

# HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS) EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITIES OF MAHARASHTRA

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**Abstract:**

The article throws light on historical perspective of LIS education in the state of Maharashtra and the development of LIS education in the state of Maharashtra. The various courses run by LIS departments in the universities of Maharashtra and the present status of the LIS courses is presented the research paper.

**Keywords:** LIS Education, Universities of Maharashtra, BLISc, MLISc, Distance Education.

**1. Introduction:**

Maharashtra state is the third largest state of India both in terms of the geographical area covered and also its population. It is also a well known state for its excellent and qualitative educational facilities at all levels. Mumbai – the capital of Maharashtra is ranked at top level for its educational contribution in the field of higher education. It is the first city in Maharashtra state to establish the university before independence in the year 1857 and it is amongst one of the three universities in India. The university was earlier known as 'University of Bombay'.

There are several universities in Maharashtra, which provide quality education to the people of the state. These universities had set up the basis of Library and Information Science education by contributing development of higher education and research.

**2. Development of Universities in Maharashtra: A Short Profile**

After 67 years from the establishment of university of Bombay, Nagpur University was established in the year 1923. In 1936, S. N. D. T. women's university and in the year 1949, university of Pune, Pune was established. It was followed by establishment of other universities namely Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (1958); Shivaji University, Kolhapur (1962); Amravati University, Amravati (1983); The North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon (1990); Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded (1994); Solapur University, Solapur (2004); Tilak Maharashtra University (1921) to whom the status of a deemed university was awarded in the year (1987); Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (1983); Bharati Vidyapeeth University (Deemed University), Pune.

The University of Bombay which was established in 1857 was the only institution of higher education in Western Maharashtra. The Bombay University was originally started merely as an examining body. The SNDT (Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thackeray) Women's University which was started by Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve in 1916 was given reconviction in the year 1951. In 1949 the University of Poona opened. It was affiliated with colleges throughout the Maharashtra state and established as a teaching institution. The Nagpur and Marathawada universities were also founded. Thus up to March 31, 1960, there were 5 universities showing rapid progress made in higher education.

The development of university libraries and Library and Information Science Education is at top priority for the rapid progress of higher education in Universities of Maharashtra and also to support all the education programs of the Universities.

### **3. LIS Education in Universities of Maharashtra:**

Out of ten major traditional universities in Maharashtra, all universities excluding Swami Ramanad Teerth Marathwad University, Nanded offer library and Information Science courses. Solapur University has recently started BLISc education from the year 2017. The Department of Library and Information Science in University of Mumbai was founded in the year 1943. It started Diploma in Librarianship course initially on the initiative of the then university librarian. It is the premier school of librarianship and information science in Maharashtra. The course was discontinued in the year 1963 and replaced by B.L.I.Sc. In 1985-86, the department was shifted to the Vidyanagari campus, Mumbai. The University also introduced MLISc and Ph.D. course. The syllabi of BLISc and MLISc course were recently revised since 2003-04; the department offers BLISc and MLISc, M. Phil. And Ph.D. programmes in Library and Information science

The Duration of BLISc and MLISc course is one academic year of two terms and the medium of instruction for both degrees are English. Total intake capacity for the course is 40 students for BLISc and 15 students for MLISc. The examination consists of two parts of written examination as well as practical examination.

The Department of Library and Information science at Nagpur was started by Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1956. It is one of the oldest Department of Library and Information Science not only in Maharashtra but also in the country. Firstly, the department started a Diploma course in Library and Information Science. This Diploma course upgraded to BLISc. The Department started MLISc of one year course in the year 1984. In 2003, the MLISc two years integrated course as per the UGC guidelines was started. It also provides Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science. In the year 2006-07, the department celebrated its golden jubilee. The Department has upgraded its standard as one of the leading LIS educational institutes because of the contribution made by the Heads of the departments from time to time by their academic and administrative skills.

Currently, the department conducts MLISc two years integrated course with 'English' as a medium of instruction and intake capacity of 40 students. M. Phil. and Ph. D. program is also being offered by the department of Library and Information Science.

The training in Library science was started by Jayakar Library of University of Pune, Pune in the year 1958 with the first Diploma course in Library science. This Diploma course was converted into the bachelors Degree in the year 1965.

However, the Department of Library and Information Science in the Jayakar Library was started in the year 1978. It was established under the faculty of Mental, Moral and Social Science. It introduced 2 years integrated M. Lib. and Inf. Sc. course programs. It started doctoral research in Library Science in 1981 and since then, more than 40 scholars have been awarded the Ph. D. in Library Science.

