eureka" said Archmedes, so Ranganathan declared his law,
"Books are for use" as the first law without flaw.
Other laws came with ease and he did perceive
To enunciate them one by one on that eve.
10. "Every reader his book" was the second law he deduced
And that followed aptly the first law he produced.
The third law that came was "Every book its reader"
And the fourth law was "Save the time of the reader".
11. "Library is a growing organism" was the fifth law he defined
And these five laws of library science are for librarians to mind.
From these laws Ranganathan made deductions that night
And spent over three hours to put them in black and white.
12. Ranganathan exposed these laws to library school set up there
That library practice is not a matter of rule of thumb to be fair.
We bow our heads to Ranganathan, a great seer,
Who like Manu, the ancient law-giver, is a leader without peer.
13. These laws have invaded every library, great or small so fast
That unrelated library practices are now things of the past.
No library is now left without these laws' impact
And to get 'Free Book Service For All' is the aim in fact.
14. The Five Laws of Library Science' came out in 1931 in book form,
Which Madras Library Association published with charm.
Here is a book that all young librarians must read
For an inspiration to serve readers in libraries indeed.
15. Ranganathan was a genius who created these laws
For librarians to use with profit and without pause.
Librarians may come and librarians may go my dear
But these laws will live for ever without any fear.

16. Use of Dewey Decimal Classification scheme he saw
And he found classifiers tinkering with it to remove flaw,
He felt sore and began to think over the matter a lot
And questioned, "What is the reason for all this rot?"
17. An eclectic system of library economy in his mind grew
And the Vedic thought of "one in many" furnished clue
The concept of Five Fundamental Categories came to his mind
And the canons of classification to apply he then designed.
18. Synthetic or Mecanno Principle was the first one he hit upon
And this he applied to structure of system to be built upon,
He chose letters of alphabet and numerals as its base
And also double dot for colon to take decimal's place.
19. Mixed Notation for numbering of classes in array he did devise
And also artificial language of ordinal numbers to mechanise.
With these devices he made lists of specific subjects
sequencewise.
And it's now Analytico Synthetic Scheme to be precise.
20. At Madras University Library he put Colon Classification to test
And started classifying books in library without rest.
Many hurdles in classifying books came in his way
But he stuck to his guns and at last won the day.
21. Later on, he hit seven other devices to clear the deck
And these worked wonders and proved a real check.
He felt elated when everything arranged itself so nice,
That he handled and manipulated the scheme in a trice.
22. His Prolegomena To Library Classification is a classic indeed
As it provides dynamic theory of library classification to heed.
In 1967, 7th Edition of CC came out to read
Faceted approach as basis information retrieval System to feed.
23. Ranganathan was a creative artist of idea units to know,
As the Personality, Matter, Energy, space and Time categories
show.
His education in Mathematics and innate specialisation was
source
That disclosed beauty, balance, harmony and symetry of course.

24. Ranganathan developed discipline of Library Science in big way
And made it a peer among scientific disciplines, so to say.
He introduced creative Education for students, as gear
And used Discussion Method after lectures, to clear.
25. Ranganathan endowed one lakh to Madras University without
pause
For advanced studies in library science, a noble cause.
In this way, he became our little Carnegie of the East
For his benefaction to University to serve as zeal.
26. In early sixties Ranganathan became Professor, DRTC, in name
Where he also did research on Documentation with acclaim.
Library Experts were there to train and guide
Students admitted from places far and wide.
27. DRTC trained many documentalists badly in need
And eminent teachers there did research work indeed.
Sarda Ranganathan Endowment lectures were organised with
care
Where eminent library scientists came to speak with flair.
28. Research in Progress papers were produced in discrete
To yield good results when discussed at seminar's meet
Ranganathan's appointment as National Research Professor was
an Award
That he himself considered it as '*Lee/a* of the Lord.'
29. Ranganathan edited a book on Public Library System, my Pal
For promoting FREE BOOK SERVICE FOR ONE AND ALL
His last monumental work that later on did appear
Was "Documentation : Genesis and Development", my dear.
30. September 27, 1972 was the last day of his life
When Ranganathan passed away leaving his son and wife.
Real Librarian, Library Scientist, Professor and an ideal man;
His intellect moulded us, and he lived purposeful life span.
31. Father of Library Science as every Librarian knows;
His glory can't fade for centuries as profession grows.
Ranganathan attained *Moksha*, that is, a liberated soul,
That merged with Supreme Spirit, being his goal.

32. 1992 is Ranganathan's birth cenertary year
To be celebrated by us all, my dear.
Ranganathan gave Five Laws of Library Science in need
And his first law revolutionised library outlook indeed.
33. Ranganathan was our modern library sage, we know,
Who moved up from South to North with go.
Like KAPIL and PANINI of ancient India's fame,
His classifying mind designed Colon Classification, to name.
34. A stream of books flowed from his facile pen
And hundreds of papers and articles also appeared then.
His Classified Catalogue Code influenced AACR to cap
That brought Library India on world's library map.
35. Ranganathan then faced library problems of the day
And he did solve them in a skillful way.
All this creative work he produced was sublime
That made him Creative Genius of the time.
36. Transcending Time and Space his works shall ever live
And his profound thoughts shall fragrance give.
Ranganathan's birth day falls on August 12, my dear;
Let us resolve to celebrate Ranganathan *Jayanti* every year.

G. L. Trehan

Chandigarh Library Study Circle,
1359, Sector 15-B, Chandigarh-160015.

A Tribute to Padamshree R.S. Ranganathan at his Birth Centenary 1992

Our leading library luminary Ranganathan gave us his "Five Laws of Library Science" and revolutionized world's library thought. He was a creative revolutionary librarian and a library scientist. He was an intellectual giant and a creative genius. He was moulded in triangular matrix composed of a library prophet, a humanist and a social scientist. He kept his profound dignity par excellence by assuming the attitude of a technocrat, a skilled person and a humanist. By adopting this attitude towards librarianship and preaching the gospel of work chastity he was able to attain self-realisation and correct the mental attitude of the people who did not understand the profession in its true perspective. As rightly put in by Late S. R. Bhatia, Editor, Indian Librarian, the strength he had came out of the man himself, out of the vision and imagination through which he saw the work, out of faith in righteousness and a courage to stand for righteousness. He made library history by doing continuous research work at D.R.T.C. Bangalore. The Government of India recognized his services and appointed him our first national Research Professor in Library Science in 1965. He lived upto his ideals and devoted a decade of his last phase of life (1962-1992) doing scientific research in the field of Documentation and Classification. Till his last days his energies were bent towards making people and the Government believe that "Books are for use" and there is urgent need for libraries to blow up ignorance, to stimulate the blossoming of personality of one and all and to spread enlightenment across the length and breadth of our Motherland.

G. L. Trehan

Looking Back

AT MY CONTACT WITH RANGANATHAN :--LINGERING FRAGRANCE

My initiation into librarianship

On return from foreign service under War Office, London, I was appointed Librarian of the Law Department of Punjab Government at Lahore in early 1946. I became member of Punjab Library Association and had my practical training in library procedure from the Panjab University Library, Lahore. I came in contact with Sant Ram Bhatia, Librarian, F. C. College, Lahore. In June 1946 Bhatia brought out the Indian Librarian and gave me a copy of its first issue. In that journal, the followidg Foreword by Rao Sahib S. R. Ranganathan appeared :

“Welcome Indian Librarian ! Play your part in renascent India. May you be blessed with all the vigour, harmony and wisdom necessary to serve our motherland To collect, organise and serve exactly and expeditiously all recorded thoughts is the function of the Library profession I believe that the creative work in Library Science has reached a level which justifies the addition of this organ. I bid it God speed.”

Study of Ranganathan's Works

These words of Ranganathan created in me an urge to know what librarianship and library science is and also to read the works of Ranganathan. Bhatia inculcated in me the modern art and craft of librarianship and library practice and initiated into me real love for the profession. He gave me three books wrlitten by Ranganathan, namely, Five Laws of Library Science, Library Administration and Colon Classification. He also gave Ranganathan's articles, Librarianship in Modern India, as published in the Modern Librarian, January 1943. I read through these books and the article. His books, Five Laws of Library Science and Library Administration were magnus opus to me, a new entrant to the library Profession. His Five Laws

of Library Science are greatest contribution to the library world. By formulating these fundamental laws of library science, he re-oriented the subject of Library Science in the philosophical outlook of India and helped us in elucidating and classifying the thought both in the general theory of administration and its application to the field of library science. His monumental work, Library Administration which laid down the details of the administration provided a handy manual for planning the work of library staff in each section of the library on functional basis and for the scientific management of the library. His Colon Classification was rather a tough subject for me to study.

On 15th August 1947, India became free and there was partition of Punjab. Ranganathan was much moved by the uprooting of librarians and the staff. He, as President of the Indian Library Association, issued a fervent appeal to Central Government and provincial governments to absorb the refugee-librarians in their offices. The appeal had the desired effect, as most of the refugee-librarians from West Punjab and East Bengal were absorbed in government offices in Delhi and other places in India.

Correspondence with Ranganathan

In the year 1952, I became member of Indian Library Association as well as of Library Association, London. After reading book on Colon Classification later on, I sought light from Ranganathan on the Genesis of Colon Classification through correspondence, as I could not go to attend the Hyderabad All India Library Conference in 1953 and meet personally Ranganathan. Ranganathan replied to my letters in the month of June 1966 promptly in which he explained the Genesis of Colon Classification which is a valuable document for study on the topic of classification.

Ranganathan's Reminiscences of Punjab Library World

Ranganathan was not unmindful of the great part played by eminent personalities of Punjab in promoting library movement in India during the year 1929-1947. So in the year 1966, which was Golden Jubilee Year of the Punjab Library Association, I requested Ranganathan for his message to Punjab Librarians. Ranganathan wrote on 14 June 1966 as under :

"Your request for the message was working in my mind. The result is some reminiscences of Punjab Librarians which are enclosed herewith for insertion in the Commemoration volume."

