
Role of Libraries' Organizations at National and International Level

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Abstract

Education and libraries have an integral relationship. Libraries play an important role in all instruments of education- the informal, formal, semi-formal and non-formal. Library organizations, such as national libraries, library associations, and international organizations, play crucial roles in the development and sustenance of libraries worldwide. A national system cannot function effectively without appropriate international linkage. This linkage ought to be both for the flow of information resources and concepts / methodologies / techniques / tools. National libraries serve as repositories of a country's intellectual heritage, preserving its written, cultural, and historical treasures. They provide access to a wide range of materials, from books to manuscripts, fostering research, education, and cultural appreciation. National library organizations, on the other hand, play a crucial role in coordinating and supporting these institutions, promoting best practices, and ensuring access to information for all citizens. Additionally, international organizations, such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), facilitate global cooperation, enabling the exchange of knowledge and resources among countries, thereby enriching the global tapestry of human understanding and knowledge. Together, these entities contribute to the preservation and dissemination of knowledge on local and global scales, promoting education and cultural diversity. In this paper, I will like to depict a brief picture of National Libraries, National Library organization and International Library organizations

Keywords:- American Library Association (ALA), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Dewey Decimal System or Library of Congress Classification, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) - Australia, Canadian Library Association (CLA) - Canada, Library Association of Ireland (LAI) - Ireland, Library of Congress (United States), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Introduction

National libraries, national library organizations, and international library organizations serve various important purposes in the world of information and literature. National libraries serve as custodians of a nation's intellectual and cultural heritage, collecting and preserving valuable documents and providing access to their collections. They also promote literacy, research, and education within their countries. Library associations act as catalysts for professional development among librarians, facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting best practices. They often advocate for libraries and their relevance in a rapidly changing information landscape. International organizations, like the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), foster cooperation and collaboration among libraries globally. They work to advance universal access to information, copyright standards, and digital preservation efforts, ensuring that libraries can adapt to the challenges of the digital age.

Together, these organizations form a network that supports the vital role libraries play in education, research, and culture on local, national, and international levels.

National libraries often house extensive collections of books, documents, and historical materials, preserving a nation's cultural heritage. They support research and education by providing access to a wide range of resources and promoting scholarship. Many national libraries are open to the public, offering a space for people to study, read, and access materials they might not have at home. National libraries typically receive copies of all publications produced in the country, ensuring a comprehensive archive. National Library Organizations, like the American Library Association (ALA) in the United States, advocate for the interests of libraries and librarians. They also facilitate networking among libraries. They offer resources and training to enhance the skills and knowledge of library professionals. National library organizations often establish standards and guidelines for library practices, which promote uniformity and quality in library services.

International organizations like the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) facilitate collaboration among libraries worldwide. This is crucial for sharing knowledge and resources. They advocate for the free flow of information and access to knowledge on a global scale, which is essential for education and research. International library organizations can assist libraries in countries facing crises, such as natural disasters, by providing support and resources. In summary, national libraries serve as repositories of a country's literary and historical heritage, national library organizations support and advocate for local libraries, and international library organizations promote global cooperation and access to information. Each plays a vital role in preserving and disseminating knowledge and culture.

Library organization plays a crucial role in ensuring efficient access to information and resources. It involves the systematic arrangement of books, materials, and digital content to facilitate easy retrieval and utilization by patrons. Libraries typically employ classification systems, such as the Dewey Decimal System or Library of Congress Classification, to categorize and shelve items logically. Additionally, cataloging and metadata management help in creating comprehensive records for each item, making it easier for users to find what they need. The organization of library spaces, including layout and signage, contributes to a user-friendly environment. Overall, effective library organization enhances the user experience, fosters learning, and supports the library's mission as a knowledge hub. Libraries are supported and organized by various organizations at both national and international levels. Here are some examples:

National Level:

National Library Associations: - Most countries have their own national library associations. For example,

American Library Association (ALA) - United States:- The American Library Association (ALA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting libraries and library services in the United States. Founded in 1876, the ALA plays a crucial role in advocating for intellectual

freedom, providing resources and support for librarians, and fostering literacy and access to information. It also administers various awards, such as the Newbery and Caldecott Medals, to recognize outstanding contributions to children's literature. The ALA's mission is to ensure that libraries continue to be essential institutions in American society, serving as hubs for learning, research, and community engagement.

