

APPLICATION AND DIGITIZATION OF RANGANATHAN'S FIVE LAW OF LIBRARY SCIENCE IN 21ST ERA

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Abstract: This paper analyses the Web and raises a significant question: Now we have entered into the digital era. Information Technology is the only solution to manage all types of information which is growing speedily. The laws are meant to be elemental, to convey a deep understanding and capture the essential meaning of the World Wide Web. These laws may seem simplistic, but in fact they express a simple, distinct vision of what the Web ought to be. Moreover, we intend to reverberation the simplicity of Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science which inspired them.

Keywords: World Wide Web, Ranganathan's laws, Five Laws of Library Science.

1.0 Introduction

The World Wide Web is an Internet system that distributes graphical, hyperlinked information, based on the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP). The Web is the global hypertext system providing access to documents written in a script called Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) that allows its contents to be interlinked, locally and remotely. The Web was designed in 1989 by Tim Berners-Lee at the European The Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva (Noruzi, 2004). This document was an attempt to persuade CERN management that a global hypertext system was in CERN's interests. Note that the only name I had for it at this time was "Mesh" -- I decided on "World Wide Web" when writing the code in 1990. The actual observed working structure of the organization is a multiply connected "web" whose interconnections evolve with time. In this environment, a new person arriving, or someone taking on a new task, has normally given a few hints as to who would be useful people to talk to. Information about what facilities exist and how to find out about them travels in the corridor gossip and occasional newsletters, and the details about what is required to be done spread in a similar way. All things considered, the result is remarkably successful, despite occasional misunderstandings and duplicated effort.

A problem, however, is the high turnover of people. When two years is a typical length of stay, information is constantly being lost. The introduction of the new people demands a fair amount of their time and that of others before they have any idea of what goes on. The technical details of past projects are sometimes lost forever, or only recovered after a detective investigation in an emergency. Often, the information has been recorded, it just cannot be found.

The databases, internet, World Wide Web (WWW), digital contents, archives and institutional repositories of library products have paved the way to make the five laws of library science truly relevant in the modern digital library era. Even today the libraries are performing the same traditional functions but based on ICT. The librarians in their new role have to devise methods where they are able to manage, filter the vast information base, pertinent to needs of the end user by means of developing in-house databases and making these available to other libraries also through networking and sharing available over the internet.

2.0 The Five Laws of Library Science

Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972) was considered the father of Library Science in India. He developed what has been widely accepted as the definitive statement of ideal library service. His *Five Laws of Library Science* (1931) are a classic of library science, literature, as fresh today as it was in 1931. These brief statements remain as valid –in substance if not in expression- today as when they were promulgated, concisely representing the ideal service and organizational philosophy of most libraries today:

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his or her book.
3. Every book its reader.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The Library is a growing organism.

For Ranganathan and his followers, the five laws were a first step toward putting library work on a scientific basis, providing general principles from which all library practices could be deduced (Garfield, 1984). In 1992, James R. Rettig posited a Sixth Law, an extension of Ranganathan's laws. He conceived that Sixth Law "Every reader his freedom" as applicable only to the type of service (i.e., instruction or provision of information). 'Book, reader, and library' are the basic elements of Ranganathan's laws. Even if we replace these keywords with other elements, Ranganathan's laws still work very well. Based on Ranganathan's laws, several researchers have presented different principles and laws. For instance, "Five new laws of librarianship" by Michael Gorman (1995); "Principles of distance education" by Sanjaya Mishra (1998); "Five laws of the software library" by Mentor Cana (2003); "Five laws of children's librarianship" by Virginia A. Walter (2004); "Five laws of web connectivity" by Lennart Björneborn (2004); and "Five laws of diversity/affirmative action" by Tracie D. Hall (2004).

2.1 The Five Laws of the Web:

The *Five Laws of the Web* are inspired by the "Five Laws of Library Science" which were the seed of all of Ranganathan's practice. These laws form the foundation for the Web by defining its minimum requirements. While the laws seem simple on first reading, think about some of the conversations on the Web and how neatly these laws summarize much of what the Web community believes. Although they are simply stated, the laws are nevertheless deep and flexible. These laws are:

1. Web resources are for use.
2. Every user his or her web resource.
3. Every web resource its user.
4. Save the time of the user.
5. The Web is a growing organism.

Replacing Books with Institutional Repositories (IR)

Institutional Repositories (IR) are for use

Every user his/her IR

Every IR its user

Save the IR for the future

IR is a growing organism

Furthermore, based on Ranganathan's laws, Thompson (1992) in protesting against a library

Replacing Books with Software

Software is for use

Every user his or her software

Every software its user

Save the time of the user

A software is a growing organism

Replacing Books with Search Engines

Search Engines are for Use

Every Searcher His / Her Search Engine

Every Search Engine its Searcher

Save the Time of the Searcher

Search Engine is a growing organism

2.1.1 Web resources are for use.

This law implies that the Web is for using and learning and information is there to be used. This law is very important because information serves no purpose if it is not utilized and at least available for people to attempt

to learn. The role of the Web is to serve the individual, community and service, and to maximize social utility in the communication process. The Web OPAC of the library system helps users in accessing the Bibliographical information from anywhere. Webmasters want people to interact with their web sites, and pages, click on them, read them. The Web is for using and learning and information is there to be used. This law focuses on the selective use of information. For effective use of information there should be proper storage and dissemination of information. Library and Information professionals have always kept in their minds that, they have to serve "Right information, to the right user at the right time".