Ranganathan's experiences with some of his friends in the profession from Punjab are given in his reminiscences sent by him to me. He vividly and faithfully drew pen pictures of the stalwarts of library personalities of Punjab who came in personal contact with him during All-India Library Conferences held from time to time before 1947. The reminiscences relate to Dr. A. C. Woolner, Labhu Ram, K. M. Asadullah, S. R. Bhatia, Ram Lubhaya, Rattan Chand Manchanda, Fazal Elahi and V. P. Verma. The story of Ranganathan's meeting Dr. Woolner, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University Lahore in 1933 at Calcutta shows that Dr. Woolner acted as a loadstar to Ranganathan during his early years in the profession. (See Appendix).

RANGANATHAN AS NATIONAL RESEARCH PROFESSOR IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

In recognition of Ranganathan's services for doing research work in Documentation and Depth Classification at DRTC Bangalore, the Government of India appointed him National Research Professor in Library Science in the year 1965. In response to my letter to him on March 2, 1965 felicitating him on that occasion, he wrote me a letter on March 9, 1965 as under :

"Many thanks for the sentiments expressed in Para 1 of your letter of 2 March, 1965. The award is part of the *leela* (miracle) of the Lord. The same *leela* also gives the physical strength and the mental ability to justify the acceptance of the award. Its true value is only in the incentive it may give to the younger generation of our librarians to dedicate themselves to their work in libraries and to the pursuit of library science with zeal and abandonment in the hope that this would give them as good an opportunity in life to serve our Motherland as the pursuit of any other subject. Our Government is the first in the world to put the newly emerging library science on par with older disciplines. Our young librarian should feel encouraged by this to devote themselves whole-heartedly to the pursuit of the profession."

What an excellent expression of the working of the mind of Ranganathan! This should provide an incentive to the younger generation of the librarians to pursue the newly emerging discipline of library science in India with zeal and abandonment and to serve our Motherland.

First National Library Week and 1968 Book Festival of Punjab

As the nation's major institutional campaign for the promotion of books and readers I, as Secretary Punjab Library Association mooted the idea of celebrating every year National Library Week in Punjab in the meeting of the Central Library Committee of Punjab Government held on July 21, 1967. The Central Library Committee approved the proposal and the Punjab Library Association organized its First National Library Week and 1968 Book Festival of Punjab in collaboration with the Central Library Committee at Ludhiana from March 16, 1968 onwards. Ranganathan sent his greetings and best wishes to us all.

Symposium on Free Book Service for All at Bangalore

Early 'n April 1968, Ranganathan and M. R. Narsimha Ayenger, founder Secretary of the Mysore Library Association, conceived the idea of organizing a symposium on Free Book service for all. I, as one of the 28 contributors to that symposium, in my paper stated the story of development of Public Libraries in Punjab as under ;

"In 1916, the Punjab Library Association was founded by Asa Don Dickinson of the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., who came to organize library of Panjab University, Lahore. An All India Conference of Librarians was convened by the Government of India on the initiative taken by the Punjab Library Association. The Conference helped to impress upon the people, the librarians and the Government that there was a keen desire on the part of every one concerned to improve the condition of library service and make necessary provision for the purpose."

Library Legislation for Punjab

Several attempts were made by the Punjab Library Association to get Public Library Bill introduced in the State Legislature. In December, 1966 while inaugurating the 16th All India Library Conference at Chandigarh Dr. M. S. Randhawa, the patron of the Association stressed the need for enacting a Public Library Act without delay. Ranganathan in one of his letters to me advised me to redraft Punjab Public Library Bill on the lines of The Mysore Public Library Act, 1965, which was enacted after the report of a committee appointed by the Mysore Government under chairmanship

submitted in February 1963. After the reorganisation of the State in 1966 I, as Secretary of the Punjab Library Association submitted a fresh draft of Punjab Public Library Bill to the Central Library Committee in 1968. The Association again moved in the matter to the Education Department vide my letter dated 23-8-1980 to reconsider the case of Library Legislation and further suggested that the Government may first conduct a survey of existing library conditions in the State by appointing a Library Legislation Promotion Committee so that a workable piece of social legislation is brought on the Statute Book as early as possible.

Dream Conversation with Ranganathan

It was September 27, 1975, the Third Death Anniversary of Ranganathan that I thought of the nation's youth in the library profession leading rather listless and egoistic life and their general lack of intellectual integrity and work-chastity. That evening I had a dream conversation with our dear-departed leader Ranganathan. I posed a problem to him saying that most of the present day young librarians do not put into practice the Five Laws of Library Science and do not believe in work chastity. And the result is that the work of library service is at its low ebb. What should be done in this situation? Ranganathan said in reply, "I believe in committed library service that can provide effective use of the resource in the library. That kind of service must make the librarian connect the right reader with the right book in the library." On my question, "What about young men and women in the lower level of the profession?" Ranganathan said, "Our young men and women should give up the habit of being hangers on and psychopants, but they should do independent thinking and practise work-chastity. They should learn to command before they demand higher states." Ranganathan also gave advice in the matter of other problems facing the library profession.

A Visit to DRTC Bangalore

On return to Chandigarh from Library Study Tour of Canada and United State of America in January 1978, I visited Bangalore to attend All India Library Conference held there from 28th January to 1st February 1978, and to know how Ranganathan lived and worked at Madras and Bangalore and how he revolutionized

movement in India. I visited DRTC there and met M.A. Gopinath, Associate Professor there. He told me all about Ranganathan's life and work at DRTC during the year 1962-1972. He showed me personal collections of Ranganathan's correspondence with his students and librarians working in different parts of the country including my correspondence with him. I looked up and found there his papers of correspondence with me and other librarians in India and abroad. Copies of his letter in June 1966 to me giving Genesis of classification were also there. The spirit of Ranganathan still prevailed in that institution. That institution is an excellent example of Guru-Shishya (Teacher-Pupil) relationship, where a great research work on library science, documentation and classification being done by both the teachers and the taughts. On my way back home I met Prof. G. Bhattacharya at Madras in his office as Head of the Department of Library Science, Madras University, who previously worked for over a decade in DRTC Bangalore. He furnished his views about Ranganathan and his work in DRTC, as based on some experiences of his own as well as what he heard something from Ranganathan himself.

A WISH

In the year 1973 I contributed an article captioned 'Mind of Ranganathan' as well as a poem as my humble tribute to him for Ranganathan Memorial Number of Herald of Library Science April-July, 1973. In that article I suggested that one of our Ranganathan scholar should do well to cull out precepts of Ranganathan as contained in his Five Laws of Library Science and other classic works and prepare a treatise called Ranganathan Smriti to serve as a basic reference book on Precepts of Ranganathan. In the same way as our ancient law giver's treatise "Manu Smriti (Code of Manu) contains his precepts for the benefit of the whole Vedic community. Ranganathan himself quoted the following precept of Manu in his chapter on Second Law in Five Laws of Library Science :

To carry knowledge to the doors of those that lack it and to educate all to perceive the right ! Even to give away the whole earth cannot equal that form of service.

In the present set up of India, as a Republic under the Constitution of India, our country does not possess the rich economy like U.S.A., U.K. and Canada, and has the limited nature of the finances required

to provide EVERY PERSON HIS OR HER BOOK EVERY MOMENT. As such, Ranganathan has rightly given precept in his Five Laws of Science in the following words :

"Each community has to find by itself the finance necessary for the maintenance of a library. If it is lucky to have in its midst millionnaires who are guided by Carnegie's gospel of wealth, it may exempt many of its members from the contribution of their quota. If not, each member must put in its share and it is the business of the State to fix the levy and arrange for its collection."

Such a measure, it is hoped will provide ample means for carrying knowledge to all those who lack it and educating all by service of books to all. The above precept of Padamshree Ranganathan should form part of "Ranganathan Smriti". This Ranganathan Smriti will serve as Library Profession's basic Reference Book for consultation by the coming generation of librarians and teachers of library and information science.

Tribute Paid to Ranganathan at His First Death Anniversary

The Punjab Library Association convened a meeting of librarians in Chandigarh on the occasion of First Death Anniversary of Ranganathan in the Central State Library Chandigarh, on September 27, 1973. Late S. R. Bhatia President of the Association sent from Jalandhar his great tribute to be paid to Ranganathan at that meeting. I as Secretary of the Association read that tribute in the meeting which ran as under :

'I wish to make every one of you in the library service feel the truth, as I have felt it by so long contact with dear departed S. R. Ranganathan that the strength he had and lent us, came not so much in the way of his skill and competence as an expert and not at all in the way of duty, but it came out of the man himself, out of the vision and imagination through which he saw the work, out of his faith in righteousness and his courage to stand for righteousness. These are the attributes that call for admiration. But it was his warmth that endeared him and his kindness and his blessed sense of humour. Some day, if fates are kind enough, you who are young in the service

may come to know another expert and librarian like this, but I shall never look upon his like again."

Mrs. Rajinder Chopra, Librarian, Central State Library, Chandigarh, disclosed that she was student of Ranganathan in Delhi University and said that a milk of human kindness flowed in the heart of Ranganathan in as much as when he came to know from her that she experienced great difficulty in travelling by bus from a far off place where she was residing to reach Delhi University, he took personal interest in her and promptly got a seat allotted to her in a women's hostel in the University Campus as a special case. I, at the meeting eulogised the services of Dr. Ranganathan by saying that his Five Laws of Library Science have fundamentally changed the old concept of Librarianship. Ranganathan reviewed my book on Administration and Organization of School Libraries and wrote me a letter saying that the book will sell well the idea of school library. About my second book on Administration and Organisation of College Libraries, he complimented me and gave me good hints for preparing expressive Index and presentation of bibliography. I further said that by my more than 45 years of ramblings in the field of Library Science and Library Service and reading great thoughts of Ranganathan transmitted to me through his works and correspondence I look back with satisfaction the immense pleasure and benefit I derived and encouragement I received from him in my library and literary pursuits. I have learnt from him more of library science and librarianship than I would have learnt from a Library School.