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) - Australia:- The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) is the peak professional organization for the library and information services sector in Australia. It serves as a hub for librarians, information professionals, and organizations, promoting the value and importance of libraries. ALIA supports its members through advocacy, professional development, and networking opportunities, helping to advance the field and ensure access to information for all Australians.

Canadian Library Association (CLA) - Canada:- The Canadian Library Association (CLA) was a national organization dedicated to promoting and supporting libraries and librarianship in Canada. It served as a professional association for those working in the library and information field. The CLA provided resources, advocacy, and networking opportunities to enhance the quality and accessibility of library services across the country. However, in 2016, the CLA disbanded and ceased its operations, but the legacy of its work continues through other library and information associations in Canada.

Library Association of Ireland (LAI) - Ireland:- The Ireland Library Association (ILA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting the interests of libraries and information professionals in Ireland. It provides a platform for networking, advocacy, and continuing education for those working in the library and information field. The ILA plays a vital role in fostering collaboration among libraries and supporting the development of library services across Ireland.

Indian Library Association (ILA) - India:- The Indian Library Association (ILA) is a professional organization dedicated to the development and promotion of libraries and librarianship in India. Established in 1933, ILA plays a crucial role in advancing the field of library and information science in the country. It provides a platform for librarians, information professionals, and educators to exchange knowledge, collaborate, and advocate for the importance of libraries in society. ILA organizes conferences, workshops, and initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of its members, ultimately contributing to the growth of the library community in India.

South African Library Association (SALA) - South Africa:- The South African Library Association (SALA) is a professional organization that promotes the development and cooperation of libraries in South Africa. It serves as a platform for librarians, information professionals, and institutions to collaborate, share knowledge, and advance the field of library and information science. SALA plays a crucial role in supporting the growth of libraries, advocating for information access, and fostering a sense of community among library professionals in South Africa.

Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) :- The Chinese Library Association (CLA) is a professional organization in China dedicated to promoting library and information science. It plays a crucial role in advancing library services, education, and research within the country. The CLA provides a platform for librarians, researchers, and educators to collaborate, share knowledge, and improve the quality of library services in China. It also focuses on advocating for the development of libraries and information resources to meet the evolving needs of Chinese society.

These associations provide support, resources, and advocacy for libraries and librarians in their respective regions. They often play a crucial role in promoting professional development, setting standards, and advocating for the importance of libraries and information services.

National Libraries:- Every Nation has a National Library, however big or small it is. The functions and purposes of national libraries vary from country to country. Basically, it aims at processing a comprehensive collection of all the documents produced in the country and useful collection from every other country. Many countries have a national library responsible for collecting and preserving the nation's publications. There are many national libraries around the world, each with its own collection and historical significance. Some notable national libraries include:

Library of Congress (United States): The largest library in the world, it holds millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps, and manuscripts. The National Library of the United States is officially known as the Library of Congress. It is the largest library in the world and serves as the research library for the U.S. Congress. The Library of Congress houses a vast collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other materials, making it a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and the general public. It also plays a significant role in preserving the nation's cultural heritage and promoting literacy and education.

British Library (United Kingdom): The National Library of Britain, commonly known as the British Library, is the United Kingdom's national library. It is one of the world's largest libraries and holds a vast collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and other materials. The library's collection includes historical documents like the Magna Carta and original writings by famous authors such as Shakespeare. Established in 1973, the British Library serves as a hub for research, preservation, and access to a wide range of knowledge and cultural heritage. It's located in London and is open to the public for research and exhibitions. It houses one of the world's most extensive collections of books, manuscripts, and historical documents.

National Library of China (China): The National Library of China, located in Beijing, is one of the largest and most important libraries in China. It serves as the country's depository for publications and holds an extensive collection of Chinese and foreign literature, including ancient manuscripts, rare books, and modern publications. The library plays a vital role in preserving China's cultural heritage and providing access to a wide range of information and resources for researchers, scholars, and the public. This library is home to a vast collection of Chinese and foreign materials.