The S.N.D.T. Women's University was the first women's university in Maharashtra with its headquarter at the Bombay campus. Its branches are branches at Juhu and Pune campus. It founded the department of Library and Information Science namely 'Shri. Hansraj Pragji Thackersey school of library science' popularly known as 'S.H.P.T. school of library science' in the year 1961. It provides LIS education exclusively for women. It offers BLISc, MLISc and Ph.D. Courses.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwad University, Aurangabad introduced the PG Diploma in Library course during June 1969, the nomenclature of the course was changed and the examination of the course was conducted as 'Bachelor of Library Science in March/April, 1969.

The course in Library Science was started by the university in 1968 but the Department of the Library Science was started in the year 1979. However, Master of Library Science course was introduced in the year 1985-86. Now the department is known as 'Department of Library and Information Science.' The Ph.D. program in Library and Information Science is started by the department from the year 1996.

Since 2002, the university introduced 2- year integrated MLISc course with semester pattern. The course consists of 16 modules with 64 credits. The intake capacity for MLISc is 22 students with the duration of 2 year and for M.Phil. The intake capacity is 15 students with duration of 1 year. The teaching faculty consists of 1 professor and Head alongwith one reader and one lecturer.

The department of Library and Information Science of Shivaji University started in the year 1964. It is one of the oldest departments which were started immediately after establishment of the university. Initially it started post graduate diploma as Bachelor in Library Science (B.Lib.Sc) and changed its name as 'Bachelor in Library and Information Science. In the year 1986, the department started M. Phil. in Library and Information Science. It has also made provision for Ph.D. degree in Library and Information Science. The department conducts B. Lib. and I. Sc. as well as M. Lib. and Inf. Sc. Course of one year duration However the duration for M. Phil. is 1 ½ year. 6 Ph.D.'s have been awarded by the

department and registered students are 11. The department has well equipped computer Laboratory having 15 computers.

The department of Library and Information Science at Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University was established under the faculty of Social Sciences. The B.Lib. and MLISc course are offered by the department for the duration of 1 year .The intake capacity for B.Lib.I.Sc. is 30 where as it is 20 for M.Lib.I.Sc. Database search facilities as well as E-mail and Internet facilities are available to students of Library Science

The department of Library and Information Science at North Maharashtra University Library at Jalgaon was established in the year 2000. It was established under the faculty of mental, Moral and Social Sciences. It offers only M. Lib and Inf. Sc. Course with an intake capacity of 20 students. The department is recently started.

### **3.1.Existing Courses of LIS Education in Universities of Maharashtra :**

Though Library Science education was started in India in the year 1911, it took a period of more 32 years to start Library Science education in the state of Maharashtra. The University of Mumbai started first Diploma in Librarianship Course in the year 1943. It was the first Diploma course in Maharashtra to impart library science education. After 21 years, in the year 1964, the department of Library Science was established by university of Mumbai and since then, the department is working for library science education at various levels. Thus the credit of starting LIS education in Maharashtra goes to university of Mumbai

After a gap of 13 years of first diploma in librarianship in Maharashtra, the Department of Library and Information Science was started by Nagpur University by initiating a Diploma course in Library and Information Science in the year 1956. Immediately after 2 years, University of Pune started the training in Library Science in the year 1958 with the first diploma course in Library Science. However the department of Library and Information Science was established after 20 years since the training in Library Science have been provided by university of Pune. In subsequent years, library science education was started in the S.N.D.T.Women's University (1961); Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (1968); Shivaji University (1964); Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University; The North Maharashtra University (2000). Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University and Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune also started LIS education through Distance Education .Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth also took initiative to promote LIS education in the state of Maharashtra.

Thus, it is observed that many of the universities in Maharashtra first started PG Diploma in Library Science and then changed the nomenclature of PG Diploma into Bachelor's degree courses. However, newly established universities and university libraries have started only Bachelors and/ or Master's degree course in Library and Information Science. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University offers Bachelor's as well as Master's degree course in Library Science. The North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon offers only M.L.I.Sc course since 2000. The Solapur University, Solapur and Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada

University, Nanded do not provide Library and Information Science education as these are newly established universities.

Before Independence, only five universities in India started providing LIS education. These universities include Andhra University, Banaras Hindu University, Bombay University, Calcutta University and Madras University. Out of these five universities only one university i.e. Bombay university (now-known as 'university of Mumbai') was providing LIS education in the state of Maharashtra before Independence of India. Firstly, it instituted Diploma in Librarianship course in 1943. However, it established full fledged department of library Science in the year 1964. Thus Bombay University is one of the first five universities and first in Maharashtra state to provide LIS education.