Ranganathan on Distinctive Mission of Indian Librarianship for Vitalizing Library Service

Distinctive Mission of Indian Librarianship

When India became free on August 15, 1947, the days of *Mai Bap* Government (The British Government in India) were gone. The new democratic government in India and the provincial governments started making library development plans indigenous to Free India's aspirations and educational needs. At that time Ranganathan happened to work as Librarian, Delhi University Library. His coming to Delhi via Banaras Hindu University Library was a blessing in disguise to Library India in the North. The year 1948 was the year of renaissance of library movement in India. Ranganathan then drew up an excellent blue print of Library Development in India in its true perspective in his book entitled, "Library Development Plan with Draft Library Bill for the Province of Bombay". Ranganathan, being moulded in the Indian tradition of *Rishi* (Seer), gave us the following distinctive mission of Indian Librarianship :

If the library is made a vital force in India, she will be able to apply a much needed corrective to the library service in other lands. There the library is touching man only at the level of mind. It is unable to reach the spirit in him. The combined effect of an educational and library system, which exhausts itself in a peripheral intellectual sheath of man, makes a monster of him. We have had two demonstrations of this in a life time. This can be avoided only if the school and the library not only enriches the memory and sharpens the intellect but also sublimates the emotion and releases the inner spirit in man. The technique of making the inner spirit function had been forgotten in the West. But India remembers it ; India has still, amidst her millions, souls who are aware at the spiritual level and can manipulate from there the intellectual and material levels in all harmony and peace. The distinctive mission of Indian librarianship is to use these helps still preserved in the Indian tradition, and develop the proper technique of activating the spirit in man

and enrich the library profession all the world over by a knowledge and demonstration of this technique.

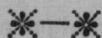
In view of the above stated Distinctive Mission of Indian Librarianship, Ranganathan was alive to the spiritual aspect of the personality of the Librarian which vitalizes library service. He, therefore, advised the librarians to activate the inner spirit so that the spirit in man functions for vitalizing the library service to users of the Library. In this context, he further observed :

The mind, if established in a state of activation is not exhausted much easier than the body--- the soul when activated knows no exhaustion. It is ever in ecstacy and it radiates.

It thus appears that Ranganathan attained *Moksha* (eternal bliss) by activating the inner spirit for vitalizing library service while serving the library profession during his lifetime.

Moksha and Library Profession

Ranganathan in 1944 came to Delhi from Madras at the invitation of Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, to give his lectures to students and teachers of Delhi University. His first lecture was on the topic of How to attain *Moksha* (eternal bliss) Ranganathan then observed : "Library service is most impersonal service and if someone does this service with devotion and pure heart, not thinking of colour, creed or religion, the rich or the poor and of the ideology of the patrons of the library, he does a real service, since there are no strings attached to his service. As the Great Men of the Past, always served humanity by the spirit of service and noble thoughts, they attained *Moksha* and lived for ages, even if they do not exist in the physical form. After all one's 'sharira' (body) will be destroyed one day by death but one's service to humanity is not destroyed, neither by time nor by any war or catastrophe that can happen in the world. So, what I mean by *Moksha* is that a librarian who serves his readers with spirit of selfless dedicated service and by practice of work chastity in the duties performed by him in the library attains *Moksha* (eternal bliss)".



Ranganathan As A Creative Genius, Library Thinker And Humanist

INTRODUCTION

According to the great German Scientist, Einstein, there is something so unique and distinct in men of science and they are so much different from others that it is difficult to follow how the machinery of their brain works and how the clock of their heart moves. What Einstein had said about men of science appears to be equally true about men of Library Science. Should an angel or God, as put in by Einstein, descends and drives from the Temple of Knowledge all those belonging to this category of men, it is feared that the temple would be nearly emptied. What led them to devote themselves to the work of dissemination of knowledge, it is difficult to say. It may perhaps be that they felt an inner urge to flee from their everyday life and thus to unshackle the chains of one's own transient desires. We cannot trace in their single span of life all the stages of human evolution through which they might have passed but they did become wizards of the show in their life time. Such was our Library Savant Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan. He was the foremost original thinker in Library Science, a creative genius and library scientist par excellence. As a man of Library Science he had a chrisma of his own and he performed miracles on the stage of librarianship as well as on the stage of the Department of Library Science in a University.

Ranganathan as a Creative Genins

Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan made library history in India in as much as he revolutionised library thought by formulating Five Laws of Library Science. He came into the field of librarianship by force of circumstances which offered itself when making a choice as a Librarian in British India at Madras. He was an intellectual giant, a scholar, a pattern maker, a protagonist of free book service for all through his classic works. He wielded a facile pen and wrote in a very racy style of his own. His subtle intellect and scholarship coupled with his mental and moral attitude of indomitable courage, dogged determination, work-chastity, humanism, spontaneous philanthropy,

absence of jealousy and preparedness to serve all made his life purposeful and dedicated to his own field of work which was library science and library service. He has, therefore, been given the epithet of **FATHER OF LIBRARY SCIENCE IN INDIA**. The profession of librarianship adopted by him proved a blessing in disguise to Library India. He turned library education into an intellectual discipline and spearheaded the discipline of library science in universities and made it a peer among other scientific disciplines. He set in motion a programme for doing systematic and continuous research in library science in an organised manner. In short, Ranganathan proved himself to be a creative genius, a foremost library thinker, doer and writer, as well as an intellectual par excellence.

Ranganathan As a Foremost Library Thinker

Ranganathan as a foremost creative Library Thinker of the world gave his philosophy of librarianship in his *Five Laws of Library Science*. He had multi-faceted and dynamic academic career and made a one-man library movement. Ranganathan's erudite enquiry into the universe of knowledge, the nature and growth of space and its division into several facets led to designing by him of a new scheme of classification named Colon Classification. He also designed a scheme of Book Numbers along with his Colon Classification which is more systematic and helpful than the available system of Cutter.

Ranganathan as a Humanist

Ranganathan was a humanist who practised *Manav Vad* (humanism). He considered it his duty to do good to others. He imparted his knowledge to those who were ignorant and helped the weaker to prosper in the Library Profession. He loved his country, loved humanity and transcended a stage further by living and doing good to all in the library world, both in the East and in the West, through selfless social service and creative work in the library Profession. Ranganathan advocated that the Reference Librarian should practise humanism by serving readers with sincerity and zeal and thereby humanize libraries and books for service to the patterns and users of the library. Ranganathan holds that reference service is the prepotent achievement of modern humanism of library service. The reference librarian as a humanist serves the intellect. In modern age knowledge has grown tremendously and has thrown a challenge to the library profession to humanize libraries and books for service to the patterns and users of the library.

Ranganathan as a Creative Writer

Introduction

Ranganathan had all the traits of a good writer as given in a Sanskrit verse which means, "He should be learned, a great speaker, a man of discipline, one who has all, that is the writer." With his facile pen which he wielded for over fifty years, he produced a library of his books exceeding sixty in number and a bumper crop of articles, research papers, speeches, addresses, messages, reviews and what not, during the period of over fifty years, and thus created a history on library literature in India.

Ranganathan's Corpus of Library Literature

Ranganathan had a sharp memory and narrated faithfully events in his life as a librarian unknown to many in his articles under the caption, "A Librarian Looks Back", serially published in the Herald of Library Science (1963-1972)) Ranganathan's library classics, five laws of library science, colon classification, Prolegomena to Library Classification and Classified Catalogue Code travelled West and brought India also on the map of the library world. As Milton said, "A good book is the life blood of a master spirit", Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science is the very soul of Ranganathan and can be said to be "one of the best testaments in the library".

About the book, 'Five Laws of Library Science'.

Ranganathan wrote his book, 'Five Laws of Library Science' in simple twentieth century English which clearly expressed his profound thoughts. He drew heavily from ancient Indian great books like Ramayana, the Upanishads and the Gita as well as writings of the modern age. This is his first book which is a classic, that is, widely read by all students and teachers of Library Science all over the English speaking world. This book is a unique contribution to the subject of library science in as much as it is more interesting than a thriller and more enlightening than any text book.

Ranganathan while dealing with his Second Law of Library Science, 'Every Reader his Book' in Chapter, "Second Law and its

Digvijaya", made a rapid survey of the modern library movement in America which was the first home of library movement and is now the land of the libraries as a result of much publicity, library conferences, expenditure and several subventions granted by the Carnegie Corporation for specific purposes. Ranganathan was distressed at the low growth of library movement in India and poignantly observed :

"If the original home of the modern Library Movement has need for such publicity, for so many conferences and for such an expenditure "to dispose the public mind to the founding and improvement of libraries," what should be the need for similar work in our own country, where the Library Movement is still only a name Such an atmosphere is not congenial to the growth of Library Movement. Relief can come, perhaps, only from the State. Once the prestige of State action clears the atmosphere, the Library Movement may get a chance to properly dispose the public mind and find its further good in the natural soil of public opinion."

In this book a reader finds answers to such questions as :

- (1) Why is so much money and labour expended in the provision and maintenance of Catalogues ?
- (2) Why classify ?
- (3) Why and how of book selection ?
- (4) Why in fact do we do any of the often complicated and seemingly pointless things to books in the library.
- (5) What are fundamental principles that should govern the planning and organization of libraries; and
- (6) What is the vital principle of the library ?

This book as published in its Second Edition in the year 1957 adds a new chapter on Scientific Method, Library Science and March of Digvijaya. In that chapter Ranganathan explains what is science and what is art ? While discussing method of study and mode of development of science, he indicated that, "There can be an art of librarianship as well as a Library Science" and that Science is the name given to a domain in the universe of knowledge, whose development is characterized by a method called 'Scientific Method'. He also gives a plan for teaching the discipline of Library Science and continuous research in Library Science.

Impact of Ranganathan's Writing

The impact of Ranganathan's writings as contained in Classified Catalogue Code and Chain Procedure was great on the western librarians and teachers of Library Science. In the revised A.A. Catalogue Rules published in 1967 many of the rules and principles as stated in Classified Catalogue Code are reflected in presentation of rules for choice and rendering, concept of author, conflict of authors, etc. In this context, the American Library Association on Ranganathan's 71st birth day in their message inter-alia said, "Your words are the words of the Anglo American but your language is the language of the East and your ideas are universal". In the words of Shri Rajagopalachari, "What Jawaharlal Nehru did in foreign relations to put India on the world's political map that Ranganathan has done to put India on the library map of the world.

Last Phase

During the last phase of his life, Ranganathan, when his bodily energy was much sapped and he had virtually gone blind, he still continued to do creative work by communicating with his students as much as possible. In spite of his failing health Ranganathan never accepted defeat and continued to make a master plan in his mind about the new shape of things to come in the world of Librarianship. Perhaps he was at that time thinking of restatement of his Five Laws of Library Science in the light of new trends in librarianship, as a result of knowledge explosion and information, technology and emerging discipline of information science. His 'Swan Song' was a tape recorded speech for the ceremony of unveiling the bust of Master Motilal at Shri Sanmati Puskatalaya, Jaipur, on 29th October, 1972. Unfortunately, Ranganathan passed away on September 27 1972 and the tape-recorded speech was handed over to Mr. A Neelamegham by the personal assistant of Ranganathan on the morning of 27th September, 1972.