National Library of France (Bibliothèque nationale de France):- The National Library of France, also known as the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), is the country's premier library and one of the largest in the world. Established in 1461, it has a vast collection of books, manuscripts, maps, prints, and more, spanning centuries of French history and culture. The BnF is not only a repository of knowledge but also a center for research and cultural preservation. It is headquartered in Paris, with multiple branches and digital initiatives to make its resources accessible to a global audience. It is also known for its historic collections, including the medieval manuscripts in the Gallica collection.

Russian State Library (Russia): - The National Library of Russia, located in St. Petersburg, is one of the largest libraries in the world. It was founded in 1795 and houses a vast collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and other cultural treasures. The library plays a crucial role in preserving Russia's cultural heritage and serves as a major research and educational institution. Its collection spans a wide range of subjects and includes materials in numerous languages, making it a valuable resource for scholars and researchers from around the globe. It has a vast collection of books, periodicals, and other materials, making it one of the largest libraries in the world.

National Diet Library (Japan): The National Library of Japan, known as the "Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan" in Japanese, is the country's largest library and serves as the national library of Japan. It is located in Tokyo and houses an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and other materials related to Japanese and international culture and history. The library plays a crucial role in preserving Japan's cultural heritage and providing resources for research and education. It also offers a range of services and facilities to support scholars, students, and the general public in their pursuit of knowledge. It is renowned for its extensive collection of Japanese materials.

National Library of Australia (Australia): - The National Library of Australia, located in Canberra, is the largest reference library in the country. It serves as a repository of Australian publications and a valuable resource for researchers, scholars, and the general public. Established in 1901, it houses an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and digital materials, preserving Australia's cultural heritage and providing access to a wide range of information. The library's mission is to support learning, research, and the advancement of knowledge in Australia. It holds a wide range of materials related to Australian history and culture.

National Library of India (India): - The National Library of India, located in Kolkata, is one of the largest libraries in India. It serves as the country's repository of knowledge and is designated to receive a copy of every publication produced in India. The library houses an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, and other documents, making it a vital resource for researchers and scholars. It plays a crucial role in preserving India's literary heritage and promoting academic research and scholarship. This library has a rich collection of ancient manuscripts, books, and other historical materials.

These are just a few examples, and many other countries have their own national libraries that play crucial roles in preserving and providing access to their respective cultural and historical heritage.

International Level:

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA): - IFLA is a global organization that supports the development of libraries and information services worldwide. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is a global organization that promotes the development and cooperation of libraries and library professionals worldwide. It provides a platform for sharing knowledge, setting standards, and advocating for the importance of libraries in society. IFLA works to ensure access to information, cultural heritage, and knowledge for all, and it plays a significant role in shaping the future of libraries and information services. It intends to furnish guidelines and standards for various types of library activities including the presentation of bibliographical data, training programme of library personnel and research. These objectives of the federation reveal its universality and catholicity.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization promotes libraries as important cultural and educational institutions on the global stage. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1945. Its mission is to promote peace and international collaboration through education, science, culture, and communication. UNESCO is known for designating and preserving World Heritage Sites, promoting literacy and education, and supporting cultural diversity. It plays a crucial role in advancing global understanding and cooperation in these areas.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):- WIPO deals with intellectual property issues and can influence international copyright laws, which impact libraries. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1967. Its primary mission is to promote and protect intellectual property (IP) rights worldwide. WIPO assists member states in developing and implementing IP policies, provides services for the registration of patents, trademarks, and copyrights, and facilitates international agreements on IP protection. By fostering innovation and creativity, WIPO plays a crucial role in global economic and technological development, making it a pivotal organization in the realm of intellectual property.

International Federation of the Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO): - IFRRO deals with copyright and reproduction rights, which are relevant to libraries that share and reproduce materials. It is a global network of organizations that manage and protect copyright and reproduction rights for authors and publishers. It serves as a vital link between rights holders and users of copyrighted content, ensuring fair compensation and facilitating the legal and licensed use of literary and artistic works. IFRRO plays a crucial role in promoting the principles of copyright and supporting the cultural and economic interests of creators and the publishing industry worldwide.

Conclusion:- In summary, national libraries serve as repositories of a country's literary and historical heritage, national library associations support and advocate for local libraries, and international library organizations promote global cooperation and access to information. Each plays a vital role in preserving and disseminating knowledge and culture. These are just a few examples, and the specific organizations may vary from one country to another. Libraries play a crucial role in preserving and disseminating knowledge, and these organizations help ensure their effective operation and development.

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