1. The Web exists for users. Therefore, the interests of users must be the basis of the Web operations;
2. The Web exists for researchers and writers, so the interests of researchers and writers should be central in the Web policies;
3. The Web exists in society, and it should serve the interests of society.

2.1.2 Every user his or her web resource.

This law a web oriented law. Effective use of E resources proves that wherever the relevant material is available in the network that can be accessed. Web and the Web consortium approach of the E-journals, E-books, help to meet the needs of users' web. The dominant ethos of the Web is a service to society in general. The Web is central to freedom, intellectual, social, and political. The Web of the future must be one that retains not only the best of the past, but also a sense of the history of the Web and of scholarly communication. This law dictates the development of systems that accommodate the use of web resources. For instance, updating and regular indexing of website resources facilitates the use of site resources and the Web in general.

2.1.3 Every web resource its user

Third Law is emphasis on web information oriented. This law reveals the fundamental need for balance between making web resources and the basic right of all users to have access to the web resources they need anywhere in the world. A web site must formulate access policies that ensure that the collection it is building and maintaining is appropriate and adequate to fulfil the expectations of its community of users. A website must contain resources appropriate to the needs of *all* its users. Any web site that limits access in any way must ensure that this restriction does not prevent adequate access to the collection by the users that web site was created to serve. Webmasters must know their users well if they are to provide them with the materials they need for their research or that they wish to read.

Web sites must value all means of preserving and communicating the records and achievements of the human mind and heart. This second law dictates that the Web serves all users, regardless of social class, sex, age, ethnic group, religion, or any other factor. It is a webmasters' job to ensure that the connection between the user and the web resources is made and that connection is as practical, easy and speedy as possible. Appropriate arrangement of documents in a web site is also an important means of achieving this objective of the third law.

2.1.4 Save the time of the user

Today's concept of "library without walls" has come into the picture. Day by day Internet is speedy and reaching Every user irrespective of the place and time. The OPAC of the library system helps users in accessing the bibliographical information from anywhere. Webmasters Interested in making a site that is great for users and shows up well in search results? Check out our courses and guides for making high-quality and search-friendly sites, Stay updated with our news, events and social media communities. Webmasters have Track your site's search performance with Google Search Console and browse around for more webmaster resources. Web is a fully automated search engine that uses software known as "web crawlers" that explore the web on a regular basis to find sites to add to our index. In fact, the vast majority of sites listed in our results isn't manually submitted for inclusion, but found and added automatically when our boats crawl the web. Saving the user's time by providing convenient access mechanisms is a principal concern of the Web. Furthermore, some writers and webmasters like to share their information and knowledge with others through web pages. This is because the Web is for use, and can provide a dynamic source of information for all kinds of users. Today, the Google index of the Web contains over 8 billion web pages (Google, 2004) and the Web is growing at a rapid rate, providing a huge source of information for users and a huge potential client base for businesses who have a web presence (Thelwall, 2000).

2.1.5 The Web is a growing organism

This law focused web has been more on the need for internal change than on changes in the environment itself. Webmaster is establishing the overall corporate site design and policies, arrange the necessary technical resources (working with the people who provide the corporation, its network infrastructure), and supervise the design of the corporation's website. Additional webmasters who organize and develop the site content and programming for their division or product. The Internet consolidated itself as a very powerful platform that has changed forever the way we do business, and the way we communicate. The Internet, as no other communication medium, has given an International or, if you prefer, a "Globalized" dimension to the world. The internet has become the Universal source of information for millions of people, at home, at school, and at work. On the social web people have found a new way to communicate. Since its creation in 2004, **Facebook** has grown into a worldwide network of over 1,679 million subscribers. Mobile technology, on the other hand, has made possible a much greater reach of the Internet, increasing the number of Internet users everywhere

3.0 Conclusion

Due to Information Technology, there are so many changes happened in the world. Information is growing rapidly. Information Technology is the only solution to manage and organizes the information in a proper way. Today ICT application permits all human activities. Dr. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science was written seventy four years back and in spite of having so many changes in Library world, these Five Laws still fits in today's context. Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science are applicable to all fields of library activities. Now we have entered into the digital era. In spite of multidimensional development in different areas of library work and service and their enrichment with the application of modern technology Five Laws of Library Science are equally applicable till date, since its inception. Today ICT application permits all human activities. Five Laws of Library Science was written eighty years back and in spite of having so many changes in Library world, these Five Laws still relevant in today's context. The five laws are equally valid in the present digital / information age as they have been in the conventional library environment. The five laws are the source and sum of all the practices of the times, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Even eighty years of its origin Ranganathan's Five Laws are very much popular and applicable in this present electronic and digital era. These Laws can never be obsolete as long as human civilization and culture exist and consigned to oblivion in spite of the digital divide and the information literacy barrier. As far as Indian Librarianship is concerned, the present status and respect we are enjoying is due to the efforts of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan. It is our bounden duty to pay rich tributes by not only carrying his message forward to the generations to come, but also to preserve his legacy.

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