At the fag end of his life's long journey Ranganathan's mind did not stop thinking of libraries and librarians, despite his ill health. He continued to serve the nation through his written words with clarity. At an All India Seminar on Public Library System held in Benglore in early 1972, he contributed a paper in which he made an optimistic note as under :

"I am fully convinced that our democracy the largest in the world

cannot give the full social value to our people unless the people literates as well as illiterates are fully furnished with an account of the current facts and theories about the development of democracies so that each can form his own judgement. The public library system is the only social institution discovered so far as capable of doing this work without an attempt to influence public opinion."

To fulfill his last wish expressed to Prof. P.N. Kaula in a letter, Kaula edited and published in 1972 Ranganathan's papers containing improved version of national plan for development of libraries in India, under the title, "National Grid of Public Library System of India," for bringing it to the notice of the Government of India, so that a net work of public libraries is established under a public library system by law in the remaining States in India.

The last monumental work of Ranganathan from his mighty pen is entitled, *Documentation : Genesis and Development* which was published posthumously by Vikas Publishing House, Delhi, in the year 1973. He in that book expressed a wish that there should be a band of documentation missionaries who should be persons wholly convinced about the need of documentation work and service in our developing country and who by the grace of Mahasaraswati abhor carelessness, negligence, indolence, shambled hasty and shuffling work, leaving off things undone or half-done.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing study of Ranganathan as a Writer, he can be called a creative genius, doer and writer of consequence who lived a full and purposeful life. He fully acted upon the precept in *Ishopnishad*, Hymn 2, which means :

"There is no call to foresake the world. On the contrary, the world is a direct challenge to the activities of man and self-realisation consists in play in life ?"

Transcending time and space his works shall ever live and his profound thoughts shall give fragrance to those who care to read them with interest.

RANGANATHAN IN ACTION AT DRTC AND WRITING WORK AT HOME

Ranganathan was a Karma Yogi. He believed in work and nothing but work. He was a man with a mission. He ate, drank, dreamt, thought and lived library science for initiating some project to further the cause of Library Science in our country. He nearly spent the whole day individually doing work for the betterment of library profession even in walks, trains and in office and at home. He always thought of his pet subject of librarianship, library science and library service as well as Library Movement and remained in perfect rhythmic response to the subject of his pursuit while working even at his own home, Ranganathan used to go out for morning walks regularly and discuss library problems with his students of DRTC who accompanied him just like Aristotle the Greek Philosopher and his disciples, who were in the habit of walking while discussing the fundamental problems of philosophy and science, as walking exercise appears to stimulate thoughts.

ILA Conference at Bangalore and my visit to DRTC

On my return to Chandigarh from my library study tour of Canada and United State on January 5, 1978, the All India Library Conference to be held at Bangalore from 28th January to 1st February 1978 attracted me to visit South India and to make a first-hand study of libraries, to meet eminent librarians there and to know how Ranganathan lived and worked at Madras and Bangalore and revolutionised librarianship in India.

At ILA conference held there Mr. Guru Dutt, former Director of Public Instruction, Mysore State spoke on the life and work of Ranganathan as under :

“Ranganathan was the pioneer who put India on the map of the library world. His five laws of Library Science are known the world over. He had travelled widely and left his impression wherever he went, not merely for his intellectual distinction but also for his humility, simplicity, and other human traits. I had the privilege of his close friendship during his years of retirement, when he had settled down at Bangalore. Dr. Ranganathan's classifying mind was rooted in an integral philosophy of life. At first sight, classification may look simple and even mechanical.

But at heart it is mystery. As Aristotle pointed out, it was the origin of all ordered knowledge of science."

I visited DRTC, Bangalore, in the company of P.S.G. Kumar, teacher of Library Science, Nagpur University's Department of Library Science, and Janak Raj, Librarian, Regional College of Engineering, Kurukshetra. P.S.G. Kumar also took me to the house where Dr. Ranganathan and his wife Sarada lived in Bangalore, I noticed that the words 'SARADA' were still seen there on the entrance wall of the house. Shree M.A. Gopinath, Associate Professor at D.R.T.C. took me to the office room of Late Ranganathan and showed me the cabinet in which personal collection of papers of correspondence that Ranganathan had with his disciples and admirers were preserved as in tact. That collection also contained my correspondence papers with Ranganathan, including a letter which Ranganathan wrote to me in March 1965 about his views on Genesis of Colon Classification, which is a valuable document.

On my way back to Chandigarh, I visited Madras University Library and met Professor Ganesh Bhattacharya, the-then Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Library Science in Madras University, who had previously worked with Ranganathan at DRTC, Bangalore, since 1965. I had rapport with him for his views on Ranganathan's work at DRTC and his writing work at home. He furnished his views about Ranganathan as a man, as based on some experiences of his own as well as what he heard something from Ranganathan himself, as under :

(i) Discussion of Academic and Professional Problems : Very often, students of and researchers in Library Science used to come to Ranganathan to discuss their academic and professional problems. Anyone coming with such a purpose was most welcome to him. If necessary, he would not mind to spend days with his guests. From the very beginning, he used to be very informal with them. He would first ask about professional life and then would give them a patient bearing of their problems, asking questions now and then for clarification. And then, he would come up with his solution. In all cases, his style of communicating solutions used to be admirably convincing. He had all respects for others' viewpoints. But he would never accept indisciplined imagination for scientific arguments. He would try his best very calmly to make his guest realize the falacies in his thinking. But not necessarily, that he succeeded in all cases.

(2) **NO COFFEE OR TEA TO VISITORS :** Ranganathan did not usually offer coffee or tea to any person coming to him to discuss academic or professional matters. He himself did not take coffee or tea. Members of the faculty of DRTC used to work with him for long hours. He used to treat them in the similar way. But Mrs. Ranganathan used to keep a watchful eye in this regard. For example, Bhattacharyya used to be offered coffee by her regularly. One day Ranganathan said jocularly, "I forget that people need coffee or tea to overcome their fatigue. This is a big disadvantage to work with an old person like me".

(3) **Note Books for Communicating Academic and Professional Matters :** Ranganathan used to say, "The chance of success in communication increases if it is put in writing". He introduced notebooks to communicate academic and professional matters to the members of the faculty of DRTC. He had a telephone by his side but he would not use it for such a purpose.

(4) **Writing work at Home :** Ranganathan used an ordinary wooden plank as a prop for writing many of his outstanding books and articles. The plank was some what deformed, perhaps because of the influence of changes of weather for many years. But Ranganathan was never agreeable to replace it or to accept a nice substitute for it from anybody. Here is an episode that Bhattacharya heard from Ranganathan himself: Ranganathan used to write his books at home. In Madras, he was living in Triplicane. The house he was living in had a small courtyard in front of the house. In the courtyard, there was a place specially made for the Tulsi plant. Ranganathan used to sit there on a charpai in hot summer days. He had a regularly paid stenographer, who used to take dictation from him sitting on another charpai. For some books he took professional assistants. For example, for the first edition of his book, "Reference Service", Volume I, Sundaram used to come to his house regularly to take the dictation. One day, Ranganathan told Sundaram to stay for a longer period than usual, as he wanted to finish the chapter he was dictating. Sundaram, as Ranganathan told, was perhaps very tired. He suddenly got irritated and told Ranganathan "I shall not be able to stay longer ; I am not a slave of yours". Ranganathan was not prepared for it. However, he also got annoyed but he did not express his annoyance outside. He told him calmly, "Please go. You need not come anymore". Sundaram left. After that, Dr. Rangana-

than himself completed the book working alone for several months. When the book was published, Sundaram found to his great surprise that Dr. Ranganathan had acknowledged his indebtedness to him by making him the joint-author of the book. He immediately ran to Ranganathan's room and begged his pardon.

(Vide my Rapport on my Library Study Tour of South India, In **INSIDE LIBRARY INDIA - North Meets South**, Chandigarh, Library Literature House, 1981. Professor Bhattacharya is now working as Professor and Head of DRTC Bangalore).

RANGANATHAN'S CONTINUOUS RESEARCH WORK

As National Research Professor in Library Science, Ranganathan continued doing research work concentrating on Documentation and Depth Classification as well as Classified Catalogue Code at DRTC in collaboration with Professor A. Neelameghan, Prof G. Bhattacharya and Shri M.A. Gopinath. Ranganathan made significant contribution in the area of Methodology of designing a code for cataloguing practice and Methodology for standardising of Bibliographic description by doing continuous research. He improved upon it continuously and laid the foundation of a rationalized synthesis of scattered items in Annual DRTC Seminars. These topics form an integral part of the syllabus of the D.R.T.C Course.

Sarada Ranganathan Endowment Lectures

Sarada Ranganathan Endowment Lectures : were delivered by eminent Library Scientists from 1965 onwards and these lectures were published in book form as under :

1. From Little Acrons : Library Profession in Britain by B I Palmer, 1965.
2. United Nations Family of Libraries by P.K. Garde, 1966.
3. Sociological Foundations of Librarianship by J.S. Shera 1967.
4. Development of the Theory of Library Classification by R.S. Parkhi, 1968.
5. Teaching of Library Classification by D.W. Langridge, 1969.

6. Putting Knowledge to Work by Pauline Atherton, 1970, and
7. Reference Service : The Penultimate Purpose of Library Work by Dr. (Mrs.) Susheela Kumar, 1971.

RANGANATHAN'S RESEARCH ASPECTS

As to research aspects of Ranganathan, he liked people who were sincere, hardworking and who obeyed him. In this context, his worthy disciple C.V. Suba Rao observes as under :

The problems of research have to be worked together. With his experience and sharpness, Ranganathan is miles ahead of anybody and marches at a faster pace. He is confirmed in his mind about limitations of certain other schools of thought. So he relentlessly pursues to revise his monumental books with the help of younger minds who have energy, virality but lack experience of research. He is of the opinion that research cannot be taught, it should be learnt while working. He also believes that given a truth and the scientific terminology, there is only one way of writing a scientific article. It inevitably happens that the others who collaborate have to swallow many things not their own and he committed to his style of rendering even. I was prepared to choose my subject, work hard and fast on it, run to him when way-laid by insurmountable obstacles as a guide, but on these conditions he was not prepared to help. I have half-a-doubt whether he has taken such a stand as an insult. I have to be myself, and not be of somebody else.



PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT AND PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM—A DREAM CONVERSATION WITH RANGNATHAN

It was August 12, 1992 the birth centenary day of late Padamshree S. R. Rangnathan. I went out for my morning walk to the rose garden and sat down at a quiet place there. I then thought of dear departed library luminary Rangnathan. At the fag end of his life, he was not satisfied with the development of Public Library Movement in India as so far no integrated public library system has been introduced on legislative basis in all the States and Union Territories of India. He made his last attempt in this direction by organising a library seminar on Public Library System at Bangalore in early 1972. Only eight States including Haryana and Kerala in India have so far enacted Public Library Law for establishment and maintenance of libraries both in urban and rural areas under a public library system, while the Government of other States and Union Territories and still lying in kumbhkarana slumber. They need to be awakened and educated and reminded of their duty to the public for providing free book service to all. I, then decided to have a dream conversation with our library savant Rangnathan at night time on the topic of Public Library Movement and Public Library System so that a net work of public libraries is established before the close of the 20th century.

On that day when night came I went to bed for sleep. While asleep my unconscious mind began to work. I then had communion with Rangnathan. He appeared before me near my bedside and said, "Trehan, what are your problems which require my views?" I said, "Gurudev, I have three problems facing me at this time. Problems are: (1) Why Public Library Movement has not taken deep roots since India became free? (2) Why an integrated Public Library System is badly needed for our country? and (3) What should be a viable library service unit on legislation basis?" Rangnathan then paused for a while, and said, "Our democracy

the largest in the world cannot give full social value to our people unless the people—literate as well as illiterate—are fully furnished with an account of the current facts and theories about the development of democracy so that each can form their own judgement. In spite of growth of literacy upto about 40% we have the demon of inertia, the lack of publicity and financial help; such an atmosphere is not congenial to the growth of library movement in India. Relief can come perhaps from the States. I am opposed to the policy of "Wait and See" adopted by the Government of India. Once the prestige of the State action creates the atmosphere, the library movement may get a chance to properly dispose the public mind and find its food in the natural soil of the public opinion."

As to Public Library System, Ranganathan said, "A proper Public Library Law is necessary in a democracy with a view to improve the average man or woman educationally by coordinating through a Public Library System and under a law to be enacted by the State Legislature which is an obligation of the State. Coordination is really an attempt to reconcile the two opposing factors, that is, the necessarily limited nature of the finances of the community and the apparently unlimited finances required to provide every person his or her book every moment. The State should integrate the libraries in the State into a Public Library System. There are three levels which need different modes of action viz.

- (1) fixing a lower limit to the size of the ultimate local library area, that is a viable library service unit, which is to be done by legislation;
- (2) fostering amity, specialisation and inter-library loans, which can only be done by informal suggestions made at periodical conferences; and
- (3) maintaining certain central agencies, which must be financed and managed directly by the State.

As to question of Viable Library Service Unit Ranganathan said, "For a closely integrated Public Library System a viable library service unit on legislation basis is necessary. Experience has shown that a number of small independent libraries maintained by private

efforts does not make for a stable, growing public library system. A library depending on private efforts often falls into disuse after the personality starting it ceases to exist. It is seldom able to serve the vast public unable to pay subscriptions. Its poor financial resources often make it a mere reading-room for newspapers and a few popular magazines. It is unable to find the means to add to its book stock to keep it attractive and up-to-date. What is wanted is closely integrated library system. There is a limit to the viability of an independent member of such a system, which can be expressed in terms of population figures. As such, a city with a population of not less than 50,000 is a viable library service unit but immediate population of less than 50,000 is not a viable library unit. Most of the towns will be satisfied with a branch library of the Rural Library System covering its area. The villages are unviable library units. They should be satisfied with periodical visits of a travelling library van. For the Rural Library System, a taluka should ultimately prove a viable unit. But, it is not so at present. We have to look to the bigger unit, the district. The motor van makes this a practicable unit though its area is large."

After listening to views of Ranganathan on the three problems. I expressed gratitude to him for his valuable views and enlightenment on the problems facing the library profession in India. The saintly figure of Ranganathan then blessed me and said, "Trehan, you have listened to me with full faith and in an uncarping spirit. May God, give you and other partners in library activities long life and strength to serve Library India to the best of your ability and capacity." After saying these words Ranganathan disappeared.



Ranganathan's Call for Changeover to New Ideas for Dynamic Library Service

Changing Environment, New concept and New ideas

The old order changes yielding place to the new, Since India attained Independence some forty five years ago and became a democratic republic on January 26, 1950, there has been considerable socio-economic development as well as development in agricultural and industrial fields. There is also cultural change. The objective of the society relevant in the situation of the early fifties are not relevant in the present changing environment. The out-moded concept of a library as a static thing guarded by keepers and acting only when called upon has been abandoned and replaced by the concept of a dynamic service which has a vital part to play in the advance of the community it serves. The use of information in the present changing technological environment is necessary. Science and Technology, Scientific and Technical Information are among the major influences in improving the quality of life, the life of the individuals, the life of the society and the life of the humanity. As such, libraries have now to play a new and positive role of providers of information and to make an important contribution to the material basis of society by maximal utilization of resources and services. In this context, Dr. S.R. Ranganathan in the early sixties rightly observed that "Our age is witnessing the changeover from being an age of libraries to that of library service" This means that Ranganathan wanted librarians to give due importance to library service while doing the job in this age of socio-economic development of the country. Personal service is necessary which is the key to professional activities of the librarian as his role in both the Science and the Art is that he is not simply to supply information in respect of a particular request or to make available material for those who require it or to fill up the gap but to provide the connection. The librarian by use of his intelligence, energy and skill is required to integrate books or other reading material with readers forming useful relationship. The library provides ample opportunity for the development of correct social attitude for the unfoldment of the personality of the group, the nation and the society.

Library is the only organized social institution which fosters the reading of books. We need public library service, that is related to the gross roots structure of the underdeveloped poor society mostly living in rural areas. So it is necessary to extend our library facilities to the masses, both literates, neo-literates and even illiterates so that they get opportunity of gaining all the knowledge to make them better citizens and exercise their right to vote properly and also to develop among themselves a modern mental and a scientific outlook while at the same time retaining the basic values of our ancient culture.

New Ideas

Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science are not the last words on librarianship. In view of the new concept of dynamic service, he made a fervent call to the new generation of librarians to absorb new ideas and also circulate nascent ideas as and when they get created in following words :—

“Let them absorb new ideas from whatever quarter those come. Let them also create new ideas. They can create them only if they act; they can act only if they are fed with new ideas. To feed the millions of our young people who are working in the industries and the associated basic sciences with nascent idea as and when it gets created, there is no way except to circulate reading and kindred materials. Circulation of reading materials containing nascent ideas is much more arduous than the circulation of those containing old ideas. In the latter case the unit is book and in the former the unit is an article containing a small idea unit.”

Conclusion :

Our younger generation may do well to remember Ranganathan's above call for new ideas and also act upon following precept of Ranganathan :—

May young librarians' outlook be vast and not narrow. May they be activated by the desire to achieve something big and of lasting good to the country and not money by what money or power can be grasped by them with least professional efforts.

S. R. RANGANATHAN

An Intellectual Par Excellence

Courtsey : FRONTLINE

Madras, August 28, 1992

GIRJA KUMAR

Former Librarian, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, N-Delhi

A HUNDRED years ago in a little known place called Shiyali (Sirkali) in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district he was born. And he went on to transform beyond recognition what has today emerged as the discipline of Library Science. That is the story of Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan, who will in August be honoured by a gathering of more than a thousand professionals in New Delhi at the International Congress of Librarians (IFLA-1992).

After Melvil Dewey, the American (of the Dewey Decimal Classification fame), S. R. Ranganathan is usually placed next in the hall of fame of librarians. He was responsible for transforming the theory of library classification into an intellectual adventure.

To thousands who walked through the portals of the Madras University Library (facing the Marina) from 1925 to 1944, he was the presiding deity, a father figure, friend and guide, administering to their intellectual needs. At least two generations of political leaders, top civil servants, mediamen, executives and academicians owe a great deal to him. *The Hindu* was his enthusiastic supporter throughout the period. It helped in popularising him and his ideas.

Of course, he had a large-size ego and rated himself very highly. He believed himself to be a creative being of the highest order responsible for many a seminal idea. He had no hesitation in placing himself in the same class as Charles Darwin and C. V. Raman. To him, "Sir C. V. Raman's paper 'New Radiation' (1928), which appeared in the *Indian Journal of Physics*, is such a seminal contribution," and, "another universally-known example is Darwin's *Origin of Species*," and, hold your breath. "The formulation of Five Laws of Library Science and of Five Fundamental Categories as the basis of Classification may (also) be taken to be the standard."

Yet, he has been rightly called a quintessential intellectual, modern but deeply rooted in the Indian soil. He was Western in his orientation by background and experience, but drew supporting evidence from India's ancient philosophical treatises. He employed extensively in his thought principles of synthesis (*Ekavakyata*) and holism, and concepts of creativity as a mystic experience and unity amidst diversity. All these concepts were drawn from the vedic tradition. An intellectual *par excellence*, he emphasised the underlying unity of intellectual ideas. A systematic approach to library classification was his most lasting contribution.

He set about the task of conceptualising his framework while he was still a student of librarianship in London during 1924-25. In a letter to his most loyal British disciple, Bernard Palmer, Ranganathan claimed that "Eternity can be contained in a moment." He was influenced by the *Ekavakyata* principle during his visit to Great Britain where he saw the practical demonstration of the principle. He came to realise that "even apparently trivial occurrences are organically fused into a single life experience."

A chance visit to the Selfridges store in London flagged off a train of thoughts which later became a lifelong obsession. He set eyes on a Meccano toy (for the first time), and was fascinated by the mechanical contraption that could be dismantled and re-assembled in an infinite variety of permutations and combinations. The small metal plates with countless slots were, unbelievable as it may seem, at the root of the Colon Classification system he devised. Many a person must have wondered over the rows of colons (:) on the spines of books on library shelves, but few know that they were inspired by the colon-like slots of a Meccano toy.

