

# RANGANATHAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIANSHIP

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**Abstract:** Dr. Ranganathan was multi-faceted genius and a great thinker. His contributions to library science in the world and India are too vast to be considered in a paper. He is no more with us, however, his great works, ideas of service, sense of devotion and dedication to the field of library science will continue guide to successive generation of library professionals. His most notable contributions to the Library Science were his five laws of library science and the development of the first major analytico- synthetic classification system, the colon classification.

**Keywords:** S. R. Ranganathan, LIS Profession, Librarianship, Indian Standards.

## 1.0 Introduction

Ranganathan is remarkable personality among library professionals for their aims and method of work. Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1892-1972) had a long career in librarianship, he is considered as the father of library science. The significance of Ranganathan's contributions to library science has not yet been accessed in full, the most enduring and certainly the best known are the Five Laws of Library Science and the analytico-synthetic approach in the Colon Classification, his views was available on almost every aspect of the profession, from reference service to public library legislation, and from cataloguing standards to international co-operation.

AC.Foskett, says 'Ranganathan's contributions to librarianship must rank in breadth and significance with those of Dewey. The Late Sir Maurice Gwyer paid tributes to Ranganathan in following words "He is the father of library science in India his reputation as a librarian extends far beyond the borders of his own country and his opinion and advice are valued in all lands where libraries are held in honor. Prof. P.N. Kaula acknowledges him as the "greatest of the giants". Ranganathan made an enormous contribution to Indian library science. Any evaluation of Ranganathan's work must consider both his impact on Indian and on international library science. Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the man of legendary vision, devoted his full life for the development of libraries and library profession in India. His was a mathematician and librarian, the basic methods Ranganathan used to develop his ideas emerged from his background in Mathematics and his beliefs in Hindu mysticism.

## 2.0 Publications

He authored more than 60 books and 2000 articles and also created several professional and educational organisations and participated in many library movements around world. Just after independence in 1948, the University of Delhi at a Special Convocation conferred on him the Honorary of Literature, along with the dignitaries, national leaders, educationalists and scientists of the country, like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar etc. His major contribution includes:

- 1924 Designed the Colon Classification
- 1925 Trial of Colon Classification with the printed catalogue of the Madras University Library 1928 Formulated the Five Laws of Library Science
- 1934 Designed the Classified Catalog Code
- 1935 Library Administration
- 1937 Prolegomena to Library Classification
- 1938 Designed Chain Indexing
- 1946 Library Organization
- 1946 National Library System: A plan for India
- 1950 Designed Facet Analysis
- 1951 Library Manual
- 1952 Library Book Selection
- 1956 Founded Annals of Library Science Classification of Library Management 1963 Developed the Dynamic Theory of Library Classification

- 1964 Editor of Library Science with a Slant to Documentation

### **3.0 Honors and Awards**

It is really very difficult to list the awards given to him; For his scholarly contributions and works for development of libraries and library profession a number of awards and honors were felicitated to Dr. Ranganathan, he was held high esteem in 1935, the British Government in India conferred the title of “Rao Sahed” on Ranganathan by which he was affectionately referred by his close associates and students.

Government of India awarded “Padmashree” to Ranganathan in 1956, certainly a small honour for a great son of India of his eminence and stature. The Government of India also conferred a big honour on the subject of Library Science in 1965 by appointing Ranganathan as National Research Professor in Library Science. This was an honour to Library Science and Librarianship. He was the recipient of Margaret Mann Citation of the American Library Association in 1971 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Library Science. In the same year the Mark Twain Society of USA awarded him the title “Grand Knight of Peace”.

Some of their awards include:

- 1935 Rao Sahib, Government of India
- 1948 D. Litt. (Honoris causa), Delhi University
- 1957 Padmashree, Government of India
- 1964 D. Litt. (Honoris causa), University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A.
- 1965 National Research Professor for Library Science (Government of India) 1970 Margaret Mann Award (American Library Association)
- 1971 Grand Knight of Peace (Mark Twain Society, U.S.A.)

### **4.0 Participation in Committees, Organizations, and Library**

**4.1 Associations in India :** He chaired so many Committees; Organizations. He was the Member, Secretary, President, Chairman, Founder, Editor, and Consultant of so many Committees, Organizations, Institutes, and Journals. Library Association, London conferred on him the vice-president ship for life. He served International organizations, as a member of the International Advisory Committee of UNESCO, and Honorary Chairman of the Classification Research Committee of International Federation for Documentation. In 1964, the University of Pittsburgh conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of letters on Ranganathan.

His committee works are:

- 1947-1966 Chairman, Documentation Committee, Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi
- 1951 Honorary Fellow, Virginia Bibliographic Society
- 1954 Patron, Delhi Library Association
- 1956 Honorary Member, Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centers
- 1957 Honorary Vice-President, Library Association (London)
- 1957 Honorary Fellow, International Federation for Documentation
- 1958- 1960 Chairman, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture Committee, Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi
- 1958-1959 Chairman, Library Committee, University Grants Commission
- 1959 Consultant on Library Development Plan, Kerala State
- 1959 Chairman, Board of Studies in Library Science, University of Madras
- 1960 Chairman, Review Committee on Library Science, University Grants Commission
- 1960 Chairman, Library Science Courses Committee, University of Madras
- 1960 Chairman, Expert Committee on Library Science, Banaras Hindu University
- 1960 Chairman, Committee for Library Science Course, University of Mysore
- 1961-1963 Chairman, Committee to Draft the Library Bill for Mysore State
- 1962 Founder-Patron, Mysore Library Association, Bangalore
- 1962 Chairman, Board of Studies in Library Science, University of Kerala
- 1967 Honorary Fellow, Indian Standards Institution
- 1968 Chairman, Tanjavur Sarfoji Maharaja Saraswati Mahal Library Committee