The department of LIS of Nagpur university was started in the year 1956 by instituting diploma course in Library and Information Science and it become the first department of Library and Information Science in Maharashtra because though, Bombay University started LIS course in the year 1943, it took 21 years more for establishing a LIS department. It means that, before Independence, there was not a single department established for Library and Information Science education in any university of Maharashtra. Only one university was offering LIS education as diploma and later on, at bachelor's degree level.

After Nagpur University started providing LIS education along with establishing a LIS department, Pune University, Pune also established department of LIS in the year 1958 and it become the second department of LIS in Maharashtra and the third institution to impart LIS education. After 3 years, S.N.D.T. Women's University , Mumbai also established Department of LIS in the year 1961 and consequently , it become the third department of LIS in Maharashtra and the forth institution to impart LIS education in Maharashtra . In 1964, University of Mumbai established its own department for LIS education. It took 21 years gap between starting of LIS education by the university and establishing its own department for LIS education. It is notable that Bombay University is the first university in Maharashtra to offer LIS education however, the department of LIS is the Forth one in Maharashtra. In the same year, Shivaji University, Kolhapur also established LIS Department. Thus, within a period of 18 years from 1943 to 1961 i.e. from starting of LIS education at Maharashtra to establishment of Department of LIS in S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, there were only 3 departments in the universities of Maharashtra to provide LIS education. All these departments were established after a gap of at least 13 years from the commencement of first course in Librarianship in the state of Maharashtra i.e. from 1944-1964 , five Departments of LIS were established in Nagpur university (1956), Nagpur ; University of Pune, Pune (1958) ; S.N.D.T. Women's university , Mumbai (1961) , University of Mumbai, Mumbai (1964) and Shivaji University, Kolhapur (1964) . In the year 1979, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad also established LIS Department for imparting LIS education. The LIS education was started by the university in the year 1968 by introducing

PG diploma in Library Science. In 1987, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati established LIS Department. In the year 1994, Swami Ramanand Tirth Marthwada University established LIS department and recently, in the year 2000, The North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon which was established in 1990 had started providing LIS education by establishing its own LIS Department by introduction of only Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

### **2.5.2 Growth of LIS Courses in Maharashtra:**

The first course in Library Science in Maharashtra was started as diploma in Librarianship course in the year 1943 by university of Bombay (Now 'University of Mumbai'). Diploma course in Library and Information Science by Nagpur university (1956); Diploma course Library Sciences by Pune university (1958); PG Diploma as ' Bachelors in Library Science' by Shivaji university (1964) were started initially by the universities in Maharashtra . These Diploma course are upgraded by many of the universities to 'Bachelor of Library and Information Science' .Thus, out of 10 universities in Maharashtra,9 universities offer regular courses (excluding Solapur University, Solapur ) and of these,5 universities initially offered diploma course in Library Science which were upgraded to Bachelors degree in Library and Information Science .

At present, 7 universities offer Bachelors degree courses in Library and Information Science through regular course and 3 universities offer Bachelors degree courses through distance education. North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon; Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University have not made provision for Bachelors degree course in LIS. 09 universities offer Master of Library and Information Science as regular courses and 3 universities offer it through distance education. In all, 12 universities have made provision for LIS education at master degree level.

### **4. Conclusion:**

Even though LIS education started in India in the year 1911, it actually started in Maharashtra in the year 1944. Up to 2008, there were 118 universities providing LIS education in India and the numbers of universities from the state of Maharashtra were only 9. Thus, only 6.63% contribution is being made by universities in Maharashtra (excluding distance education programs) as compared to that of Indian universities imparting LIS education.

The decade of 1961-70 has contributed a lot for the establishment of LIS department in the universities of Maharashtra where as in 1950-60 as well as in 1971-1990, only two departments were established in the universities of Maharashtra.

Thus, the growth of LIS departments in universities of Maharashtra was very slow in this period of 20 years. Since 2001, not a single department has been established at the university level for imparting LIS education. However , in this period , due to non-availability of more intake capacity for LIS education at university level, many distance education programs have attracted the attention of LIS students and many colleges have

started providing LIS education through distance mode. There are regional centres of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) at various colleges for providing LIS education in Maharashtra. These centres also provide research facilities for M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Library and Information Science.

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