The Colon Classification system is the most systematic attempt to view knowledge as a unity. It is a grand design attempting, rather audaciously, to cover all past, present, and future knowledge. That it is flawed is another matter.

Ranganathan was a great storyteller. All complexities at the conceptual plane would be reduced to simplicities in no time. Ranganathan was at his best when communicating profound truths in ordinary and prosaic language.

Some of his most delightful pieces are to be found in his earliest work, "The Five Laws of Library Science" (1931). In them, he is able to establish successfully the power and force of ideas when translated into ordinary language. This is best seen in a Socratic dialogue between the "idea" and "words". The primacy of the mind is thus established through a parable drawn from the Vedas. Here it goes.

"Seemingly ideas and words were in competition in pursuit of the absolute. They were contenders and at the same time unable to survive separately. Word retreaded its steps enquiring as to 'where is the idea.' It confessed that 'I could not keep up. Therefore, I have returned. But the idea was further going ahead.' Precisely at that moment, the idea came back with a similar story, 'I too could not keep up. The difficulty became unbearable after I got separated from the words.' But the word was ready with his riposte: 'And yet you did go ahead of me. Unless I keep close to you, I became inert.'"

The parable is of great contemporary relevance and, in fact, constitutes the very foundation of Ranganathan's thought. The principles of synthesis, holism, and the concept of unity amongst diversity become meaningful. Ranganathan's thoughts are in line with the Indian tradition with its emphasis on the total view of things in preference to pragmatism, pure and simple. Much more, it establishes the truth of the unity of human thought throughout historical times.

Although Ranganathan was neither a philosopher nor a systematic thinker, he could grasp the essence of any matter. His judgments were instinctive. A nationalist to the core, he viewed librarianship as a form of social service, an obligation that was required to be performed. Indeed, in his earliest years his work was done in the service of public librarianship. Under the banner of the Madras Library Association, he spread the message of public librarianship in all nooks and corners of the former Madras Presidency, with missionary zeal.

Thus was born the concept of the travelling library, which he called a 'Librachin.' It began with the Mannargudi experiment in Thanjavur district on October 18, 1931.

A bullock cart would serve the literary needs of villages within an 18-km radius. Each village was required to provide a driver and a pair of bullocks from Mannargudi. The villagers, especially the illiterate, responded enthusiastically. Melavasal village had only five

literate. Yet children were made to go around the village to collect oil lamps to enable villagers to read (and have books read to them) at night.

Though it folded up after nine years, the experiment was Ranganathan's greatest success. To him, libraries could awaken the "inner man" by imparting knowledge. And to this day, the project remains the finest instance of democratic functioning of public institutions with the fullest participation of the objects of the experiment. Tamil Nadu still claims to have a network of public libraries all over the State, but the democratic essence in its functioning exists no more.

Ranganathan believed in the *guru sishya parampara* (teacher-taught tradition) and practised it religiously. Edward B. Ross (his mathematics teacher in Presidency College, Madras) and W. Beawick Sayers (his library science teacher in London) helped him greatly in the formulation of his basic ideas.

All his contributions flowed from one single idea—the Five Laws of Library Science. Deceptively simple, they are a tribute to Ranganathan's remarkable insight into human psyche. They are : 1 Books are for use ; 2. Every reader, his book ; 3. Every book, its reader ; 4. Save the time of the reader ; and 5. A library is a growing organism.

In the words of Sayers, "The Five Laws of Library Science" 1931 (new edition) is "a work of great simplicity, which conceals depths and yet reveals what may be called the spiritual but intensively practical springs of his activities."

Ranganathan was involved in the futile exercise of finding normative principles. The solution came like a flash to his mentor, Ross, who enunciated the First Law. He mentioned it to Ranganathan casually and left without waiting for a reply. Ranganathan accepted it as the first and primordial law, and applied his mind. The other four followed in quick succession.

Thus was born Ranganathan's theory of library classification. His normative principles, fundamental categories, postulational approach and scientific methodology fall back upon his Five Laws,

From 1931 to 1944, he went through his years of fulfilment, hope and despair. From 1931, when "The Five Laws of Library Science" came out, till 1937 when he published his *magnum opus*, "Prolegomena to Library Science", he was at his creative best. This was the period he spent in association with the University of Madras. He earned worldwide recognition after he published his "Colon Classification" and "Classified Catalogue Code."

The very success of Ranganathan's theory of library classification had seeds of failure embedded in it. Perhaps there was a historical inevitability about it. There are also grounds for scepticism. Will reducing him to a cult figure not stifle any intellectual debate questioning his basic premises? Not a single new idea has emerged after his death in 1972. The philosophical foundations of his thoughts are of course being questioned. The lay user finds Colon Classification cumbersome and incomprehensible. He is bewildered when confronted with Ranganathan's complex notations consisting of a whole range of punctuation marks.

User-disorientation will remain the greatest cause of dissatisfaction with the edifice built so laboriously by Ranganathan. He is, however, immortal and his place in the pantheon of international librarianship is assured.

Ranganathan's life epitomises the ideal of striving for a goal. His life was an intellectual adventure, and his thoughts were devoted to defining the parameters of creativity. Ranganathan has drawn upon the Indian tradition in exploring the relationship between intuition, mysticism, sociological imagination and creativity. He seemed to believe that "intuition may be God's way of knowing everything at a glance,"

Ranganathan considered himself a creative being, and was highly interested in exploring the creative process in extraordinary human beings. He has cited a number of instances of "acts of creativity" in his book, "Ramanujan: The Man and Mathematics." He too once experienced "a few split seconds of enlightenment," when he saw the light. "Once (the new ideas) are handed over by intuition, intuition had to work out their implication for days and days with hardly any sleep, for example, continuously for a few days."

Ranganathan's keen interest in matters mystic led some to believe that his thoughts had their fount in religion. Such a belief is strengthened by his experimentation in spiritual seance. He has recorded his communicating with the spirit of Srinivasa Ramanujan, who (said Ranganathan) admitted to having lost all interest in mathematics after death. Ranganathan's religiosity has thus come to be implanted in the mind of many acquainted with his work. For instance, Marcia H. Chappell asserts that "Ranganathan's approach to librarianship is fundamentally not scientific but religious in the broadest sense."

Chappell has not read Ranganathan right. But there are others who have. D.W. Langridge, who termed Ranganathan a *karmayogi* emphasised Ranganathan's Western orientation in matters concerning the intellect. Ranganathan himself rejected the imputation. His advice: Never mix personal beliefs with an intellectual world view—or library science with spirituality.

High though Ranganathan's intellectual attainments were, there were also chinks in his armour. His world view was ideological rather than theoretical. In essence, he was a practical human being. A closer look will establish that his scientific method had no basis other than common sense. His theory of library science was a closed system, and his emphasis on absolute standards with no scope for another point of view may not be universally welcomed. The intolerance grew with time, and manifested itself in many ways. When he established the Documentation Research and Training Centre in Bangalore, it was modelled on the *gurukul* tradition (The *guru-shisliya parampara* was thus reinforced.) The guru enacted the role of Super Ego by undertaking to resolve the inner conflicts of his pupils. Where, then, was the scope for a one-to-one relationship?

Ranganathan's longest tenure—from 1924 to 1944—was at the University of Madras and his best work was done there. His subsequent sojourns at Varanasi, Delhi, Zurich and Bangalore at best witnessed recapitulations of the same theme. He was unfortunately caught in the whirlwind of the Dravidian movement with its overtones of anti-Brahminism. He was virtually under attack during the entire period of his stay in Madras, his intellectual work being his only solace. His tormentors on the University Library staff too kept him on tenterhooks. Exasperated, he would say at times, "My birth cannot be changed."

The crisis of his Brahminic identity was poignantly brought out in his dealings with the university's Vice-Chancellors during his tsewardship of the University Library. He had to deal with seven Vice-Chancellors in all. The first three were sympathetic and concerned about his welfare in the environment of hatred. But the four others were not so. At least three of them were either indifferent to his predicament, or went along with the forces hostile to him. Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the last of the Vice-Chancellors Ranganathan had to associate with, was extremely hostile to him. Ranganathan was harassed constantly. The two years proved most unpleasant for him. A psychological war was on. The Vice-Chancellor established direct channels with associates of Ranganathan, bypassing him and rejecting his recommendations in professional matters. False charges of "corrupt practices" were levelled. A charge-sheet was prepared to intimidate him. The result was his premature retirement in 1944, when he was-52.

After short stints in Varanasi, Delhi and Zurich, Ranganathan settled down in Bangalore and spent the last 15 years of his life in intellectual pursuits, and set up the Documentation Research and Training Centre to teach the latest techniques in the library and information science. But his health began to deteriorate and he began losing his sight.

Ranganathan passed away on September 27, 1972 at the age of 80, his only regret being that he still had miles to go and promises to keep.



Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan—A Legendary Figure, A Dreamer and A Visionary

Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan became a legendary figure; honours and awards came to him in abundance. He won laurels and acclaims at home and abroad for his single minded devotion, creative and revolutionary work. He received universal recognition and attention during his life cutting across national borders and mental prejudices that discount the intellectual work emanating from the developing countries. His work was valued where librarians were keen to learn new methods of information handling. The inventory of his awards and honours is too long. Important among them include Padamshree from the Government of India (1957), Honorary D. Litts from the University of Delhi (1948) and University of Pittsburgh (1964), National Research Professor in Library Science (1965) and a 2 volume Festschrift on his 7 st birthday (1962), Honorary Vice President of the (British) Library Association (1957), and Honorary Membership of FID (1957), and Chairperson FID/CR (1950-1963). But no honour is as tangible as being addressed "Librarian to the World" by the American Library Association, and his life time being known as "Ranganathan Age" by many library historian, and holding of successful International Conference on Ranganathan's Philosophy and Relevance (New Delhi, 1985), Personal tributes vary from a creator of a distinguished school of thought in library science to bringing cultural cooperation between the East and the West; enrichment of English language with his new terminology to the bequeathing of scientific methods to us. He was a teacher par excellence and a dreamer and a visionary, full of optimum for the future of humanity. With our steps already into the information society we look back at this wonderful personality, at best a freak of nature, with awful admiration for his faith in the library profession to promote peace and enrich human life in every endeavour on earth.