### **4.2 Outside of India participation:**

- 1948 Member, International Committee of Library Experts, United Nations
- 1949 Establishment of the Delhi Public Library as a pilot project with UNESCO
- 1950 Establishment of INSDOC with Consultant, UNESCO, for preparing the place of machines in literature search 1951-1961 Rapporteur-general, FID/CA (Committee on General Theory of Classification of the International Federation for Documentation)

- 1951-1953 Member, International Advisory Committee on Bibliography of UNESCO
- 1963 Honorary Chairman, FID/CR (Committee on Classification Research of the International Federation for Documentation)

### **5.0 Honorary Work**

Ranganathan's contributions to Indian and world librarianship are of the highest order. His freakish dedication and sheer originality of thought won him recognition in his lifetime. He created a new paradigm, a school of thought. As a writer, he was amazingly prolific. His range of research, writing and practical work was all-encompassing. His approach was fundamental and he was an exponent of the use of the scientific method to solve library problems. Ranganathan as a person and a library scientist always won the great attention of the profession. Everywhere, thinking library scientists reviewed, applied, propagated and furthered his work, his honorary work includes:

- 1928 Vacation lecturer in laws of library science, University of Madras (at Chidambaram)
- 1928-1933 Lecturer on school library work, Teachers' College, Saidapet, Madras
- 1929-1944 Professor in library science, University of Madras
- 1945-1947 Professor in library science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- 1948 Member of the faculty, UNESCO International School for Public Librarianship, Manchester
- 1949-1955 Professor in library science, University of Delhi
- 1956 Visiting lecturer of library schools, United Kingdom
- 1957-1959 Visiting professor in library science, Vikram University, Ujjain
- 1958 Visiting lecturer of library schools, United States of America, Canada, and Japan
- 1962 Honorary professor, Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore
- 1963 Visiting lecturer of library schools, University of Pittsburgh

### **6.0 Indian Standards**

The following Indian Standards were published under the chairmanship of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan during the years 1947 to 1967.

#### **6.1. Classification**

- Indian Standards Institution, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Glossary of Classification Terms, IS: 2550-1963.

#### **6.2 Cataloging**

- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Glossary of Cataloguing Terms (first revision), IS: 796- 1966.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Practice for Layout of Library Catalogue Code, IS: 1358-1969.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Recommendations for Bibliographical Reference, IS: 2381-1963.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Abbreviations for Titles of Periodicals, IS: 18-1949.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Practice for Alphabetical Arrangement, IS: 382 1952.

#### **6.3 Abstracting**

- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Canons for Making Abstracts, IS: 796-1966. Indexing
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Rules for Making Alphabetical Indexes, IS: 1276-1968.

#### **6.4 Book Making**

- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Guide for Layout of Learned Periodicals (Revised), IS: 4-1963.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), General Structure of Preliminary Pages of a Book (tentative), IS: 790-1966.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Half-title-leaf of a Book (tentative), IS: 791- 1966.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Title-page and Back of Title-page of a Book (revised), IS: 792-1964.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Practice for Table of Contents (tentative), IS: 794- 1956.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Guide for Drafting Indian Standards (second revision), IS: 12-1964.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Proof Corrections for Printers and Authors, IS: 1250- 1958.

- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Reinforced Binding of Library Books and Periodicals, IS: 3050-1965.

#### **Storage of Microfilms**

- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Code of Practice for the Processing of Microfilms (silver halide), IS: 3083-1966.
- ISI, Documentation (Sectional Committee), Code of Practice for Storage and Use of Microfilms of Permanent Value, IS: 3130-1965.
- ISI, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture (Sectional Committee), Packages for Use of Libraries, IS: 2662-1964.

#### **11.0 Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture**

- ISI, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture (Sectional Committee), Code of Practice Relating to Primary Elements in the Design of Library Buildings, IS: 1553-1960.
- ISI, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture (Sectional Committee), Library Furniture and Fittings: Part I. Timber, IS: 1829, (Part I)-1961.
- ISI, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture (Sectional Committee), Librachine (Mobile Library), IS: 2661-1964.
- ISI, Library Buildings, Fittings, and Furniture (Sectional Committee), Code of Practice Relating to Primary Elements in the Design of Buildings for Archives, IS: 2663-1964.

#### **7.0 Conclusion**

When Ranganathan died on 27th September, 1972, he was eighty one year's young. He was a man who had completed his full journey and arrived at the noblest destination. He had no miles left to go, and he had left no promises unfulfilled. His life was a symbol of immortality. The integral nature of Ranganathan's theory emerged from occasional intuition; and his intellect strove to make it more explicit to the national mind of the scientific worker. His contributions sometimes bordered on a poetic beauty and sometimes on uncouth prose but his life and work in the field of Library Science modeled an ever-inquiring mind, well-entrenched in the philosophy of Bhagwad Gita. We are indebted to Dr. Ranganathan for his tireless and endless effort and Dr. Garfield has rightly mentioned, "Ranganathan is to Library Science as Einstein is to Physics" He further observes "Ranganathan's activity level throughout his life -time reflects a total selfless commitment to Library Science. According to Prof. P.N. Kaula Dr. Ranganathan breathe Library Science all the time. He remained actively engaged in research till his death in 1972. This total dedication to the subject what he called "Work Chasity", was unique. His self-abnegation and devotion was grounded in a deep spiritual perfection. In 1975 Eric de Grolier said at the Third International Conference on Classification Research held in Bombay in 1975, that Ranganathan was the 'Guru' of us all. That sums up his impact on world Librarianship.

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