M. P. SATIJA

Guru Nanak Dev University,
Department of Library & Information
Science, Amritsar.

Some Facets of Ranganathan's Personality

Dr. D.B. KRISHNA RAO,

Professor and Head Department of Library Science,
University of Madras.

1. Unaffected by Environment

As a research scholar under Prof Ranganathan, I was very much struck by his great powers of concentration to the extent of being insensible to the environment. It was a biting cold January in Delhi, I was discussing some serious problem in classification with Prof Ranganathan at his residence. He was lying on a cot covering himself with a quilt. His feet got exposed to the cold winds blowing in through the nearby window. This was for quite a long time. Whenever the Professor was deeply engrossed in thinking, nobody dared to disturb him. So I was with him discussing the problem.

Suddenly the devoted wife of the Professor, Mrs Sarada Ranganathan, came upon us and expressed fear at the Professor's feet being exposed to biting cold winds. Prof Ranganathan almost retorted at the intruder in Tamil which means, "Go away. All my life is in my head. You go. If only there is life in my feet for me to feel cold." The Professor continued his thinking and discussion for a longer time without my withdrawal of his feet within the cover. While deeply engaged in research, the professor would never change his physical position till he reached some definite point in his thinking.

Several such instances of Prof Ranganathan's power of concentration absolutely unaffected by his environment reminded us of the great *Rishis* of the ages past, in deep *tapas* insensible to heat or cold or rain. Yes! Prof Ranganathan was a *Risbi*—a great *Risbi* who did deep *tapas* in Librarianship for fifty years and developed it into library science—a discipline of a very high order.

2. Store of Himalayan Energy

Again the store of Himalayan energy in him in winter as well as in summer of Delhi was something that baffled us. We were meeting the Professor as a small group of research scholars of the Library

Research Circle, Delhi, on all holidays. The meeting used to start by 2 p.m. and would continue all through the day till late in the night. Within two or three hours, all of us used to feel jaded or tired and it was visible on our faces but at the close of our meeting in the night Prof Ranganathan's face used to be as fresh as at our start and bright and beaming with joy at the findings of new ideas and progress made.

3. Intense Love for Library Science

To our surprises at this he used to answer, if you sincerely love your subject and get started in hard working, you will automatically get the energy required. The work will not tire you. Once he remarked, when one is intensely in love with his wife where from do you think he gets all the energy required to please her. Do we not read in the classics how a lover undergoes all hardships to meet his love. It is the intensity of love that gives the motivation required and removes the pain from all hard work. If you develop intense love for your subject you will get all the energy required to fondle it, to feed it and to develop it. During our early morning walks he used to say in Tamil, which means "With love you must feed and cultivate. Then only the subject will develop." This expression implying a mother's affection in bringing up her child fully brings out how much Prof Ranganathan loved his subject and lived it all his life. He breathed, drank, ate, walked, fondled and loved, slept and dreamt library science all the 24 hours of the day all round the week, the month and the years to the end of his glorious life.

4. Symbol of Work-Chastity

All through the ages men have become great because of their devout dedication to a single cause, relentless hard work in its pursuit and dogged refusal to fritter away their energies in any other avocation or formal functions of publicity. Ranganathan's life is a typical example of this in this modern period. All through his life Prof Ranganathan believed in work, and very hard work. His pet terminology was "Work-chastity" fully expressive of a philosophy which he preached and practised all his life.

5. Effective Teaching Methodology

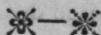
As a teacher Prof Ranganathan hated dictating and the lecture method and would not tolerate it. Learning by library work and

discussion, learning by doing, the teacher acting only to the extent of stimulating the mind of the student. He often used to say, "The teaching should impart a ferment to the class which would start a chain reaction in the mind of every student and the spontaneous urge to learn and the curiosity leading to hard work manifests itself in every student. Real teaching implies a two way flow of knowledge and development. He was dead against spoon feeding, continuous uninterrupted lectures attempting to pour facts into the ears of sleeping or bored students.

6. Lives in His Works

For nearly fifty years, Prof Ranganathan was a great force in the library world – an uncrowned king—who was respected in all countries where library consciousness had developed. When a King dies they say, "The king is dead; Long Live the king"! This may be truly said of Prof Ranganathan. Long Live Prof Ranganathan in the veritable library of more than fifty works he has written, many of which are classics in library science, and among his devoted students spread all over the world.

Courtesy : Herald of Library Science, April-June 1973



S. R. Ranganathan

As Library Scientist and Benefactor

Prof. P. N. KAULA

INTRODUCTION

S. R. Ranganathan has been a doyen among the literatures, a diadem in the field of education, a renowned designer of bibliographical classification and its foundations. His contributions encompass the entire domain of Library and Information Science.

Library Scientist Par Excellence

Ranganathan has been an originator and inventor of a number of concepts and techniques in our field. He had been the most prolific writer on the subject, the greatest crusader for library cause, a great inspiring teacher, and a library scientist par excellence. Apart from being the greatest librarian in the World as recognised by the American Library Association, who stated in 1962 that they were "all - his students". Ranganathan has been the Father of Library Science in India. The first Post-graduate teaching in Library science, the first Master's degree studies in library science, the first Doctoral programme in library science, the first Library Act to provide a network of free libraries to Indian people, the first personalised reference and information services the first plan for the National Library System, the first organised development of academic libraries, the provision of status and salaries to libraries at par with academic staff, and the effective role of libraries in education and learning had been all due to this One-Man.

The Greatest Benefactor

Living frugally all his life, denying even the bare necessities to himself and his family, taking only one meal a day, Ranganathan collected every pie of his hard earning for a greater cause and by donating a lakh of rupees for establishing the first Endowed Chair in Library Science not only in India but also in the East to promote training and research in library science. A pioneer in reality, a humanist outlook, a benefactor to library cause, Ranganathan had put the library profession under an everlasting debt.

*Courtsey : Vide extract from LIBRARY TODAY, JANUARY 1992,
Hyderabad (A.P.)*

S. R. Ranganathan the Miracle man

By

Dr. P. A. MOHANRAJA,

Librarian, Madras. University Library,

The quality of library services in any country is determined by the quality of practitioners in library and information science. Though a developing country, India is one of the most advanced when education for librarianship is considered. For this, credit goes to the late S. R. Ranganathan, the father of this movement. He ventured into what was unexplored territory—the field of education for librarianship. Apart from transforming the university and college libraries, he laid the foundation for library education in the institutions of higher learning. He introduced many management techniques, which systematised the routine functions.

The smooth functioning of any big library is a miracle as lakhs of books and tens of thousands of transactions have to be organised and carried out at short notice. S. R. Ranganathan took up this challenge with a determination, that was characteristic of him. His signal contribution to the development of library science was Colon Classification published in 1933. This method is used outside India too by some foreign libraries. In his professional career of over 50 years, he has authored more than 60 books and 2,000 articles. He was also responsible for starting many periodicals.

Chain Indexing which he developed to show the symbiosis between classification and subject indexing is widely used even in British libraries. His other books on classification, which was his major interest, include 'Element of Library Classification'. His "Theory of Library Cataloguing" was described by K. G. B. Bakewell as an 'outstanding contribution to cataloguing thought in the century.'

Ranganathan's views and practices began to be valued at something approaching their proper measure in the early 1960's in England; their transmission to continental Europe soon followed. Then its

spread to the United State was to prove a much more protracted process. Thus it can be said that his name was universal because his works were not confined to any geographical boundary.

His role in the growth of international librarianship could be seen in the development of the United Nations Library; the institution of the Federation for International Documentation; the Foundation Committee on general classification on which he served with distinction as its secretary and chairman.

Honours were showered on him for raising the status of library service in the country. He was awarded 'Padma Shri' by the Government of India in 1957; the American Library Association awarded the 'Margret Mann Citation in Cataloguing and Classification' in 1970. He was awarded D. Litt by the University of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania in 1965. The Government of India recognised his contribution to the discipline and appointed him National Research Professor of Library Science for life. The Indian Library profession honoured itself by bringing out a Festschrift in his honour in 1962.

The Department of Library and Information Science was created in the University of Madras during its centenary celebrations in 1957. Ranganathan donated Rs. 1 lakh for creating the Sarada Ranganathan Chair of Library Science in the University of Madras, thus paving the way for the establishment of a full-fledged, full time Department of Library Science, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Referring to his donation, Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, the then Vice-Chancellor, mentioned amidst cheers in the presence of Jawaharlal Nehru who presided over the centenary celebrations that, "the largest single donation came from SRR."

His one burning desire as yet unfulfilled, is the National enactment for the improvement of public libraries all over the country. It is unfortunate that in the country only eight states have introduced library legislation as of to-day. Will his dream be realised atleast in the centennial year of his birth ?



APPENDIX-I

S.R. Ranganathan's Reminiscences of some Eminent Personalities in the Punjab Library World.

1. Woolner, The Well-wisher

It was October, 1933, I was in Calcutta. The primary business was the annual meeting of the Imperial Library Committee. But I went three days earlier to attend the First Indian Library Conference convened by Asadullah. On the day prior to the first day of the Conference, the subjects committee held its meeting. As my train came late that day, I reached that meeting in the middle of its session. A venerable looking, white-bearded, white gentleman was in the chair. At the time of my slipping in, he was talking about the work of the Madras Library Association and he remarked, "I wish Ranganathan were here to tell us about it." I knew hardly anybody there except T.C. Dutta and nobody but he knew me. I asked the gentleman sitting near me who the Chairman was. "Woolner" he said. About two minutes later, Dutta happened to turn back and this made him stand up and tell the Chair about my presence. At the request of Woolner, I spoke a few words. But there was no occasion for us to speak to each other. The forenoon of the second day of the Conference was devoted to the reading of papers. Woolner took the chair instead of M.O. Thomas, the President of the Conference, who did not put in his appearance at any session except the opening and the concluding ones. I gave a talk on "Salesmanship in libraries-its advent". Woolner complimented me; but there was no discussion on the subject. The papers were not of a high order. Therefore, I took my seat in the farthest back bench and went on writing on standard slips the rules for my CLASSIFIED CATALOGUE CODE, which was then in preparation. About half-an-hour later, Woolner asked me to take the chair saying that he had to go out. I did so. He came back after about ten minutes and took his seat in the front row. I stood

up and requested him to resume the chair. But he declined and asked me to conduct the meeting. It was difficult to argue with him about this in that situation. Therefore, I continued to be in the chair. At the end of the meeting, he came to me and said in effect, "Do you know why I put you in the chair? I saw you paying no attention whatever to what was going on in the meeting but writing slip after slip, as you were all alone in your private study. I was tempted to stop you from doing it. The only way for it was to imprison you in the chair." We had a hearty laughter.

I had heard of his having tended the development of the libraries of Lahore in the early days and of his having brought about the raising of the first band of trained librarians of India from the Punjab. He made the Foreman Christian College the spearhead in this matter. He was Vice Chancellor of the Panjab University when I met him. I met Woolner twice later in the meeting of the Imperial Library Committee. The old gentleman was kind to me and would tell me in effect, "I am not a professional librarian but I have faith in the social value of libraries. You are among the first of the professional librarians in this country, and you have, therefore, a great responsibility". These words of this good old man have been acting as a loadstar for me during the periods of success as well as suffering and frustration due to political causes and the happenings within the profession, which were more emotion-bound than intellect-bound.

2. Labhu Ram Meeting Ranganathan (1933 and 1939)

Lala Labhu Ram, Librarian, Punjab University Library, Lahore, met Ranganathan first at All India Library Conference held in Calcutta in 1933 and then at Madras in 1939. Ranganathan describes Labhu Ram's meeting with him in following words :—

"My memory is that I met Labhu Ram at the First Indian Library Conference held in Calcutta in 1933. It was difficult to single him out among the delegates; for he was simple and unassuming. But when the chance came to meet him, talk to him, and exchange ideas with him, I realised the depth of his sincerity for library cause and his determination to do his best. I met him again in 1939 in Madras. It was his desire to observe the working of some of the libraries in the country that had brought him to Madras. To have undertaken this strenuous journey in his

advanced age, speaks volumes about his being prepared to learn and to grow almost to the last minute—a quality so helpful in any profession and so essential in the library profession. It is this quality in him that elevated him to the position of University Librarian and Head of the Department of Library Science in Panjab University, in spite of his not being a University graduate. His having not a university degree coupled with his unostentatiousness and retiring nature seems to have exposed him to some slighting by the graduate librarians who were with him in the first batch of the trainees in the Lahore School of Librarianship in 1915. When he met me in Madras he gave me a pathetic account of some of his sufferings caused by the colleagues in the profession.

3. Ranganathan Meeting R.C. Manchandra at Banaras

Ranganathan met for the first time an exuberant Punjabi youth, Rattan Chand Manchanda at Banaras in 1930 at the first All Asia Educational Conference held there. He vividly describes his meeting with that youngman from Punjab, as if it was a case of 'love-at-first sight', as under :—

"It was my first visit to Banaras and I was an utter stranger. Somebody guided me into a hall where some furniture was being arranged and fitted up with exhibits by a slim, mild looking mid aged gentleman. His quiet, determined movement and simple minded devotion to the job in hand made me go to him rather reluctantly. His face and eyes conferred on me the first impression. They showed him to be a silent man. It made me infer that he belonged to that rare species of humanity which has no attraction to limelight but persists in doing its duty unmindful of popular applause."

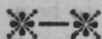
Manchanda read a paper on "Library Movement in Punjab" at that conference, which was very informative, Later on, in 1934 Manchanda submitted a paper on "Rural Library Progress in the Punjab" to the All India Library Conference held at Madras during Christmas of 1934. Unfortunately, Manchanda passed away in 1940 at the prime of his youth.

Postscript by the Author

The above story of Ranganathan's meeting Woolner at Calcutta shows that Woolner acted as a loadstar to Ranganathan during his early years in the library profession. These reminiscences also reveal Ranganathan's gentle manner and affectionate care for his contemporaries in the library profession and his sense of humour. In his reminiscences he also tells a tng-of-war between K.M. Asadullah and Sant Ram Bhatia and how he handled the situation tactfully at an All India Library Conference held at Bombay in 1942. In his Reminiscences Ranganathan also observed about some eminent library personalities of Punjab Library world including late S.R. Bhatia, Editor, Modern Librarian and Indian Librarian as under :

"I am aware of the good public relations being maintained by some of the librarians of Punjab. I am also aware of the ups and downs through which the Modern Librarian first and the Indian Librarian later had been kept up."

The above events show that Ranganathan from the South popularised the library idea in the South and Dr. A.C. Woolner, Labhu Ram, R.C. Manchanda, and S.R. Bhatia did the same in the North, while Asadullah, the patriarchate, enjoyed the position of dignity which the office of the Imperial Library in Calcutta carried with it during the British period.



APPENDIX—II

Remembering Ranganathan at Chandigarh

Chandigarh Librarians' Association (CLA) and the T. S. Central State Library, Chandigarh, organized a function to celebrate the birth centenary of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan on November 26, 1992 at the Central State Library. Mr. T. C. Gupta, Joint Secretary Finance-cum-D.P.I. (Colleges), U.T. Chandigarh, presided over the function. The speakers on the occasion included Mr. Ajaib Sidgh Sidhu, President and Mr. I.B. Verma General Secretary, C.L.A., Mr. Nasib Chand, Retd. Librarian, Central State Library and Dr. H. R. Chopra, Reader, Department of Library and Information Science, Panjab University.

Glowing tributes were paid to Dr. Ranganathan in regard to his contributions to the Library profession. Nasib Chand said, "Ranganathan is the first son of Mother India who created library history. He did more than before, better than before and different from before. He propagated the cause of 'Books are for use'. If one ceases to be a reader he ceases to be a leader. Ranganathan's contribution is like a pole star." Dr. Chopra said, "Ranganathan always preached for librarianship and he regarded 'Book as document' and now 'document' is substituted by 'information'. Dr. Chopra, who had visited abroad to U.K. and U.S.A. on study tour, said In U.S.A. a lady library practitioner who met Ranganathan there was astonished that a simple man clad in dhoti and kurta made library history.

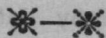
AT IFLA 1992 Conference held in New Delhi recently Dr. Chopra said, "the delegates from foreign countries told that Ranganathan's contributions were immense when we imagine the quantity and quality of the work done by him." Dr. Chopra further said, "his best contribution is Five Laws of Library Science which has universal

1. *Rapporteur, G. S. Thakur, Convenor, Chandigarh Library Study Circle.*

application. Ranganathan dedicated his whole life only for upliftment of the profession. Ranganathan regarded librarianship as a profession meant for service to the society. He wanted Ethics, Identity and self-Realisation in the profession so that it gets an independent identity like legal and medical profession."

I.B. Verma, General Secretary of CLA in his address to the librarians present said, "The library world should feel proud to have such a great personality in their profession who brought name and fame not only to the profession but also to the whole community.

Mr. I.C. Gupta conferred awards to eminent librarians on the occasion. Dr. Ranganathan Award for Excellence in Librarianship went to Mr. G.L. Trehan, founder Chandigarh Library Study Circle, and G.L. Trehan Award for the best working librarian in Chandigarh went to Mrs. Maninder Yashpal Singh, librarian, Department of Gandhian Studies, Punjab University. The best Library Award (Colleges) went to Govt. College for Girls, Sector 42, while the children section of the Central State Library was declared the best Children Public Library. The Librarians of Govt. College Sector-11, and M.C.M. DAV College for girls, Sector 36, and Branch Public Library, Manimajra, were given certificates of Merit. A Souvenir on the occasion was also released by Mr. Gupta to commemorate Birth Centenary of Ranganathan. It includes a poem, "To Young Librarians" by G.L. Tribute, as well as his Tribute to Padamshree S. R. Ranganathan.



Ranganathan and Art of Librarianship

There can also be "Art of Librarianship", to be fair,
As Ranganathan after study in 1957 did declare,
I now tell what is art of librarianship to clear
For librarians to put library service in good gear,
For Library Service there's art of librarianship to know,
That is skill in action at the job with grit and go,
As old values are giving way to something bright,
Aura of new concept of library service is in sight.
Librarian should use skill in action, so to say
To put recorded knowledge to work in helpful way.
The Art of Librarianship stimulates vital role
To serve right book to reader, as a goal.
INTELLIGENCE integrates books and readers, no doubt,
And helps find right book for reading in and out,
ENERGY makes knowledge work for reader in need
And provides efficient reference service in deed.
SPIRIT vitalizes library organisation, it's clear
And puts wheel of library service in gear.
TIME is essence of library service, to hold;
We must devote more time readers to feed.
SPACE counts in a service library, Ye must know,
As service library in size and staff must grow.
With KEYS of Intelligence, Energy, Spirit, Time & Space
One opens doors of committed library service with grace.
So Librarian must activate the INNER SPIRIT, my Pal
And act as Catalyst to readers, one and all.

—G. L. TREHAN

1359, Sector 15-B,
CHANDIGARH-160015.

Ranganathan's Five Principles of Success in Librarianship

1. Practise work-chastity and HUMANISM for committed Library Service.
 2. Develop technique for activating the Inner Spirit for vitalizing Library Service.
 3. Learn everything by doing yourself.
 4. Always do more than you are paid.
 5. Work without any hope for reward.
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Chandigarh Library Study Circle

1359, Sector 15-B, Chandigarh-160015

Founder



G. L. Trehan

Convener

G. S. Thakur,
Assistant Librarian,
A. C. Joshi Library,
Panjab University,
Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Library Study Circle is open to such Librarians and friends of the library in Chandigarh as are interested in making study, survey and research on library problems for providing efficient library service and facilities to users of the library.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

1. To promote study, survey and research on library problems and services in Chandigarh as well as on eminent library personalities of India.
2. To enlighten people on the need for development of public library service in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
3. To organise seminars, discussion groups, lectures and book talks by eminent librarians, teachers of library science and educationists interested in librarianship.
4. To work for setting up children's libraries in Chandigarh for promoting good reading habits among them.
5. To help librarians, publishers and booksellers in Chandigarh to pull together for making people a nation of readers.
6. To publish library literature, including a Bulletin, a Magazine, a Directory or Year Book on Chandigarh Libraries and book-trade.
7. To work for creating an Endowment to give Library Service Award of the year.
8. Generally, to do all such acts and things as are conducive and incidental to the achievement of above aims and objects of the Study Circle.